



The Mud Ring

The Newsletter of the Cinder Sniffers Inc.
Spring 2007 Issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you read this, another winter has come and gone. We had a poorly attended January 1st run due to the weather. In past years we have been very lucky with higher than average temperatures. Perhaps we have become spoiled or maybe we are anticipating global warming a little quicker than Mother Nature is preparing to deliver it.

This year will find a greater emphasis on safety. Many clubs have been forced to put in draconian measures just to get insurance. We are not in that

situation yet and with some effort on our part we can prevent it happening. Simple steps can make a big difference. Cars and engines that can not stay on the track must be removed and repaired. Our members need to be vigilant for potential situations that can result in accidents. We all will lose if there is an accident involving injury. The safety committee has been working on some ideas to promote safety. We need to support them in their efforts.

This year I will not run my train without a conductor unless it has fewer

than 4 cars, period. This means I will be looking for conductors.

There is a debate about safety chains which is much the same as the debate in cars about seat belts. Our club requires safety chains and in most situations they are a very good thing. There are many ways to make them inconspicuous.

Finally, there will be engineer training to insure that present members, new members and guests are aware of safe train operation.

Please remember...
Safety First.



In Memory of Jim Aull

A while back I got to thinking of Jim Aull. ...When I first started coming to Cinder Sniffers' meetings in the 1960s, it was Jim Aull

who would ask what I was working on. I was new and appreciated his interest, even though I had little to report.

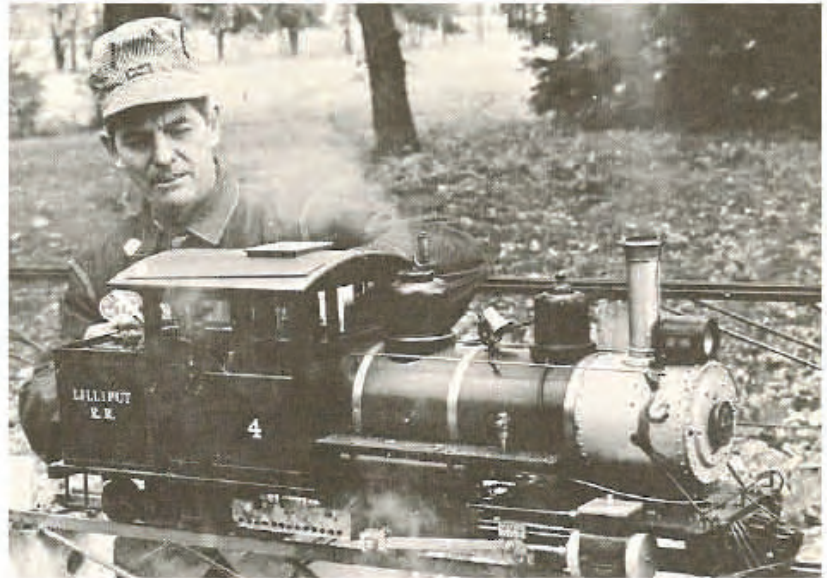
Jim Aull was one of CSI's charter members; he was the first of the three treasurers the club has had in its 50 years. He was active in building the first tracks (I can remember him driving posts for the South Trestle). And we can now look around and see two of his works: Aull Barn and McAllister Station. Each is picturesque and brings a certain character to the Park.

There is more. In 1970 Bob Maynard wrote an article for Live Steam magazine titled "... with an Eye for Beauty and Creative Hands". In the article, Bob told us of Jim's 3-1/2" gauge Main two-footer. This small scale rendition was, evidently, built not from drawings, not from a kit,

but from a photograph. And his shop, we're told, included just a lathe, drill press and brazing torch. As a family man, with three offspring, he still managed to get things done and without expensive equipment.

When Jim died in January of 1985 at the age of 60 [my estimate], he had produced three locomotives: a 3/4" scale B&O 10-Wheeler, an 0-4-0 7-1/2" gauge "Uncle Charlie", and the 3-1/2" gauge Main Two-Footer pictured here. And at the time, he was building his fourth engine, a second Two-Footer in 7-1/2" gauge.

McAllister, Then & Now. Photos:RWM & JSK



I was thinking of Jim when I replaced the decayed gingerbread atop McAllister Station. I'm sure this job took me a lot longer than it took him. And yes, it's sort of silly -- composed, in part, of clothes pins. (HO Kyler found Doll Pins for replacements.)

"Does this gingerbread really add to the station's appearance?" ... That's a question for you to decide. For me, it's part of the station's character and I'd like to think that it is in Jim Aull's memory that the work was done. ... Jim Keith

Thanks to Bob Maynard for much of the above information.



NEW SIDINGS

Much progress has been made to relieve the lack of sidings at Cinder Sniffers. The Wednesday gang, supported by others has made great progress and is awaiting good weather to cut the track and install the switch on the main line. Once this is done, the sidings should follow by summer. The electric and most of the ballast is in place and settled. The addition of these sidings will definitely enhance our ability to host longer trains.

Trivia

At our January meetings all living Cinder Sniffer presidents were in attendance including our first president, Bob Maynard. It was nice to see those faces we haven't seen in some time.

Boiler Inspections: Don't forget to get your updated boiler inspection.

Club Car

Old Trucks Update

Yes, you can weld aluminum castings and the results are quite good. We were able to add material using welding to the worn/ground down surfaces. Using a mill, the surfaces could be machined to a better finish than the original casting material. I need to find some suitable springs for the trucks as the original were much too stiff. Once done the trucks can then be mounted on a riding car.

Locks update

The locks have been replaced at the track on schedule and a thanks go to Tom Tekulve for making it happen. If you have missed the notices, new keys will be given out upon payment of dues to Ed Habel

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January 1st run at Cinder Sniffers. Yes, it was cold, rainy and windy, but fun!



Spring is coming!

If you have pictures from our track or others you'd like posted, send them in.
Thank you.

