

Carolina Conductor



Volume 1, Number 12

Monthly Newsletter of the Carolina Railroad Heritage Association, Inc.

December 2014

**Preserving the Past.
Active in the Present.
Planning for the Future.**

Meeting Site:

Woodmen of the World

721 East Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29651-6404
Third Friday of the Month at 7:00 pm

Hub City Railroad Museum:

Magnolia Street Station

298 Magnolia Street
Spartanburg, SC 29301-2330

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Submissions due by 2nd Friday

A Christmas Train in the Czech Republic

By: Steve Baker

Photos by the author

St. Nicholas Day is December 6th. It is celebrated, not with a day off from work, but with street celebrations, along with the Christmas Markets in most European cities. There are a many Christmas trains on the first Saturday after December 6th throughout Europe and this is a brief description of the one I rode in 2013, from Olomouc to Sumperk, Czech Republic.

The locomotive was a 2-10-0, and sorry to say, I couldn't find much info about it. My Czech friend was not very versed in the engine also, so we'll leave it at that. The engine had no apparent problem pulling the six or seven car train, with prompt acceleration from each stop. The train ride lasted about two hours total.

St. Nicholas walks the streets (or train aisles), accompanied by both angels and devils. He will ask each person he encounters to tell



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Arrivals

CP Holiday Train



Canadian Pacific Railway launched their 2014 United States portion of the Holiday Train on November 26, departing Montreal, Quebec for Scranton, Pennsylvania. With a Nor'easter snow storm impacting portions of New York with snowfall, the train looked right at home for the holiday season. CP GP20C-ECO 2249 is kicking up snow on the southbound trek through Whitehall, New York and past one of the 'famous' Delaware & Hudson signal masts on the CP Canadian Mainline Subdivision at 03:42 am on November 27.

NS Expands System

Norfolk Southern Corp. (NS) and the Delaware & Hudson Railway Co. (D&H), a subsidiary of Canadian Pacific Rail-

jobs in the northeastern United States.

Acquiring this portion of the D&H provides for more efficient rail transportation system by consolidating freight operations with a single carrier," said NS CEO Wick Moorman. "Aligning the D&H track with Norfolk Southern's 22-state network allows us to connect businesses in central Pennsylvania, upstate New York and New England with domestic and international markets while enhancing the region's competitive rail and surface transportation market."

"As we have stated in recent months, we've been in the process of negotiating the final details for the potential sale of the southern portion of our D&H line," said CP CEO E. Hunter Harrison. "We are pleased to find a prospective buyer in Norfolk Southern."



way (CP) today announced a proposed transaction under which NS would acquire 282.55 miles of D&H rail line between Sunbury, Pa., and Schenectady, N.Y. The \$217 million sale, subject to approval by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, would benefit customers, competition, and

GSMR #1702 Restoration

The interior sand blasting took about 3 weeks to complete and the engine has now been brought back inside the shop for

more welding. Brian and Marshal have been working on welding the rivet and staybolt holes – over 1000. Once the welding is complete the exterior of the engine will be sand-blasted to remove the rust.



Departures

Carolina Southern Railroad

The Myrtle Beach Herald, a Waccamaw Publishers newspaper, has learned that the R.J. Corman Railroad Group from Kentucky is the company wanting to buy the Carolina Southern Railroad.



Horry County Council chairman Mark Lazarus didn't name the company but said the Pippin family, current owners of the railroad, are in direct negotiations with the proposed purchaser.

Carolina Southern vice-president and general manager Jason Pippin confirmed his company is now talking with the potential new owners.

Pippin couldn't give a time line for finalizing the deal but said just a few issues are still being worked out. Lazarus said he hopes the final contract can be worked out within the next week or so.

The company is looking to buy the rail lines that run from Conway to Chadbourn, N.C., and then back into Marion County. Carolina Southern rents the 14-mile stretch that runs from Conway to Myrtle Beach from Horry County.

Previously, it was reported the negotiated purchase price of the line to be \$13.6 million with the buyer putting up \$10 million and Horry County and Columbus County, N.C., ponying up \$1.8 million each.

The railroad was forced to shut down in 2011 after the federal government told the owners that a number of bridges needed repairs before rail cars could cross them.

Owner Ken Pippin said it would take about \$2 million to remediate the bridges and track to get the rail line operational again. After a couple of attempts at getting grants to cover the repair expenses came up short, a committee was set up to find a buyer for the railroad and get it running again.

The committee was co-chaired by Dennis Worley from North Carolina and Doug Wendel, former CEO of the Burroughs & Chapin Company and current board member of the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

Wendel said recently that the process was moving along well and thanked the Pippins for cooperating in trying to get the railroad up and going again.

BNSF 2015 Spending

Berkshire Hathaway's BNSF Railway plans to spend \$6 billion in '15 to upgrade and expand its facilities to meet rising demand for rail transportation services. It would be a 9% increase for the Fort Worth, Texas-based company from its planned \$5.5

billion capital spending this year. The bulk of the '15 expenditures will go to replacing and upgrading rails, ties and other track components, the company said. The railroad will add 330 new locomotives to its fleet of 7,500.



NS freight at Spartanburg by Frank Ezell.

Charleston Lionel Art Show



Angela Trotta Thomas will have a gallery showing of her paintings of Lionel toy trains at the Coco Vivo Gallery at 25 Broad Street., Charleston, SC.

Thomas has become the only artist to be licensed by the toy train company and has been featured on several covers of its catalogs. Her painting on the 2000 cover was the first illustrated cover since 1969, when they switched to photographs.

Lionel also created an Angela Trotta Thomas Christmas box-car collection 10 years ago that comes out every year and features her art. "It just seemed like a natural progression. Ten years ago, I licensed them, and before they licensed me," she said.

Lionel was founded in New York City in 1900 when the railroad business was booming and trains were a popular way to travel. Joshua Lionel Cowen was the company's founder and the inventor of the toy trains.

Thomas said many of her paintings are not about the trains themselves, but about the emotional attachment to them. She said many of her paintings are about "capturing the romance of train travel" like in her painting, "Passing Train."

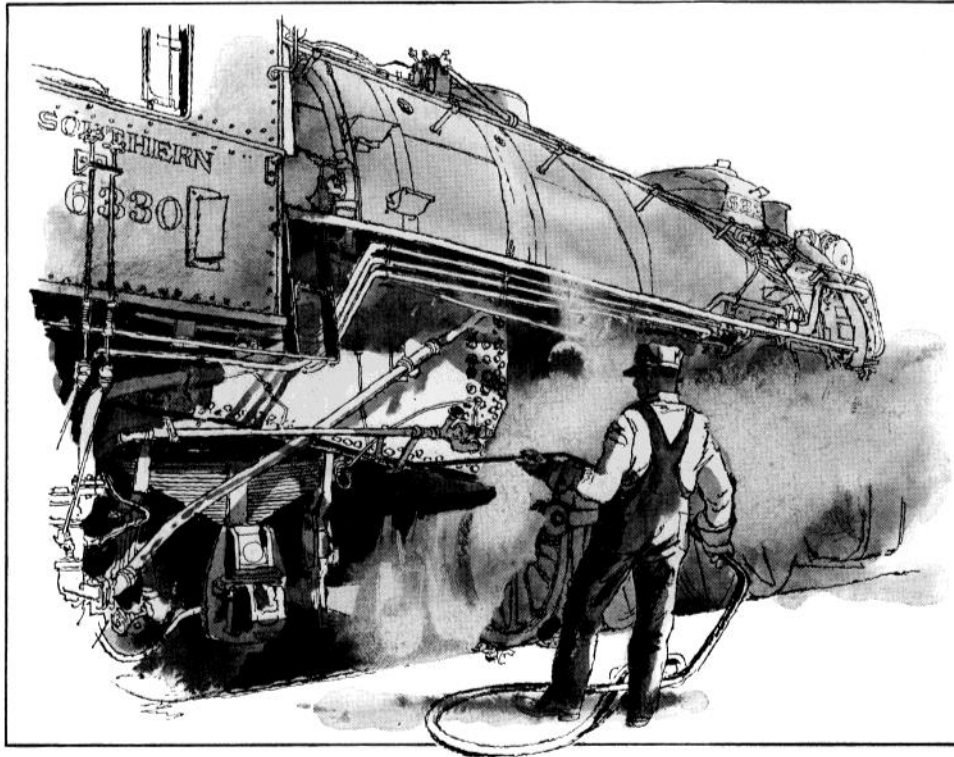


Best Friend of Charleston, is a 16x20 Trotta oil painting that depicts a vital part of Charleston history. The original Best Friend of Charleston train, built in the early 1800's, was a huge and necessary bolt to Charleston's economy.

The engine has now been restored and is on display on John Street in Charleston.

Rare Mileage

Southern Railway Advertisement from 1953 National Geographic Magazine



He's putting out a fire
we started 123 years ago!



THE 8,000-mile Southern is now the largest railway system in the country to be 100 per cent Dieselized. We've "pulled the fire" on our last steam locomotive.

In effect, this fire was started back in 1830—when history-making *Best Friend of Charleston*, on a railroad that is now part of the Southern Railway System, became the first steam locomotive to run in regularly scheduled service in America.

Down through the years since 1830, the colorful steam locomotives paced the progress of the

South, serving well until they, too, had to step aside for progress.

Today we are serving the South with a fleet of 880 powerful Diesel locomotive units costing \$123½ million. This huge investment in modern power marks the Southern's faith in the future of the South, and underscores our determination to provide a great *new kind* of railroading—modern, streamlined, progressive, better than ever—for the fast-growing area we are privileged to serve.

Harry A. DeButts
President



SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mention the National Geographic—It identifies you

Manifest

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them what good things they have done in the past year. If they can tell him good deeds, and actions, then an angel gives a nice gift – candy, usually. If they can't, then the devil will put them in his burlap sack, and



take him, well, you know where. Fortunately, everyone had good things to tell St. Nicholas. There were some close calls though, but no one disappeared.

Once we got to Šumperk (Shum-perk – “perk” is Czech spelling of berg – German for city), everyone got off the train, and had a chance to photograph St. Nicholas (yes, Virginia, there are two St. Nicks), his angels and devils.

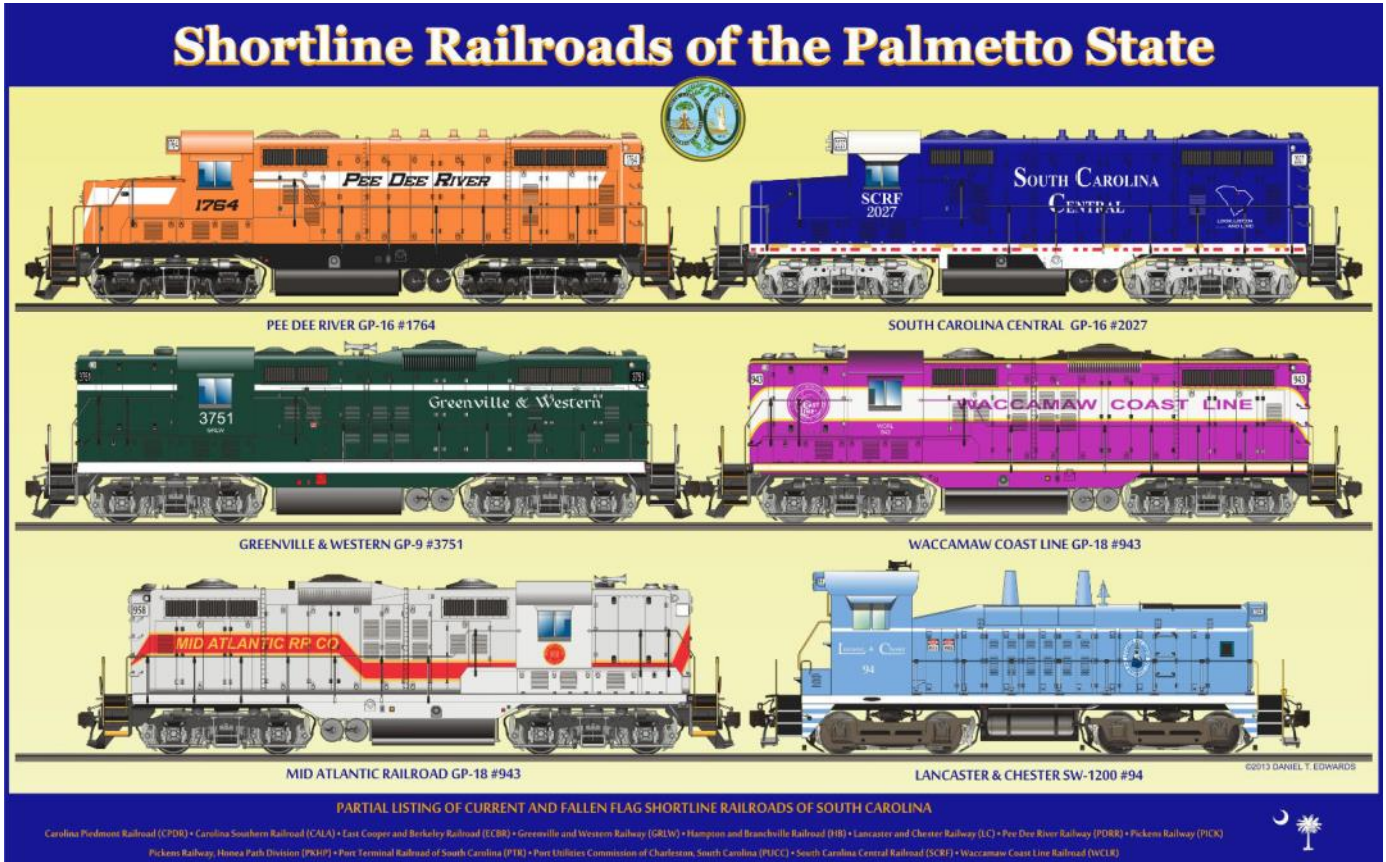
The return trip was on a regular train. Travel within the city of Olomouc is by tram, and while walking from my tram stop to the hotel, I happened to note there was a St. Nicholas tram, traversing the city.

A fun day, and a different Christmas Train. The memory will stay with me a long time. Have a blessed Christmas holiday!



Marker Lights

New Poster Available at the Gift Shops!



This is the latest addition to merchandise available at the museum and caboose gift shops, a poster print of the *Shortline Railroads of South Carolina* by Daniel Edwards. It sells for \$15.00 for the poster and \$25.00 for the poster framed behind glass in a simple black frame. It would make a great present for your railroad aficionado, relatives, and friends.



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