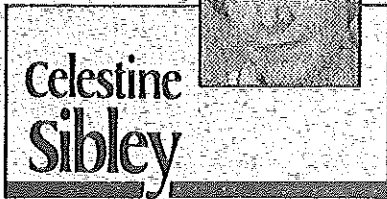


5/23/84



Ol' 290 lives with train buffs

It seems only a little while ago that I heard my Monday office-mate, columnist Leo Aikman, worrying about the problems of moving a big railroad locomotive across town without tracks. Imagine my surprise to get a reminder from Col. James G. Bogle that this is the 25th anniversary of that move.

Twenty-five years ago Georgia railroad buffs were all agitated over how to save and find a home for Atlanta & West Point engine No. 290. This old traveler, described by Col. Bogle as "a very fine steam locomotive ... heavy Pacific type built by the Lima Locomotive Works in Ohio in 1926 for the A&WP Railroad," was so grand its fans felt it should be saved from the scrap heap and put on display for future generations. Clyde Mixon, president of the A&WP, got the locomotive a reprieve. But what do you do with an old engine that no longer has any work to do?

Leo thought a home should be found and he started calling and writing and enlisting the energies and enthusiasm of fellow railroad and history buffs. They called themselves, for lack of a better title, the "290 Club." Leo retired, coming into the newspaper to deliver columns only on Mondays, and for a time we shared an office. I heard a lot about the 290 Club and the great excitement when a way was found to move the big engine down Pryor Street to the Lakewood Fairgrounds. The 836th Engineer Battalion of the U.S. Army Reserves took on the task.

Eulogized in song

"The Army engineers can do anything!" Leo assured me. And I guess it was a fair test of their skill because the engine weighed about 200 tons. The city of Atlanta had taken on the 290 as a nucleus of a railroad museum, which has since been moved to a 12-acre site donated by the Southern Railway near Duluth. The Atlanta chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society took on the assignment of caring for old 290 and the other railroad artifacts and its spring and fall steam excursions are a prime source of income for its operation.

Nobody invited me to the fairgrounds when the 290 was presented to the city and at the time I had no idea what I was missing. Jim Bogle's reminiscence makes it sound like a ceremony worth anybody's time.

"A highlight of the presentation ceremony was the singing of an old religious and railroad song 'Life's Railway to Heaven' written by an old singing evangelist, Charlie D. Tillman," he reported. "The song was sung by Tillman's grandson Mack Burns, who was then living in Atlanta and connected with the Atlanta school system. He sang the song from the cab of A&WP 290 and per Leo, did a superb job."

Saga of 'Life's Railroad'

Well, maybe you've missed out on "Life's Railroad to Heaven." I don't see how I missed it but Jim rectified that error. He sent me a copy clipped from the Forest Park Free Press in 1969. According to Clint Bonner, Tillman not only wrote that number but he first committed to the printed page a hymn now known the world over, "The Old Time Religion." Seems he heard it at a Negro revival in North Carolina, added some words and the tune, and had a hit on his hands. The words to "Life's Railroad" were written by the Rev. M.E. Abbey, a Baptist minister, and set to music by Tillman.

The first verse goes:

*"Life is a mountain railroad,
With an engineer that's brave;
We must make the run successful
From the cradle to the grave;
Watch the curves, the fills, the
tunnels;
Never falter, never quail;
Keep your hand upon the throttle,
And your eye upon the rail."*

All the verses end with those last two lines. Wouldn't it have been something to have heard them sung from the cab of 290 on that gala day 25 years ago?

JAMES G. BOGLE

James G. Bogle, a native of Tennessee, has been a resident of DeKalb County, Georgia, since 1956. He is married to the former Mary Alice Clark, a native of DeKalb County, and they have two children, Alice and James G., Jr.

Bogle retired from the U. S. Army in January, 1967, after serving over 31 years, with the rank of Colonel. He served in the South Pacific area during World War II and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and a Battle Star for the Northern Solomons Campaign. Subsequently, he served in South Korea during the conflict in 1953 and later another tour with the U. S. Military Advisory Group in Korea in 1963. During his military career, he attended the Officer Candidate School, at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, the Advanced Course at the U. S. Army Transportation School, the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia. His last duty station was with the XII U. S. Army Corps, Atlanta, Georgia and when he retired in 1967, he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Bogle is a charter member and past president of the Atlanta Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, a life member of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, a long time member and past president of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table. He also belongs to the DeKalb Historical Society, the Atlanta Historical Society, the Georgia Historical Society and the Tennessee Historical Society.

He is a graduate of Georgia State University. Served as aide to the Director of the Georgia Historical Commission for five years following retirement from U. S. Army. In this position he designed and supervised the construction of the exhibits at the Confederate Naval Museum at Columbus, Georgia.

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Bogle-Lyons Wedding Vows Are Exchanged

Alice Clark Bogle and Steven Henry Lyons were united in marriage recently at Rock Spring Presbyterian Church, Atlanta. The Rev. Charles Roberts and Dr. Kenneth B. McKenzie, III, officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Colonel (U.S. Army Retired) and Mrs. James G. Bogle and the granddaughter of the late Dr. and Mrs. James J. Clark, Atlanta, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Garland M. Bogle, Bruceton, Tenn.

The groom is the son of Mrs. Gordon McLellan, Mammoth Lakes, Calif., and Earl Lyons of Bowstring, Minn., and the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry K. Herring of Malone, Fla., and the late Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Lyons of Bowstring, Minn.

Wedding music was played by Thomas Matthews, organist, and a duet was played by Noelle Jacobson, violin, and Krista Fajman, flute.

The bride was escorted to the altar by her father and given in marriage by her parents. Mrs.

Daniel Davis served as the bride's matron-of-honor.

Dr. Raymond Lyons of St. Louis, Mo., brother of the groom, served as best man. The ushers were Lance Croxall of Naperville, Ill., James G. Bogle, Jr., of Columbia, S.C., the bride's brother, and Robert Ritz of Troy, Ohio.

Following the ceremony, the bride's parents entertained at a reception at the Ansley Golf Club of Atlanta.

The bride's book was kept by



Mr. And Mrs. Lyons

Mrs. Robert Ritz of Troy, Ohio, cousin of the bride. Assisting at the reception were Debra McClanan, Stone Mountain, Susan Moss, Atlanta, Mikki Thompson, niece of the groom of Escondido, Calif., and Brittany Hussey of Atlanta.

The rehearsal dinner was given by the groom at the Druid Hills Club, Atlanta.

After a honeymoon in Hawaii and California, the bride and groom are residing at their home in Atlanta.

JAMES G. BOGLE, JR.
6523 OLDE KNIGHT PARKWAY
COLUMBIA, SC 29209-1524

5 September 2010

DeKalb County Historical Society
To the Society:

Thank you so very much for your kind gift of flowers on the passing of my father, James G. Bogle. They were very lovely and very much appreciated. He did a lot of work for the Society, and I seem to recall a grand opening of a museum in the old Courthouse many years ago.

Dad had always wanted to be buried with military honors. And we were worried about that, what with the Army smaller than in the past, two wars going on, Fort McPherson being moved, and so many veterans of his era passing away. We were pleasantly surprised, and very pleased with the honor guard that provided the full military honors at his service. The ceremony was performed flawlessly, and with great dignity. The Army came through when it counted.

Thanking you again for the flowers, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bogle, Jr.", written in a cursive style.