

THE ANGLIN - TINNON RAILROAD WORKERS MEMORIAL

COTTER'S RAILROAD MEMORIAL DEDICATED

On May 2, at 4pm, The Cotter Care Crews and the City of Cotter will culminate many months of planning, organizing, fund raising and labor to dedicate the Railroad Memorial in Cotter's Big Spring Park. The memorial consists of a twenty foot gazebo, 2 railroad restored cabooses, 2 brick memorial walls with granite blocks containing the names of railroad workers, a life size bronze statue of a railroad conductor, information center and granite benches. Connecting all this are sidewalks lighted with period lights and poles. Highlighting the memorial is a beautiful black polished granite monument sign.

The information center explains the history of the railroad and the boomtown of Cotter. Cotter was established as a railroad town in the early 1900s when the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway Company chose the site as a division point. First known as Lake's Ferry, it was renamed "Cotter" for a railroad executive.

The Memorial has been dedicated to Roy Lee Anglin, the late father of Lynn Stude, and to Hugh Tinnon. Tinnon's daughter, Gwen Tinnon Derouin, provided in her will \$100,000 to the Cotter Care Crews for the project with the stipulation that the money be used for a memorial to Anglin and Tinnon.

To assist in the financing of the Bronze Conductor Stature, Governor Huckabee and The Arkansas Arts Council presented the Carter Care Crews with a grant of \$7,500.



Roy Lee Anglin began his railroad career at Cotter at age 18 after telling the railroad that he was 19. He worked his way up to be a railroad engineer. Known as "Slick" to his railroad fellow employees, he lived to age 83. Hugh Tinnon was a friend of Roy Lee and also was a railroad engineer working out of Cotter.

The railroad ran from Carthage, Missouri to Newport, Arkansas. The construction began in 1905 and in 1917 became the White River Division of the Missouri Pacific Railroad. Later the line was a part of the Union Pacific Railroad and is now owned by the Missouri and Northern Arkansas Railroad Company. Soon after the railroad began operations to Cotter, the town became a railroad boomtown and rapidly became the largest and most prosperous city in the area. At its peak it had six general stores, two drug stores, two pool halls, three barber shops, six hotels and boarding houses



COTTER RAILROAD MEMORIAL CON'T

And three restaurants. With the coming of the replacement of steam with diesel engines, and as the railroad no longer had need for repair facilities in Cotter, many of the railroad people moved away. Then with the end of passenger service in 1960 the decline deepened. No longer were the need for repair facilities in Cotter, many of the railroad people began moving away. Then with the end of passenger service in 1960 the decline deepened.



Granite wall with railroaders names

To two of the Historical Society's members, Lynn Stude, President of Cotter Care Crews and her husband, former Vice President Jerry Stude, has fallen the task of a good part of the leg work of the project: getting bids and contractors, plan designs and putting it all together. Jerry and Tom Dunn tackled the project of the restoration of the wood caboos. All their good work will be evident when the Memorial is dedicated! The Memorial is a great tribute to these hard working people. Kudoos also go to the Cotter Care Crew for their work in connection with the Memorial

The dedication of the Railroad Memorial will occur Friday May 2nd at 4 pm at Cotter's Big Spring Park. The dedication is in conjunction with the opening of the Great Cotter Trout Festival which is on the 2nd and 3rd. After the dedication, a public fish fry will be under the pavilion in Big Spring Park

The Cotter Care Crew is a non-profit volunteer citizens organization formed in the early 1980s to undertake projects for the beautification of the City of Cotter. All citizens of Cotter are considered members.

The Cotter Care Crew ultimate goal is to provide a railroad museum that will display the city's railroad history, heritage and culture. Also included in the future planning is the acquisition of a locomotive and a Pullman passenger car to contain displays about the area's rail history and culture.

The Care Crew is appealing to railroad companies to donate the engine and rail car for the Monument.

All planning for the Memorial has been in concert with and approved by the Cotter City Council. The Memorial will be the property of the City of Cotter.

Cotter Care Crew President Lynn Stude says, "The railroad, like the river, is a major part of the town's heritage. It is our history, It is what made Cotter prosper back in 1905 to 1954." There is still a railroad presence in Cotter. Freight trains regularly pass through Cotter.

Mark your calender and come and help the Cotter people celebrate what the Care Crew has accomplished. Again, don't forget that it is Friday, May 2nd at 4PM at Cotter's Big Spring Park adjacent to the historic Rainbow Bridge.

—*Railroad Memorial photos by Carl Roden*

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