

Official Newsletter of the Georgia Garden Railway Society

June, 2023

Danie Cabrera Alvero

Jan. 18, 1952 - Apr. 30, 2023



Danie Cabrera Alvero, 71, passed away peacefully at home on April 30, 2023 surrounded by his family.

Danie was born in 1952, in San Pablo City, Philippines to Domingo and Remedios Alvero,

the youngest of three children. He immigrated from the Philippines in 1976, to Miami, Florida where he met his wife, Edith.

A long time resident of Alpharetta, he worked at AT&T, and retired after 30+ years of employment.

He was an avid collector - of sports memorabilia, cars, Lego sets & trains. He was active in the Georgia Garden Railway Society. Dan ran a G-Scale train store, called "Rolling Stock - A value added reseller." You could find Dan at many a train show, and most National Conventions.

It was Dan who funded and headed up the 2018 National Garden Railway Convention in Atlanta.



President's Message



Our garden blooms, the track is cleared and the engines are tuned up for the first run of the year, what an exciting time! Now to learn which projects will take priority this season. I want to hear all about your newest train challenge or adventures. If you are heading north or west for a national show let us know. Maybe we will see you on the road.

Recently I learned some GGRS and member equipment had gone missing while at the spring shows. If you participated in a show this spring, please check to see if something arrived home that doesn't look familiar and bring to the next gathering. We would love to get everything to their rightful owners.

June brings us back to our multi-layout gathering that was such a hit last year! If you missed out - get ready for a treat.

All aboard

Juliet Foster

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How much do freight railroads spend on capital expenditures ?

Running railroads is **BIG** business. Look at how many have failed over the years - or have been forced in to a merger, or gone into receivership through bankruptcy. Money that is expended must bring back its own cost, plus a profit.

Answer on page 6.



*A donation has been made,
by the Georgia Garden Railway Society,
in Dan's name to the Southern Museum
of Civil War and Locomotive History.*



Track Warrants

*** NOTE: The Calendar contains some Rail related events that are NOT GGRS events!

Event	Location	Date	Status
GGRS Club Mtg	Tom & Eileen Conrad Southwest "Tour of Depots"	June, 2023	3 layouts
GGRS Club Mtg	WORK DAY at the Bando's	Jul 15, 2023	Work to revitalize the trailer and the track inside.
Southern Train Museum	Kennesaw, GA	Jul 22, 2023	Outdoor at the entrance
GGRS Club Mtg	Eagle Point Railroad, Dunlap, TN	Aug 19, 2023	7.5" Ride on Gauge
Golden Spike Show	Gas South Convention Center, Duluth, GA	Aug 26, 2023	5200 Sugarloaf Parkway
1:1 Train Ride	Tweetsie Railroad: Blowing Rock, North Carolina	Aug 26-27, 2023	See Below for hotel info
GGRS Club Mtg	Deborah & Ted Yarborough	Sep 9, 2023	Great time to return to Chatsworth area
GGRS Club Mtg	North GA Steamer – Conyers, GA	Oct 7, 2023	Cook out & Ride on Trains

1:1 Train Ride

Hints have been posted over the last couple of months. Have you guessed where the Official GGRS 1:1 Scale Ride for 2023 will be?

If you guessed **Tweetsie Railroad** in Blowing Rock, North Carolina, then you are correct. That is home of East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad's (ET&WNC) #12, the 4-6-0 Bachmann used to get measurements and produce their very first Big Hauler locomotive. The theme park is based around the railroad and has family-oriented rides and shows in addition to the train ride.

The 1:1 Scale Ride will be at their annual **Railroad Heritage Weekend** on August 26 & 27, 2023. The GGRS visited this event in 2005 and everyone enjoyed it, so it is about time for a return visit. The exact schedule of events will be coming soon, but based on past years will likely include double headed trains, trains pulling historical equipment, photo runbys, shop tours, and of course **TRAIN RIDES**.

Pricing and details will follow in the next few issues of our newsletter.

The official hotel will be the Hampton Inn and Suites, 262 Hotel Street, Lenoir, North Carolina which is about 30 minutes away from the railroad. Make your reservations now and we will see you at the train!



Whistle Stop



The Open House at Dave Bennett's new shop for his "Train Installations LLC" was well attended by railroaders of all scales. Of course, anything you need built, from a hillside ranch, to a helix, N Scale to G, Dave is your man.







Railway Capital Expenditures

On average, freight railroads spend six times more on capital expenditures as a percentage of revenue than the average U.S. Manufacturer.

In the U.S., roadways are built and maintained using taxpayer dollars. The same is not true for the vast majority of railroad tracks. America's freight railroads own, build, maintain, operate and pay for their infrastructure without relying on government assistance.

In fact, between 1980 and 2020, America's freight railroads spent nearly \$740 billion on capital expenditures and maintenance expenses. That means, on average, railroads spent approximately \$25 billion a year on the locomotives, freight cars, tracks, bridges, tunnels, and other infrastructure and equipment required to keep rail shipments moving safely and efficiently. In the last 10 years, U.S. Class I railroads have spent more than \$250 billion on infrastructure and equipment and have laid approximately six million tons of new rail.



Kate Shelley, Railroad Heroine

Born in County Tipperary, Ireland, fifteen year old Kate Shelley, an immigrant, is among Iowa's best-known heroes. Her father, Michael, likely a tenant farmer in Ireland, emigrated with his family to the United States when Kate was 1-1/2 years old. Michael became a railroad worker, but died in 1878 of consumption. Kate and her widowed mother and younger siblings, James, Mayme, Margaret, and John lived on a small farm near Boone, IA.

On the night of July 6, 1881, a particularly violent storm struck central Iowa. From her house near the Honey Creek Bridge, the teen-ager heard the bridge, weakened by a flash flood, collapse as an inspection engine passed over it.

The passenger-filled Midnight Express, which would soon be on its way along the Northwestern tracks would plunge into the Des Moines River. Shelley knew it was up to her to halt the train, but to do so meant crossing another wooden trestle high above the water.

The rough ties and spikes tore at her skin and clothes, as Kate Crawled across the 700-foot bridge. Although she started with a lantern, it went out, and she crawled the span on hands and knees with only lightning for illumination. The bridge had been built without planking, and the ties were as much as 3 feet apart. One wrong move would have sent her plunging to her death below.

She found two surviving crew members of the inspection engine, Edgar Wood and Adam Agar, and shouted that she would get help, having to cross the Des Moines River bridge along the way. The other crew members had died in the accident.

After what seemed an eternity, the courageous girl reached the other side and ran another two miles to the Moingona depot to warn of the danger. She then led rescuers to the site of the accident. Edgar, perched in a tree, grasped a rope thrown to him, and came ashore hand-over-hand. Adam couldn't be reached until the floodwaters began to recede. Pat Donahue's body was eventually found in a cornfield a quarter mile downstream from the bridge, but A .P. Olmsted was never found.

The NorthWestern gave her \$200 and a gold watch, plus a lifetime rail pass. A Chicago newspaper paid off the family mortgage. The state of Iowa gave her a gold medal. Reporters swarmed to get her story and Kate was instantly famous. A benefactor sent her to Simpson College, afterwards she taught school for awhile.

In 1903, she became the station master at Moingona.



Moingona Bridge 1882 – The Des Moines River bridge she crawled over, Pictured Ca. 1882. Photo Courtesy of the Boone County Historical Society

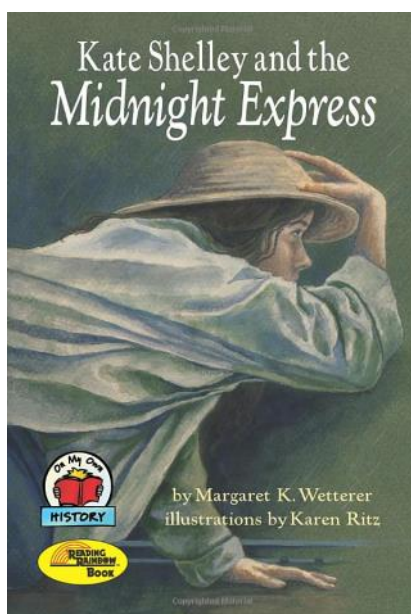
Although there were apparently men interested in Kate, supposedly including the switchman in the yard at Moingona, she never married and lived most of her life with her mother and sister Mary, known as "Mayme".

In 1910, Kate's health began to decline. In June 1911, doctors at Carroll Hospital removed her appendix. After more than a month in the hospital, she returned to Boone County and stayed with her brother John. She was reported to be a little better by September, but she died on January 12, 1912 from Bright's disease (acute nephritis). A special train carried her to her final resting place in a Boone cemetery. She is one of the few women to have a train named after her, the Kate Shelley 400.

Located in a wooded valley five miles southwest of Boone and outside the town of Moingona, the Kate Shelley Memorial Park and Railroad Museum marks the site where Kate Shelley arrived on that evening. A period railroad depot, furnished as one would have looked during Kate Shelley's life, and a diorama of Kate's 1881 exploits are located at the park. Hiking trails run through the park and lead to what remains of the Des Moines River Bridge. *Due to needed repairs the museum itself is currently closed.* The site itself and the trails are open year around to the public.

A more modern bridge replaced the trestle in 1901, and her name went on it. An even more recent bridge of concrete replaced that structure.

Margaret Wetterer wrote a children's book called *Kate Shelley and the Midnight Express* in 1991 telling Kate's story. It was featured in an episode of the children's television program *Reading Rainbow*.



At the Depot

Site of the August GGRS Meeting: The Eagle Point Railroad (EPRR), is a 7½ inch gauge (1/8th scale) railroad on private property in Dunlap TN, about 50 miles northwest of Chattanooga, TN. This is a private club and all visitors must sign a waiver. There is a depot and roundhouse and several train sheds on site. There are several large trestles on the line.



Highballing down the Track



38TH NATIONAL GARDEN RAILWAY CONVENTION
JULY 1 - 8, 2023
 HYATT REGENCY, SANTA CLARA, CA
 SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER

RECEPTION & FIREWORKS
 BBQ & TRAIN RIDE AT ROARING CAMP RR
 ICE CREAM SOCIAL & VENDOR HALL
 ACCUCRAFT BANQUET

WWW.NGRC2023.ORG *"The place to be in '23!"*




Bird-in-Hand
 PENNSYLVANIA

It's a part of our history...

BIG TRAIN OPERATOR CLUB
 CONVENTION • JUNE 19-24, 2023

Info is available at www.bigtrainoperator.com.

EVERYONE that attends banquet gets a convention car!

No, not the loco.....and it is almost sold out. But you do get the USA Boxcar. That's worth the price of the meal itself !





Greetings From The Cartersville Express Team

September 14-17, 2023

Early Registration pricing ended April 30, 2023!

Please see the web site for all the details and the registration form.

www.2023SERConvention.org

Come to beautiful Cartersville, GA for a fun-filled model railroading weekend. We have over 30 fantastic clinics planned. We have 136 Op Session slots available for guests to operate on some of the best model railroads

around. We currently have 14 home self-guided layouts you can visit during the convention. There will be a clinic on Thursday afternoon by Craig Brotman on AK Paints. We will also have NMRA Model and Photo Contests. Also, we will have a white Elephant sale area for some great deals to take home with you. This one you don't want to miss. We are finalizing our prototype tours and will list them on the website soon. Lots of great museums in Cartersville to visit or take a quick drive down to Lake Allatoona for scenery time. Don't miss a chance to save on early registration. We are looking forward to seeing you at The Cartersville Express 2023 SER Convention.

2023 Convention Team,
Walt Liles, Chair

Wiiles.crrman@gmail.com

A Challenge Coin will be given out each registered participant upon picking up your packets at the registration table. The front and back of the coin is pictured below.



The Rip Track

**Need Repairs? Supplies?
Buy Good Stuff from
our Members**

Members with Garden, Train, or other related items to sell (new or used) can submit their items for inclusion in "The Rip Track". Send information to the editor for the next issue. Items will run for a single issue, unless the editor is notified to repeat the item. (Quality photos appreciated) Members with related business advertising may also submit ads. These will run continuously until policies change or notice is given. Non-member publishing by arrangement. (Contact Editor for details.)

Drooling Over a New Engine? Get a BIB !

Engineer's Wish List

Embroidery Design & Gifts
by On-Line Consign, Inc.

Sally Bando | 404.550.4816 | sbandogeorgia@comcast.net

Machine embroidery designs & themes on shirts and gifts. Prices upon request. Company and group projects welcome.

Embroidery Design and Gifts
Georgia Garden Railway Society
Club Shirts
Each Shirt will have the club logo on included in the price.



Contact Sally for other designs

Men's	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	Price
							\$10.00
							\$20.00
							\$20.00
							\$22.00
							\$22.00
Name on Men's Shirt (Specify Name)							\$5.00

Ladies	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	Price
							\$10.00
							\$20.00
							\$22.00
Name on Ladies shirt (Specify Name)							\$5.00



**New Arrivals: AMAZING COLLECTOR-QUALITY
ASTER AND FINE ARTS MODELS STEAM**

**NEW BACHMANN DASH 9'S IN STOCK - LIMITED
TIME FREE SHIPPING**

**NEWS: Split Jaw purchases Stainless Steel
Track Product Line!**

Starting with the Code 332 Stainless Flex track kits,



Train Installations, LLC

Woodstock, GA 30188

770-597-0038

dave@traininstallations.com

Check out our online store and updated website at

www.traininstallations.com

Think about other ways or things we can help you with while we are stuck at home over the next few weeks including.

- Layout planning and CAD drawings
- Custom bridges
- Overhead RR systems
- Model kit assembly
- Train storage shelving

Now is a better time than ever to distract yourself with the hobby of model railroading! Let us know how we can help.

Thanks - Dave 770-597-0038





On April 28-29, the new North East Large Scale Train Show (a.k.a. "NELSTS") drew more than one thousand G Scalers to West Springfield, MA. We wish the new show even greater success in the future!



Garden Railroading News Edition 2 of 2023 has been released at www.GRNews.org It includes articles about:

- The Nute's Lake Town & Shire RR in Georgia
- Prepping a RR for a National Convention
- A 3D Rotary Snow Plow from New Zealand
- Improving the tracking & looks of Aristocraft Streamliners
- Our second 'Loco of the Edition' from New Jersey



Yard Hostler

While this edition came out before the May meeting at the Lees, We will have coverage in the July edition. Multiple opportunities to visit in one weekend during the June "Tour of Depots" in the Peachtree City area. You should go!

And then there are the two big conventions just around the corner. And then the 1:1 ride and the 7.5" gauge coming in Aug. So much to do this summer. Enjoy yourselves completely.

Keep those submissions coming.

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