

PGRS TRACKIN'



Newsletter of the Piedmont Garden Railway Society

September 2018

Editor: Scott Williams

It's September already and time for PGRS Open House at Les Knoll's home.

Date: **Saturday September 15.**, 11:00 AM to about 6:00 PM.

Place: **7656 Cottonwood Drive, Denver, NC 28037**



Food and beverages will be served. This is an ALL LIVE STEAM railroad (2-8-0 Consolidation, 2-4-4-2 logging Mallet, 14 ton Shay, 25 ton Climax) with locations based on J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, although it is NOT a whimsical railroad. The mainline is 103' with five foot radius curves throughout, fourteen turnouts and two turntables. It is capable of both continuous running and operations with mining and logging industries. Features include a cityscape with a rail yard with a 4 stall roundhouse, a three-foot tall ore mine and a large ore dock in the two-level pond.

New this year is a NEWLY CONSTRUCTED sawmill with a full interior. There are water features with a falls and a 15' wooden trestle bridge spanning the main pond. Visiting power and rolling stock is welcome, just bear in mind that there is no track power and ruling radius is five feet. The Knolls hope to see as many people as possible here both from PGRS and Apple Valley.

It will be worth the drive.

PS: The theater organ will also be available for impromptu concerts.

RSVP is encouraged, to the email address below.

Please RSVP land (704) 966-0349 cell (704) 682-5473

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You are invited to view a documentary film September 19th, 3:30 pm @ Henderson County Library

The Apple Valley Model Railroad Club, is pleased to extend an invitation to you to view a railroad themed documentary film titled "**Altoona At Work: An Era of Steam**" to be shown in the Kaplan Auditorium at the Henderson County Library located at 301 N. Washington St. Hendersonville, NC on **Wednesday September 19, 2018 at 3:30 PM.**

"Altoona At Work" was produced by the award winning, Mr. Peter S. Vogt. We are very fortunate to have recently made the acquaintance of Mr. Vogt. He has since graciously agreed to personally screen the film for us.

Altoona At Work: An Era of Steam is a centerpiece attraction of the Altoona Railroaders Museum. This 27-minute surround sound theater experience brings to life the story of the founding and remarkable growth of Altoona, Pennsylvania into the largest and most important railroad construction, manufacturing and testing complex in the world. It tells the story of a great city, whose people worked more than a hundred years during the Era of Steam to make the Pennsylvania Railroad, "The Standard Railroad of the World."

Altoona At Work creates the experience of actually being present in the giant Altoona shops as Pennsylvania Railroad steam locomotives, freight cars and passenger cars were being built and repaired by thousands of Altoona shop men. The film takes audiences into the foundries, the boiler shops, machine shops and blacksmith shops as they were operating in the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's.

Audiences experience not only dramatic sensory impact, they also come to understand the forces that propelled Altoona to greatness in support of the Pennsylvania Railroad as well as those which led to its decline.

Through the film, audiences share the memories of life and work in Altoona during its years of steam. Recollections and stories are warmly, colorfully and thought-provokingly delivered by men and women whose lives were actually shaped by those years of steam.

Mr. Vogt's productions have been honored with numerous awards, including three Emmys, more than half dozen CINE Golden Eagles, six Worldfest Houston Golds, the prestigious Worldfest Houston Special Jury award, and the CASE Exceptional Achievement Award.

Please feel free to bring a spouse/partner/friend and join us at the library on Sept 19 for the free viewing of this wonderful film.

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The Carolwood Pacific Railroad:

Walt Disney loved steam trains and built his own backyard steam train for his home.





Looks like it pulls pretty well!!!

The **Carolwood Pacific Railroad (CPRR)** was a 7 1/4-inch (184 mm) gauge rideable miniature railroad run by Walt Disney in the backyard of his home in the Holmby Hills neighborhood of Los Angeles, California, in the United States. It featured the *Lilly Belle*, a 1:8-scale live steam locomotive built by the Walt Disney Studios' machine shop, and made its first test run on December 24, 1949. The locomotive pulled a set of freight cars, as well as a cabooses that was almost entirely built by Disney himself. It was Disney's lifelong fascination with trains, as well as his interest in miniature models, that led to the creation of the CPRR. The railroad, which became operational in 1950, was 2,615 feet (797.1 m) long and encircled his house. The backyard railroad attracted visitors to Disney's home; he invited them to ride and occasionally drive his miniature train. In 1953, after an accident occurred in which a guest was injured, the CPRR was closed to the public.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carolwood_Pacific_Railroad

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Member Photos:



A typical day for a Carr Lumber Company logger starts by reporting to the Mill at 7AM to catch the morning train for the 45 minute ride up the mountain to the logging site. The Morning train consisted of an old beat up flat car no longer suited to carry a heavy load of logs which was always coupled to the back of Climax #3. The loggers would hop on the flat car and then pulled up the mountain. The loggers always complained about the soot and ashes that rained down on them from the engine as it worked its way up the hill and wondered why the flat couldn't be placed in front of the engine which would have provided for a safer ride. They also felt that if the rickety old flat car's coupler failed, they better be ready to jump off.

Old man Carr said that the run around track at the mill was always full of loaded log cars and that it would require too many switching moves to put the flat in front of the engine every morning.

The loggers noticed that great efforts were made to make sure that all loaded log cars were uphill of the engine while descending the hill which was a safety practice. If cars were placed downhill of the engine, a faulty coupler could cause the log cars to run away down hill.

Seems that old man Carr was more concerned about the safety of his logs than the safety of his employees.

As a protest, some of the loggers started showing up later than 7AM at the mill which delayed the morning train and arrived at the logging site late.

This action annoyed old man Carr to no end and he decided to build a few Bunk Camp cars just

down the tracks from the logging site. The men would now have to live and sleep in these camp cars every night instead of being taken down to the Mill and return to their families. Plus they all had to walk to the logging site instead of getting a ride.

Friday night they were taken back down to the Mill where they were paid and spent the weekends with family. Then on Monday mornings they took the 7AM train back up the mountain for another week in the woods. No one showed up late for the 7 AM train after that. They realized that they were better off if they never complained in the first place.

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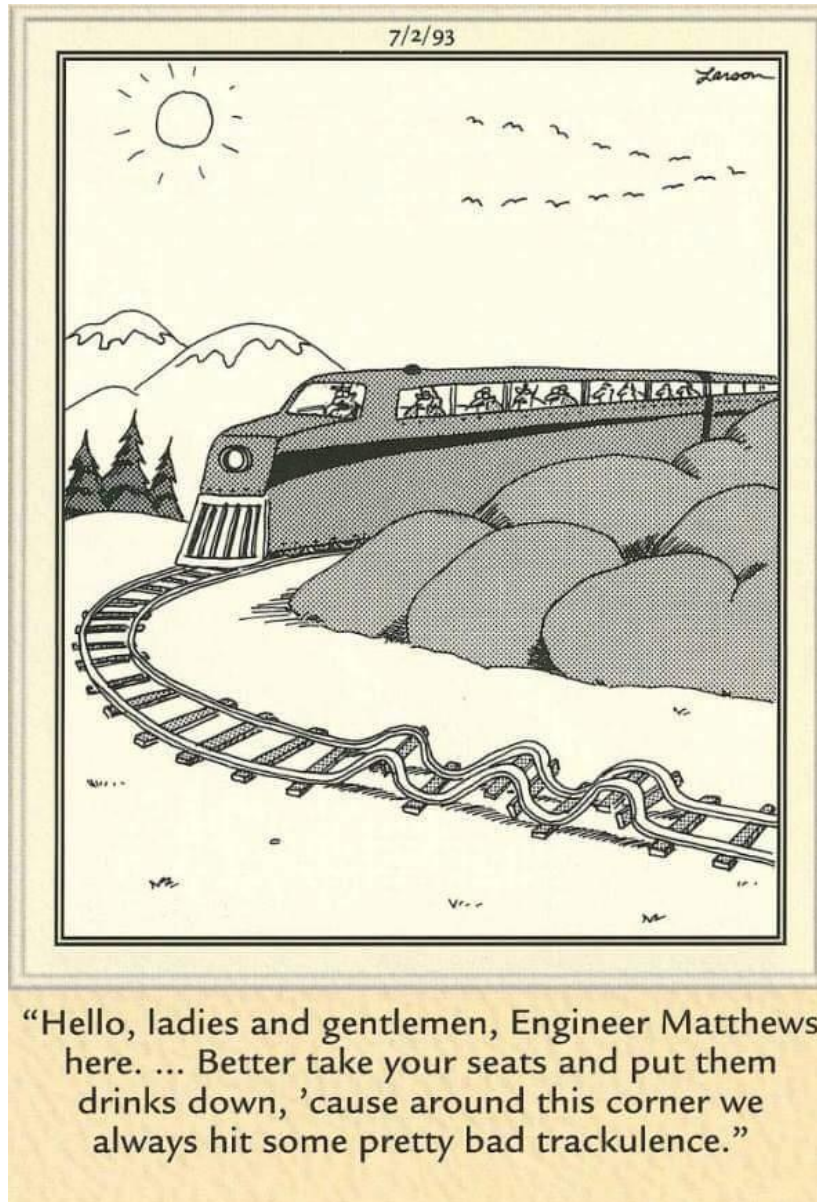
Last month's trivia question was about the song Chattanooga Choo Choo and Peggy Keyes wrote me to say this:

I enjoyed the trivia. My father was from NY and my mother was from Chattanooga. I road the real Chattanooga Choo Choo many times as a child living in NY with family in Chattanooga. I loved sleeping on the Pullman car and eating on the diner. Top on my bucket list was to do that again and I was able to do that in 2016. I took a trip with my eldest daughter on some refurbished Pullman cars that were attached to an Amtrak that went from Chicago to Albuquerque and back. It was a great trip. Unfortunately it no longer runs. Years ago my husband gave me a G gauge Chattanooga Choo Choo. That I won't get rid of.

*Thanks for the memories,
Peggy*



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Trivia Question:

Torpedos! Have you heard of them regarding railway trains? We think of them when we think of Submarines, Naval PT Boats or Torpedo Bombers but with railroads? Do you know what they are?

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Videos of Interest:

The Riverbend and Southwest Florida Railroad. Nice layout built in a RV Motorcoach Resort Park:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCauErsj-sc>

Visiting with Huell Howser: Fairplex Garden Railroad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeoW6DfyXpY>

Meet an 89 year old man who built a train in his backyard.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KniP3T_PPB4

Backyard Railroading on a Grand Scale:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E91Qvz2IbZQ>

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Trivia Answer:

A railway **detonator** (**torpedo** in North America) is a coin-sized device that is used as a loud warning signal to train drivers. It is placed on the top of the rail, usually secured with two lead straps, one on each side. When the wheel of the train passes over, it explodes emitting a loud bang. It was invented in 1841 by English inventor Edward Alfred Cowper



Upon hearing the noise of a torpedo exploding, the engineer reduces speed to 20 mph or less, not resuming its original speed until at least two miles beyond where it encountered the device. They were traditionally used in pairs to ensure that the sound registered with train crews. Torpedoes are essentially obsolete in the U.S. as soundproof construction of modern locomotive cabs renders them useless.

You may have seen in some of your reading of the use of Torpedos and wondered what they were talking about. Well, here is your answer. They were a signaling device used in the last century to warn train crews of impending danger.

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