



STACK TALK

The official newsletter of the Adobe Western Railroad,
Phoenix, Arizona, operated by the Maricopa Live Steamers
Railroad Heritage Preservation Society

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December 2005



Bill Lowe and his merry gang of gandy dancers are seen replacing worn-out switches at Adobe Tower. More photos on page 3.

News from the President



Perry McCully

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all! The past year has been good to us—Ford Station, new members, old members, a new signal system, and the new Pottsville branch. It's been a very good year. I can't tell you enough how much this

club appreciates all of your efforts in making this a great club.

It's Christmas party time in the park. Come one, come all to Ford Station and bring a dish to pass for the pot luck Saturday the 10th starting at 6 p.m. Mike Russell has the clubhouse all decked out for our Christmas party. If you can, please bring an unwrapped toy for the toy drive. The Phoenix Fire Department will have an engine in the park for the kids to look at plus we are pulling the public from noon to 5 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, December 10th and 11th. PLEASE come and help.

Saturday the 10th is the Fun Run weekend that Jeff Hickmen does once a month. Those that attended last time had a great time.

The club received a large sum of money to buy a loader for the club tractor. It turned out that it will only buy

half a loader. So (here it comes again) it sure would be nice to have a loader to fill hopper cars. This is the worst time to be begging for money but I have to start sometime. Even a hapenny will do.

We have ordered rail and it is coming (we hope) on December 10th. That means a tie-cutting party is in order. Bob Alkire has already started cutting. Please come out and help cut ties. I'm sure if you call him he can get you started cutting. We need lots of ties.

I will stop begging for a while. I have enjoyed being your president these past two years. I look forward to having ONE more great year. I'm sure we will.

From the board and I, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. Remember—no public runs on Christmas and New Years day (both are Sundays). ❖

Treasurer's Notes



Bob Douglas

This is your last chance to be listed in the 2006 MLS Roster!

Have you paid your MLS dues for 2006? If not, you only have until December 31st to be listed in the club Roster. Please call me at (602) 885-2423 if you have any questions. The club needs your support. The cost of MLS membership is still "The Best Deal In Town."

December 10th will be a very busy day. Along with all of the other events, 21,600 feet of aluminum rail will arrive. MLS members have paid the cost of the entire order. What a Christmas gift!

The Fisher Industrial Complex trackage is expected to grow by 2300 feet. WOW! That area can be considered to be a railroad by itself.

Construction of the Adobe West Yard will begin as soon as the Pottsville sub-division has been completed. Track spurs will also be added at Werner, Martins Ferry, Geronimo, and Osband Tanks.

The track team appreciates all the help in replacing four mainline switches at AJ Tower.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. ❖

George Bush Presidential Library & Museum a mecca for railfans.

Perry McCully received the following email from MLS member Bill Laird who lives in Canyon Lake, Texas. Perry thought Stack Talk readers would find it interesting. [Ed.]

Early this morning, Linda and I drove over to College Station and spent the day at the George Bush Library. I had been meaning to visit the library for some time, but kept putting it off. With the current train oriented exhibits in mind, I got

off my duff and made the trip. The museum itself is impressive and the exhibits on the life and times of GB are easy to view and very interesting and informative. I was personally moved by the exhibit on the cold war and the Berlin wall, having spent a number of years directly involved with both.

The train stuff is great and Huston Area Live Steamers (HALS) is very visibly represented. As you first enter the primary museum hall, Doug Blodgett's Shay is on the left and a little further along on the right side is UP 9944.

Next, you encounter a full size diesel cab GE locomotive simulator. As you enter the rear of the cab you see the conductor/brakeman seat on the left in front of a console of state of the art digital instrumentation. On the right side is the engineer's chair in front of an even larger display of instrumentation and controls. What is neat about the exhibit is that there is a continual movie playing in the front wind-screens showing the cab view of the locomotive moving through several different terrains. As the locomotive rapidly takes a curve and enters a tunnel you instinctively brace yourself for the curve and duck your head slightly as you approach the tunnel. Neat stuff!

More train exhibits are off the main hall in four interconnected side rooms and contain lots of railroad artifacts. Excellent examples of railroad watches are on display with a very good explanation of the importance of accurate time on the railroad throughout the years. Linda particularly enjoyed the displays on the Harvey Girls and the several displayed place settings of railroad china from various railroads. Seeing the blue and white B&O china brought back my own childhood memories of eating in the dinner on the steam pulled "Capital Limited," circa 1950.

The remainder of the railroad exhibits are contained in a long hallway alongside the building. These consist of lots of HO brass passenger consists (primarily UP), on loan from a family connected with Overland Brass, some pieces from Frank Sinatra's collection, and several more items belonging to HALS members. A 1-1/2" scale freight train is on display in the center of

the hallway so that visitors may walk down either side and view each car. On the point is one of Gil and Virginia's Santa Fe RS diesels, followed by David Hannah's high side gondola, two of Gary Brother's tank cars, and three more of David's cars, a stock car, flat car, and caboose. As you exit the hallway back to the museum entrance rotunda, there on the right is Brent Courtney's mogul. At each of the HALS exhibits there is a document explaining about HALS and information about the item being displayed.

HALS is well represented in the exhibit and all of the equipment is in pristine condition.

In an similar note, the Annetta Valley and Western Railroad Club has a train exhibit currently showing through the holiday season in the Ft. Worth Museum of Science and History. Several pieces of 1-1/2" scale and 2-1/2" scale equipment are on display. In the lobby area is a large Christmas tree with a partially opened box under the tree. Spilling out of the box is section of 7-1/2" track curving around the tree. On the track is Ronnie McCauley's Fitchburg and a stock car. In addition to the live steam hobby equipment on display, club members loaned a number of railroad artifacts to the museum which are on display in glass cases.

I urge anyone with an interest in trains to visit either or both of these interesting museum exhibits.

Bill Laird
Canyon Lake, Texas

Gate combination is available from any board member

As announced at the November business meeting, a combination lock has replaced the plethora of locks that adorned our front gate.

If you would like the combination, contact any board member. the number will also appear on your 2006 membership card.



News from the Vice President



Betty Jane Moore

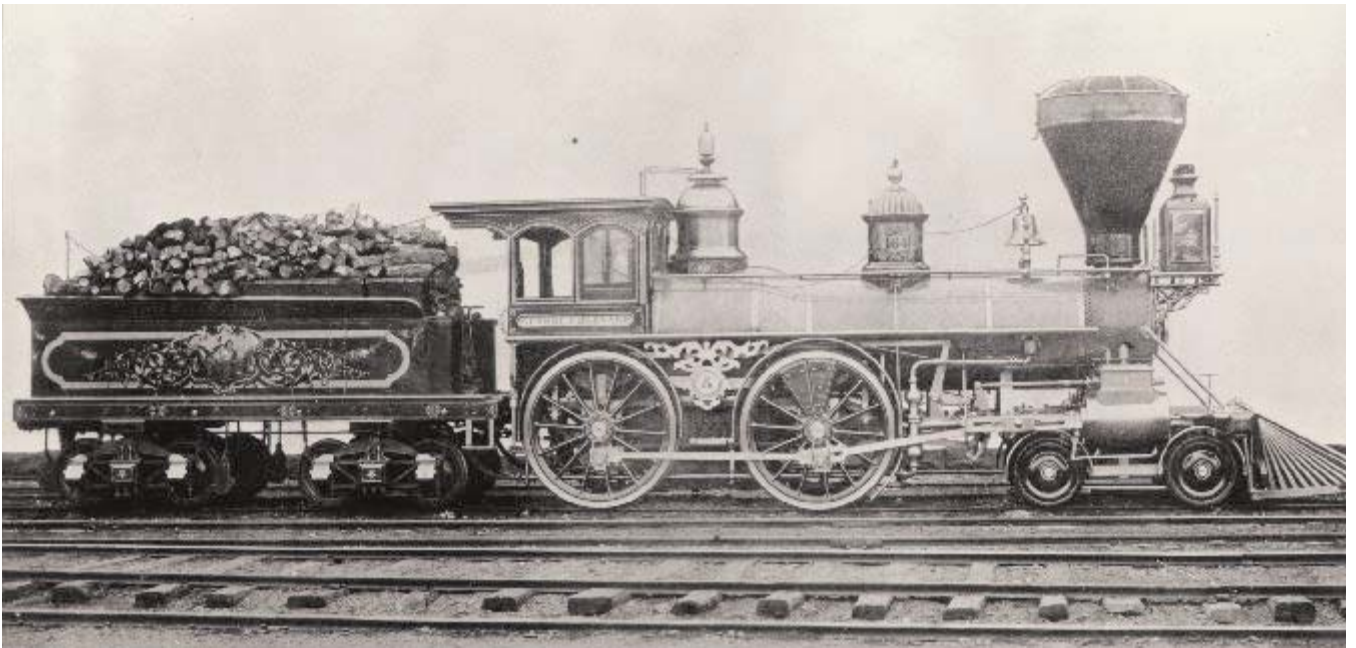
Here we are in December and the year is almost done. What a great year we have had. We have accomplished so much. The clubhouse is done. Almost all of the signals have been rewired and are up and running. Most of the track has been repaired and re-ballasted. We have had two great meets. We have a lot of new members. We are having fun while working and playing. Here's to you all. Thank you.

Our Annual Toy Drive is coming up December 10th and 11th in partnership with the Phoenix Fire Department. Please plan on coming out. We will be running the public on Saturday and Sunday from 12 noon to 5:00 P.M. As an added bonus we will be having our joint Christmas Party with AMRS and Sahuaro Central on Saturday night in our clubhouse at 6:00 P.M. Bring food and a toy for the drive and then play trains all night. Our monthly Friends Night will also be on Saturday the 10th. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to each and every one of you and we wish you the best of all new years.

Happy rails to you, until we meet again. ❖



Here are additional photos of the replacement of switches at Adobe Junction.



Engine 171 of the Broad Gauge Erie Railroad in southeastern New York state.

On July 15, 1864 Erie 171, a wood burning steam locomotive pulling 17 passenger and freight cars moved along the Broad Gauge Erie Railroad in southeastern New York state. Aboard were 833 Confederate prisoners of war and 128 Union guards.

Shortly after 2:30 p.m., Engine

171 collided with Erie 237, a 50-car coal train in Shohola Township in Pike County, Pennsylvania.

At least 51 Confederate prisoners and an official total of 17 Union guards died either on the spot or within a day of the wreck. Thirteen soldiers of the 51st North Carolina

Infantry lost their lives in a few seconds. Confederate corpses were laid in rows, the most hideously mangled among them were covered with grass and leaves.

The complete story may be found on the Camp Shohola web page, www.shohola.com/trainwreck/

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We welcome your comments,
suggestions and submissions.



MLS CALENDAR

Saturday, December 10

Board of directors meeting 9 a.m.
Business meeting 10 a.m.
Annual Toy Drive Noon to 5 p.m. (Public rides)

Sunday, December 11

Annual Toy Drive Noon to 5 p.m. (Public rides)

