Chugging Along

In a recent meeting the topic of the Cumbres & Toltec came up and a question about the overall health of the railroad arose. The topic surfaced as there seems to be a perceived notion that some Friends members believe the railroad as an entity is not on as solid footing as one would hope that it should be. This very notation took me by surprise as it did a couple of the Commissioners.

I understand when one is close to an overall situation that person doesn’t necessarily grasp that others might view the same situation in a different light. I am able to view the railroad through many different lenses from past and current positions. I was fortunate to serve as General Manager for two years, I also sat on the management company’s Board for six years and as President of the Friends I am afforded closer insight of what goes on with the C&TS.

Given what I have just stated, I can assure you that the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad is very much alive! All one has to do is look at the railroad visually and you can, without a doubt, see what I am talking about.

Over the course of the last ten years the railroad has made enormous strides that are reflected in what we all see here in present day 2015. If you have ridden the C&TS in the past seven years you will note the drastic improvement in the track infrastructure. Thanks to the capital investment of the states of Colorado and New Mexico, plus the ingenuity of John Matthews and his track crews, the railroad has seen vast quantities of crosstie replacement and ballasting along its 64 mile route. That work provides passengers with a much smoother ride and actually brings down locomotive maintenance costs.

Also worth noting is the fact that the railroad has five operating steam locomotives! The C&TS with four K36’s and K27 #463 in the stable provides ample motive power to pull regularly scheduled trains and extras. This is a pretty impressive feat given it wasn’t all that long ago that the railroad was operating with just one K36! Add to the improvement in the locomotive fleet and then you can look at funding that has been invested in revenue passenger cars. A steady program over the past ten years has resulted in an enhanced set of premium class cars and continuous upgrading of the railroad’s coach class equipment. When a C&T train
rolls out of Antonito and Chama on a summer morning it looks great!

Up until now I have touched on the inanimate assets of the railroad that have been improved and upgraded over time. Let me turn my attention to the human side of the C&TS and those that toil day in and day out to keep the trains running.

A business could not function if it wasn’t for the people that make it a living and breathing entity. In the case of the C&TS, it is the locomotive engineers, firemen, trainmen, reservation agents, MOW crews, marketing personnel, shop ranks, housekeeping and administrative staff that cohesively work together to provide a spectacular product to its riding public! John Bush has a good workforce and they must be commended for the outstanding job they do. Although the railroad’s season runs from Memorial Day through mid-October it has to function as a 12 months out of the year enterprise.

I also cannot forget about our bi-state Commission that oversees the C&TS. We need to be very thankful for the Commissioners that have been at the helm for a number of years. The team of Dan Love, Randy Randall, Peter Foster and Billy Elbrock has provided stability and solid leadership through periods of prosperity and challenge. We have a structure that tests a person’s management and people skills. This group possesses good business sense about them and the railroad is better off because of it!

As we assess all the positives let us not forget that there remain challenges ahead. Since the Lobato Trestle fire the railroad continues to try and rebuild ridership. It is imperative that they do and I know it remains a very high priority. There is also the issue of funding from the states of Colorado and New Mexico. Capital outlay dollars are needed to continue with the Commission’s efforts to keep the property in solid operating condition and as I put the finishing touches on this column the New Mexico Legislature adjourned from their 60-Day Session without passing a Capital Outlay Bill. This killed any funding the Commission had requested for capital projects during the next fiscal year.

Having said all this, let’s continue to do what we do as Friends members. Give of our time and resources. Your passion makes a difference and is appreciated. Let us all also be the best ambassadors for the railroad that we can be. For those who have not ridden the C&TS please consider it and then tell your friends and neighbors!

Tim Tennant

Looking ahead to the summer we wanted to give everyone a head’s up about our Annual Meeting & Dinner to be held on Friday June 19, 2015. As we did two years ago, this year will feature a special train from Chama to Cumbres and return. Our dinner will be held in the Cumbres Pavilion.

The families of Bob Craine and Les & Nan Clark will be in attendance as we will be remembering these three dedicated individuals. We anticipate the cost should be approximately $25/person which includes the train ride and meal. We will have more details out at as that date approaches.

Tim “Shellback” Smith

Photos from the 2014 work sessions are posted on the Friends web site gallery. I am working on captions for those photos as we go. Please be patient as I’m working as quickly as possible to complete that task. Thank you.

Tim “Shellback” Smith
An independent film company headed up by Actor/Producer/Director Jason Mamo filmed footage on February 14th and 15th at the Chama shops to be used to create a commercial for Carhartt work apparel. The 463 Locomotive was fired up to use in the commercial and scenes were shot both inside the shop areas as well as along the track between the north end of the shop and the Coal Tipple. The entire shop crew was featured in the filming with no professional actors involved.

Scenes included normal work duties inside the shop as well as an outdoor scene of the crew repairing the roundhouse lead switch next to the ash pit, while the impatient 463 waits in the rain and sleet, which was created by fire hoses from the Chama Fire Department. Carhartt provided new workwear for the entire crew and allowed them to keep all the jackets, hooded sweatshirts and coveralls after the filming. The crew said the Carhartt gear did a great job of keeping them warm and dry during the rain scenes.

Momoa said he will send us a copy of the commercial when it is completed and also notify us when he knows a date when it will go on air for Carhartt.
PUTTING FACES TO THE NAMES

Photos by Lee Bates  Manager of Marketing and Communications
Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad

John Bush- President

Lee Bates- Manager of Marketing and Communications

Linda Hall- Administrative Assistant

Corrine Williams- Retail and Groups Manager

Roberta Martinez- Reservations Manager

Glenn Avery Chama shop supervisor

Marvin Casias Superintendent

Wade Hall Lead Dispatcher

John Matthews  Roadmaster
Midwest Regional Member Meeting Planned

To serve as another reminder and keeping with our schedule of holding regional member meetings around the country, we are tentatively looking to hold one on Saturday May 2, 2015. The location would be the Illinois Railway Museum in Union, IL which is northwest of Chicago. All Friends members are cordially invited and we will send out actual invites via the U.S. Postal Service to members in the states of; Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin. We would enjoy hearing from you if indeed you have thoughts about attending. Please e-mail Tim Tennant at timtennant@cumbrestoltec.org and let him know or call the Office at 505-880-1311. We have received feedback from some members and appreciate hearing from more of you! Thank you.
A FAMILY AFFAIR

During work session “F” six members of the McGunegle family were on hand to help Bob Conroy with the extensive repairs on the buildings at Cumbres Pass. This was not "the first rodeo" for most of the family, as they have all volunteered for previous work sessions.

Jeff McGunegle
(1st year) Indian Land S.C.

Daniel E. McGunegle
(8th year) Lubbock TX

Jace Drennan
(5th year) Amarillo TX

Guy McGunegle
(4th year) El Paso TX

Guy W. McGunegle
(5th year) El Paso TX

Daniel I. McGunegle
(6th year) El Paso TX
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Cogswell, Richard U
Cohn, Jeff
Coil, Vern
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Conlon, Jim & Kathy
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Stauber, Jerome
Stead, Philip & Linda
Stech, Edward H
Stein, William & Constance
Sterosky, Dennis S
Stewart, Carlton C
Stewart, Doug
Stigall, Richard & Karen
Stimpson, Tom & Melinda
Story, Craig
Stott, Don
Stover, Scott & Karen
Sullivan, Larry
Sumerlin, Jay N
Sumner, Dorothy Carsey
Sunouchi, Toru
Sutkus, John & Susan
Swift, Douglas & Jane
Sylvia, Frank E
Tabako, Leon A
Tagawa, Sho
Tallyn, Kent
Tarble, John
Taylor, Albert
Tennant, Tim & Judy
Ter Maat, Bob
Thain, Bob & Joane
Thomas, Gary F
Thompson, Don & Eden
Tinkham, Clayton C
Toburen, Tom & Diane
Tower, Caroline
Tower, Richard
Townshend, Gary
Tremblay, Ross & Marybeth
Trever, George & Judy
Trever, John & Karen
Trickey, Dr Sam
Trott, Frederick F
Trubeck, William L
Trummer, Aaron J
Trunk, Christopher
Tucker, Tom & Marilyn
Tully Family
Turner, Andrew
Uhland, Paul
Ulmer Jr, David C
Dispatch Deadlines

To establish a dependable schedule for mailing the C&TS Dispatch, The following deadlines for material to be received at the Friends’ office will be observed:

2015 Summer Issue Mail on June 30, 2015
   All materials must be received by May 29, 2015

2015 Fall Issue Mail on Oct 31, 2015
   All materials must be received by Sept. 30, 2015

*Note: The Dispatch wishes to identify photographers whenever possible.*
*If a name is not included with a photograph, the photographer is unknown*

Work Session Photos

Photos from the 2014 work sessions are posted on the Friends web site gallery. I am working on captions for those photos as we go. Please be patient as I’m working as quickly as possible to complete that task. Thank you.

Tim “Shellback” Smith
2014 WORK SESSION VOLUNTEERS

Cole Adams  Chuck Dixon  James E (Jim) Herriott  James B Lounsbury
Norval Alliston  Jace Drennan  Jim Herron  Mary Lowes
Cynthia Anders  Chuck Dueker  Lynne Herron  William Lowes
Fuzzy Anstine  Linda Dueker  Bob Hewitt  Ed Lowrance
Donald L Atkinson  Walt Duncan  Robert Hey  Valley Lowrance
Dorman R Austin  Jeffrey Dunn  Connie Hickman  Grant Luckhardt
Nettie “Jeanie” Austin  Susan Dunn  Jim Hickman  (volunteers cont.)
Bill B Bailey  Lawrie Durant  Cathy Hillegas  Laurel Lyon
Gene E Bailey  Gary Ehler  Skip Hillegas  Carol Mackey
Gene Balderston  John Engs  Tom Hiscox  Mike Mahoney
Grant Ball  David Fencel  William Hobbs  John Manion
Philip M Barney  Jim Florey  Laural Hoppes  Beth C March
Donald Bayer  Rex Fockler  Raymond Hoppes  Steven C March
Dudley Bayne  Brian Foltz  Ronald Horjesi  Bob McCain
Vance Behr  Glenn Ford  Mike Horner  Bill McCall
Leon Beier  Todd Frazier  Wayne Huddleston  William McCartin
John A Berges  Jeff Galleher  Richard Hull  Thomas C McConnell
Spero Bettalico  Paul Gerard  Matthew Jameson  Larry McDonald
Bruce Bloom  Sandra Gerard  Larry Jennings  Phil McDonald
Jerry E Brantley  Lance Godfrey  Mark C Jennings  Jim McGee
Duncan Burdick  Robert Goin  Bonsall Johnson  Sharon McGee
Judy Burdick  Geof Gordon  Michael Johnson  Mike McGinley
Rita Burg  Nancy Gordon  Don Jones  Daniel D McGunegle
Ron Carder  Diana Gross  Len Jones  Daniel E McGunegle
Greg Coit  Jim Gross  Joe Kanocz  Guy E McGunegle
John Cole  Markus Hagemann  Bob Keene  John A McKean
Bob Conry  Charles Halaska  Michael D Kennedy  Craig McMullen
Kevin Corwin  Glenn Hall  Bill Kepner  Maggie McMullen
Bob Craine  Patty Hanscom  Wayne Klatt  Cathey Milburn
Debbie Craine  Russ Hanscom  Herbert Knoesel  Jim Milburn
Billy C Crider  Scott Hardy  Philip Kuhl  Jim Millhouse Jr
Ray Crist  Joseph Hartigan  Fred Kuhns  John Mitchell
Pete Dahlberg  Sam Hauck  Gabrielle LaFargue  Art Montgomery
Jim Davenport  Robert Hawkins  Jeff Lester  Chase Montgomery
Paul Davenport  Druby Hebert  Marilyn Lester  Barry Morris
George Davies  Jack Heiermann  Ron Lira  Hank Morris
George Detwiler  Tom Hendershot  Bill Lock  Sarah C Morse
Donald M Deuell  Dianna J Herriott  Emmanuel Lopez  Fred Morton
Jean Murray
Rich Murray
James (Jim) Neighbor
Kevin Neuer
Jim Nissen
Phil Nissen
Chris Norcross
Ted Norcross
Michael L O’Nele
Michael S O’Nele
Bob Osborn
(James) Randy Parks
Lee Parks
John Pierce
Fred Pittroff
John Porco
Bill Porter
Bill Pratt
Clyde Putman
Dan Pyzel
Tarry Rahne
Sam Rauhalammi
Bob Reib
Jeanne Reib
Cathy Rheinberger
Michael Rheinberger
Don Richter
Terry Rider
Warren Ringer
Dan Robbins
Alan Robson
Judith Rosenberger
Robert Rosenberger
Bob Ross
Holly Ross
John Ruhr
Thomas Sadd
Ben Sargent
Ed Sargent
Gary Schaad
Judy Schaad
Ronald Schaefer
Samuel Schechter
Kevin Schindler
Martha Schmehling
Robert Schmehling
Bonnie S Schmidt
Daniel Schmidt
Robert Schoen
Leonard Seidman
Kevin Sherrrow
Rochelle Sherrrow
Wayne Shirley
Hilde Simco
Tom Simco
Warren Smalley
Marshall Smith
Mary Jane Smith
Tim Smith
Frank Smucker
John Soos
John J Sprenger
Don Stewart
Jill Stewart
Thomas A Stewart
Karen Stover
Scott Stover
Bill Strathearn
Karl F Strauss
Jim Sublett
Naomi Sublett
John Sutkus
Caroline Tower
Richard Tower
Richard W Tower
Dave Traudt
George Trever
Chris Trunk
Cletus Wander
Jim Ward
Adolph Weigant
Joan Weigant
John Weiss
Richard Weitzel
Brooks Wilson
Colleen Wilson
Mike Wissler
Anne Woolsey
Terry Woolsey
Randy Worwag
Jennifer Zinn

Some of the volunteers have been left off of this list at their request

Other Volunteers

2014 Dorman Volunteers
Chris Campbell           Carol Haller
Wes Pfarner           Dave Ryerson

2014 Library Volunteers
Vern Glover

2014 Website
Gallery Volunteers
Tim Smith

2014 Webcam page
Jason Rose

Webcam Maintenance
John Engs           Steve Forney
Joe Kanocz           Jason Rose

2014 Friends Web Forum
Jason Rose

Friends Dispatch
Rich Murray

2015 TRAIN RIDE DISCOUNT POLICY
A 10% discount will be afforded to Friends Members as the name appears on their membership card for up to four (4) individuals. Example: If a member’s card contains over four family member names on the card, only four individuals will be provided the discount. The remaining individuals will pay the full fare applicable. This discount applies to coach, first class or parlor cars seats on regularly scheduled and special Cumbres & Toltec trains. The discount is not applicable to any charters operated over the C&TS. Reservations can be made in person or by calling reservations at 1-888-CUMBRES.
A 25% discount will be afforded to members who participate in restoration sessions. The member must actually participate in a work session and in possession of a Friends session badge to qualify. Example: If there is a husband and wife who desire to ride and the husband participates in the work session but the wife does not, he receives the 25% discount and she receives a 10% discount if her name is on the membership card. Reservation agents will verify against a master list supplied by the Friends. The 25% discount applies only to coach seats on regularly scheduled and special trains and not to first class or parlor car seats nor on any charter trains.
These discounts cannot be combined with any other special fares offered on regularly scheduled trains. Any violation of this policy by a Friends member will result in the revocation of this privilege to the member involved in the infraction.
Durango late 1940's From the Richard L Dorman collection. File # RD003-198