

Railroad reflects days past

by Susan Troxler

Crossing the tracks as you approach or leave Elon College, you may wonder why a railroad should run so close to classrooms, dorms and library.

For many students, the railroad does little more than act as a speed bump. For others, it rattles glasses a couple of times a day and even gives members of the Greek system a place to display their artistic talents. To most people, the railroad is of little importance.

It's difficult to imagine at this railway system was once the central interest of the town. Around the turn of the century, six passenger trains ran through Elon everyday. Students arrived at school either by train or by horse and buggy. The depot is located across from the post office, on the college side of the tracks. Four mail trains came through Elon daily.

The "coming in" of the train was a big attraction for the townspeople as well as the students. Virtually every-

one turned out to watch the train pass through town. The people of the town also made a point of meeting students when they arrived for a session and seeing them off at the end of each term.

The railroad was a principal means of transportation until the time cars became common. Passenger service was available until 1964. It was fairly common for students to "hop the train" and ride into Burlington for a movie. After an evening of entertainment, they hopped a later train back to Elon.

Although this sounds a little risky, only one student had a bad accident as a result of this economical traveling. A male student did lose his foot when he fell off the train. There have been only a few fatalities associated with the railway in this area, and none of them has been a student from Elon.

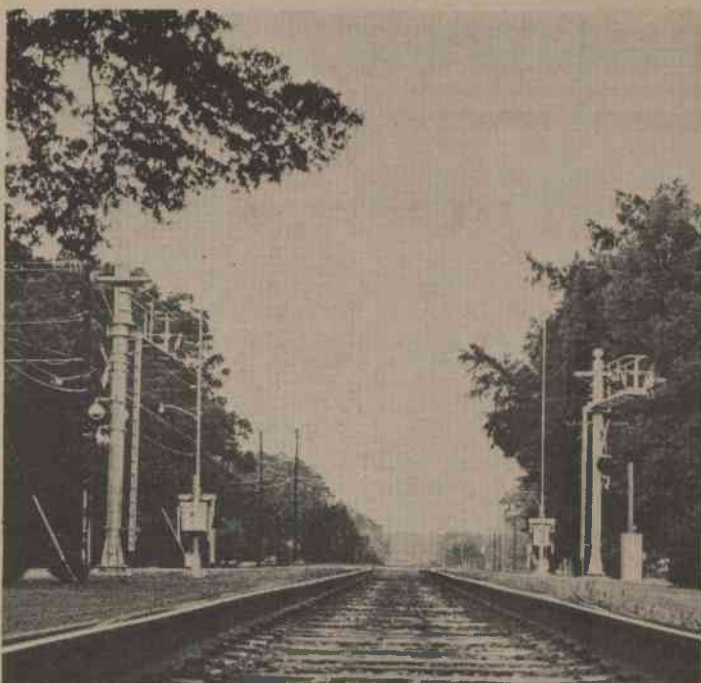
The railroad was built through Elon (then known as Mill Point) between 1851 and 1856. Elon was pri-

marily a railroad settlement until the college was established in 1889. The one-building college opened with 75 to 85 students in 1890. The train service remained the most important mode of transportation.

After the fire of 1923 destroyed much of Elon's campus, the train carried the graduating students to Burlington for their baccalaureate service. Three extra cars were hooked to the train, and participants were transported to the Burlington Christian Church for the service.

During the time Elon College was actually being built, Alamance County had no banks. The train brought money from banks in Durham and other large cities through the train's mail service.

The station in Elon College stayed after the passenger service was discontinued, but shortly thereafter it was torn down and moved to Glen Raven. In 1977 continuous welded rail replaced the tracks' bolted lengths of steel. This im-



TOWN OF ELON-This railroad track has become an accepted part of the community of Elon College. Photo by Nader Hamidpour.

provement eliminated much of the rickety sound of the railway, and this type of track will eventually replace all of the 10,500 miles of the Southern Railway System.

In spite of the fact the railroad may not seem sig-

nificant to many of us as students, it was a vital part of the Elon College community for more than a century. As a matter of fact, it's possible that the college might not be here if the train had not been here first.

Music, films, fairs, and more

Gallery hopes to fire interest in fine arts, photography

by Teresa Warren

The Firehouse Galleries' October exhibits feature the watercolors of Jo Ann Rose, the art work of Wayne Epperly, and the photography of the Alamance Image Makers, a local

photography group.

Ms. Rose's work is on display in Gallery I. She is a native of Ohio and now lives in Chapel Hill. Her style is classified as "experimental," and ranges from traditional watercolor to explorations in

techniques of silk-screen and intaglio painting.

Professional artist Wayne Epperly is a native Burlington painter. He has displayed his award-winning oil paintings in Alamance and Guilford counties. His work is exhibited in Gallery II.

Gallery III features the work of the Alamance Image Makers, an associate member of the Alamance County Arts Council. The Image Makers' display will also be exhibited in the Cummings High School Auditorium Nov. 7 for the council's 25th birthday celebration.

Tickets for this celebration are available at the Arts Center. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students and senior citizens.

The exhibits in the Firehouse Galleries are open to the public and will remain on display until Nov. 1. The Arts Center is located at 135 W. Elm St. in Graham.

Coming soon to the Elon College campus are the Contiguglia Brothers, duo-

pianists, who will present a free concert Thursday, Oct. 29, at 8 p.m. in Whitley Auditorium. This concert is the first in the Lyceum Series programs offered to the public by the college.

The Ice Follies and Holiday on Ice Combined Shows are coming to Greensboro Coliseum for 10 performances Tuesday, Oct. 20 through Sunday, Oct. 25.

Shows will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20 through Thursday, Oct. 22. On Friday, Oct. 23, performances will be at 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday shows will be at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 8 p.m. while Sunday performances will be at 2 and 6 p.m.

Tickets for the Ice Follies are on sale at the Greensboro Coliseum box office, all authorized Belk Stores, and Reznicks' in Winston-Salem.

Daryl Hall and John Oates will appear with the Electric Light Orchestra at the Greensboro Coliseum on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 8 p.m. Barry Manilow will also appear at the Coliseum on Saturday, Oct. 31 for an 8 p.m. concert. For more information, contact the Greensboro Coliseum box office.

The 1981-82 Travelogue Series will open tonight at 8:15 at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with its first film entitled, "Come to the Castle: The Stately Homes of England."

The series will feature seven full-color films that will take the viewer to England, Italy, Germany, Australia, Poland, and the United States. All films begin at 8:15 p.m. and will be shown in Aycock Auditorium on the UNC-G campus.

Season tickets for the series, which will continue through April, are available by contacting Aycock Auditorium box office at 379-5546 weekdays from 1 to 5:30 p.m.

The North Carolina State Fair will be held Friday, Oct. 16 through Saturday, Oct. 24 at the fairgrounds in Raleigh.

"The Color of Autumn" in watercolors and oils by 19th and 20th century European and American painters is the featured exhibit at the Priestley Fine Art Gallery through October. The gallery, located at 100 N. Williamson Ave. in Elon College, is open 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.

A film series about struggling relationships with family, society, and God is being sponsored by the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter.

Orson Welles' "Citizen Kane" will run Friday, Oct. 23, and "A Man for All Seasons" will be shown on Friday, Oct. 30. Both films begin at 7 p.m. and are open to the public without charge. Discussions will follow the films.

Do you have a talent which you keep inside and wish someone would see? If your answer is yes, maybe you, your friends or your organization should enter



8 p.m. Whitley Auditorium

50¢ general admission

Application deadline—Oct. 25

Haunted House

Friday, Oct. 30

&

Saturday, Oct. 31

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