

Deathless Prose

by Jerry Ritter

Tis a happy day on the E&P. Both the CEO and the Superintendent will be out and about, spreading the joy and good will that accompanies these storied characters wherever they go.

The CEO, will be leaving White Hall at 11:00 am; in honor of this month's celebration of Passover, the CEO will be preceded for this trip only, by the specially named "Yom" Kipper. This is all assuming that the Yardmaster doesn't have to go track down the Assistant Yardmaster, who lives in a house down a road, y'know, that dirt road that . . . well, I'm sure it will be OK.

On her way and on time, the CEO will pass through the scenic village of Flat Top, where lies buried E&P founder Sir Topham Stillman. Stillman and a visiting dignitary, Chinese Admiral Sin King Munnikhuisen, both died suddenly of natural causes from acute neck strain while attempting to enforce prohibition and gun control laws on E&P employees.

The CEO's train will pause for water at Hood, where lies buried Wayland "Les" Moore, Shot six times with a .44/ No Less, No More. . . and Thomas Alva "Don't call me Phil" Taylor, inventor of the first locomotive sound system, which failed because the notes kept changing scales.

From Hood the CEO will head down the line toward the scenic burg of Brooke from whence, assuming anyone's still alive after the RF&P signal finally changes, she will arrive at Thorny Point, formerly known as "Downing-Mosteller City," and scene of the famous Downing-Mosteller confrontation, which began one fine day when Kennesaw Mountain Mosteller, perhaps without considering all the possible outcomes, asked Ralph Waldo Downing "How come it's always "Downing-Mosteller, and never Mosteller-Downing?" Or maybe it was the other way around.

The Superintendent will be out at some point inspecting track between White Hall and Hood. He is to be treated with the usual high degree of respect.

A water car must be run up to Broadway to fill the water tower; this car may run as an extra (to cut down on running time a locomotive will probably be coupled on to pull it) or, possibly as part of the Broadway Turn.

Train crew notes:

1. You will be assigned to a train by the Dispatcher in the most arbitrary manner possible. If you wish to change assignments you will be required to sing a verse of "It's A small World" (copies available from the Dispatcher for a nominal fee).
2. If the Dispatcher is not in his office he's probably in church praying.