

Volume 1, Issue 3

December 2020

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Seasons' greetings from the Friends of the East Broad Top. This wreath adorned the bay window of Orbisonia Station during the holiday season of 2018. – Doug Davenport photo

FEBT ASSISTS EBTF IN RESTORING TRACK 3



During the November Rockhill Work Session, trackwork in the yard was the focus. FEBT work was done on two separate weekends, November 7-8, and again on November 20-21. Track 3 in the Rockhill yard was rebuilt from the switch next to the Blacklog Creek bridge to the switch used for the east leg of the wye. Track 3 is also referred to as the “pin mill track”, since it was built in 1905 to service a mill along the bank of Blacklog Creek. Some trackwork also continued along the wye trackage on the north side of Meadow St. in anticipation of trains using this trackage for the upcoming Christmas in Coal Country event the first two weekends in December. FEBT members also completed the short piece of track between the coach track and the electrical shop, where the M-3 lives. This piece of track had become disconnected over the summer when the coach track underwent a full tie replacement and ballasting. – *Doug Davenport*

The rebuilt Track 3 awaits ballast on November 8, 2020. – Stephen Jacobs photo

COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

New: 2021 FEBT Wall Calendar!



Featuring the stunning photography of master lensman Matthew Malkiewicz, this magnificent calendar includes a different, seasonally-appropriate color or black-and-white image for every month.

The stapled wall calendar opens to 11" x 17" and is printed on heavy stock with room to enter appointments.

VIRTUAL REUNION SPECIAL: Still only \$15* each, and shipping is free in the U.S. since you can't pick it up in person!

**Sorry, no member discount on this item.*

Check out our Christmas sale in the Company Store, febt.org website, Facebook and other social media! Pennsylvania residents, please add 6% sales tax. The most convenient way to order is through the FEBT Company Store website at the URL store.FEBT.org. We accept PayPal, credit cards, checks, and money orders. You may also contact the store by paper mail at FEBT Company Store, 19 W. Vandevender Street, Mount Union, PA 17066.

2021 FUNDRAISING ALMOST HALFWAY TO GOAL

The \$10,000 dollar-for-dollar matching challenge offered by an anonymous FEBT member has been fully met by generous donors! Seventy-three qualifying donations totaling \$14,251 were received in just the first three weeks of the challenge, earning the full \$10,000 matching amount.

As of November 21, the Annual Campaign total stands at \$37,742.00 – the result of 109 greatly-appreciated donations received since the campaign launched in early October. Thank you very much to all those who have responded so promptly, and thank you especially to our generous matcher.

You'll recall that our 2021 Campaign goal is to fund the following urgent projects during the 2021 work season:

Rockhill coal tipple, Phase Two	\$10,000
Rockhill storehouse	\$46,000
Robertsdale museum security	\$12,000
Robertsdale depot roof	\$10,000
Total	\$78,000

The latest numbers show we are already over 48% of the way to this \$78,000 goal. Your donation now can help maintain this full head of steam.

There are several ways to donate. Donations can be made online at <https://febt.org/donate/> using the Company Store portion of the website, which accepts credit cards and PayPal payment methods to contribute. Donations may also be made by mailing a check, payable to FEBT, to:

FEBT Fundraising Treasurer
C/O Ray Davidowski
P.O Box 81
Sarver, PA 16055

2021 Fundraising Goal:
\$78,000
November Donations:
\$31,331
Campaign Progress:
\$37,742 – 48.4%

Remember, the sooner we receive your contribution and reach our goal, the sooner the professional contractors can be engaged to do their part of the work. Thank you for your continued support.

November Donors list*:

George Ahrens	Wayne Baldwin	Roberta Ballard	Mark Batdorf
John E. Bates	Charles S. Bender	Joseph O. Brashear	Graham Buxton
David Camisa	Elisa Campbell	Thomas Carlson	Rodney E. Case
Gordon Q. Cochrane	Robert Courneya	Wallace Czekalski	Doug Davenport
Alton P. David	Michael Davis	Alfred DiCenso	Jim & Ginger Dietz
Harry E. Doolittle	Bruce Duncan	George Forero	Larry Fuchs
Allan Gartner	Lawrence Green	Paul Harland	Robert Harris
John W. Heitmann	Thomas Hesketh	Charles High	Richard Himmer
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Jeff Wakefield

David Phillips
Robert Robbins
Michael Scholl
Larry Shughart
John Stutz
Dennis Whisman

J. Mark Reese
Rich Roberts
William R. Seabrook
Richard Sisson
Tom Sullivan
Lawrence Williams

* - All donors listed represent donations received between October 22 and November 21, 2020. Donations received after November 21 will be reported in the January 2021 issue due to press time constraints.

- *Ray Davidowski and Lee Rainey*

MEMBERSHIP BOX SCORE
The Friends of the East Broad Top is up to
1385
active members

ROBERTSDALE PROGRESS

We didn't manage as many work sessions as we would have liked, but the crew still got up several times and more progress was made. I am still amazed at the amount of work every single one of these doors requires. While it's true that we didn't "build the doors" (we purchased the completed door), every other aspect of this job has been the 1:1 scale version of a craftsman kit. So saying, "installing the doors" just does not convey the amount of work involved. I think it's more truthful if said this way: Bill has had to build the hole into which the door frames have to be custom built, and then the doors get hung (after having all the hardware installed), thresholds get installed, trim pieces added, more painting, then weatherstripping. Then they rub and you have to plane them down a little, then repaint, rehang. It's a big job.

We also started moving the old issues of the Timber Transfer magazine from the station to the 2nd floor of the old post office. I had this great idea that we'd just lift the boxes up using rope. Great, nothing to build, no hardware to buy. Luckily, Jerry Skeim came to this session. At the start of this project, it just happened that I was loading boxes onto a hand truck and bringing them to the ground under the 2nd floor balcony. I'd put the rope around the box and Jerry lifted them up. Then while I went back for more, Jerry took the boxes in to Jane, who was sorting them and putting them into the storage cabinets. Great. After lunch Jerry was helping Bill with the door work, so rather than interrupt, I showed Jane how to loop the rope around a box and I went up to the balcony to lift the first box up. I pulled hard, but had to report, "Houston, we have a problem". No lift off. Orbit was not achieved. Put in my place, I asked Jerry to help when he had a break in the door work. I'm not going to get stronger, so if you are good at pulling up boxes using a rope, I'd love to hear from you.

Speaking of hearing from members, Doug Taylor responded to my request and donated 3 boxes of books, magazines, and pictures for the reading room. So we have a good start, but are still looking for more. Want to donate (contact me), but worry that we already have a copy of what you are thinking of donating? Contact me for a list of what we have.

Member Mike Zitzmann has volunteered to be a host once the museum opens next year. You should join him. Contact me to join the crew.

We are still looking for donations of chairs and tables or desks for the reading room. Again, contact me.

Multiple references to "contact me". How? Email me at febt@aol.com



The former Robertsdale Post Office building, now home to the FEBT Museum, sits in the snow in March of 2019 – Doug Davenport photo

Another trip up to Robertsdale involved meeting with The Broad Top Area Heritage Partnership. Among others, this group includes members from the Broad Top Coal Miners Museum (Have you been there? It's worth the trip, they have a lot of "stuff" to see), the Isett Heritage Museum in Huntingdon (Have you been there? It's worth the trip, they have a lot of "stuff" to see), and others. Not at the meeting, but have you been to the Swigart Museum? Who doesn't like cool old cars? The BTAHP are working to publicize the number of historic and interesting sites to see in the area around the EBT. Your museum will add to that. Robertsdale, yup, it's the "in" place to be. – *Pete Clarke*

TRACKWORK BOX SCORE

North of Rockhill, track restoration work is now complete to Horne's Valley, 2.4 miles from the Orbisonia depot.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2021 events calendar has not yet been released. More information will be available at <https://febt.org/volunteer/> once the schedule is released. Please also stay tuned for emails from the various project leaders for when they ask for help. –
Doug Davenport



Orbisonia Station sits decorated for the holidays in December of 2018 – Doug Davenport photo

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Friends of the East Broad Top Newsletter is a monthly digital-only periodical. Started in 2020, it is intended to keep members and donors apprised of what the organization has done and will be doing. The FEBT Newsletter is distributed by email to the current list of members and donors, and is a privilege of contributing to the FEBT's cause of preserving, restoring, and interpreting the East Broad Top Railroad for current and future generations. The editor can be contacted at febtnews@yahoo.com. Press time for information submitted is 8:00 PM Eastern time on the 25th of each month. Events occurring after the 25th, such as donations and memberships, will be considered part of the following month's information.