

THE SEMAPHORE

President's Report

In each edition of *The Semaphore*, our president will present his report on our museum. It will inform you of all that has been going on, as well as all that is coming up. It's important to us that we keep you informed so that you can decide if and how to help us in our work to keep history alive. [See page 2](#)

Logging Our Blogging

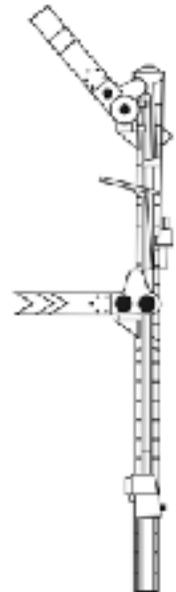
Our website's "Logging Our Blogging" Page contains posts that tell the story of the Little River Railroad & Lumber Company one blog at a time. These blog posts also tell tales of Townsend and stories of the Smokies. Each edition of our Semaphore will contain an article from our website's "Logging Our Blogging" Page, such as our recent blog on *Number 110*, the flagship steam locomotive of the Little River Railroad. [See page 3](#)

Membership & Commemorative Bricks

Two ways for you to contribute and help us to keep history alive in the present and to pass it on to future generations. [see page 4.](#)



Welcome to the new Semaphore, the newsletter of the Little River Railroad & Lumber Company Museum. Our newsletter, like our museum, is devoted to passing down to succeeding generations our incredible history and heritage, as well as the part the Little River Railroad & Lumber Company played in the founding of our town, Townsend, and of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Four times a year—September, November, January, and May—we'll email the Semaphore to keep you informed about our museum, its upcoming events, and the stories behind its artifacts and exhibits.





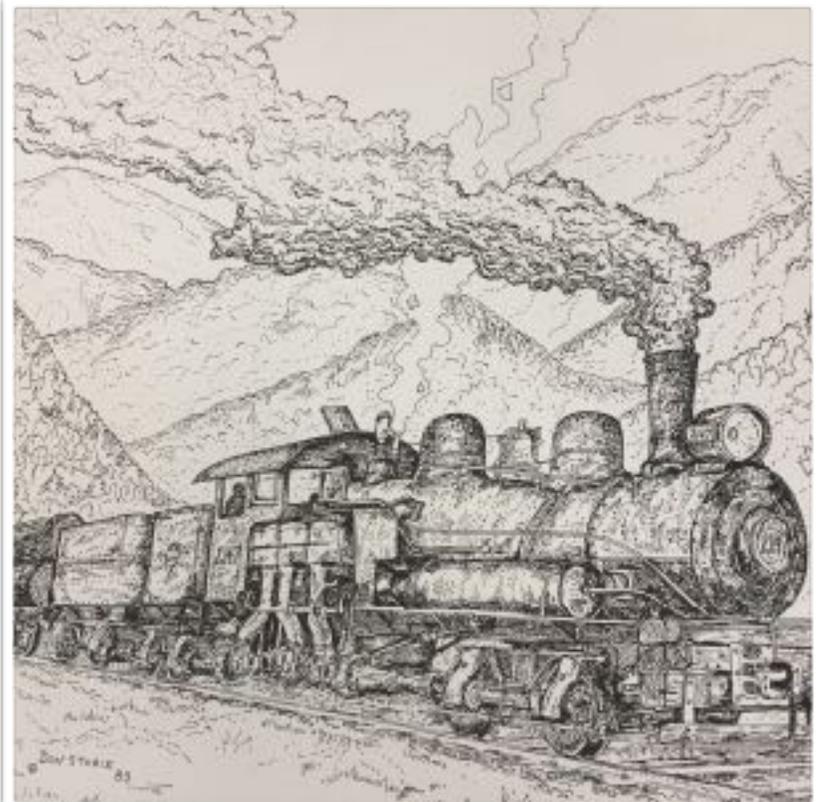
**A PHOTO FROM THE
PAST OF THE OLD
WALLAND DEPOT,
WHICH HOUSES OUR
PRESENT-DAY MUSEUM**

This summer we've had hundreds of visitors to our museum. More than twenty four hundred took the time to sign our Guest Book. Visitors came from thirty-nine of our fifty states and ten foreign countries, including Australia, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Finland, Holland, and Sweden. Here's what some of them had to say about their visit.

- "Fantastic museum. Glad I came!"
- "Thank you for the awesome learning opportunity! We so enjoyed this adventure."
- "Enjoyed the museum immensely !! YOU HAVE SOME GREAT OLD IRON."
- "Wonderful; enjoyed the history. Everyone should make a donation!"
- "The whole family loved visiting the museum. Our boys want to know when we'll going back. We'd love to hear updates throughout the year."

RAILROAD DAY

On Saturday, September 29, we'll be observing our annual Railroad Day at the museum. Like every Saturday in September, our gift shop will be open, as well as our museum for both guided and self-guided tours. However, there will be special events as well. First, Don Headrick, lifelong resident of Townsend, will lead our Old Town Tour. Come and walk along with Don as he points out important sites of yesteryear and explains how life was in Townsend during the days of the Little River Railroad & Lumber Company. The tour starts at 11:00 A.M., weather permitting. Second, Ken, our favorite model train engineer, will be running his trains on our tracks, something the kids always enjoy. Third, we hope to blow our museum's new train whistle at noon. During the days of the Little River Railroad & Lumber Company, the sawmill's whistle was blown daily at 5 AM to wake everyone up, 7 AM to start work, 11 AM to break for lunch, 12 noon to go back to work, and 5:00 PM to signal the end of the workday and to send everyone home for supper.



Number 110



Number 110 was the flagship stem locomotive of the LRR—Little River Railroad. It was special ordered by Colonel W. B. Townsend, so as to combine the power of a logging (Shay) locomotive with the speed of a traditional passenger train locomotive. It was further distinguished by the fact that it was the smallest Pacific type engine ever built in the United States to run on standard gauge track.

The Colonel's wife Margaret especially loved Number 110. It took her, in her personal passenger car, everywhere she wanted to go, to New York or

Chicago, or just to nearby Knoxville for a day of shopping. A portrait of the Colonel's wife dawned the cab window and probably led to 110 being informally nicknamed "Margaret," since it was the custom of the day to dub locomotives with a female moniker.

Constructed in 1911, Number 110 ran on the LRR until it brought the last log to the Townsend sawmill in 1939. During its many years of operation, Number 110 was in daily service. For instance, when Elkmont, a logging camp, became a tourist mecca, Number 110 made two round trips a day transporting tourists and vacationers between Walland and Elkmont. Each trip was twenty-six miles each way and the two daily trips from Walland to Elkmont were climbs of more than a thousand feet in elevation. The amazing durability and longevity of Number 110 is made even more astonishing by the fact that this "little engine that could" is still running today on a tourist railroad in Coldwater, Michigan. Fittingly, this heritage railroad, dedicated to the restoration and operation of historic railroad equipment, is named "The Little River Railroad."

Recently, two Michiganders, Joe and Pam Moore paid our museum a visit. They learned about us in Coldwater, where they rode a train pulled by Number 110. They stopped by to see the place from which this amazing steam locomotive derived, as well as to hear the story of its days on Colonel Townsend's LRR. I'd like to thank the Moores for the picture above, a photo of Joe in front of Number 110, and the picture to the right, a photo of Joe riding in the passenger car.



MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP

As a nonprofit organization we are dependent upon donations for our financial survivor. One of the ways you can donate is by becoming a member of our museum. An annual membership is \$21.47, a figure derived from the number of our museum's Shay locomotive—2147. Our other membership option is a Lifetime Membership. To become a lifetime member requires a onetime donation of \$200.00. All members enjoy certain benefits, like a 10% discount in our Gift Shop and an invitation to our annual meeting.

If you would like to join, cut out and fill out the form below and mail it, along with your check to:

LRR MUSEUM

P. O. BOX 211

TOWNSEND, TN 37882

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

THE SEMAPHORE

COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS

Another way you can donate to our museum and help us fund our restoration and development efforts, as well as the daily operation of our museum, is by purchasing a commemorative brick. Your commemorative brick will be laid in our Historical Walkway and engraved with your personal inscription. You can inscribe your brick paver with your name or the name of someone you want to commemorate or honor. Our engraved bricks come in three sizes.

- 1. For a donation of \$75.00 you get a 4x8 brick with a maximum of 3 lines of 13 letters**
- 2. For a donation of \$150.00 you get a 8x8 brick with a maximum of 5 lines of 13 letters**
- 3. For a donation of \$250.00 you get a 12x12 brick with a maximum of 7 lines of 19 letters**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL OUR MUSEUM AT (865) 661-0170
OR EMAIL US AT: littleverrailroadmuseum@gmail.com**



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