



E-TRACKS

AUTUMN 2019 VOL XXXIX # 2

NEWS OF THE FLORIDA RAILROAD MUSEUM

We hope everyone enjoyed their summer. Our Annual meeting was held as scheduled on Monday September 9th. Election results were sent out to all members in a special email.

It is a privilege at this time to recognize, honor and give tribute to two men who have spent many years and countless hours working for the good of the Florida Railroad Museum. First we give deep thanks and honor to Woody Massara. He was one of the founding members of FRRM and spent a good share of his life looking after the welfare and finances of the museum. Secondly, we recognize and also give heart-felt thanks to Pat Masterson. He too has been a member of the museum for many years. Pat told me that many years ago he came to the museum yard in Willow just to see what was going on. Glenn Miley was working alone there at the time. He asked Pat to help him with something. Glenn apparently talked Pat into joining the museum. Pat has been a devoted member and leader for many years since. Like Woody, Pat was always concerned for the welfare of the museum and its members. Both men received a rousing, standing ovation of thanks and appreciation at the September Board of Directors meeting. *Lee Stisser*

Special Events Fast Approaching

Autumn starts our special events schedule. Our Civil War reenactment is on Oct 5 and Oct 6. This will be followed by the Pumpkin Patch Express, which will run four days this year October 19, 20, 26, and 27.

The World War II reenactment is on the schedule for Nov. 9 and 10. The final special event in November is the Hole in the Head train gang – Nov 30th and Dec 1st.

With Christmas approaching, we start our trips to the North Pole to see Santa on December 3rd. This year we have expanded our North Pole Express to eighteen days or 36 trips. Get you tickets early for the best seats.

A reminder that the best way to buy tickets for all museum events is on line. Our events are growing each year. Last year the World War II gang surprised us with

cannons in Willow, France. One never knows what new weapons those Americans are inventing to win the war. So get your tickets on line and come to see our fun events! Exciting things are in store for patrons in the coming months!

Life Member John Mcquigg Passes

John McQuigg, a long time and Life member of the Florida Railroad Museum passed away June 16, 2019.

Born in Abilene, Texas October 19, 1931 John was a 1953 graduate of Denison University, rose to the rank of captain in the USAF ('53 - '57) and graduated in 1962 from the University of Texas School of Law.

He was an avid aviator as well as passenger train advocate. He served on many nonprofit boards: Friends of Tampa Union Station, Tampa Union Station Preservation & Redevelopment, Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers, American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners, & the Florida Railroad Museum, Inc.

John helped guide the Museum through its formative years and spearheaded the replacement generator on the Cape Tormentine.

He is survived by his son John (Jackson) McQuigg. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the nonprofit Friends of Tampa Union Station, Po Box 20934, Tampa, Fl. 33622 or www.tampaunionstation.com.

Compiled from "Trains" Trainline, Tampa Bay Times.

Profile of a Volunteer

One weekend late this spring, I was making my usual rounds as Conductor on one of our weekend runs. I approached a young woman sitting in a seat by herself. After introducing myself and exchanging some small talk, I asked her, what brings her to the Florida RR museum train? She smiled and quickly replied, "I'm going to go to work in the yard tomorrow." Wow! That raised a "bucket-full" of questions in my mind, namely how did this come about?

I found out that her name is Claire Farnsworth. She told me she liked math and science in high school. Mechanical Engineering sounded interesting so she tried it and decided to stick with it. Claire also told me that in high school she was on the track and cross country team. She was a scholarship athlete in high school. As of this writing, Claire has returned to USF, entering the fall semester of her senior year studying Mechanical Engineering.

Tuesday after Memorial Day, Clair had contacted FRRM. She agreed to volunteer four days per week.

I got to know her and watch her work while she was with us. She put on and took off engine stack covers. She also worked hard at cleaning, scraping and grinding on

the 204, helping Bruce and Chris prepare our “new” engine for regular runs. She isn’t afraid to get dirty – real dirty! (See pictures below). Chris and Bruce told me that anything they asked Claire to do, she did without questions or complaints. She ran our lawn mower and back-hoe, although she told me she was “not a huge fan of the back-hoe.”

One day when I was in the shop area, I was looking for Bruce. I kept hearing a scraping kind of noise. I couldn’t identify it, nor could I locate it. I walked around the 204 a couple times until I happened to look under the engine at its back end. I saw two shoe soles looking back at me. Huh? It was Claire under the engine crouched on her knees, installing new brushes on the traction motors. I called her name and sure enough it was Claire. She turned around and gave me a big dusty, dirty smile. It turns out that the area Claire was working is too tight for Bruce or Chris to get into without moving the engine over the pit, so Clair volunteered to do the job herself right where the engine was parked. There she was smiling back at me through a of a lot of dirt and grease.

She is “cool” with the heat. She was born and raised in Florida and said she doesn’t like cold weather.

Claire was an outstanding volunteer. She has a quiet, innocent personality, yet she worked as “one of the boys.” We hope she comes back to say hello to us sometime. She is a great woman and friend of FRRM. By the way, her 19th birthday was August 2nd. Happy belated birthday Claire, from all of us at the Railroad. We wish her the best in her studies and whatever she chooses to do after graduation.



Claire under cab floor



Claire somewhere in the workings of the engine

Mo-Pac Caboose, our 12070

Another great volunteer project was the painting of the Mo-Pac caboose by the boy scouts. Here is 17 year old Zachary Nadeu, Boy Scout, standing with Mark Manley next to the recently repainted Mo-Pac caboose. Nadeu was awarded the Eagle Scout rank for organizing a team of boys and girls and adults who, under his supervision, completed preparation work and painting of the caboose.



Greetings from the FRRM Model Railroad Division

Here we are - well into the fifth year of the Model Railroad Division (aka MRD) and we are getting ready for that very busy time of the year for all of the FRRM.

We are busy getting ready for the Pumpkin Patch Express celebrated at Willow. We are working on some new scenery for the trailer display which has been a real treat for kids of all ages.

Beyond that we are also working on a new display at the North Pole for the North Pole Express; plus some new scenery for the display at the annual Badcock & More Corporate Christmas celebration. This year will be the fourth appearance of the MRD at their Christmas event and we are proud of being asked to return for this special event.

If you'd like to be a part of the exciting fourth quarter events, just get in touch with Stan Kotas at 813-335-4808. We have plenty of opportunities waiting for willing volunteers.

Oh yes! Don't forget to stop by the UP5642 Display Car in Parrish to see and HEAR some of the changes to the display. We continue to add small details to increase the fun of the display. We are happy to report that we have visitors coming to see this Parrish display from both near and far. Here, we also have opportunities available for you to join in the fun.

Here's hoping we see more of you during this very busy upcoming season!

Donations Help Keep our Museum Operating

Since we are coming to the end of our tax year, remember that we are nonprofit and all donations are tax deductible. Anyone making a donation and in need of getting a receipt can contact Tom W. or the ticket office. Lastly as we are doing a holiday

shopping program, remember if you shop at Amazon, please go to AmazonSmile using this web address. <http://smile.amazon.com/gp/charity/homepage.html?orig=%2Fgp%2Fbrowse.html%3Fnode%3D502661011&ein=59-2261446> for Amazon to make a donation to us.

Railroad Federal Credit Union

For the last thirty years our members have been able to join the RAILROAD & INDUSTRIAL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION located in the Tampa St. Petersburg area. If you are in need of a local bank, or need a loan, credit unions are sometimes the best way to go. We now have brochures in the Gift Shop or you can go on line at RIFCU.org or give them a call at 800-769-1424.

We hoped you enjoyed this e-tracks and we are looking forward to seeing you all soon during our busy event season.

Thomas Walenta, Membership Chairman (twalenta@frm.org)

Lee Stisser, Senior Editor and Secretary of Board of Directors. (firstsgt22@gmail.com)