

# Whistle Stop



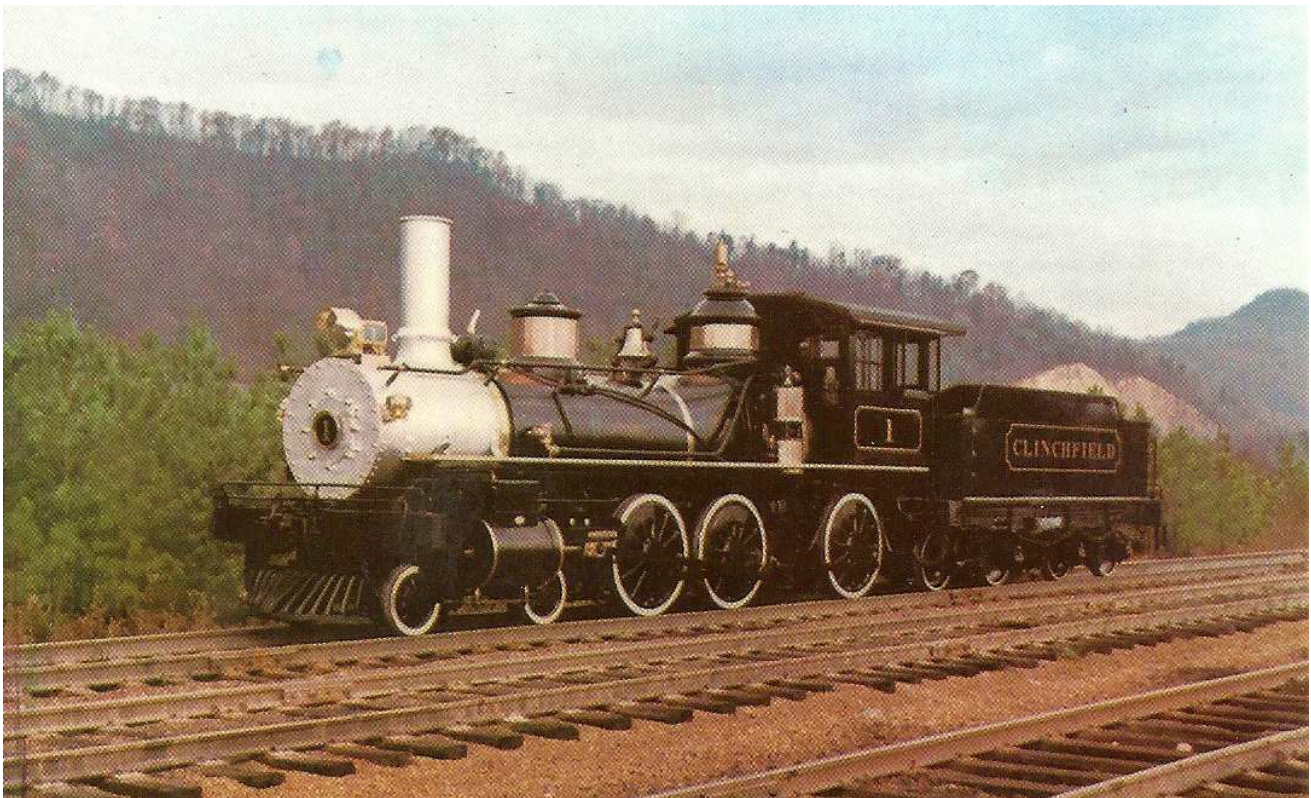
Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum  
P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN. 37605-0432  
(423) 753-5797  
[www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org](http://www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org)



Preserving Our Region's Railroad Heritage

Volume 33 No. 11

November 2013



This postcard view finds ex-CLINCHFIELD #1, the feature topic at this month's membership meeting, at home in the Tennessee hills. This venerable little engine has quite a connection to the area, performing revenue service on the BLACK MOUNTAIN RAILROAD and excursion duty on the CLINCHFIELD. Historically significant, the engine pulled the first food, medicine and rescue workers into May 1889 flood-ravaged Johnstown, PA and helped with the evacuation of refugees.

## *November 25<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting*

This month's General Membership Meeting of the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum will be held at 6:30 pm on November 25, 2013 at the Johnson City Public Library, 101 West Millard St., Johnson City, TN. Our program this month will feature our Autumn Train Excursions out of Spencer, NC. Also, special guest authors Alf Peoples and Mark Stevens will be on hand for a book signing of their just-released pictorial "THE ONE & ONLY" about CLINCHFIELD locomotive #1. This book (see page 3 for more information) will be available for purchase to all attendees for only \$29.95 plus tax. **Buying at the meeting saves shipping costs.** Bring a friend and enjoy evening with your fellow members.

## *Member Notes*

By Nancy Jewell

Our sympathy is extended to Jack Maloney in the death of his aunt, Beulah Maloney, on October 26, 2013, in Telford, TN. Please keep the following members in your thoughts as they deal with health concerns: JoAn Edwards, Emily Miller, and Bob Yaple. As always, let us know of any members, friends or families to whom a card might be sent or a phone call made. The office phone number is 423.753.5797 or call Nancy Jewell at 423.282.0918. Thanks for helping us keep in touch.

Wishing a Happy Thanksgiving to all. -- Nancy Jewell

## *DUES NOTICES FOR 2014*

You'll find attached to the end of this newsletter the Dues Notice for 2014 renewals. Please return to Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum, P. O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN. 37605. As in 2013, you have several options to consider when renewing. You can: (1.) join the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum for \$20.00 individual and add family members at \$5.00 each; (2.) join the National Railway Historical Society, which has raised dues by \$11.00 to \$70.00 this year; (3.) join WVRHS&M and the Railroad Heritage Alliance for \$35 individual and add family members at \$5.00 each; and (4.) join all three organizations for \$85 individual and add family members at \$5.00 each. Each option is specified on the Dues Notice. Any questions should be posted to wataugavalley@embarqmail.com



*WATAUGA VALLEY RHS&M ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MEAL  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2013*



See registration form at the end of this newsletter for details.

## *Spring Street Coach Yard Mechanical Report*

By Bob Yaple

**CLINCHFIELD business car.** WVRHS&M's newest car, "Clinchfield", is in the paint shop in Spencer, NC as reported in the last Whistle Stop. WVRHS&M members Mike Tilley and Tony King recently traveled to Spencer to meet with the painters and make the final decision on the paint color striping for the car. The painters are painting the car in sections; despite inclement weather, the job is expected to finish by the end of November. Plans are to bring the car to the Jonesborough Coach yard for open house in December. The time and date will be announced for the open house. Many former CLINCHFIELD employees will be invited to this event.

**ST. AUGUSTINE coach.** Will be in Spencer, NC for the Christmas excursion trains out of NCTM.

**MOULTRIE dining car.** Back in the Jonesborough Coach yard for the winter.

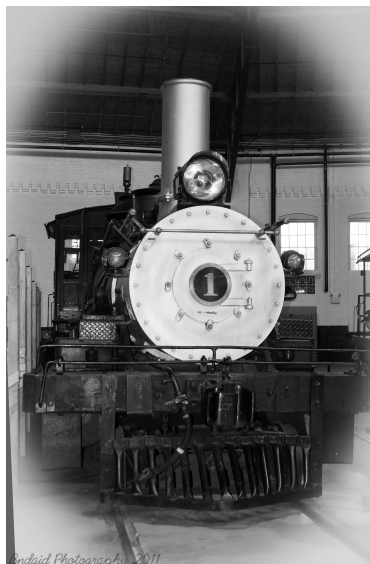
**POWHATAN ARROW coach.** Will be in Spencer, NC for the Christmas excursion trains out of NCTM.

**CRESCENT HARBOR sleeper / lounge.** Is back in the Jonesborough Coach yard for Head End Wire repairs.

## *In the News*



### **NEW PICTORIAL HISTORY BOOK BRINGS FAMED LOCOMOTIVE CLINCHFIELD NO. 1 BACK INTO FOCUS.** [Article by Mark Stevens]



She was the real-life little engine that could, and this October, for the first time ever, a new pictorial history book is dedicated to the CLINCHFIELD No. 1 and her celebrated life on the rails.

The CLINCHFIELD No. 1 holds a special place in the hearts of all those who were lucky enough to hear her delightful whistle blow through the mountains of Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina – and beyond. For still others, she's a glorious showpiece to the days when steam ran the railroad.

Her story, dating back to her creation in 1882 in Indiana, is told through "The One & Only," a new pictorial history book by longtime engineer A.J. "Alf" Peoples and author and newspaper publisher Mark A. Stevens.

The hardcover book features hundreds of color and black-and-white photographs, many never before published anywhere, from throughout the No. 1's career on the rails. Especially interesting is a chapter highlighting the locomotive's salvation from the scrap heap to a celebrated and adored lead locomotive for the CLINCHFIELD RAILROAD's excursion trains. Those sojourns through the mountains delighted passengers for more than a decade, from 1968 until 1979.

Peoples and Stevens hatched plans for the book in 2010 and then worked to collect photographs to include in the volume. "Life kept going, but we both kept collecting more and more photos," said Peoples, who works as an engineer for CSX RAILROAD. "Eventually, Mark and I agreed that we had to stop collecting photos and actually get the book published. Our friends tell us if we find more photos after the book is out, we can always do Volume 2."

Peoples is a third-generation railroad man, but it's not just a career for him. He loves the railroad and is a member of two historical associations that work to collect and maintain rail history.

Professional and amateur photographers from around the United States donated photos for the book, which is published by Elizabethton, Tenn.-based Star Publishing.

The No. 1's history dates back to 1882. For many years, she served railroads as a workhorse. Her original number was the 423 for the CHICAGO & INDIANA CENTRAL RAILWAY. Several railroads owned the locomotive over the years, including the OHIO RIVER & CHARLESTON RAILROAD, the PITTSBURGH, CINCINNATI, CHICAGO & ST. LOUIS RAILROAD and, on two occasions, the CLINCHFIELD RAILROAD.

She didn't get her designation as the No. 1 until she pulled for the North Carolina-based BLACK MOUNTAIN RAILWAY.

Over the years, she went by several nicknames: "Old No. 1," the "One Spot" and even "Rosebud."

After her service seemed over in 1955, the town of Erwin, Tenn., bought her from the CLINCHFIELD RAILROAD with plans to set her up for display, but that [continued on next page]

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project was never realized and, after rusting and rotting away in the rail yard, the No. 1 was saved when CLINCHFIELD RAILROAD General Manager T.D. “Tom” Moore Jr. decided to restore her and have her guide special excursion trains.

It was an audacious plan pulled together by nearly three dozen railroad workers, who, for two months in 1968, completely rebuilt the engine into a shining example of success.

After her days of celebrated excursion leader ended in 1979, she was retired to the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore, Md., where she is a shining star in an extensive collection billed as the “world’s best.”

“But,” Stevens said, “the people of Northeast Tennessee, where the CLINCHFIELD No. 1 called home for so many years, have never forgotten about her. I’m thrilled to be part of a team to bring her life into focus once again in this pictorial history book.”

Peoples’ father, Jack, once served as engineer aboard the locomotive when she was the BLACK MOUNTAIN No. 1, and Peoples himself, as a teenager, worked aboard the early excursion trains pulled by the CLINCHFIELD No. 1.

“I do seem to have a close connection to the No. 1,” Peoples said. “I have photos of me as a toddler aboard the BLACK MOUNTAIN No. 1 and then again as a boy when it was converted to the CLINCHFIELD No. 1. Then years later, I had the honor of working with the Hatcher brothers, who were responsible for taking her on hundreds of excursions over a 13-year period from 1968 until 1979.

“I would never have thought growing up that I’d be the co-author of a book about her, though. I guess you never know where the rails will lead.”

The book is divided into several sections, including segments showing the rebuilding effort inside the Erwin shops and even one on the No. 1’s trip to Florida for her most audacious excursion, where she was welcomed by no less than the cheerleaders for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

“One of my favorite photos in the book is this amazing picture of the CLINCHFIELD No. 1 snapped by Fred Clark Jr. in downtown Tampa, Fla.,” Stevens said. “It was such an amazing find – this never-before-published photo of this little Appalachian locomotive in Florida. You’ve just got to see it to believe it.”

Those photos – and many more – can be found in “The One & Only,” available for \$29.95, plus tax. Copies will be available at our November meeting. You can also call the Elizabethton Star at (423) 542-4151 to order by credit card or buy on Amazon (but at a higher price).



### **Fire Up 611! Campaign Achieves First Fundraising Milestone**

The Virginia Museum of Transportation and the Fire Up 611! Committee announced that the FireUp 611! Capital Campaign has raised the funds to mechanically restore N&W Class J #611. Close to 2000 donations have poured in from across the United States and 15 foreign countries, demonstrating worldwide appreciation for the Roanoke-designed and built locomotive. With the current funding in place for restoration of the mechanical components for the steam engine, the campaign will turn its focus toward raising funds to provide the maintenance facility that will keep the locomotive running for decades. [ED. NOTE: The museum has stated that there is a “possibility” of the 611 becoming operational in Fall 2014.]



**AMTRAK Teams with Google.** AMTRAK is introducing an innovative way to see where trains are and when they are expected to arrive, including information on stations nationwide, all through a new interactive train locator map built on the easy-to-use, familiar Google Maps interface. The new train location tracking system, available at [amtrak.com](http://amtrak.com), provides near real-time train status of more than 300 daily trains, estimates of arrival times and station information – all in the context of the AMTRAK national system map. In addition to helping passengers with travel plans, this new travel resource is an excellent tool for those planning the arrival or departure of family and friends. Users can search for information by train number or name, city name and station name or code. To learn more about the new map visit [blog.amtrak.com](http://blog.amtrak.com). [AMTRAK News Release via “The Green Block”, Central New York NRHS]



**The National Railway Museum** announced this week that a contract has been awarded to restore the famed “Flying Scotsman”, No. 4472, the world-famous LONDON and NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY 4-6-2. Museum officials hope to return the locomotive to steam in 2015. The locomotive has been sidelined since 2007. The “Flying Scotsman” holds two world records: the first verified operation of a steam locomotive at 100 mph in 1934 and the longest non-stop steam run of 422 miles in 1989. The engine toured the U.S. in 1969-1973 and Australia in 1988-1989. [“The Shortline”, Champlain Valley NRHS; photo from Wikipedia]



[CSX Press Release] CSX Corporation and GE Transportation announced an agreement to explore emissions-cutting and efficiency breakthroughs in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) technology for locomotives beginning with a pilot program in 2014.

"LNG technology has the potential to offer one of the most significant developments in railroading since the transition from steam to diesel in the 1950s," said Oscar Munoz, executive vice president and chief operating officer, CSX Corporation. "That change took many years to complete and began with a lot of unknowns, and this one is no different. But aggressively exploring this technology is consistent with CSX's focus on tomorrow, its longstanding commitment to efficient and environmentally friendly transportation, and its role in helping to promote U.S. energy independence. GE Transportation has the know-how to provide the right LNG solution for our locomotive fleet and help us better understand the feasibility of LNG technology from a safety, operations and economic perspective."

Natural gas-fueled locomotives can travel longer distances without refueling stops, as well as provide environmental and economic benefits. Adoption of natural gas-fueled locomotives will make freight rail an even more attractive transportation solution and furthers the industry's ability to absorb traffic from the nation's highways in an environmentally efficient way.

GE has been testing low-pressure natural gas technology since spring of 2013, and is working closely with CSX and other Class 1 partners. An Evolution Series locomotive equipped with the NextFuel Natural Gas Retrofit Kit meets US EPA Tier 3 emission standards. Field tests are expected to begin in 2014. CSX and GE will also work on the continued development of LNG technology for other classes of locomotives to promote gains across a larger portion of the CSX locomotive fleet.

## Photo Section

Whistle Stop contributor Abe Burnett continues to sift through his vintage N&W photographs, digitizing them for posterity. Below is just a sampling that relate to regional interest.



N&W GP9 #778 powers the First Saltville Shifter, captured at Glade Spring, VA in December 1965. Can any of you car aficionados identify the model and year of the Dodge on the foreground?



A string of VIRGINIAN cabooses sit forlornly on a siding at Atkins, VA, awaiting a sad fate after years of service.



Modelers might find the photo of N&W class CF wood caboose #518315 in this 1968 photo a handy guide. The car was built in 1922 in Roanoke; it was retired in 1970.



And while on the topic of modeling, the really ambitious among you might consider building a scale model of this Shaffer's Crossing coal wharf for your layout.



A photo album of our October 12<sup>th</sup> excursion, along with shots of deadhead moves to and from Spencer, can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/l8v9gsj>.



**Autumn on the Rails: Blue Ridge Special Excursion Rolls from Spencer to Asheville.** For Salisbury, NC newspaper photo and coverage of our October 13<sup>th</sup> excursion, check out <http://tinyurl.com/ptctht>.

## Upcoming Events

**21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY STEAM!****November 16 & 17:** ex-SOUTHERN 2-8-0 #630, Knoxville to Asheville, NC.

CSX's annual "Santa Train" will make its 71<sup>st</sup> run on **Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013**. What a remarkable record! This year's Celebrity Guest, making a return appearance, is rising country music star Kree Harrison, runner-up of "American Idol" Season 12.



**WATAUGA VALLEY RHS&M CHRISTMAS MEAL, Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013** at the Jonesborough Visitors Center.



The Jonesborough Holiday Tour of Homes, **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013**.

### ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!***

The Jonesborough Visitors Center has invited WVRHS&M to participate in the annual Holiday Tour of Homes on Sunday, December 15. WVRHS&M will open up our cars at the Jonesborough Coach Yard to the public for this event. We will need hosts to help visitors tour our equipment. To sign up, please call our office at (423) 753-5797 or e-mail [wataugavalley@embarqmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@embarqmail.com).



**February 7 & 8, 2014:** Southern Rails, a traditional get together not open to the general public offering traditional elements like clinics, contests, vendors and, above all, fun. The meet will be held at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain Georgia. As a plus the family will have the opportunity to visit Callaway Gardens while attending. More information is available at [www.SouthernRails.org](http://www.SouthernRails.org).

### ***DIGITAL NEWSLETTER***

We are still asking members to switch over to the electronic version of the *Whistle Stop* to help reduce distribution costs. The electronic version is in living color, the quality is so much better than the printed copy, you'll be able to link directly to referenced web sites, and you'll receive your issue MUCH SOONER. Please try it! Send your e-mail address to [wataugavalley@gmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@gmail.com) or call the WVRHS&M office (423) 753-5797 to receive future copies on line. You will not go back to the printed version once you see what you are missing.

### ***DONATIONS FOR LIBRARY RAILROAD SECTION***

Please bring your railroad book donations to any membership meeting or call our office at (423) 753-5797. Our Railroad Section at the Jonesborough Library is growing every day. Whether you're finished reading or just want to donate, put your books to good work. We have plenty of room for more books.

***Whistle Stop***

Published Monthly by the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society & Museum  
P.O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN 37605-0432

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Fred Waskiewicz, Editor



**Watauga Valley RHS & Museum  
P.O. Box 432  
Johnson City, TN 37605-0432**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**TIME VALUE MATERIAL**



# **WATAUGA VALLEY RHS&M DUES NOTICE FOR 2014**

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE WATAUGA VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM WILL **EXPIRE** ON DECEMBER 31, 2013. YOU HAVE A CHOICE OF WHICH TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP YOU DESIRE. PLEASE SELECT WHICH MEMBERSHIP YOU CHOOSE AND MAIL THIS FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK (NO CASH, PLEASE) TO WATAUGA VALLEY RHS&M, P. O. BOX 432, JOHNSON CITY, TN.37605-0432. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID YOUR DUES, PLEASE DISREGARD.

**\_\_\_ OPTION 1: WATAUGA VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM**

Dues

Individual Membership \$20.00

Family Membership. \$ 5.00 per each family member \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ OPTION 2: WATAUGA VALLEY CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Dues

Individual Membership \$70.00

Family Membership \$ 5.00 per each family member \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ OPTION 3: WATAUGA VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM AND THE RAILROAD HERITAGE ALLIANCE**

Dues

Individual Membership \$35.00

Family Membership \$ 5.00 per each family member \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ OPTION 4: MEMBERSHIP IN ALL THREE ORGANIZATIONS ABOVE**

Individual Membership \$85.00

Family Membership \$ 5.00 per each family member \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Watauga Valley RHS&M \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED (check only, please) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

# WATAUGA VALLEY RHS&M ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MEAL

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2013**



**CHRISTMAS GATHERING.** It's time once again for the our annual Christmas Meal, and this year we plan to gather at the Jonesborough Visitors Center, 117 Boone St., Jonesborough, TN. Please bring your food to the Visitors Center by 11:30 AM as the serving line will open at 12 noon. WVRHS&M will provide meats, drinks, deserts and rolls. Members are asked to bring a vegetable and salad; 2 vegetables; or 2 salads. Please bring enough food for yourself, for your guest(s), and for several others.

To make reservations, cut out the form below and mail to Watauga Valley RHS&M Annual Meal, P.O. Box 432, Johnson City, TN 37605-0432. You can also call in your reservation to our office phone at (423) 753-5797; turn in your completed form at the November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting; or email your completed form to [wataugavalley@embarqmail.com](mailto:wataugavalley@embarqmail.com). There will be good food and good fellowship! Please make your reservations no later than Monday, December 2, 2013.

**YOU'LL see US at the *Christmas Gathering!***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I/we will bring: 2 Vegetables \_\_\_\_ 2 Salads \_\_\_\_ Vegetable and Salad \_\_\_\_

***NOTE THAT THE CHRISTMAS GATHERING WILL BE OUR DECEMBER MEETING.  
WE WILL NOT HAVE A MEETING ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MONDAY OF DECEMBER.***