

# THE FLATWHEEL

The Official Monthly Publication of the Central Florida  
Railway Historical Society, Inc.



## August 2015

### August 2015 Meeting

Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
Central Florida RR Museum  
101 S. Boyd St., Winter Garden, FL  
**Program:** Twelve Railfan Stops - Summer 2014  
**By:** Frank Milmore  
**Refreshments:** Curt Webb

### September 2015 Meeting

Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
Central Florida RR Museum  
101 S. Boyd St., Winter Garden, FL  
**Program:** Classic Florida Rails (Part 2)  
**By:** Irv Lipscomb  
**Refreshments:** David Rhea

### Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc.

#### Central Florida RR Museum Host Duty Schedule — August 2015

DAY	DATE	HOURS	MUSEUM HOST
Saturday	9/1/15	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Dan & Janet Crusie
Sunday	9/2/15	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Mike Kelly
Saturday	9/8/15	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Irv Lipscomb
Sunday	9/9/15	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Bill & Debby Dusenbury
Saturday	9/15/15	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Jarrod Reynolds
Sunday	9/16/15	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Richard Bazzo
Saturday	9/22/15	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Phil Piet
Sunday	9/23/15	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Frank Milmore
Saturday	9/29/15	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Clem Kruse
Sunday	9/30/15	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Richard Bazzo



*This photo was submitted by Society Member Irv Lipscomb. He says these are his colors.*

### August 2015 Museum Work Session Saturday, August 15, 2015

**8:30 AM to 3:30 PM**

**Please come out and help with the many chores that need to be done!!!!**

### August Birthdays

**Debby Dusenbury 8/01**  
**Ann Cross 8/11**  
**Carole White 8/12**  
**Catherine Turcyn 8/18**  
**Clayton Bishop 8/25**  
**Les Westlake 8/26**



# This Is The Way It Was

This monthly photo column by Ken Murdock features railroad scenes of the past, a look back into railroading's history.



This month I'll have to call my photos "This is the Way it Is". I recently had a rare opportunity to view the SunRail Bridge over the St. Johns River from a paddle wheeler while on a lunch cruise, and I wanted to share them with you. This first scene is approaching the bridge from Sanford as we pass under I-4. By the way, I highly recommend the lunch cruise by the St. Johns River Steamship Co.



This photo gives you a close-up view of the operator's house which is manned 24-7. A sign on the bridge still said that it was CSX property, but I believe it was included in the sale to SunRail. The single track, bascule type bridge was built by the ACL in the 1960s as a replacement to increase capacity of an earlier swing span bridge.



This is a view that you will never get from the train unless it's about to drop into the river! The size of the massive structural components can be appreciated as you look south on the main line towards Sanford. SunRail has no immediate plans to double track the bridge. The first crossing of the river occurred at this location in 1886 by the Jacksonville, Tampa & Key West Railway.

## July 2015 Museum Report

By Ken Murdock, Museum Curator

Museum work continued during the month on Wednesdays with Jerry and Ginger Honetor, Clem Kruse, Al Sharp, Lloyd Brown and I working steadily at the museum and at Lakeville Elementary School. Clem has finished his work of organizing and filing the railroad timetables and dining car menus in binders and has done an outstanding job! Thank you Clem!! He has a little more work to do in the flat files, organizing our large format items like maps, art work, posters, photos and calendars, but will limit that work to our monthly museum workdays. David Rhea and William Walter completed the restoration of our two highway crossing signals at William's place and brought them back to the museum caboose yard. They are now ready for installation once cooler weather arrives. Thank you David and William!!

Jerry continues with the inventory of library items on most Wednesdays and monthly Saturday workdays. Ginger hosts every Wednesday and cleans display items and glass shelves in showcases in the morning before she begins hosting. Al, Lloyd and I have been spending most Wednesdays at Lakeville or at the museum, trying to complete the inventory of our items on loan at Lakeville. Since we can't access Past Perfect at Lakeville, we must come back to the museum with our photos and hand written notes, and enter that information into Past Perfect there. We then make inventory ID stickers and take them to Lakeville and place them on each item. We are about 99% complete with inventory at Lakeville. Mike Ryan made display signage at home for us to put in the showcases at Lakeville School. Thank you Mike!!

On July 25<sup>th</sup> we started our monthly museum workday at Lakeville with 10 of our members participating plus a number of school volunteers. Our members participating included Bill Dusenbury, Lloyd Brown, Allen Quinn, Al Sharp, Frank Milmore, Phil Cross, Roger Wilson, Jerry and Ginger Honetor and your curator. We relocated six showcases that were originally back to back in the middle of an alcove in the cafeteria. We turned them along two walls so that all of them are now much more visible to the students as they walk by. This was a request of Ms. Cynthia Swanson, the principal, and it showed that she is taking an interest once again in the railroad themes of the school, "The Lakeville Engineers" and "On Track for Excellence". Turning the showcases was no easy task since many years of floor wax had glued them to the floor. We had to use pry-bars to break the bond, and in many places, the vinyl floor tiles came up with the showcases. We were directed to proceed anyway by Lisa Morrison, the teacher in charge, and told that the school would deal with the floor repairs.

We also cleaned glass shelves and dust from the inside of these showcases plus another large glass showcase built into a wall of the lobby. There was more than 10 years of dust accumulation on everything. We also cleaned a thick layer of dust from the HO scale model railroad layout that was donated by David Rhea. The trees look like they have been taken over by HO scale Spanish moss! There is more work to be done here before the layout will be operable once again. In the future we need to plan on going to the school once each summer, as a minimum, to clean our displays and the layout to keep things looking presentable.

We also helped re-hang many, many framed railroad and model railroad photos and posters on the walls in the lobby and the cafeteria. They were taken down by the previous administration. There are still many, many more framed photos to hang in the cafeteria, but we were told that the teachers will be back in August and can help with that chore. We were very happy to hear that!

The school provided Chick-fillet box lunches and drinks for all of the volunteers. Several members, I won't mention any names, refused the free lunches and chose to go back to Harry & Larry's in Winter Garden for lunch! Do I need to mention any names? Due to the heavy work load at Lakeville, none of us went back to the museum to take care of cleaning there since it had opened before we could get back. Phil returned sometime during the following week when the museum was closed and took care of our housekeeping chores. Thanks Phil, for your dedication!

Warren McFarland will be going to Lakeville in the fall to demonstrate telegraphy to the students. The school was happy that he has volunteered to come back again since he has done this several times in the past. They will welcome any from our group who are willing come and talk to the students on most any subject concerning railroading.

Thanks to each of you who came out and worked at our museum and our museum annex at Lakeville or took on projects at home. You have made this a very, very good month with many things accomplished.

## Upcoming Events

**August 3, 2015** — Winter Garden, FL — Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**August 10, 2015** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**September 14, 2015** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**October 3, 2015** — St. Marys, GA — Railroad Days at the St. Marys Railroad to include motor cars, exhibits, demonstrations and steam train.

**October 3, 2015** — Deland, FL — 53<sup>rd</sup> Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3150 East New York Avenue, 9 am – 4 pm. Contact: Charles Miller, 386-736-8185, [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com). Website: <http://www.gserr.com>.

**October 12, 2015** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**November 9, 2015** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**December 8, 2015** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**December 19-20, 2015** — Tampa, FL — 14<sup>th</sup> Tampa Train Show & Sale, Florida State Fairgrounds Special Events Center, 9 AM to 5 PM Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM Sunday. Contact: Charles Miller, 386-736-8185, [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com). Website: <http://www.gserr.com>.

**January 9, 2016** — Clermont, FL — Annual Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at the 801 City Grille, beginning with a social hour at 6 PM.

**January 9 & 10, 2016** — Deland, FL — 54<sup>th</sup> Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3150 East New York Avenue, 9 am – 4 pm and 10 am– 3:30 pm. Contact: Charles Miller, 386-736-8185, [rrshows@aol.com](mailto:rrshows@aol.com). Website: <http://www.gserr.com>.

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### **Leesburg Train May Get New Home**

By Scott Callahan  
*The Daily Commercial*

LEESBURG — A 95-year-old steam locomotive with few local roots may be uprooted.

There are 41 steam locomotives still in use or on display in Florida, but just a handful of these displays are located at municipal parks instead of museums and historical villages. Leesburg has one of these locomotives at a fenced-in and covered display at Herlong Park along U.S. Highway 441.

But it's future seems sketchy.

The coal-fired locomotive was built in 1920 by the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia for the Cummer Lumber Company in Jacksonville to haul pine, cypress and other logs from Baker, Alachua and Levy counties to the company's mill at Lacoochee in Pasco County, according to the Cummer Museum.

Some \$30,000 worth of renovations are needed for the locomotive, and at a recent budget workshop, City Commissioner Dan Robuck said he'd prefer to "see it just go away." He'd rather have Leesburg spend its money fixing up important "core" parks like Venetian Gardens, Berry Park, the Sleepy Hollow Recreation Complex and the Susan Street Recreation Complex.

The battleship-gray locomotive has paint coming off it in hand-sized flakes. Rust abounds, and its wood is rotting. There is nothing to indicate the locomotive ever serviced Leesburg. It seems the only reason it is here is because Albert Herlong wanted it on property he owned across from the Cutrale citrus plant.

Herlong is a former Lake County judge who went on to become a U.S. congressman. He also was a railroad enthusiast.

The train was moved to Leesburg in 1960 and Herlong donated the land to the city, which dedicated it as a park to Albert and his wife, Cora. He died 20 years ago.

The park is a small 2.5-acre site with seven picnic tables and a drinking fountain. With a boat launch and pier, it's mostly used by fishermen and Robuck said, to him, the park is pretty much just a boat ramp.

One reviewer on [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com) agrees.

"More of a boat ramp than a park," the reviewer said last March. ...This park doesn't have much if you don't boat or fish."

Upon the suggestion of Mayor Elise Dennison, City Manager Al Minner said he will approach Beacon College to see if it would like to have the locomotive at the recently renovated city train station at 300 N. Palmetto St. The engine's renovation would fall on the college's shoulders.

The city owns the station, which was built in 1913, but is leasing it to the college for \$100 a year for educational and recreational purposes.

Minner told the commission he will report back at a later date. The website [www.steamlocomotive.info](http://www.steamlocomotive.info) says the locomotive at Herlong Park weighs 120,000 pounds and is one of 41 steam locomotives in Florida.

Without renovations, the locomotive's days are numbered. On the website [www.rrpictutes.net](http://www.rrpictutes.net), railroad buff Gregory Garbacz said, "Rust and rot will take their toll on this vintage piece. Hopefully someone will step up in time."



## More On The Descanso

By Phil Piet

I noticed the article about LA Railway's Descanso in the July 2015 *Flatwheel*. As a former Orange Empire Railway Museum Docent, I am very familiar with the car. It is immaculately restored, and the interior can be described as elegant. It was built in 1909 and was retired in 1924. After its use as a funeral car, it was re-worked and put into regular streetcar service. Angelinos, however, knew of its heritage and refused to ride it. They'd wait for the next car. So it was retired early to await its fate as a clubhouse on Cajon Pass (photo in article).

Here are some recent photos from the OERM web site.



**Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc.**  
**Combined Board & Regular Meeting Agenda**  
Central Florida RR Museum  
July 13, 2015  
7:00 PM

1. Call to Order – Bill Dusenbury
  - Board Members in attendance were Bill Dusenbury, Jerry Honetor, Joe Lehmann, David Rhea, Phil Piet and Phil Cross.
2. Meeting Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance – David Rhea
3. Recognition of Visitors – Bill Dusenbury
  - David Rhea introduced Chris Carney who is our guest speaker and also donated many railroad artifacts.
4. Recognition of Members/Friends Concerns – Bill Dusenbury
  - David Rhea reported he has a cancerous tumor in his bladder. Scheduled this Friday for the surgery.
  - David Rhea also reported Irv Lipscomb is in the hospital for an unknown reason.
  - Clem & Carole White's daughter Donna she has been diagnosed sialic disease. She is doing extremely well.
5. Approval of the June 8, 2015 Combined Board & Regular Meeting Minutes – Bill Dusenbury
  - A motion by Jerry Honetor second by Phil Piet to approve the minutes. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
6. June 2015 Treasurer's Report – David Rhea
  - David Rhea reported the society is solvent.
7. Vice President of Membership & Programs Report – Jerry Honetor
  - **Membership Report**
    - \* Currently 67 Members
    - \* 64 Members have renewed for 2015
    - \* 3 new members for 2015
  - **Society Events for 2015**
    - \* None are schedule at this time.
  - **Field Trips Suggested/Planned for 2015**
    - \* Gold Coast Railroad Museum in Miami, FL (Suggested)
    - \* St. Marys Railroad in St. Marys, GA, looking possibly for October 3<sup>rd</sup> trip.
    - \* 253 Steam Association Museum in Ft. Pierce, FL (Suggested)
  - **Programs & Refreshments Hosts for 2015:**
    - \* Programs are needed for September and October 2015.
    - \* Refreshments Host is needed for October 2015.
    - \* Annual Dinner January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM at the 801 City Grille in Clermont
8. Museum Curator Report – Phil Cross reported for Ken Murdock
  - **CFRR Museum Report** – 642 visitors for June; 4,931 visitors for 2015 to date. 373.5 volunteer hours donated by the membership during June; 1,938 hours donated for 2015 to date.
  - **Library Update**
  - **Technology Update**
  - **Recent Acquisitions & Donations** – Chris Carney donated many Southern RWY and Norfolk Southern memorabilia and Bill Dusenbury donated a throttle control for a GP7
  - **Expansion Plans for the Central Florida Railroad Museum**
  - Phil Cross reported they met with RC Stevens updating architectural drawings. Drawings will be presented to the Architectural Review Board, then to the WG Heritage Foundation Board.
  - **The Next Museum Work Session:** The next work session is scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 8:30 AM.
    - \* Will be at the Lakeville School to move the cases and clean them. Then come back to the museum to do cleaning.
9. Museum Host Schedule for August 2015 – No Report.
10. President's Report – Bill Dusenbury
  - **Winter Garden Heritage Foundation Board of Directors Activities for June 2015** – Working on plans for the upcoming MusicFest, October 9-11, 2015, in downtown historic Winter Garden.
  - **CFRHS Facebook Page Update** — No report.

11. FCRR, FMRR, FNRR & SunRail Update – Bill Dusenbury – Nothing to report.
12. Tourist Train Operations on the Florida Central RR – Bill Dusenbury – Nothing to report.
13. Items from the Board of Directors
  - Bill Dusenbury reported August 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly board meeting at 7:00 PM at the CFRR Museum.
14. Items from the Membership
  - Roger Wilson was in Connecticut and reported his ride on a train pulled by a Chinese Steam engine.
15. Tonight's Program: **40 years on the Railroad by Chris Carney**
16. Tonight's Refreshments Provided By: **Phil Piet**
17. Meeting Adjournment
  - Motion by David Rhea second by Jerry Honetor to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Thanks to Society Member Warren McFarland for submitting the following article.

## When Death Rode the Rails in America — A Follow-Up Story

When I read the story in the July *Flatwheel* about the streetcar outfitted for funerals, it made me remember the winter of 1946-47, when I was working a seasonal telegrapher job in the Atlantic Coast Line's St. Petersburg depot. The country was slowly returning to normal after World War II, and there was a pent-up desire by many people to travel, as travel had been curtailed during the war. However, production of automobiles had barely begun and most people were stuck with their pre-war autos, raggedy tires and all. Aviation had not yet recovered from the war, but the railroads had plenty of equipment, even if some of it was rather worn by its wartime service. The ACL already had four daily passenger trains in and out of St. Petersburg and added two more for that winter season.

All of the inbound trains were filled with passengers, but quite a few did not survive to make the return trip. It was not unusual for an outbound train to have six or eight caskets on board as they departed St. Petersburg. The caskets were treated with the utmost respect by all railroad employees. Each casket had its own floor space in the baggage car and nothing was allowed to be loaded on top of them or to crowd their floor space. As a result, often there wasn't enough space in the baggage car to load the checked baggage of all the passengers. Sometimes through baggage would be loaded in one end of the express car, or the forward end of the first coach would be commandeered. Occasionally an extra baggage car became available from one of the inbound trains and it was usually placed in outbound service rather than being deadheaded home.

One night, the station porters came into the telegraph office, which was in the baggage room, all excited. They said that the funeral home attendants had told them that one of the caskets being loaded on the outbound Southland contained the remains of a man who had arrived on the inbound Southland that morning. We were skeptical, but they insisted that it was true.

Caskets were handled as checked baggage, but required two first class tickets, although the escort could use one of those tickets for transportation.

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Thanks to Society Member Craig Murdock for submitting these two fine photographs of "Woody" Rail Inspection Cars.



1941 "Woody" rail inspection car on the Western Maryland Railway.

1940 "Woody" rail inspection car on the Western Maryland Railway.



## 2015 CFRHS Membership Statistics

Society Members	32
Society Century Members	15
Ward Britt	
Phil Cross	
Ann Cross	
Bill Dusenbury	
Charles Hanus, Sr.	
Chuck Hanus	
Linda Hanus	
Andy Healy	
Jerry Honetor	
Clarence Hurt	
Clem Kruse	
Frank Milmore	
Ken Murdock	
Al Sharp	
Jim Shoemaker	
Society Friends	7
Society Family Members	13
Society Student Members	0
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>67</b>

**August 2015 Museum  
Work Session**  
**Saturday, August 15, 2015**  
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**The Flatwheel** is the official monthly publication of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society. Opinions and views expressed in this publication are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the members, officers or directors of the Society.

Material for the Flatwheel (including exchange newsletters) should be sent to the editor via e-mail at:

[editor@cfrhs.org](mailto:editor@cfrhs.org) .

**Please Note:** Material from The Flatwheel may be reprinted in other publications provided credit is given as to the source.

**The Central Florida Railroad Museum** is located at 101 South Boyd Street, Winter Garden, FL, 34787 (downtown Winter Garden, immediately north of the water tower).

The Museum is open daily from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM (excluding selected holidays) or by special arrangements. Large groups are encouraged to contact the Museum at 407-656-0559 to arrange for their tour in advance.

The Central Florida Railroad Museum is operated under a cooperative agreement between the City of Winter Garden, the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation and the Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc..

**The Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc.** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the **Central Florida Railroad Museum**. The Museum is located at 101 South Boyd Street in downtown Winter Garden immediately north of the water tower. Guests and visitors are welcome and encouraged to attend.

All correspondence and other materials for the Society should be mailed to:

Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc.

PO Box 770567

Winter Garden, FL 34777-0567

Or e-mailed to the Society at: [info@cfrhs.org](mailto:info@cfrhs.org)

Web page: [www.cfrhs.org](http://www.cfrhs.org)

**Mission:** The mission of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society, Inc. is: Promoting the railway heritage and preservation and educating members and the public about rail transportation, its history and impact, with a focus on Central Florida.

**Purpose:** The purpose for which this Society is formed and the business or objects to be carried on and promoted by it are mainly historical, educational and not-for-profit. The more particular objects are:

- Preserve the historical materials of rail transportation of all kinds and issue publications relative to the subject.
- Acquire by donation, purchase, lease or otherwise, real or personal property, and to maintain, sell, lease, deed or otherwise manage in a manner appropriate for the Central Florida Railroad Museum and the above mentioned purposes.
- Plan and run a series of programs and events for Society members' education and participation.
- Work and support the activities of the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation. Assist in any and all group projects which benefit the goals and activities of the Society and the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation.

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