

# THE ORDER BOARD

A Publication Of The  
**Cumberland Division SER-NMRA Inc**  
**Tennessee Central Railway Museum**  
**Nashville Chapter NRHS**

Vol. 19 Issue 12

## NEW ADDITION TO TCRM LOCOMOTIVE FLEET!



Digital photo by **Terry Bebout**

### L&N 405/KWT 300 INFORMATION

On November 11, 2000 Tennessee Central Railway Museum in Nashville received a former L&N GP7 as a donation from the Kentucky & West Tennessee Railway (KWT). The unit was on the Nashville & Eastern's interchange with CSXT November 10, 200 and was brought to the NERR/TCRM yard November 11.

The unit was KWT #300, and originally L&N #405, built in 4/51. Builder's number is 12391, frame number is 5067-6. Around 1978 it was renumbered to L&N #2302, then later became SBD #2302, then later CSXT #2302. This unit was one of the very last former L&N GP7s on CSXT's roster. An April 30, 1988, CSXT locomotive roster shows this one and #867 (ex-L&N #2323) and #883 (ex-L&N #2368) still remaining. The 800-series numbers were initiated under SBD and carried over to CSXT. No. 2302 was proposed to be renumbered to #861, according to a SBD locomotive roster.

KWT purchased #2302 from CSXT in 1989. The shortline painted the unit Confederate gray with black lettering, and later added red to the ends of the long and short hoods. The red is now faded to a pinkish tint. For a photo of KWT #300, see page 292 of Dennis Mize's L&N's Memphis Line book.

The unit has had the Gyalights removed long ago, and the original class lights were blanked over and new ones added below the number boards on each end. There are no spark arrestors, and the poling pockets have been removed, but the hangers for the pole still exist on the fireman's side under the side skirting! We have two Gyalights that we plan to use as replacement parts, and we will remove the newer class lights and restore the ones at the original locations. We need to add ditch lights so that we can operate the unit outside of yard limits. Yes, it is operable and in very good shape!

For the modelers, the unit has the access plates on the top of the long hood on each side of the exhaust stacks. These plates were added to most if not all of L&N's GP7s, GP9s and GP18s (and perhaps other L&N units) during a program in the early to mid-1970s. The plates were for access to the power assemblies from above. Sometime I may photograph these plates and provide measurements for the modelers on the list.

Continued on Page 2

## Bebout's Road Kill Buffet Thursday, December 14 Meeting

If you haven't signed up for this event, please call the museum office at 615-244-9001, ext 1 and leave a message that you are coming so we know how much road kill to pick up. Following our dinner we will have a most impressive digital program. You will not want to miss this meeting!

### Cumberland Div/TC Ry Museum Donations

**George Benson-** \$20 cash

**Bill Brown-** \$25 cash

**Memorial Foundation-** \$2,000 cash

**Frank McElderry-** TC Ry B&W print photographs

**Ron Flanary-** \$75 cash towards repaint of L&N 405

**Bob Hultman-** \$39 cash towards repaint of L&N 405

**Jim Nichols-** "Accounting Report on the Tennessee Central Railroad Company and its lessor, Nashville Terminal Company as of June 30, 1918" via Norfolk & Western Historical Society

**Hank Sherwood-** inspection/repair report for TC 4-8-2 steam locomotive #553, dated December 16, 1947  
8' antique display case

**Ralcon Wagner-** L&N dining car menus

**Jay Wilson-** TC RY Paycheck from 1942

### Year 2000/2001 Schedule

- Dec 9-10 Trains of Christmas at TCRM Building
- Dec 14 Road Kill Buffet Meeting & Digital Program
- Dec 16 Excursion Train- Watertown Santa's Post Office
- Dec 26 Sircy Bldg Operating Session

### Year 2001

- Jan 11 Thursday Night Meeting at TCRM Building
- Feb 24 Excursion Train Watertown Fairyland Express Trip
- Mar 17 Spring 2001 Cumberland Division Meet
- April 7 Excursion Train Watertown Easter Bunny Trip
- April 14 Excursion Train Watertown Easter Bunny Trip II

### Year 2001 Activity Fee

Activity Fee for Yr 2001- \$20 for individuals, \$25 immediate families now due. Send payment along with your current address, phone # and E-mail address to **George Gilbert** at 750 Rodney Dr Nashville TN 37205.

Attention NRHS members: Send your Nat'l Dues (\$17) and your TC Ry Museum Fee (\$20) - both for 2001 - to my attention - or you can wait until you receive your renewal card. **Herb Roth** at 8135 Devens Dr in Brentwood, TN 37027.

### Videotapes

Return overdue tapes to **Phil Utley** at the next Thursday night meeting. If you can't return the tapes then, please call **Phil** at 615-754-2073 and arrange tape return.

**NEXT MEETING Willow St Building Thursday December 14, 2000 7:00 PM**

(Continued from Page 1) Now for what to repaint the unit -- the majority of "votes" seem to favor the original black and cream, but others have made a case for gray and yellow. No. 405 retained its black and cream paint until at least 1967-1968, and was later repainted in the gray and yellow with the L&N heralds on the cab sides. Traces of the yellow flame nose outline can still be seen, as can some remnants of the Family Lines stripe scheme. Anyone know if this unit was painted in a simplified gray and yellow scheme or the "stealth" solid gray scheme before the FLS paint?

We pulled the unit out from behind our excursion train cars on November 11, and took some photos in perfect light. TCRM president Terry Bebout took some digital photos, which will probably be posted to both lists' files later. I shot a bunch of slides and color prints.

We hope to have it in some L&N scheme in time for the L&NHS convention next year. What a nice 50th birthday present for this old girl! Maybe we can even use it as power for the excursion train during the convention!

Many, many thanks to **Mr. Earl Anderson** of the KWT Railway for this tremendously generous donation!

By **Steve Johnson**

Below is **KWT 300** in her earlier life as **L&N 405**. Image from the collection of **Craig Hatter** of Louisville KY



## New Member

Steve McKay, Huntsville AL

Welcome, **Steve**, hope you can join us in Nashville for the various Museum activities.

## Dave Johnston's Portable Clinchfield RR

About one year after my treasured companion and sweetheart Mamie died suddenly, I built an HO scale portable railroad to take with me after I sold the house, tore down the newly built Clinchfield RR in the basement, and moved somewhere. After investigating several places to go, I decided to stay in the house and build substitute buildings for those taken from the basement Clinchfield.

Beginning in spring 1995, and through the year 2000, the portable railroad has been to 23 different retirement homes, 3 different senior citizen centers, Bellevue and Franklin Bicentennial Celebrations, Fairview Library, Walnut Grove Elementary School, two NMRA Division Meets, a GATS Show, two setups at 100 Oaks Shopping Center, and Memorial Parkway Church of Christ Train Day in Huntsville AL. There have been 42 setups, which number includes two visits to five retirement homes and one senior citizens center.

The retirement home setups were Belmont Assisted Living, Blakeford Place, Brighton Gardens, Dandridge Tower, Imperial Manor, Lakeshore Meadows (twice), Lakeshore Wedgewood, Mariner, Maybelle Carter, McKendree (twice), Morningside at Belmont, Morningside at Gallatin, Morningside at Mallory Lane (Franklin), Quality Health Care (Lebanon), Radnor Tower, Richland Place (twice), Southerland Place, Steeple Chase, St Paul (twice), Sycamore Terrace, Windsor House (twice), Woodlands East and Woodlands South. Senior citizens centers include Donelson (twice), Knowles and Madison.

Mainstay helpers were Bill Carroll, Clyde Green and Wayne Hammonree with occasional help from Tom Batey, Ralph Hinson, Joe Tipton, Mike Curtis, Grant Carpenter, Jason Johnson, Jim Grimenstein, Mark, David and Matthew Henry, Nicho Young and Madden Warfield.

Normal stay at retirement homes and senior citizen centers is four days with different trains running each day. The usual procedure is to listen to residents talk about their railroad experiences or whatever they want to talk about. If there is interest, each person gets a personal tour of the railroad which includes names of areas, historical events associated with the railroad, and demonstrations of the animated portions of the railroad (coal mine, rotary car dumper, local coal dumper). Visitors once in a while operate the remote-controlled railroad.

There are many stories to tell such as a resident telling us that his first wife was better than his second with the second wife standing just a few feet away (fortunately older people do not hear well), how a lady cared for her invalid boss who she married much later in life, how a sweet lady in a wheelchair had no one to come see her and she loved the railroad, how one lady came each day to see if someone had come to pick up a lady passenger at the Erwin passenger station (gave her something to do; many are very lonely), how an Alzheimer's patient was eager to see the railroad and talked about it for several days, how residents would invite grandchildren and friends to see the railroad (the best part is they got a visit from their loved ones though the loved ones sometimes did not have much interest in the railroad). When we were leaving one retirement home, two lady residents had tears running down their cheeks because we were told they did not want us to leave. These are but a few of the many incidences we remember from these interesting though sometimes lonely people.

I hope Mamie likes what I'm doing because the railroad is dedicated to her in hopes she will be remembered as long as I live.

By **David O. Johnston**

## Trains of Christmas Show Dec 9 & 10

Tennessee Central Ry Museum's **Third Annual Trains of Christmas Show** will be Dec 9-10, Saturday and Sunday with several different activities going on both days. Don't miss this great event celebrating trains and railroading only as TCRM can do it! We need everyone's participation and attendance to make this Show the best Trains of Christmas yet! So, come on out and enjoy your Museum Saturday 9 AM to 4 PM and Sunday 1 PM to 4 PM.

## Excursion Train Sign-Up Sheet

December 16 excursion train crew signup via phone is still available. Call 615-244-9001, ext 1 and leave a message if you want to help out on this trip. We can always use a couple more good pairs of hands to make this trip go well. We will mail out crew assignment sheets on Monday, Dec 11, so make sure you call and leave your message by noon Sunday, Dec 10.

## Sad News

**Brenda Bilbrey's** mother passed away early on Friday, November 24. Funeral was at the Monroe Christian Church in Monroe, TN on Saturday, November 25. Donations in Brenda's mother's memory should go to Tennessee Central Railway Museum. Please keep the **Bilbrey Family** in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time for them.

## Sick Call

**Doug Lindgren** suffered a serious fracture of his left elbow a few weeks ago while visiting a railroad museum. He has had orthopedic surgery and may need further treatment to restore the most complete range of motion possible for his left arm. Please give him a call or send him a note of encouragement during this time of recovery. He has a lot of signaling he still wants to do, not to mention his fleet of SP diesels to maintain.

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