

# SCRM NEWS

## The South Carolina Railroad Museum Newsletter

Volume 39 Number 4 Fall 2011

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### From the Editor:

Hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. The Museum has done well, thank you. Ridership has been down somewhat, largely as a result of the economic situation, but we are hoping the new Steam Locomotive will attract lots of attention.

We did a large amount of very badly needed track work in the spring, and added an important piece of land to our holdings. And we have recently sold one of our old 44 ton diesel locomotives. More on these topics later in the newsletter.

**HOT NEWS:** we are offering an “**Engineer Experience**” program, allowing interested members an opportunity to actually run the steam locomotive over a section of our track for a \$75 fee. For further information contact Rufus Timms [jrtimms71@yahoo.com](mailto:jrtimms71@yahoo.com) or 803.445.6751 If you are not already a member, you will have to join so you can be covered by our insurance.

### A NOTE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

*Speaking about membership, we are very eager to have new folks join our family!* If you are receiving this newsletter and are not already a member, we encourage you to join up: Family Membership is \$35; Single is \$25; and Senior is \$18. Please see our website or pick up an application at the Ticket Office or just send a check to our PO Box with your contact information. Remember, **members ride free** on all regular trains May-Sept. on a space available basis.



Please don't forget: if you shop at Bi-Lo and have not yet scanned the above bar code please do so when you next shop at that supermarket. You need to scan the bar code only once a year each July, along with your Bi-Lo Bonus Card keyring tag to include your purchases in the 1% rebate program. We recently received another check for over \$100! We have a quantity of keyring tags just for this program, if you prefer.

And as always, we look forward to your articles and stories for the next newsletter. Please send your contributions to me at [HenryN215@aol.com](mailto:HenryN215@aol.com), or to SCRM, PO Box 7246, Columbia, SC 29202.

**Henry Nechemias, Editor** <>

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### Lehigh Valley Coal Co. No. 126 to Power Trains in October at SCRM

*By Vince LiBrizzi*

This October, a new steam locomotive from the Gramling Locomotive Works will be pulling passenger trains and participating in the first *Engineer Experience* event at the museum. Recently restored Lehigh Valley Coal Company No. 126, a Vulcan Iron Works 0-6-0T, also known as “*Sadie*” will be

providing the power for excursions on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the *Engineer Experience* event on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Built for the Lehigh Valley Coal Company of Hazelton, PA in May 1931, No. 126 saw many years of use before eventually being sold to John Bauman of Carbondale, PA and stored at a former Delaware & Hudson roundhouse. Here she remained for many years awaiting restoration until purchased by John and Barney Gramling in 1993. After a comprehensive mechanical restoration, which included a new cab and boiler repair, No. 126 moved under her own steam for the first time in over forty years this June.

The before and after pictures show the work needed to restore No. 126 from her condition in 1993 to her first public operation in July 2011. The locomotive weighs 85,000 lbs and carries 1,250 gallons of water in her saddle tank and 2,400 lbs of coal in her bunker. No. 126 can exert 19,600 lbs of tractive effort, has 34" driving wheels, Walshaert valve gear, and operates at 180 lbs. of steam pressure.

This newest addition to the Gramling's stable of traveling tank locomotives is sure to be a hit this October. When you are at the museum, whether to help out during the steam train excursions or just ride the train and take pictures, be sure to tell John and Barney Gramling what a great job they did restoring No. 126 and bringing another iron horse back to life. <>

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**Note:** We have now started using a ticket service to sell tickets, both on-line and by phone. Go to the website and click on "Buy Tickets" or call 803.712.4135. *Whistle Tix* is the company, and they will be happy to help you. And, wow, will this make our lives so much easier!



### **Museum Acquires Property at Greenbrier** *By Gene Allen*

The Museum has purchased a tract of 1.51 acres from the estate of the late Coit Washington. The triangle shaped parcel lies generally between the Greenbrier siding and Hwy. 269, although it extends east of the east Greenbrier switch by about 80 feet.

The land will be familiar to Museum riders because it includes the area where the Museum has long parked construction and maintenance equipment. In fact, some may have believed the Museum owned the property. Actually, we used it due to the

consideration of Mr. Washington and, since his death, his family.

The acquisition is a key ingredient in the Museum's long-range plans because it assures permanent access to the Museum track, at a point approximately midway between Rockton and Rion. Convenient track access is crucial for maintenance purposes. The tract includes long frontage on Route 269, as well as the Greenbrier siding, making it especially useful.

Another potential use of the site may be as an embarkation point for motorcars. With Norfolk Southern having primary control of the track between Rockton and the Guardian switch during the weekdays, and with the Museum's excursion trains frequently operating on weekends, track availability for motorcars has become somewhat problematical. This property will allow a weekday access without interference with the NS priority.

The outline of the tract may be seen, from the track or the highway, by the white surveyor's stakes at the three corners of the property.

The Museum is very grateful to Mr. Washington and his family for their generosity in allowing the Museum the use of this land for so many years. The Museum also wishes to express appreciation to Brian Bonner, Carol Christian and Dennis Reeder of Gene Allen's firm for the donation of their time and professional ability in the closing of this transaction.<>

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**Surprise guest discovered Saturday**  
*By Vince LiBrizzi*

Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> was a busy day at the SCRM for many reasons, including both

very well patronized passenger trips and special switching moves needed for the upcoming steam train runs next month.

On the second run of the day, the crew was asked to pick up work caboose XC-6 in the Greenbrier siding on the way back from Rion. As the crew stopped the train and prepared to make the move into the siding, Superintendent John Parker noticed something black moving in the switch points at the west switch. He quickly grabbed a stick and calmly dragged out a six foot long black snake!



Before we proceeded with the switching move, I had John pose with the "guest". These snakes are non-poisonous and good for the environment, but they can bite if provoked, so please exercise caution and check your surroundings as you walk along the right-of-way during switching moves.

We have seen deer, turtles, turkeys and dogs along our right-of-way, but this was a first. A hearty thanks to John "*Indiana Jones*" Parker for his excellent snake handling and safe practices. As a result, no reptiles were harmed during the switching move. <>

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## **Say Goodbye to Loco #33**

***By Rodger Stroup***

Perhaps some of you have noticed that our “dead” line has gotten a bit smaller. The old rusty 44 ton locomotive, #33 (formerly Pennsylvania Railroad #9339) has left the Museum. The Walkersville Southern Railroad Museum in Walkersville, MD ([wsrr.org](http://wsrr.org)) expressed interest in this unit, and since they operate on an old PRR line, purchased it from us with hopes of restoring it to its original PRR colors and number, and using to pull their tourist and dinner trains.

Build in the late 1940’s for PRR, #9339 was later sold to Foster Dixiana Sand Co in 1965, it was donated to SCRM in 1992. Since it was no longer needed, the Board decided to “de-access” it (museum term to “dispose of”).

Arrangements were made to use the same flat

bed truck that delivered Steam Loco #126, so on Monday, Sept. 19 the Steamer arrived on the property and the old #33 was rolled onto the truck, headed for Maryland. It hadn’t been used in ten years, but in the photo below both engines are up and running.

It arrived in Walkersville late on Sept. 22 and is quite happy in its new home, thank you.



**South Carolina Railroad Museum**

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