

The Main Line



The Newsletter of the Friends of L&N Depot • Bowling Green, Ky • Volume 1 Issue 2 • July 17, 2006

RPO #1107 Arrives In Auburn For Restoration



RPO 1107 being placed at it's temporary home in Auburn awaiting restoration.

Several members of the Friends of the L&N Depot camped out under the butterfly shed on the morning of Sunday, June 11th. They had been alerted that an extraordinary car would be making it's way down the CSX line that morning..

At first, they could see the distinctive red color of the R.J.Corman locomotive pulling the train over the Barren River trestle. As the train neared the depot, they strained their eyes for a sign of something not seen passing that way for many years. Mixed in with the aluminum ingot cars was the L&N Railway Post Office Car, or RPO, #1107 which will be the next addition to the consist on display at the Historic Railpark.

The RPO was purchased with funding from the Bowling Green Warren County Convention and Visitors Bureau. R.J. Corman and CSX donated the time and transportation costs of getting the car from it's former home at the Bluegrass Railroad Museum in Versailles, Ky to an R.J.Corman siding in Auburn where the "Friends" will proceed with restoration.

Initial plans are to make the car, water-tight and replacing the doors. Soon after, work will begin on the painting inside and out, repairing the floor

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State Presents Check For Purchase Of Engine

A group of South Central Kentucky notables gathered on Saturday, July 15th to present a check for \$75,000 to the City of Bowling Green. These funds are earmarked for projects at the Historic Railpark at the L&N Depot including the acquisition, restoration, and transportation of a diesel locomotive to head up the cars on display there.

State Speaker of the House, Jody Richards presented the check to Mayor Elaine Walker and Rick Williams, the chairman of the Friends of L&N Depot. Also on hand for the presentation were Senator Brett Guthrie, Representative Jim DeCesare, Judge Executive Mike

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and interior woodwork and setting the car up for an informational display which may include scenes of the normal day-to-day activities on an RPO.



The R.J.Corman locomotive pulling the ingot train. The PRO can be seen well to the rear of the train.

The car was a member of the second round of mail service cars and additional information received indicates that it was manufactured in or about 1921, earlier than the original 1927 date first reported.

1107 is projected to join the Towering Pine Sleeper, the Duncan Hines Diner, and the 353 Presidential car on display at the Historic Railpark sometime in Late September or October of this year. This will help give a realistic representation of a normal consist as it was in the heyday of passenger service on the L&N.

If you wish to see a slide presentation of the arrival of the RPO, please visit our website, www.historicrailpark.com.



Thanks to Chris Gadbois of Blackberry Branch Railroad for his great photos of the RPO arrival

THE REPAIR SHOP

Restoration Chairman Dick Webber

After an extended absence I will resume activities beginning June 19. There are several projects in the works:

1. Sealing rivets and exterior painting of 353 entrance end and Kentucky Street side. I plan to use inmate help on the rivets and sanding, and need help from anyone wishing to help with the spray paint work. Painting will likely have to be done on a Sunday morning.

2. Repaint caboose. This will require considerable sanding and masking, and spray painting the red. Yellow railings and trim will be brush painted, and I will need a volunteer for that. This job will follow 353, likely in the fall.

3. 353 Staff quarters. Barren River Upholstery will donate the labor to recover the bunks/seat as soon as upholstery material is selected and located. We need 1 OR 2 volunteers to clean, paint and detail this room.

4. Baggage Carts. We have 2 baggage carts that were donated by Jimmy Diemer. 1 or 2 volunteers who can do woodwork are needed to reconstruct these trucks. One possible use is parked next to the RPO, to serve as an entrance platform

5. RPO. When RPO arrives lots of volunteers will be needed for cleaning, repair, painting, metalwork--you name it! This will be a great get-together, work and socialize opportunity.

6. Assist Larry Bryant with Towering Pine plumbing work.

If you are interested in helping with any of these projects, please contact Dick at dickwebber@insightbb.com

Contract For Museum Completion Issued

The contract for the completion of the waiting room area and the upper level of the L&N Depot has been issued to IKON Construction of Bowling Green. This area is scheduled to house the museum, model railroad layout, and gift shop.

Completion should be about 120 days from the beginning of construction.

For more information on the Historic Rail Park at the Bowling Green L&N Depot, please visit our web site at www.historicrailpark.com. Here you will find information on the park, members of the Friends of L&N Depot, information on the individual cars, and activities held at through the year.

CSX AGREES TO USE OF L&N LOGO

Friends of L&N Depot have signed a five year contract with CSX Transportation to have full license to use the classic L&N logo. Included in the deal are options to two more 5 year extensions. This is a major step in the construction and marketing of the museum at the depot.



The Mail Sack

We would like to ask for your input here. Those of you that have questions, comments, kudos, criticisms, accolades, requests, or general information that you wish brought to light, please send them to us. Please give your full name and contact information in case we need to clarify your correspondence.

We do reserve the right to edit your letter for publication. You can mail them to:

Editor
The Main Line
401 Kentucky Street
Bowling Green, KY 42101

You can email them to:
themainline@bellsouth.net



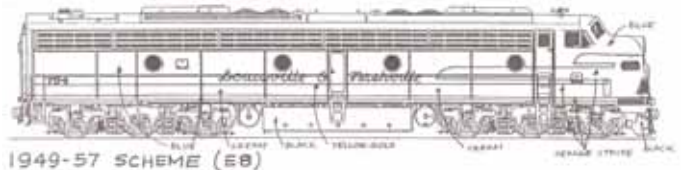
State Check from Page 1

Buchanon, Sheriff Jerry Gaines, Rick Kelly, Cheryl Blaine of the Downtown Redevelopment Authority, Vicki Fitch from the Bowling Green/Warren County Convention and Tourism Bureau, Kathie Curtis, former director of Operation Pride, and several members of the Friends of L&N Depot. A group of Cub Scouts and their parents were in attendance as they were having a tour of the railcars. A group of Bowling Green High School "Class of 1946" was also on hand taking a tour.

Representatives of The Friends have been keeping their eyes open for an engine to add to our consist. The locomotive we have pursued was found at the Arkansas Railroad Museum in Pine Bluff, AK, in good condition. It is an EMD E8A locomotive serial number 18117, which was built in June of 1953 and in service for many years on the Chicago and Northwestern line under the number 513. This loco also served as a commuter locomotive on the METRA line in the Chicago Area.

The original diesel engines have been removed. The space remaining will be used for a display of history of locomotive power on the L&N. The cab area will be restored to working configuration.

The Blue and Cream paint scheme, fitting the era of 1947 through 1957 has been chosen for the restoration. The original four E8A engines purchased by the L&N were numbered 794, 795, 796 and 797. The engine number for the E8A at the Historic Railpark will be determined by a contest soon to be announced by L&N Historical Society. The restoration is due for completion in mid-2007.



Photos of the E8A in it's current state (above) and the paint scheme that will be used in the restoration (below).



Larry Bryant Nominated Volunteer of the Year

Larry Bryant single handily volunteered to take on the task of engineering a method to convert each railcar's respective heat, ventilation and air conditioning system so that the Historic RailPark could operate year round. This was an overwhelming challenge since there was no single method that could be used for each railcar's unique HVAC system. Furthermore, no commercial HVAC company provides railroad car installations nor possesses the expertise and knowledge of railroad car electric and HVAC systems. Mr. Bryant eagerly offered to not only engineer each individual system, but graciously donated equipment and associated supplies and over two years of his own time converting railroad powered blower motors to conventional power, removing existing HVAC equipment, modifying ductwork (a daunting task considering the heavy steel bulkheads and other barriers presented by railroad heavy standard equipment), fabricating new equipment room doors in keeping with the original railcar design, installing new ductwork, and other systems necessary to heat and cool the entire rail consist.



Although many men would have retreated from the challenges Mr. Bryant faced, though his determination and dedication no obstacle kept him from completing the job. From the beginning of the HVAC project, you could find Mr. Bryant enduring the incredible heat build up inside the walls of the steel railroad cars cutting his way through steel bulkheads in the summer months, to facing below freezing wind chill temperatures underneath the heavy cars installing gas lines for furnaces in the winter months. Many men would have given up faced with these demanding jobs. Most of the railcars in the consist were pulled at one time by steam engines burning coal and a build up of black smudge hidden inside the walls of the cars and many occasions one would find Mr. Bryant covered in soot from head to toe. Sweat dripping in streams of black rivers from his forehead. Larry wore these colors in pride and it showed.

From creating work-around solutions to meet critical deadlines so events could be carried out in a cool or heated environment, to eventually converting all HVAC systems to conventional energy sources, Mr. Bryant engineered systems that will not only serve the public reliably for years, but also unselfishly engineered systems that can now be maintained by conventional HVAC companies.

Each member of the Historic RailPark organization is reminded of Larry's work each time they step into a heated or cooled rail car. But also, everyone knows that Mr. Bryant

has contributed much more than HVAC systems. Mr. Bryant also has begun the task of restoring operation to the refrigeration system for the dining car kitchen. He is working on developing operating rest room facilities. His work for the preservation of these artifacts is evident in many other ways from clever methods to solve other operational issues to creative ideas of how to restore other systems such as pneumatic railcar door operations.

The HistoricRailPark was a good-weather venue prior to Mr. Bryant's contributions and now the park is a year-round venue option, truly a viable and dependable option for citizens desiring a unique facility for hosting community or private affairs. Future generations will benefit from his unselfish and large donation of time, material and heart

Mike Dowell Joins Friends Board

Longtime L&N Historical Society Member and Railroad Author Mike Dowell has joined the board of the Friends of L&N Depot. Mike, a Detective at Western Kentucky University, and active Scout Leader brings a wealth of knowledge to the Friends. He has authored many national articles on the L&N as it relates to the Bowling Green/Warren County story. He co-authored with local Historian Jonathan Jeffrey the book, "Bittersweet, The Louisville and Nashville Railroad and Warren County". Welcome Aboard Mike!

Like To Lend A Hand?

Chairman - Rick Williams
rick.williams@insightbb.com

Vice Chairman - Larry Bailey
lbailey@insightbb.com

Secretary - Dick Webber
dickwebber@insightbb.com

Treasurer - Rho Lansden
lostrivercave1@hotmail.com

Dick Webber - Restoration Chairman
dickwebber@insightbb.com



We would like to encourage you to contact any of these officers with questions or comments regarding the Historic Railpark. Volunteers are gratefully sought for a variety of tasks, so don't be shy!



LOVINGLY RESTORED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE L&N DEPOT

Our mission is to develop a cultural and educational asset for the community, which pays tribute to the railroad. Rail travel played a vital role in our social and economic development, both locally and nationally.

Our purpose is to facilitate displays, exhibits, and programming, which would preserve and honor this railroad history. We also endeavor to recognize the contributions of former railroad employees in the community. The Historic Railpark began when CSX donated track and RJ Corman Railroad donated labor to build 450 feet of display track for the exhibit. The Depot Development Authority began the quest to locate historic rail cars. CSX donated the caboose. Dorian Walker donated the Tower Pine. The Duncan Hines Diner was purchased through the efforts of the Bowling Green Warren County Tourist Commission.

Come on Board!

The Historic Railroad Committee is always looking for volunteers to help with the restoration efforts. Our volunteers range from those that are familiar with railroading and those that are completely new to railroading. Regardless of whether you have knowledge of railroad systems, you'll find that your skill sets fit in with our need for expertise in a variety of categories from cleaning to metal work to sewing to electrical and many other areas where you could really help.

The Historic Rail Park is a work in progress and there will always be lots to do as we continue to strive to return the consist to its factory new condition. You'll be working alongside a truly diverse group of dedicated individuals that share in your excitement when projects come together. It's a lot of fun and a great feeling knowing you are a part of history that future generations will appreciate and enjoy.

The Historic Railroad Committee meets the last Saturday of each month at 8:30 AM at the Bowling Green L&N Depot. Many times we actually meet on the railcars and you are welcome aboard!

Call about volunteering at 270-745-0090 and ask for Karen Hume or fill out the bottom of this sheet and hand to any one of the Friends of the L&N Depot at any event. You can also sign up on our web site at www.historicrailpark.com

Some long-standing volunteer needs:

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|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Sanding & Masking | Welding | Electronic Systems | Sandblasting | Wiring Circuits |
| Priming & Painting | Stenciling | Finishing & Polishing | Glass Work | HVAC |
| Woodworking | Trim Work | Upholstery Work | Carpeting | Plumbing Systems |
| General Cleaning | Docents for Tours | Administration Assistance | | |

I'd like to volunteer my time to help the Historic Railpark

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

email address _____

I have special talents with _____