



## Saluda Welcomes First Passenger Train

The sun shone and there was an air of subdued enthusiasm along Main Street, Saluda, on Sat., March 21.

Besides the usual pickup trucks parked along the roadside, there was a larger group of automobiles with out-of-state plates and strangers with cameras at the ready wearing funny looking hats. The locals tried to look indifferent about the major event that was about to happen.

Then we all heard it. The whistle and a rumbling noise, it was on its way, the first passenger train to arrive in 20 years. As it crested the rise into Saluda, locals and visitors alike moved closer to the tracks. Click/click/click, the cameras would catch its every move, the Norfolk Southern Railroad diesel locomotive and four passenger cars had arrived.

As the 90-odd paying passengers alighted for a barbecue lunch in the park, the locals mingled with the visitors and reminisced about the past.

"Did you know that we had four trains each way daily? I remember going to Henderson-

ville for less than 50 cents. The Carolina Special used to leave Charleston and bring up the visitors for the summer months." Seventy-nine year old Margaret Hart of Saluda remembers taking the train many times; also, her father, Daddy Hart, cut down the first trees to start building the town. Later, he was the town's first postmaster.

Edwin Leland, 86 years old, who until recently owned and ran the Saluda Mountain Telephone Co., was a bit more philosophical: "It's not the same as having a steam locomotive." Mr. Leland appeared to have spent most of his time climbing telegraph poles and not riding the train.

But perhaps the most enthusiastic member of the trio was Robert Majors, who was one of two "Pullman Conductors" riding the train. Robert has been a member of the East Carolina Chapter N.R.H.S. since 1970. In the real world, Dr. Majors is a Ear Nose & Throat specialist from Raleigh.

The photograph above shows

Conductor Majors, Margaret Hart, and Edwin Leland talking about old times. (Come back in October, Mr. Leland, a steam locomotive is scheduled to climb the grade on Sunday, the 25th.)

A second photo shows the "Caritas" passenger car leaving Saluda.

-Community Reporter

## Fabulous Fourth T-Shirt Competition

NationsBank and the organizers of this year's annual Fabulous Fourth of July Metric Century Bicycle Tour announce an open competition for a design to be used on the T-shirts that will be given to each participant in the Tour.

There will be three prizes: First - \$ 100 US Savings bond; Second - \$ 75 US Savings Bond; Third - \$ 50 US Savings Bond.

The contest is open to everyone: professionals, amateurs and students; and competitors may submit more than one design. Designs may be submitted at any time prior to 15 May 1992, and should be sent to: Fabulous 4th of July Metric Century Tour, 224 Hogback Mountain Road Tryon, NC 28782-2929.

The winning design is to be used on the front of T-shirts. The color scheme should be red and blue on a white background. The theme of the design should be appropriate for both the Fourth of July celebration, and for the sport of bicycling.

Separate overlays for the two colors should be provided, or will be expected to be made available by the artist if the work is chosen. Winning designs become the property of

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the Fabulous Fourth of July Metric Century Tour, and may be used at the discretion of that organization.

Appropriate publicity will be given to the winners. Non-winning designs cannot be returned, but contestants may pick them up at the Tryon branch of NationsBank in Pacolet Street of that town, weekdays, Sept. 1. If not, they become the property of the organizers to be used at their discretion. For further information please contact Louis Buzek, 859-5570.



Clay Hardin

## Top Performer

Fifteen-year-old Clay Hardin was selected as one of the top performers at the 4-H Entertains Talent Show. He will be singing a country-western song, "Unanswered Prayers," at 4-H District Activity Day June 25. Clay is a member of the Polk Central Chorus.

Community Reporter

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