

Roundhouse Notes

Paducah Chapter
National Railway Historical Society
DEC 2015



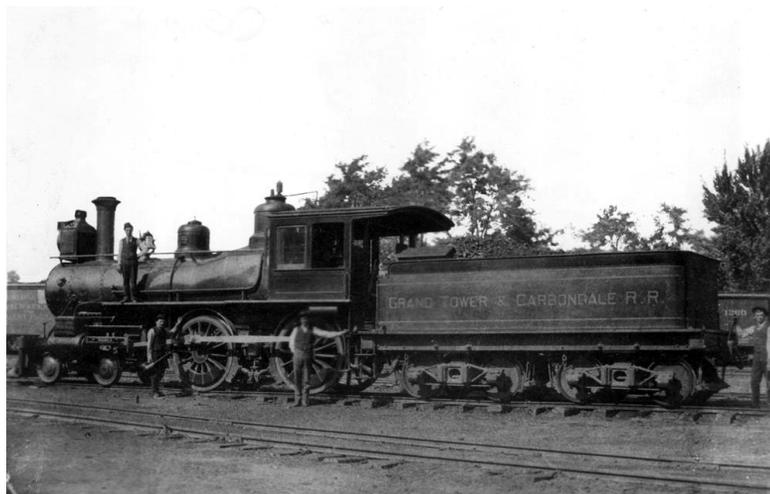
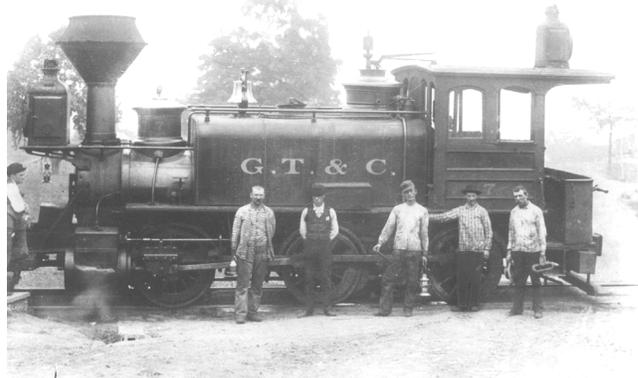
Chicago Tribune Photo

Lions, Tigers and Bears!

We have all seen the Lionel model railroad cars with a giraffe head sticking out the top. Well here is a car load of animals being unloaded from an IC boxcar. These animals were being offloaded and taken to the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago. This shot was taken sometime in August of 1954 and was posted to the Illinois Central Heritage page on Facebook.



You won't see many animals being shipped by rail any more with exception to the Ringling Brothers circus train.



Photos posted by Mary Rae McPherson on the Illinois Central Heritage Facebook Page

Grand Tower and Carbondale Railroad

I found these interesting photos online of a line that ran from "Carbondale to Grand Tower IL." It was built in 1885 and subsequently swallowed by the Chicago and Texas Railroad in 1893 (GT&C and its sister railroad the Grand Tower and Cape Girardeau) In 1897 the line was leased to the IC and became its St Louis & Cape Girardeau division. These pictures have to date from the late 1800's

The picture to the right is from a wreck of a coal train over the Big Muddy River that killed the line South of Murphysboro in 1979.



NEWS AND VIEWS

Bob Johnston

RON ALVEY: On November 2nd, the Paducah NRHS Chapter members, as well as the Bristol Broadcasting family, (where he was Production Manager) were shocked by the unexpected death of Ron Alvey who suffered a massive heart attack as he prepared for work. Ron was the son of Judy Alvey and the late beloved Don Alvey. Ron was a long standing member of Paducah Chapter, and a regular attendant at our meetings. His work demands prevented him from most activity at the museum, but he was very valuable in providing radio publicity through the Bristol network for museum activities, especially special events, such as "Little Obie." His presence and support will be greatly missed by all of us, and we extend our sympathy and support to Judy, who has continued her work in the Gift Shop since Ron's death. The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Paducah Railroad Museum, and we have already received several nice contributions. Ron's name is being added to our Memorial Plaque. Hopefully, his will be the last for some time.

JANET POLLENDER: Janet, Glen's mother was recently honored by having her picture in the Veteran's Day Edition of the Paducah SUN. She served as a PFC 3 in the Woman's Army Corps from 1961 to 1962, Janet is very ill and has recently spent time in a nursing facility but is presently at home. We offer our support to her, Glen, and Don.

P&L: John Deming reports that work on the renovation of Business Car Bluegrass I, is nearing completion. (It is the car with the observation platform). According to him, the P&L would like to complete the job by hanging classic marker lights on the rear. We have a pair of I.C. passenger marker lights in the museum that were donated some time ago, and the P&L would appreciate it if we would donate them for that use. We have other marker lights on hand, and in the opinion of this writer, it would be a gracious gesture for us to do this. It would help maintain our good relationship with the P&L, and place the lights to the use they were intended.

VMV: Nothing out of the ordinary observed at VMV this month.

UNEXPECTED RAILROAD SONGS: On October 30th, I happened to turn on my truck radio, and immediately heard a song bearing the refrain, "there ain't no train to Nashville anymore." It was composed and sung by one Pez Ozukowski, an entertainer who dislikes air transport, who realized that he could not get to Nashville by train. The song points up the fact that Nashville, TN is one of the largest U. S. cities without passenger train service. In researching the song I found a similar one by the more famous Garrison Keillor, who wrote and sung "No Train to Memphis Anymore," (which of course is not true as the City of New Orleans still calls there). Both songs refer to the "Pan American," the famous L&N passenger train

that ran from Chicago to New Orleans through Nashville, and itself was the subject of a song by the immortal Hank Williams, Sr.

CANADIAN PACIFIC-NORFOLK SOUTHERN MERGER: This has been the big national railroad news this month. The details and ramifications are too long and complex to be discussed adequately in this space, but basically involves an unsolicited, if not unfriendly, proposal by CP CEO Hunter Harrison to merge with (i.e. takeover) the NS. CP was offering a premium of less than 10 per cent for NS stock and although NS Directors indicated they would carefully consider the offer, it is pretty obvious that they consider it too small. Other Class I roads and shippers are likely to object, even though Harrison has promised "reasonable open access." If negotiations become serious the merger will face a long journey before the Surface Transportation Board. If it comes to fruition, it may well force more mergers that could cause the U.S. to become, perhaps, a two Class I railroad system. This may be a long drawn out story.

KENTUCKY UPGRADING CROSSINGS: On November 3rd, it was announced that Kentucky Governor Beshear approved over \$ 3 million in grant money to upgrade railroad/highway crossings. Railroads receiving money include R. J. Corman, P&L, Kentucky Railroad Museum, and The Port of Louisville Railroad. On a local note, Olivet Church Road has recently been closed near the Indus-

trial Park entrance because of reconstruction of the Maxon District (Mud Line) crossing by P&L which owns the line. This crossing is near the former location of Futrell, where the Mud Line continued through the woods and entered Paducah behind Noble Park, crossing Old Cairo Road at Perkins Creek, and continued down what is now the city lead, crossing Jefferson, Broadway, and Kentucky. After construction of the Edgewood Cut-Off in the 1920's, the old route was abandoned and the current alignment adopted. Futrell was also the location of a horrific accident in the 20's when a passenger train under the control of famous I.C. engineer, Billy Burch, hit a Model T car in a rainstorm, killing several people.

NEW RAILROAD RESTAURANT: In a November 30th story, Channel Six reported the opening of a new restaurant at Princeton, in the former Princeton Railroad Museum building. Called Choo Ollies, it is railroad themed and your food is delivered to you on a model (G-Gauge) train. It is owned by Kevin Oliver, a native of Princeton, who is a full time employee of CSX and a life-long train fan and who bought the railroad museum building when it went up for auction three years ago. Since then Oliver has completely remodeled the structure including connecting 200 wires to program the train to stop at your location with your food, at the push of a button. At present the restaurant, which reportedly is the only train themed one in Kentucky, is open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 116 Edwards Street, just off Princeton's historic district.

CN AD: Recently CN Railroad ran a color ad in the Paducah SUN

warning of the dangers of riding ATV's on railroad right of way. It is customary for them to do this before the beginning of the fall hunting season, and the spring recreational season.

VANDALISM IN FREDONIA: Over the Thanksgiving week-end thieves broke into the offices of the Fredonia Quarry using blow torches to open the safe, burning the building in the process and stealing a large quantity of tools. They also stole radios belonging to the Fredonia Valley Railroad, which carries rock from the quarry to Princeton to interchange with the P&L. The radios had P&L frequencies and that railroad was notified to be on the alert in case they heard strange voices on their frequency.

MISC. SIGHTINGS AND HAPPENINGS: John Deming reported seeing on November 4th, at the "battery store" location on Irvin Cobb Drive, on a UP coal train, UP 343, a former SP locomotive, still in black & red SP paint with its original number. According to John, there may be only three of these engines left in the original paint and number...Near the end of October John also saw in Centralia, IL the CN Executive Train with two business cars. Also on hand were two "Little Obie" sets giving rides, one from Canada, and one from the U.S. It is unusual to see two of these at the same location, but the occasion was Centralia's annual Halloween Festival, in which CN usually participates... James "Rabbit" Cruce, founder and principal in the Fulton Railroad Museum has found an "orphan" former ICG caboose in the Fulton yards, and persuaded the CN to donate it to the museum and city, and also to take it to Centralia and repaint it into original I. C. red. It

will be placed in the Fulton-South Fulton down town area on former I.C. road bed....Recently, this writer saw on the P&I, an out-bound loaded BNSF Ballast Train with a Santa Fe Warbonnet locomotive on the point,*(Also a yellow and Blue Warbonnet in the consist .Ed)* and BNSF ballast cars, each with a solar panel to provide power for custom spreading of the ballast.

MUSEUM: The museum had 256 visitors in November, including 123 boat passengers, and 21 from two groups. This compares to 292 last year and 193 in 2013. Glen Pollender is making progress on the O gauge model train and scenery, and Amy is making plans for exhibit changes during the January -February off season.

CHRISTMAS DINNER: Don't forget our Christmas dinner which will be at the Gondolier Restaurant at Jordan's Crossing behind the Mall at 6:30 p.m on Tuesday Dec 8th Try to bring a friend and prospective new member.

Roundhouse Notes



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One of very few SP engines still in original paint spotted in Paducah on the P&L

Meeting *
Tuesday Dec 8th
6:30
At the
Gondolier
Restaurant
In Paducah

Roundhouse Notes
P.O. Box 1194
Paducah KY 42002