

THE

# DIXIE JEWEL



February 2016 Issue #94

*Newsletter of the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club*

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President	Bill Haley	Treasurer	Cal Baker
Secretary	Bill Grieser	Newsletter Editor	Bill Haley

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*Everyone with an e-mail address receives this newsletter electronically.* Please e-mail Bill Haley at WGH@tnaqua.org, or mail to: Bill Haley, 215 McFarland Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37405 if you would rather receive a hard copy in the mail. Benefits of electronic delivery: faster delivery, lots of color photographs and a savings on postage and mailing materials for the club.

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## *DJIC Winter Club Meeting Announcement*

**FEBRUARY DIXIE JEWELS SWAP MEET  
SAT., FEBRUARY 20, 2016  
8:30am - 3:00pm  
GREENVILLE, ALABAMA**

Have you always wanted to visit L.A.? Do you need an insulator fix after the dark months of winter? Here is your chance for both! Mark your calendar for a fun, late-winter Dixie Jewels swap meet in L.A. - (*that's Lower Alabama*). The DJIC winter swap in will be hosted by Roy Hale at the Butler County Fairgrounds, located at 260 American Legion Road in Greenville, Alabama on Saturday, February 20, 2016. Have you made a New Years resolution to sell excess insulators in your collection, or to refocus your collecting interests? Consider setting up a sales table. There is no charge to set up. Around 20 sales tables are available, but they must be reserved before the swap meet date by contacting Roy at the e-mail address below. There will be plenty of insulators there for purchase or trade. Beat the winter blues with a trip to south Alabama and a day of fellowship with other collectors!

Roy will provide a delicious noon meal of BBQ, baked beans and potato salad. He asks others to bring a covered dish, dessert or drinks to round out the meal. Please contact Roy Hale at (334) 437-0820 or e-mail him at rdhale423@centurylink.net to reserve a table and to let him know what you can contribute to the noon meal.

**Host: Roy Hale**

**(334) 437-0820 cell, (334) 382-7463 home, e-mail: rdhale423@centurylink.net**

**DIRECTIONS TO BUTLER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
GREENVILLE, ALABAMA  
DIXIE JEWELS WINTER SWAP, FEB. 16, 2013**

**The swap meet address is:  
260 American Legion Road, Greenville, AL 36037**

**From points North:**

- Take I-65 south from Montgomery, Alabama;
- Take exit 128 (Hwy. 10 East);
- Go 1.4 miles and turn right onto American Legion Road (immediately past National Guard Armory);
- Swap meet will be at Butler County Fairgrounds, 260 American Legion Road.

**From points South:**

- Take I-65 North;
- Take exit 128 (Hwy. 10 East);
- Follow above directions.

*If you get lost, call Roy Hale at  
**(334) 437-0820***

**MOTELS LOCATED AT EXIT 130 (2 MILES AWAY):**

**BEST WESTERN (334) 382-9200**

**COMFORT INN (334) 383-9595**

**DAYS INN (334) 382-3118**

**HAMPTON INN (334) 382-9631**

**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS (334) 382-2444**

**BAYMONT INN (334) 382-6300**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT....

I trust you had a wonderful Christmas season and are having a good 2016 so far. Several members sent me beautiful Christmas cards, and I appreciated that.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the November swap at Daisy United Methodist in Soddy-Daisy, TN. I believe this was my fourth (or maybe fifth) time hosting there. God smiled on us with a gorgeous sunny day and temperatures that made it to the low 60's. We set up outside where the glass sparkled in the abundant sunshine. As always, we had a lot of walk-in traffic as curious folks pulled off the highway to see what all the excitement was about. They might not have known what an insulator was before they stopped, but several people took some new treasures home and we even gained several new club members as a result. I think everyone had an enjoyable day of great fellowship.

Collector Kirk Miller from Goshen, Indiana, was visiting family in Knoxville and decided to come on down to join us. I don't think he was disappointed, as he spent most of the day with us. He later commented on ICON that our club displayed true southern hospitality, and talked about what a great day he had. Finding some new pieces for his collection and sampling the delicious barbeque at the noon meal were the "icing on the cake" for him! We were happy to have Kirk, and always welcome folks from outside the southeast who visit our Dixie Jewels swap meets.

I had a special table of \$1 insulators set up, with all proceeds to go to the TIL Foundation. Our pastor's two-year old daughter, Tillery, has been battling brain cancer and her mom, Elena, created the TIL Foundation to raise funds to help the families of those kids facing pediatric cancer treatments. It was a joy to present almost \$100 to Elena for the TIL Foundation at the end of the day. I know that some of this money came from generous donations by DJIC members. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Get ready for another trip to L.A. (Lower Alabama) in February! Roy Hale, in Greenville, Alabama, will once again be our February host. Greenville is on I-65, about 40 miles south of Montgomery. Roy has reserved the same building as previous swaps, located at the Butler County Fairgrounds. It has proven to be a nice venue for a swap meet! Mark your calendar for Saturday, February 20, 2016 and join us for a day of insulators, stories and fellowship with other collectors. This first DJIC swap of 2016 will be a wonderful way to beat the winter blues.

Roy will have 20 tables available for people wishing to set up sales tables. Please call him at (334) 382-7463 or contact him at rdhale423@centurylink.net to reserve tables. The noon meal will feature barbecue and he'll also provide baked beans and 'tater salad. He'd appreciate if others could bring a covered dish, dessert or drinks

to compliment the barbecue meal. Be sure to contact him and let him know you are coming and what you can bring for our lunch. We don't let anyone starve at a DJIC swap meet!

A gentle reminder that your Dixie Jewels Insulator Club dues should be renewed on or before January 1 of each year. A number of folks renewed for 2016 at Soddy-Daisy in November, and Cal Baker, our DJIC Treasurer, appreciates that. It saves the club money not having to mail membership cards. To make things even better, last August the club voted to reduce the annual membership to \$5 per year. Folks, where can you have that much fun for \$5? If you have not sent in your annual dues for 2016, please get them in soon. **Fair warning: If your DJIC dues are not renewed before April 30, 2016, you will probably not receive the May newsletter.** Please refer to the box in bold shadow border on page 4 for instructions about renewing. You can mail in your dues, but it may be easier to renew them at the February swap meet.

Planning continues for the remainder of the 2016 Dixie Jewels Insulator Club swaps. I'm pleased that most of this year's meeting venues are already spoken for, although some details remain to be finalized.

Here is another thing to ponder as we get into 2016. If you would be interested in filling an officer position (President, Secretary or Treasurer) in the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club, we'll have a vote in May. Please let me know if you wish to be considered.

As editor of this newsletter I welcome any insulator hunt stories or interesting historical articles! Share with everyone by writing a short story and sending it to me at wgh@tnaqua.org.

### Upcoming 2016 DJIC swap meets:

**Sat., May 21:** Mountain Home, North Carolina  
Mountain Home Fire and Rescue  
Host: Fred Pittman

**Sat., August 20:** Hopkinsville, Kentucky (?)  
Tentative. Details not available at press time.

**Sat., November 19:** Toccoa, Georgia  
Exact location not finalized.  
Hosts: Tom and Mike Herron

I am always looking for new swap meet hosts. Contact me if you are interested and I'll be happy to help any way I can. Try it, you'll like it! Remember that the club will reimburse you for your expenses.

Good Collecting,  
Bill Haley, DJIC President

### Soddy-Daisy, TN, Nov. 21, 2015 Attendee List:

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Kirk Miller             | Goshen, IN         |
| B. Z. Cashman           | Blue Ridge, GA     |
| Mike Herron             | Toccoa, GA         |
| Tom Herron              | Toccoa, GA         |
| Dave Kingston           | Chester, SC        |
| Jason & Natalie Stevens | Spring Hill, TN    |
| John Gasko              | Martinez, GA       |
| Bill Haley              | Chattanooga, TN    |
| Dudley Ellis            | Stockbridge, GA    |
| Mike Green              | Mableton, GA       |
| Erika Couch             | Mableton, GA       |
| Cal Baker               | Hendersonville, NC |
| Dave & Geny Collins     | Eatonton, GA       |
| Gary & Elizabeth Tilson | Madisonville, TN   |
| Stephen & Robin Ruppel  | Loudon, TN         |
| Cliff & Vicki Hudgins   | Cleveland, TN      |
| Joe Phillips            | Soddy-Daisy, TN    |
| Ken Roberts             | Huntsville, AL     |
| Tim Baggett             | Clarksville, TN    |
| Ralph Dean              | Milton, GA         |
| Eric Robertson          | Trenton, GA        |
| Bob & Jo Blazel         | Hixson, TN         |
| Scott Lindsey           | Knoxville, TN      |
| Steve Forrest           | Blaine, TN         |
| Jim Wright              | Bell Buckle, TN    |
| Bud Ream                | Chattanooga, TN    |
| April Frye              | Harrison, TN       |
| Robert Frye             | Harrison, TN       |
| Tim & Patti Russell     | Chattanooga, TN    |

Collectors from 6 states attended the Soddy-Daisy swap meet. Remember, this event was just two weeks after Mid-Ohio, the largest insulator show in the world (*See next column*). Prize for most persistent person that morning went to B.Z. Cashman, from Blue Ridge, GA. He encountered a closed I-75S, made a detour, then found Hwy. 153N was blocked too. Despite an extra 50-60 miles, he finally made it to the swap.

*The prize for the cutest helper went to Natalie Stevens, who supervises as her dad, Jason, sets up the sales table.*



Photo by Bill Haley

### Mid-Ohio, Springfield, OH, Nov. 6-8, 2015 Dixie Jewels Members Get Around!

Many Dixie Jewels members attended the Mid-Ohio Show in Springfield, Ohio. Dave Kingston thought it would be interesting to see just how many, so he started a list. (*Unfortunately, I cannot find that list now - but I'll do the best I can to remember. Sorry if you get left out!*) Who was there? Tim Baggett, Cal Baker, Jacque & Graham Barnes, Don & Kay Bryant, Jim Colburn, Dave & Geny Collins, Ralph Dean, Dudley Ellis, Mike Funderburk, Ben & Barbara Gee, Dan & Shirley Goodrich, Roy Hale, Bill & Candy Haley, Ray, Sarah & R.J. Harris, Jeff Hogan, Kevin Jacobson, Dave Kingston, Fred Pittman, Steve & Jana Roberts, Stephen & Robin Ruppel, Rick Soller, Jason Stevens, Gary & Elizabeth Tilson and Doug Williams. That's 35 people, folks! *Thank you to all members of Dixie Jewels Insulator Club who support shows and swap meets all around the country!*

### MEMBERSHIP IN THE DIXIE JEWELS INSULATOR CLUB

*A membership in the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club runs from January 1 to December 31. Dues are \$5 annually, and they are due on January 1st of each year. Please mail a check or money order made out to our Treasurer, Cal Baker. The mailing address is Cal Baker, 230 Carriage Summit Way, Hendersonville, NC 28791. If you are not sure whether you've paid your dues for the year, you can e-mail him at [calb@bellsouth.net](mailto:calb@bellsouth.net) or you may phone him at (828) 697-9410 to find out if you are current. You may also renew or join the club at any Dixie Jewels swap meet.*

**IMPORTANT:** If your e-mail address, mailing address or phone number have changed, please contact treasurer Cal Baker or newsletter editor Bill Haley to furnish the new information. Bill's e-mail is [WGH@tnaqua.org](mailto:WGH@tnaqua.org). You may not receive a newsletter if we don't have your current contact information.

## Support the Insulator Hobby! Attend shows and swap meets

### Upcoming 2016 Events

#### **Sat., May 21: Mountain Home, NC**

The spring Dixie Jewels Insulator Club swap meet will be held at Mountain Home, NC from 9:00-3:00 at the Mountain Home Fire and Rescue on U.S. Highway 25. This is always a popular meeting location and collectors will be expected from all over the Southeast. Bring a table and any insulators you wish to show, trade or sell. There is no charge to set up. Fred Pittman, (828) 768-5060 or trailat@bellsouth.net, will be our host. Be sure to mark your calendar for the third Saturday in May and plan to join us! Add to your collection and enjoy a day of fellowship with other collectors surrounded by the beautiful mountains of North Carolina.

#### **June 24-25: Washington, Pennsylvania**

The Insulator Collectors of America 2016 Insulator Expo will be held in Washington, PA (just south of Pittsburgh) on Fri., June 24 and Sat., June 25 at Washington Fairgrounds, Hall One. This show will be hosted by the Western Reserve Insulator Club. Reservations for sales tables are \$35, first table, \$65 for two tables, \$90 for three tables, and \$110 for four tables. There will also be a Friday evening BBQ banquet. For contracts and more info, contact John Hovanec, phone (216) 392-3622, or e-mail jrhovanecc@ymail.com. It looks like this will be a good one, so give it some consideration.

**NOTE: Bill Haley will have information booklets for this show available at the May DJIC swap meet, or you could have him mail you one. See his e-mail info on the previous page.**

#### **July 29, 30, 31, 2016:**

#### **47th NIA National, Muncie, Indiana**

The NIA National will be held from Friday, July 29 to Sunday, July 31, 2016 at the Horizon Convention Center, 601 S. High St., Muncie, IN 47305. Muncie was home to the well-known Hemingray Glass Co., a major manufacturer of insulators from 1888 to 1972. There will be planned activities such as tours of portions of the closed Hemingray plant for anyone who is interested. You can find info at [nia.org/national](http://nia.org/national). Our hosts will be Bob Stahr, (630) 793-5345, e-mail Bob@hemingray.com, and Rick Soller, (847) 782-8602, e-mail Com574@clcollinois.edu.

### Photos from Soddy-Daisy



Dave Kingston, from Chester, SC, examines some Pittsburg High Voltage "mud" on Bill Haley's table.

Photo by Bill Haley



Erika Couch, from Mableton, GA and Dudley Ellis, from Stockbridge, GA, enjoy the early morning sunshine at Soddy-Daisy. It was a bit chilly, but warmed nicely as the day progressed. There were many items there other than insulators! Erika designed some nice necklaces and she sold several that day. (Erika, my wife said thanks.)

Photo by Bill Haley

# If You Weren't at Soddy-Daisy, Look Who You Missed!



Geny Collins and Elizabeth Tilson



Tom Herron, Dave Collins and Ralph Dean



Bill Haley, the host, advertises the swap meet.



Nice Hats! Mike Green and Tim Baggett compare headwear.



Natalie Stevens, Super Insulator Sales Woman!



Mike Herron finds a Keeper!

**DIXIE JEWELS FALL SWAP MEET  
SODDY-DAISY, TN  
NOV. 21, 2015**

There's nothing like a crisp, sunny fall day to bring out the shine on tabletops filled with insulators, bottles and go-withs! And there is nothing to bring out a crowd of good friends and fellow collectors like a Dixie Jewels Insulator Club swap meet.

Just two weeks prior, a good number of us attended the annual "family reunion" with friends from the larger nationwide insulator hobby at the massive Mid-Ohio show in Springfield, Ohio. (Look on page 4 to see who from DJIC was there.)

You might think after three days at that huge show we'd all be burned out on insulators, but you would be in for a big surprise. DJIC always draws a good crowd!

Realizing we can't match the pulling power of Mid-Ohio I always jokingly bill the fall Dixie Jewels swap as the "second-best show in November". I proudly post that on my ICON (Insulator Collectors on the Net) messages and announce it just that way at the big banquet at Mid-Ohio. Now the whole hobby knows it. Perhaps more importantly, the insulator hobby knows that Dixie Jewels members support our club swap meets as well as many other shows around the country.

Our reputation as a vital and active club is the reason we consistently draw collectors from several states every time we meet. They know there will be a good selection of insulators for sale, great Southern hospitality, and many fine folks to visit with.

It was good to see Mike Green and Erika Couch. Mike and Erika had missed several swaps while Mike was taking care of his ailing grandmother, who recently passed away. He had some nice insulators from a silo stash that he found, all from the Central of Georgia Railroad. Lots of purple Whitall Tatums on Mike's table!



Elizabeth and Gary Tilson set out their wares.



Mike Green and John Gasko



Club Treasurer Cal Baker

Kirk Miller, from Goshen, Indiana, was a first-timer at one of our DJIC swaps. B.J. Cashman, from Blue Ridge, GA, was another face we haven't seen before. B.J. was out of the hobby for several years and has recently returned. He was forced to take a very circuitous route to Soddy-Daisy. We are happy they both were able to join us. Many members of our club routinely travel several hundred miles to attend our swap meets, and there are some who rarely miss any of the four we hold each year. Now it's almost time for another great meeting. See you soon in L.A.!

More Photos from Soddy-Daisy!



You never know what you might find! Interesting garden art on B.Z. Cashman's sales table.



Insulators sure are pretty when the sun shines on them!



Bill Haley had some bottles!



Tim Baggett and Ralph Dean



Lots of activity as everyone got set up for the swap.



Bill holds forth on some important topic. Pictured are John Gasko, Ralph Dean, Bill Haley and Tom Herron.



Good crowd!

A big THANK YOU to our "club photographer", Dudley Ellis, who supplied all the photos on pages 6, 7 and 8. This is why you don't see Dudley in too many photos of our club swaps. He is usually the person behind the camera taking the shots. I did get one cell phone photo of Dudley with Erika Couch (see page 4) early that morning. I always welcome photos for the newsletter. If you have any you think would be of interest, send them on!



## Building the Transcontinental Railroad Tales from the Union Pacific Railroad Build

by Bill Haley

Your curiosity can be fueled by something as simple as selecting an old book from a free book pile. Such a thing can spur research on a topic you may not have even thought much about before. It happened to me.

I recently picked up a selection titled "Trouble Shooter" by Ernest Haycox. First copyrighted in 1937, my edition was published in 1981. To be honest, I had no idea what it was about, but the attraction was a small silhouette of a steam locomotive on the cover.

It turned out that this work of fiction is based on the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad by Union Pacific Railroad construction gangs working their way west from Omaha, Nebraska in the late 1860's. Mr. Haycox had obviously done much research on the topic. Once I started reading, I wanted to know more!

The book begins in April, 1868 in the brand new settlement of Cheyenne, Wyoming. The young "town" was an assembly of railroad and telegraph workers, saloon operators, store owners and other folks supporting and feeding off the railroad's rapid expansion west. It was literally the "end of track" then - little more than a tent city and several hastily assembled clapboard buildings.

In a book which I purchased at this year's Mid-Ohio show titled "The Overland Route. Union Pacific Railroad" by Grenard and Cross, they make the statement, "*In American History the name Union Pacific seems to be synonymous with the opening of the western part of the nation. The seemingly endless miles of track heading west from Omaha brought in the people and material to build the great cities of the west that we know today.*"



In this early photo of the "end of track" on the transcontinental railroad build, note the telegraph lines, which were completed ahead of the track by line crews working in advance. The telegraph was vital to insure supplies and crews were available for each section of track-laying.

The book "Trouble Shooter" talks at length about the construction of the railroad, stating, "*A mile a day, two miles a day, three miles a day. Jack Casement's terriers swarmed at end of track, sweating and swearing and quarreling but pushing that steel girdle further out. Nothing stopped them short of failure of supplies.*"

John S. Casement, (also known as General Jack), a former Union general, was chief engineer of the Union Pacific. He had several train cars equipped as bunkhouses for his workers, including a galley car for their meals, and he even provided a herd of cows, portable fresh meat, to be moved along with the rail head.

"Hell-on-wheels" type towns, the end-of-track settlements began as, "*a flimsy line of saloon and dive and gambling joint waiting in the midst of the bitter, treeless, grassless desert.*" The book continues "*Two days later, two thousand people were there. In the intervening forty-eight hours a hundred tents had been erected and half a hundred houses knocked together from a ready-to-build pattern.*"

A description of actual track construction is enlightening and points out the constant demand for track-laying materials. "*The material train chuffed forward with another length of track, funneling a black smoke into the agitated sky. The whistling of other advancing material trains cut hoarse, bleating patterns of sound into this sweaty racket. Out forward, far forward, the line of waiting ties made a flickering gray-white row along the grade.*"

Many of the laborers on the Union Pacific build were Irish. Almost all roadbed work was done manually with shovels, picks, axes, crowbars, ropes and wheelbarrows. Explosive work, bridge-building, tunneling, heavy cuts or fills were started well before track-laying crews arrived. Iron rail lengths were listed as 30 feet (560 lbs.) and 15 feet (280 lbs.) Available pictures seem to favor the shorter length, but 30 foot was used when available, especially on curves, where the rail had to be bent using crowbars. Dialogue between two characters in the book summed it up. "*They work so very hard.*" The reply is "*And fight hard and play hard. That's your Irishman.*"

I love the rich images conjured by Mr. Haycox's narrative. "*Casement's material trains howled up the long grades in endless file by day and by night, and the constant clang of steel being dumped was like the beat of a great gong in the high, windy wilderness. The fever of hurry was in everybody. Ties were laid on clods and scantily smoothed surfaces. Ballast was left for the clean-up crews coming behind. It ceased to be important whether rail joists met on tie surfaces or hung between. Masonry work was abandoned in favor of ready-cut timbers that could be swiftly bolted.*"

While "Trouble Shooter" is not directly interested in telegraph lines along the route, there are some noteworthy mentions. Ironically the first is a hanging. "*A quarter mile from town Collie pointed to a short telegraph pole*

(Cont. on next page)

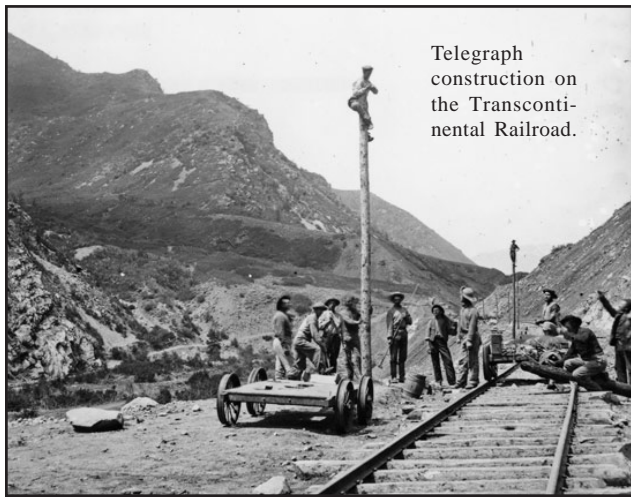
(Transcontinental, cont.)

- merely pointed to it. Somebody threw a rope across the arm of the pole, and somebody found an empty box by the right of way and stood it under the dangling rope." You can guess the rest. Remember they were in the Great Plains at the time and trees were few and far between.

Provisions in the Pacific Railroad act of 1862 were made for telegraph companies, who had just completed the first transcontinental telegraph line in 1861, to combine their lines with the newer telegraph lines being built along the railroad's tracks. The original lines didn't always parallel the route the Union Pacific chose.

Needing rapid communication for ordering supplies, or particular workers with specialized skills and to schedule trains which needed to go both ways on a single track, telegraph lines went up before tracks were laid. These lines were vital to avoid conflicts and collisions, and they soon superseded the earlier telegraph lines in use. Many of the original lines were abandoned, as specified by congress, once they merged with the Union Pacific's telegraph lines.

In conversations with other collectors on ICON, I've learned that on some parts of the route, there were telegraph lines on both sides of the tracks. The lines constructed at the time of the Union Pacific build used CD735 Mulford & Biddle U.P.R.R. threadless insulators, while it seems the older 1861 build employed CD731 S. McKee & Co. threadless and possibly some ramshorns as well.



Telegraph construction on the Transcontinental Railroad.

The highest point on the Transcontinental route is Evan's Pass at 8247 feet. About 4 miles past that they had to build the Dale Creek Canyon Bridge, which was 650 feet long and 125 feet above Dale Creek. This engineering challenge used bridge components pre-built of timber in Chicago and shipped on rail cars to Dale Creek for assembly. The eastern and western approaches required cutting through granite for nearly a mile on both sides. Newly discovered nitroglycerin, which for safety was manufactured onsite, was used for the blasting work. More stable dynamite was not in common useage yet.

When they reached Echo Canyon and Weber River Canyon in the Wasatch Mountains, Utah Territory, one of their most difficult tests materialized. Winter snow was 20 feet deep. Haycox's description gave this modern-day reader a chill. *"The outer sides of the car windows were solid sheets of ice; the wind had lifted a notch, shrilling around the car eaves and through adjacent telegraph wires."* Later in the chapter he writes, *"The steel mounted one frigid mile at a time, through glittering wide walls twenty feet high, from one contour to another across a world turned solidly white. Foot by foot, the telegraph poles disappeared beneath the drifts, the crossarms near enough to reach by the lift of a hand."* It continues, *"Peace watched the boarding train creep another completed stretch toward Wasatch, now six miles away on the howling, winter-beleaguered heights. Snow laid a thick-driven screen across the sky; the bundled forms of Casement's terriers were vague shapes at a distance of twenty feet away. A man stood propped against his shovel as the coach rolled by, and shook his head."*

Later in the narrative, the telegraph workers' nightmares continued. *"At five o'clock it was pure black and a roaring arctic blizzard smashed Wasatch terrifically and ripped the snow dunes high, like huge breakers at sea. The telegraph wires, scarcely repaired from the previous storm, went down again; and again traffic on the road came to a full stop and this camp was shut out from the world. It was Christmas Eve."*

Three weeks later, *"Casement's first material train broke through the Laramie plains and come snorting up the Wasatch grade. The wires into Ogden were mended."* Because of this sudden influx of delayed materials, they *"glutted the narrow jaws of Echo. The track layers slogged forward dropping rails on ties that squirmed in snow slush and semi-liquid mud. Echo Creek roared bankfull beside them. Thaw and freeze alternated, buckling up the track and dropping it; when trains passed this way Casement's Irish laid their crowbars beneath the rails to support the load."*

*Down Echo Canyon they went, through its narrowing walls to the high black shoulders of the Weber Gorge, where the snow-fed Weber River stormed at their very feet. Echo City bloomed and wilted, all in the course of a week. Near the first of February they passed the lone pine standing out of the rock - one thousand miles from Omaha. And that day the wires from Ogden were full of the Central's newest trick."*

- (Story continued in May newsletter)

U.S. postage stamp issued in the 1940's commemorating the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad.

