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*The M-3 waits for a passenger train to clear at Colgate Grove wye. The M-3 was rebuilt a few years back by FEBT members, and the train is crossing over the location of the Golden Spike installed at the conclusion of joint track restoration efforts by the EBT Foundation and the Friends of the East Broad Top. – Eric Knepp photo*

## BREAKING NEWS: \$10k Matching Grant Jump-Starts Fund Drive

Your contributions between November 1 and December 25 will be matched dollar-for-dollar by an anonymous donor, up to \$10,000!

Don't wait. [Donate](#) now to double your impact!

### Fire Suppression, Planning for Saltillo Extension Highlight FEBT's Annual Fund-raising Campaign

The EBT Foundation is actively working to install a fire suppression system in the historic Rockhill shops – a project we would all agree is a top priority! It now turns out that, in addition to coaling



engines, the iconic, concrete Rockhill Coaling Tipple will also play a critical part in the fire suppression project. The large vaulted room under the tipple has been chosen to house the pumps that will feed the system. To do this, it must be made weatherproof. The money you generously contributed for the tipple in the 2021 campaign will pay most of the cost of a professional construction crew to repair the roof, rebuild the top structure, and other tasks in preparation for installing the pumps. That leaves one critical task: the rebuilding

of the retaining walls on both sides of the structure. We are seeking to raise an additional **\$30,000** to rebuild the retaining walls.

The Foundation's strategic planners tell us, "The Foundation would be overjoyed if the Saltillo depot and tank reappeared in the next 2 or 3 years." For this to occur, a series of community input, planning, engineering, architectural, and permitting tasks need to start now. Historical-preservation architect John Bowie (long-time FEBT member and author of the Saltillo HAER study) has volunteered his time to the project. We are seeking to raise an additional **\$25,000**. This money will cover engineering consultants and necessary expenses as we begin the many preliminary preparations for the construction of representative buildings to support a return to Saltillo!

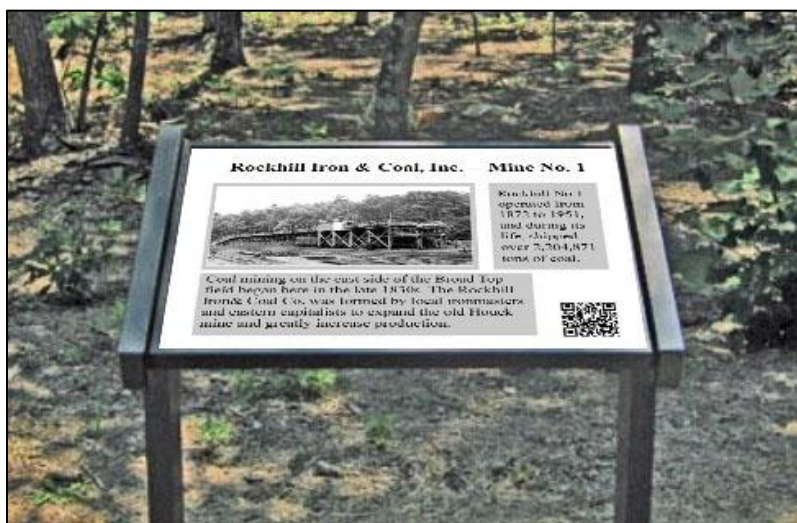






Your generous response to our 2021 fund drive allowed us to hire professional help to inventory and start to conserve the huge volume of EBT records stored in the Orbisonia depot and other Rockhill buildings. Our next goal is to make appropriate EBT records and FEBT photo collections available online for research. We are seeking to raise **\$35,000** for archival storage materials, cataloging and uploading software, and continued professional staff time.

In addition, we are planning to enhance the outdoor visitor experience at Robertsdale. This will include cosmetic restoration, painting, and lettering of the hopper cars. Also planned are outdoor interpretive signage, displays, and trails. Created with the permission of adjacent landowners, and in coordination with the Broad Top Area Coal Miners Museum, the signs will have a similar look and feel to signage to be deployed elsewhere by EBTF. We are seeking to raise **\$10,000** for this project.



Our total requirement is **\$100,000**. May we count on your prompt help so we will have the funds to engage and schedule appropriate contractors?

For more information, visit [febt.org/fundraiser](https://febt.org/fundraiser), and donate online (credit card and Paypal accepted) at [febt.org/donate](https://febt.org/donate) or at the FEBT Company Store, [store.febt.org](https://store.febt.org). If you prefer to send a check or money order payable to FEBT, address it to:

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

FEBT is a designated 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax-deductible in the U.S.

The 2022 Annual Campaign started Oct. 1 and runs until the 2022 Fall Reunion. We look forward to acknowledging all donors in our e-newsletter! Thank you for your support. – *Lee Rainey*

# OCTOBER FUNDRAISING UPDATE

This month's report will have two different sections, as FEBT transitions from a very successful 2021 Fundraising Campaign to the new 2022 campaign. The 2021 campaign set records for both quantity of donations and dollars fundraised. This fundraising drive secured over \$157,000 for the Friends. This money was spent on several projects in both Rockhill and Robertsedale. The Carpentry Shop and north Storehouse were saved from collapse via FEBT dollars, which financed their stabilizations by outside contractors. An archives system was provided initial funding. The Robertsedale Depot now has a brand new roof to keep the 107-year-old structure safe from the weather. These projects are in addition to the multi-year projects already in progress, such as Boxcar 174 reconstruction, Combine 14 rehabilitation, brush clearing, window replacement, and a variety of other projects which continue round the railroad.

**2021 Fundraising Goal:**

\$78,000

**Late September Donations:**

\$405.00

**Campaign Total:**

\$157,224.31 – 201.6%

The following donors contributed between September 22 and September 30, 2021. This is the final period of the 2021 Fundraising Campaign:

Alexander Bowser  
Rayfield Dietrich

David H. Capp  
John D. Oehler

As you read in the previous article, the 2022 Fundraising Campaign started on October 1<sup>st</sup>, but really got kicked off with the announcement of the campaign details on October 9<sup>th</sup> during the FEBT Reunion. The overall campaign goal is to achieve \$100,000 in order to complete four separate initiatives. Already the membership has contributed in excess of \$18,000, so things are off to a fast start.

There are several ways to donate. Donations can be made online at <https://febt.org/fundraiser/> 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

**2022 Fundraising Goal:**

\$100,000

**October Donations:**

\$18,835.00

**Campaign Total:**

\$18,835.00 – 18.8%

October donors\*:

Ulysses S. Adkins  
Lance Burkholder  
Peter Gentieu  
Dave Johnson  
Garret McCabe  
Timothy O'Connor  
Clay Sutton

William Barnes  
Gene Coppinger  
Michael C. Huhn  
Victor V. Kidd  
Robert McKeever  
Donald Plotkin  
Andrew Van Scyoc

Timothy Beaty  
Colin Ellis  
Michael Hurlburt  
David Luca  
James Meehan  
Lee Rainey  
Stephen Vaughan Sr.

Jon Bentz  
Douglas E. Fink  
Ian Jenner  
Michael & Angela Lynes  
Wayland & Cynthia Moore  
George Sokol  
Donald Way

\* - All donors listed represent donations received between October 1, 2021 and October 21, 2021. Donations received after October 21 will be reported in the December 2021 issue due to press time constraints.

- Ray Davidowski and Doug Davenport



## 2021 FEBT FALL REUNION RECAP

As many of you are probably aware, the annual FEBT Fall Reunion was held October 8-10. The event was located in both Rockhill and Robertsdale this year. Many activities were available to participate in at both locations. An estimated 160 members were present for the event.

The events of Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> were held in Robertsdale. The FEBT Museum was open, giving the membership an opportunity to see all the efforts that have been poured into the museum. There were handcar rides along a 200' or so portion of the main line. The Broad Top Area Coal Miner's Museum was also open just for FEBT members. Tours of the coal mining areas were run by FEBT Museum guides, as well as guest guides Ron Pearson and Ric Case for the 3:00 PM tour. The 3:00 PM tour was delayed a few minutes at the beginning as EBT Foundation Chairman Henry Posner addressed the gathered crowd to express his appreciation for the efforts that



FEBT has undertaken to assist the Foundation with restoring tourist service to Colgate Grove on the East Broad Top Railroad. Mr. Posner also took a few questions from FEBT members in attendance, as well as gave some hints as to what the railroad might do next in their restoration efforts.

*Above: A crowd listens to Ron Pearson as he explains details about Rockhill Iron & Coal Company #1 Mine, while standing adjacent to where the mine tippie once stood, during the FEBT Reunion. – Doug Davenport photo*

*Below: Brad Esposito, Pete Clarke, and Gene Tucker are presented with awards by FEBT President Andy Van Scyoc. – Craig Miller photos*



In the evening, the annual business meeting was held at the Robertsdale, Wood, and Broad Top Volunteer Fire Company Hall. Finances were discussed, each department or section of the organization was mentioned with their progress from the year, and awards were presented to outstanding volunteers. One award from 2020 was given out, and two volunteers were recognized for 2021. The 2020 Friends of the East Broad Top Preservation Award was presented to Brad Esposito for his efforts in establishing the EBT Foundation. Two members were awarded the 2021 Friends of the East Broad Top Volunteer Service Award. Pete Clarke was awarded for the accomplishments made in Robertsdale to open the FEBT

Museum, establish a hopper car display on restored trackage, and several other pieces of progress he oversaw as the Robertsdale Restoration Coordinator. Gene “Friar Tuck” Tucker was honored for his efforts leading the track crew in successfully restoring the trackage which had carried tourist trains for 50 years but had been lost to time and Mother Nature over the recent decade of inactivity along the line.

Saturday all the action was in Rockhill Furnace. The East Broad Top Railroad was operating all three days of the event, but Saturday was the busiest day for FEBT members riding the train. This was the first weekend of operations since the railroad’s 2020 renaissance announcement that saw trains run all the way to Colgate Grove, which is a great success story of the collaboration between the EBT Foundation and the Friends of the East Broad Top. Another FEBT operation was on display as speeder rides took fans for rides from the shops complex south to the Maddensville Pike grade crossing. The speeders also ran to Colgate Grove, as well as the M-1 being in operation. At registration, each member was given a voucher for a train and speeder ride, adding to the value of having purchased a ticket for the event. The Rockhill Trolley Museum was also operating their Fall Spectacular the same weekend, which gave everyone an opportunity to enjoy trolley rides on cars that aren’t available as often as some others.

While rail equipment was moving all around outside, other events were happening inside the gymnasium of the Rockhill Elementary School, just east of Rockhill Yard. The FEBT Company Store, typically only an online operation, was set up for those in attendance to peruse their wares. Several presentations were given, including the details of the 2022 Fundraising Campaign by FEBT Fundraising Chairman and noted historian Lee Rainey, a review of the Rockhill restoration efforts by Charlie Wootton, and an explanation of the new joint EBTF/FEBT Archives program by Archivist Julie Rockwell. A silent auction of donated items raised \$1902 for future projects. The annual photo and model contests were held inside as well. Elsewhere around the yard, a special shop tour was led by railroad General Manager Brad Esposito on both Saturday and Sunday.

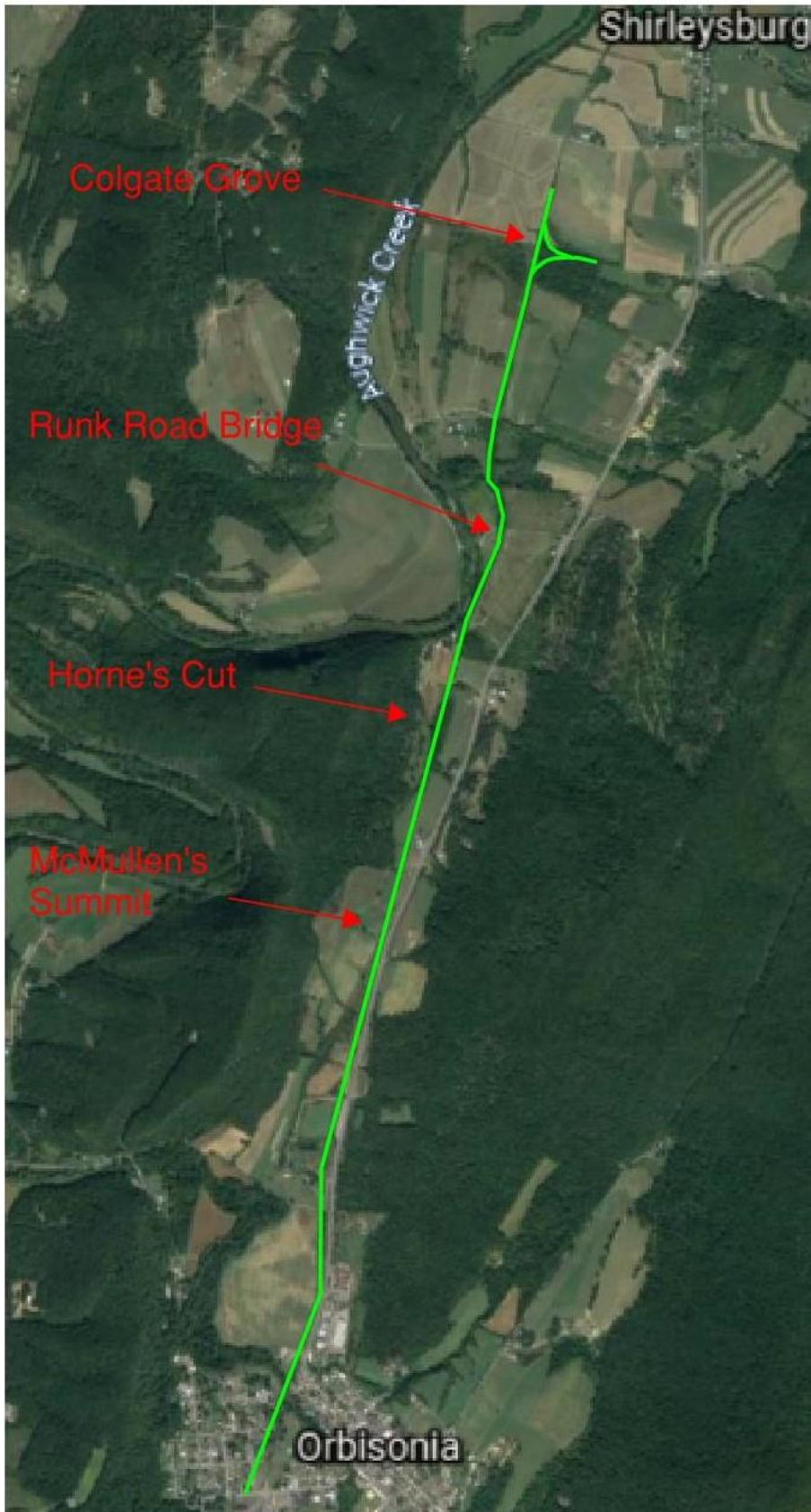


*Archivist Julie Rockwell presents the new Archives program during the 2021 FEBT Reunion at Rockhill ES. – Jane Clarke photo*

Activities on Sunday were in both Rockhill and Robertsdale. Train, trolley, and speeder rides were available, and shop tours continued. Both museums were open in Robertsdale, along with walking tours and handcar rides. The 11:00 AM walking tour included guest historian Vagel Keller, as well as Ric Case and Ron Pearson making a reprise appearance. The Robertsdale community was also celebrating Coal Miners Heritage Days during the weekend on Saturday and Sunday. From the discussion and photos floating around social media, a great time was had by all attendees. If any readers were not able to make it this year, please consider joining in the fun next year. – Doug Davenport



# TRACKWORK PROGRESS MAP



## TRACKWORK BOX SCORE

North of Rockhill, track restoration work is now complete all the way to 2000' north of Colgate Grove, 4.5 miles from the Orbisonia depot.

*Map overlay by Doug Davenport*

# ROBERTSDALE WRAPS UP OPERATING SEASON

We were happy that Robertsdale was the site of the FEBT reunion activities on Friday, Oct 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, Oct 10<sup>th</sup>! Victor Booth's handcar ramp worked like a charm as did Friar Tuck's 5<sup>th</sup> wheel for turning it, so we were able to offer handcar rides on the main line on both days. We had 92 guests sign in over the two days and know that not everyone bothered to sign in. Museum shop sales were brisk. The special, extended walking tours were well-attended, with 17 or 18 people on each. Henry Posner made a surprise visit on Friday afternoon and spoke glowingly of FEBT. He'd definitely like to see a return of trains to Robertsdale eventually.



October 23<sup>rd</sup> marked the end of the museum's open season. It was very successful by any standard, but especially in light of the pandemic. Over the course of the season, it was open 12 days and drew at least 246 guests (again, that's how many bothered to sign in). We will continue to work on the interior of both buildings and the exterior of the station as weather permits. If you are interested in helping sometime, please contact me at [FEBT@aol.com](mailto:FEBT@aol.com). I am also recruiting more museum hosts. The more hosts—the more days we can be open. – *Pete Clarke*

*A tour group makes its way up the hill to the area where RI&C #5 Mine had its operations. – Doug Davenport photo*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Host	Event
November 6, 7	FEBT	Rockhill Work Session
November 26, 27, 28	EBT/RTM	Christmas in Coal Country
December 3-5, 10-12	EBT/RTM	Christmas in Coal Country
December 4	EBT	Christmas Tree Train

Hosts: FEBT Friends of the East Broad Top  
EBT East Broad Top Railroad  
RTM Rockhill Trolley Museum

[www.febt.org](http://www.febt.org)  
[www.eastbroadtop.com](http://www.eastbroadtop.com)  
[www.rockhilltrolley.org](http://www.rockhilltrolley.org)



# COMPANY STORE LOOKING FOR HELP

HELP NEEDED: Have a spare garage or bedroom and spare time? The FEBT Company Store is in need of a new warehouse and shipping manager. We need a volunteer who is reliable and dependable to both house stock as well as ship orders in a timely manner. Please send an email to [vanscyoc@gmail.com](mailto:vanscyoc@gmail.com) if interested. – Andy Van Scyoc

## COMPANY STORE ITEM OF THE MONTH

### Company Store: New and Back in Stock!

**NEW!** Broad Top Mountain Models HO kits  
Rockhill car shop 24"x7" footprint \$236.00

**NEW!** Iron Horse Engraving Fn3 1:20.3 kits  
EBT miners' coach #5 \$500.00  
EBT combine #16 \$500.00  
EBT baggage express #29 \$500.00  
EBT caboose \$400.00

**NEW!** Funaro and Camerlengo HOn3 kit  
2nd generation EBT wood box car \$40.00

**NEW!** 3D-printed items  
EBT M-3 inspection car HOn3 (static) \$18.25  
PRR scale house at Mt. Union HO \$29.95  
PRR scale house at Mt. Union O \$45.95  
Joller Mine scale house HO \$23.25  
Brick piers from Rockhill HO (limited quan.) \$15.00

**BACK IN STOCK!** EBT HOn3 2-Bay Hopper Kits  
1913 25' 9" side-dump and horiz.-door variants SALE! \$32.50  
1914 28' 2" version SALE! \$32.50

**BACK IN STOCK!** HOn3 Vulcan Trucks  
C&BT truck frames with NWSL 24" wheel sets \$10.00

**NEW!** Scale drawing of B&S-built EBT wood hopper \$2.00

**NEW!** Decals  
2nd generation EBT wood box car HO \$5.00  
Caboose, redesigned, multiple era variations HO \$5.00  
Caboose, redesigned, multiple era variations S \$6.00  
Caboose, redesigned, multiple era variations O \$10.00

**BACK IN STOCK!** FEBT publications  
1983 Newsletters: 75 pp. of info pub'd before the TT \$12.00  
Timber Transfer Vol. 4, No. 1 Spring 1987 \$4.25  
Timber Transfer Vol. 7, No. 1 Spring 1990 \$4.25  
Timber Transfer Vol. 8, No. 3 Autumn 1991 \$4.25

**NEW BOOK!** *Focused on Steam -- Fifty Years of Steam Locomotive Photography* by Ken Kraemer. 134 pages of all color steam photographs of many railroads. The EBT is featured on the cover with 4 pages of photographs inside. \$40.00

Shipping charges and sales tax are not included in the prices above. The most convenient way to order is through the FEBT Company Store website at the URL [store.FEBT.org](http://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.

## 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 [Newsletter@febt.org](mailto:Newsletter@febt.org). Press time for information submitted is 8:00 PM Eastern time on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Events occurring after the 25<sup>th</sup>, such as donations and memberships, will be considered part of the following month's information.