

The Manifest_(C)
Railroad News and Musings from
Green Country Model Railroaders' Association _{SM}
Sunday, February 9, 2014

Someone told me we are in the middle of the 5th coldest winter in history here in Tulsa. The thing that impresses me as well is that I can't remember it being this dry this long. Few houses here have humidifiers, and besides respiratory problems, wooden musical instruments are at risk. The good news: the weather should match the dry humor found in this column. (Ha.)

Some of you may have watched "The Big Bang Theory" episode last week entitled "The Locomotive Manipulation." There many references to the Whyte system of identifying the wheel arrangement of steam locomotives.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whyte_notation

One interesting error was the description of the locomotive as an "ALCOA." Few locos are made of aluminum! If the American Locomotive Company ("ALCO") were still in business they might be offended.

AMTRAK just starting using electric locomotives of a new design on the east coast last week. Notice pictures of what they call "the controls." I imagine very few of them are required to actually operate the loco. Could they be much more than the controls of a post-war Lionel train – direction, speed, brakes, horn? On the other hand, now we require intricate communication systems (car-to-car, loco to dispatcher and even to other locos, data recording, etc.) which are much more involved than the designers of the first locomotives could ever even imagine.

In our continuing quest to encourage railroad safety, watch the video in the following link to see why it is always dangerous to board a freight train – especially while it's moving! This remarkable video shows the young woman slip and fall between two cars and onto the tracks below as her friend watches in horror. Incredibly, she is not seriously injured. I assure you this is NOT the result you can expect if you try the same thing.

<http://www.cnn.com/video/data/2.0/video/world/2014/01/28/pkg-aus-woman-jumps-on-moving-train.seven-network.html>

Here's an update on the move of UP's #4014 "Big Boy" locomotive.

<https://news.yahoo.com/big-boy-locomotive-begins-california-133235778.html>

Check out our display of old-time trains on display at the Martin Library, 2601 South Garnett, in conjunction with their promotion of the TV series "H--- on Wheels", loosely telling of the building of the first transcontinental railroad. We thank the members and friends who loaned us items to arrange for the display. I hear it's been well received by the public.

Remember the NMRA meet with guests operating our layout and The Great Train Expo, both in March, and the TTOS show in April. We'll be busy. Why not come join us? The next meeting is this Thursday, 7:00 at the layout. See you!

Victor Banham

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