

# THE FLATWHEEL

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



## October 2017

### October 2017 Meeting

Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

Central Florida RR Museum

101 S. Boyd St., Winter Garden, FL

**Program:** The Legacy of Disney & His Trains

**By:** Joe Bopp

**Refreshments:** Addison & Mary Jane Austin

### November 2017 Meeting

Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

Central Florida RR Museum

101 S. Boyd St., Winter Garden, FL

**Program:** Exploring CSX's Abandoned

Everett Subdivision

**By:** Patrick Smith

**Refreshments:** Phil Piet

## Central Florida RR Museum Host Duty Schedule October 2017

DAY	DATE	HOURS	MUSEUM HOST
Saturday	N/A	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	N/A
Sunday	10/1/17	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Phil Baker
Saturday	10/7/17	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Irv Lipscomb
Sunday	10/8/17	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Mike Forrester
Saturday	10/14/17	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Phil Piet
Sunday	10/15/17	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Gary Dettman
Saturday	10/21/17	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Ginger Honetor
Sunday	10/22/17	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Clarence Calloway
Saturday	10/28/17	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Allen Quinn
Sunday	10/29/17	1 P.M. – 5 P.M.	Dan & Janet Crusie

## October Birthdays

Jarrod Reynolds 10/3

Gary Dettman 10/4

Danny Harmon 10/4

Lisa Lehmann 10/5

Charles Hanus, Sr. 10/13

Todd Schannuth 10/13

Joe Lehmann, Jr. 10/24

## **October 2017 Museum Work Session**

**Saturday, October 21, 2017  
8:30 AM to 3:30 PM**

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

The Orlando & Northwestern Railway has announced that their startup date has been pushed forward to October 20<sup>th</sup> due to some of their cars being sprayed with graffiti in route to Central Florida and their motive power being delayed in arrival in Central Florida due to Hurricane Irma.

The Society's planned field trip to South Florida to visit the Gold Coast Railroad Museum and several rail-related operations has been postponed until Spring 2018 due to damages sustained during Hurricane Irma. Vice President Phil Piet will advise everyone as soon as plans have been updated for the Spring 2018 trip.

# This Is The Way It Was

## September Museum Report By Ken Murdock, Curator

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



This 1946 freight room scene shows the variety of LCL goods being shipped via the Railway Express Agency. The round bushel crates are most likely fresh produce or citrus bound for northern markets. There are also many packages and steamer trunks being shipped. The depot agent made a commission on REA shipments from his depot and sometimes it exceeded his railroad pay. - *Alvin Lederer Facebook collection*



Less than Car Load (LCL) freight was a significant part of most railroad's business. One major commodity shipped from Florida were fresh flowers and ferns for floral arrangements. The REA facility at Jacksonville Terminal was one of the largest in the country and floral shipments were a major part of their business. In this 1948 scene, gladiolas are being loaded into an ACL express car for fast shipment to a northern market on the headend of a passenger train. - *Alvin Lederer Facebook collection*



In this scene, another load of LCL freight being placed on an ACL Railway Express Agency express car for expedited shipment to a northern market. Soon after this 1951 scene, President Eisenhower initiated construction of the Interstate highway system and jet passenger planes began arriving. LCL freight began moving by trucks and people began driving or flying to their destinations. In 1975, the REA was bankrupt and closed its doors forever. Now we have FEDEX and UPS moving much of their LCL via rail. - *Alvin Lederer Facebook collection*

We started off the month with a museum workday on September 6<sup>th</sup>, with Phil Cross, Jerry and Ginger Honetor and I participating. The Honetors travel to Winter Garden via the Florida Turnpike, from the south side of St. Cloud, and they got caught up in the heavy traffic caused by the mass exodus from south Florida due to hurricane Irma. They didn't arrive until about lunchtime. Phil and I continued hanging sheetrock and we almost finished. Phil and I had to take a construction break and load the caboose with items stored around the caboose that had the potential of becoming projectiles during the hurricane. Jerry continued with some library work, transferring items from the old to the new library. He also worked on the installation of a conduit for the cat5 cables to the router in the Roper Building. Ginger hosted in the afternoon but visitors were few and far between due to everyone shopping for last minute hurricane supplies.

Before Irma came thru, Phil Cross went by the museum and covered the computers and printers with plastic trash bags and David Rhea moved the trash and recycling containers inside. The museum fared well through the storm except for the Roper Building. The Roper Building had some roof damage from the wind but, thankfully, we had no apparent water infiltration. Power was restored the next day. During the hurricane, our museum neighbor, Pat Couture, owner of West Orange Glass, kept hearing a banging noise from the direction of our museum. Mr. Couture lives above his business immediately south of our caboose. He looked out of his back window to see the Roper Building's metal roof panels on the north side being raised up by the wind and then dropping back in place, causing the banging noise. He immediately called the city and they came by and witnessed it. Consequently, when Phil Cross notified them on Wednesday about some roof damage that he had observed, they were already aware of it and will be taking care of it soon. We were very fortunate to have a good neighbor who was looking out for us!

We resumed with our Wednesday workday on September 13<sup>th</sup>, with Phil Cross, Jerry & Ginger Honetor, Irv Lipscomb and me participating. Jerry & I finished pulling the cat5 lines thru the new conduit and had to call on Joe Lehmann's expertise to get the router and switch connected properly. Thanks Joe! Phil and I returned to hanging sheetrock and finished all of it. The next step is taping and mudding the joints. Jerry returned to the library and continued moving items from the old to the new library. Irv continued his work on inventorying the flat-files and then vacuumed some of the sheetrock debris that I made. Ginger worked on cleaning the showcases and hosted in the afternoon. She had very few visitors due to the aftermath of Irma.

Our monthly museum workday was held on September 16, and we had six members participating who included Phil Cross, Irv Lipscomb, Al Butler, Jerry & Ginger Honetor and I. Phil and Ginger took care of the housekeeping chores. Al and I unloaded and disassembled a temporary storage rack in the new work shop to make room for more old library shelves to be moved in to replace temporary ones. Al and I then unloaded the temporary shelves and moved them out of the room for disassembly. Phil, Al, Irv, Jerry and I then went to the old library and unloaded the shelves and removed fasteners holding them in place to prepare them for the move. We moved all of the shelves into the Roper Building but ran out of time before getting them installed. We did modify and reinstall the temporary storage rack over where the old library shelves will go, then reloaded it with a disassembled showcase. It will eventually go in the museum once the old library is removed. Jerry continued moving things from the old library to the new and Ginger hosted in the afternoon. It was another very productive day!

**Continued at the Bottom of the Left Column on Page 3**

## Upcoming Events

**October 7, 2017** — Deland, FL — 61<sup>st</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 9, 2017** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**November 13, 2017** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**December 11, 2017** — Monthly Meeting of the Central Florida Railway Historical Society at 7:00 PM in the Central Florida Railroad Museum, 101 South Boyd Street.

**December 16-17, 2017** — Tampa, FL — 18<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>.

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## September Museum Report

Continued from the Right-Hand Column on Page 2

I was out of town and missed the Wednesday workday on September 20<sup>th</sup>, but Jerry & Ginger Honetor and Phil Cross were there. What they lacked in numbers, they made up for in work accomplished. Jerry continued his work in the library cataloging books, magazines and periodicals. Ginger continued with her maintenance activities on the collection displayed in the museum. Phil got a lot of computer work done, working on the Flatwheel, Flatwheel files, the agenda for the October monthly meeting, and gathering information for our new website. The electrician came and installed the outlet for the under-counter refrigerator and installed more lighting fixtures in the new meeting room.

We wrapped up the month with our Wednesday workday on September 27<sup>th</sup>, and Phil Cross, Irv Lipscomb, Jerry & Ginger Honetor and I participated. We finished hanging a couple of small pieces of sheetrock and then Jerry and I started taping and mudding the joints. Phil caught some missed screws for the sheetrock and cleaned up a lot of construction debris. Jerry then returned to working in the library and Irv worked on inventory in the flat-files. At the end of the day, Irv reported that he had finished the inventory of the flat-files. Phil and I spent the last hour installing two of the old library shelves in the new work shop. Ginger worked on the collection in the morning and hosted in the afternoon.

David Rhea took on another project on his own. He made and installed two PVC bollards to protect our A/C unit from cars parking on the tracks. They really look great! Thank you, David, and thanks to all of you who have volunteered on workdays and have hosted. We couldn't do what we do without you!!

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**PLEASE REMEMBER.....All help is appreciated for the Wednesday weekly and Saturday monthly work sessions.**

## **East Broad Top Owner Trying to Sell Railroad In One Piece**

*By Wayne Laepple  
September 29, 2017*

INDIANA, Pa. — "The East Broad Top is sleeping," Joe Kovalchick says.

Indeed, it's been five years since the legendary narrow-gauge railroad has operated for the public. The famed narrow-gauge coal hauler's modern-day owner, Kovalchick, says he's trying to find someone, some group or agency to buy the 33-mile railroad.

"I want to keep it together," he says. "It's important to maintain that."

He says he's had offers to buy the locomotives, but he doesn't want to sell them piecemeal. He said he had feelers out but so far, no offers.

There have been a handful of private runs since the railroad's popular 9-mile round-trips behind steam ended in 2011. Gas-electric car M-1 and one of the road's center-cab diesels have made runs for the annual Friends of the East Broad Top October gathering, and more recently, several EBT motor cars have made shorter trips.

However, during the EBT's hibernation, the Friends' organizations has kept up its work. Lee Rainey, the organization's president, says volunteers continue to preserve and stabilize buildings with monthly work weekends year-round and a full week of work in May. Kovalchick has partnered the Friends for this work.

"Major stabilization work was begun and is about half done on the freight house. Built in 1884, the freight house was in very precarious condition," Rainey says. In addition, Rainey says work on the foundry and the south end of the locomotive shop is complete. Another crew has been stabilizing the lumber shed, and much new window sash has been fabricated for installation in the blacksmith shop, roundhouse and other buildings. Work continues on the restoration of 1882 combine No. 14.

The East Broad Top Preservation Association, formed in 2010, operated the railroad for two years and was trying to raise about \$8 million to buy it. But, as of late 2017, it has succeeded only in purchasing the standard gauge former Conrail connection in Mount Union, Pa., and about four miles of the East Broad Top south to Aughwick, Pa. At present the standard gauge trackage is used for railcar storage. The association was able to secure a state grant to re-purpose part of the Mount Union interchange yard into a linear park and install new ties into a portion of the EBT yard. Attempts to reach the association were unsuccessful. Any attempt to re-open the railroad faces several major obstacles. Any one of the road's six steam locomotives would have to undergo a lengthy and expensive overhaul to meet federal regulations, and the track, which was getting rough when the line shut down in 2012, would require an unknown number of ties, amount of ballast and surfacing before it could handle regular trains. In addition, since it has been shut down for several years, a strong publicity and marketing effort would be necessary to bring in new riders.



Every Wednesday a small dedicated group of workers from the Central Florida Railway Historical Society converges on the Central Florida Railroad Museum to continue remodeling of the Roper Building. When completed, the space will house additional museum space, and a meeting room, library, workshop and office. The project is being financed entirely by Railway Society members' contributions. Donations from Society Members and the public will be received with great enthusiasm and gratitude. They may be mailed to Central Florida Railway Historical Society, PO Box 550567, Winter Garden 354777-0567.



Railroad Museum Curator, Ken Murdock, works on a piece of sheetrock for the new meeting room and museum expansion area.



Society Member Phil Cross happily practicing his mastery of the drill while installing sheetrock in the new meeting room and museum expansion area.



President & Librarian Jerry Honetor continues to "whittle away" at cataloging books, magazines and periodicals in the new library.



The extensive railroad library is a work in progress.



The newly almost completed workshop for the museum.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Society Member Irv Lipscomb for the pictures and information above.

Please consider coming and helping out at a Wednesday work session or the monthly work session that is held on a designated Saturday each month. All help is greatly appreciated!!!





Thanks to Society Member Irv Lipscomb for sending this photo in. The photo was provided by Mike McGinnis with Historic Orlando. This is the ACLRR Passenger Station on Sligh Boulevard in Orlando. Very few photos have surfaced that were taken looking north from south of the station. This photo was probably taken in the late 1920s, shortly after construction in 1927.



This photo was taken by Ken Murdock's grandson, Nate Rondeau, when he and Ken were railfanning in Central South Carolina on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is a Norfolk Southern Heritage Unit painted for the Virginian RY.

## 2017 CFRHS Membership Statistics

Society Members	25
Society Century Members	16
Ward Britt	
Phil Cross	
Ann Cross	
Bill Dusenbury	
Charles Hanus, Sr.	
Chuck Hanus	
Linda Hanus	
Jerry Honetor	
Clarence Hurt	
Joe Lehmann, Jr.	
Irv Lipscomb	
Ross Marvin	
Ken Murdock	
Phil Piet	
Al Sharp	
Jim Shoemaker	
Society Friends	21
Society Family Members	14
Society Student Members	2
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>78</b>

**October 2017 Museum  
Work Session**  
**Saturday, October 21, 2017**  
**8:30 AM to 3:30 PM**  
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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 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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