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Engine May Have Pulled Abe's Inaugural Train

What happened to the stately | "General's" age -

ning and as a matter of fact has just finished portraying another famous old engine in Walt Disney's Civil War spy feature, "The Great Locomotive Chase," starring Fess Parker starring Fess Parker and Jeffrey Hunter.

It would be the "William Mason," built just a hundred years ago for the B. & O. by William Mason, of Taunton, Mass., father of the modern locomotive. Mr. Disney brought the "Mato North Georgia, the Franklin, N. C. area to play the "General" in a re-enactment of the incredible Andrews raid for the CinemaScope - Technicolor cameras.

The "General" raced the 'Texas" in a daring gamble for the fate of the Civil War and the Confederacy. Union raiders led by James J. Andrews rode former and Confederate pursuers the latter in a daylong duel over roaring rails in heart of the hardpressed Confederacy.

Cyclorama. But neither are operable and doubles were need-

Railroad's publicity department guesses correctly, the distinguished woodburner is still run
"General" operated on the stra
was now long to the mason lought with also in the new Disney picture. The "Mason" burns coal now instead of wood, but is otherwise like its old self, even to the ing the South.

court with a dozen other an-

COMING SOON The "Franklin premier" of Disney's movie, "The Great Locomotive Chase", filmed in this area last fall, will be June 10-11-12-13.

An old balloon-stack engine. "The William Mason", subject of this feature article, is still vivid in the minds of Maconians, who for weeks watched the ancient locomotive puff along the tracks of Tallulah Falls Railway here and in north Georgia.

cient beauties in the B. & O.'s Transportation Museum in Bal-Confederacy.

The two original performers a cross-section of "firsts" in still exist, carefully preserved B. & O. Railroading, which is for an endless audience of ad- a fair picture of all American mirers. The "General" stands railroading, since the B. & O. in Chattanooga's Union Station, was the first chartered railroad and the "Texas" in Atlanta's in the U.S. and has remained one of the most important.

ed for the Disney story.

The "Mason," actor, and a engines like the "Tom Thumb," museum piece of considerable first American-built locomotive importance too, is exactly the to operate on a commercial rail-

farmers!

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What happened to the stately "General's" age — 100 years. road, and the "Lafayette," first locomotive that pulled Abraham Lincoln's inaugural train?

If the Baltimore and Ohio War. The "Mason" fought with also in the new Disney picture.

"General" operated on the stra-tegically important railroad be-tween Atlanta and Chattanooga where it was stolen by An- ing the driving wheels and in drews and forced into a scheme of the "The Great Locomotive Chase" the "Mason" will be seen spinning resulted in splitting and defeat its wheels one way or another to prevent or percipitate dis-Today the "Mason" holds aster, depending on how the script and history move old No.

But the "Mason" is generally credited with a still more important role than that of an iron-wheeled soldier. This cannot be proved definitely because the locomotive has outlived all records on its earlier years.

"However," reports the B. & "we have always liked to believe that this was the locomotive that hauled President Lincoln to Washington for his first inauguration. If it was not No. 25, it was probably one of its sister engines, Numbers 26

If the "Mason's" inaugural part is uncertain, another role in the story of Lincoln is not. The grand old balloon-stacker hauled the Lincoln funeral train on a recent nationwide telecast. and it was the sort of performance no greenhorn could have turned in.

Beside the "Mason" stand Union Honor

Union School's honor roll for the final grading period of the year lists the names of 50 pupils. according to Principal R. A. Byrd. By grades, the honor pupils,

First: Helen Gribble, Barbara McClure, Brenda Bolick, Jane Hastings Diane Dove, Judy Cabe. Sarah Mae Mann, and Hardin

Second: Sharon Fitzgeraid, Linda Owenby, Jean Shields, Thelma Sutton, and Dearl Prince

Third: Mavis Dowdle, Tommy Dove, and Glenn Fitzgerald. Fourth: Sue Sanders, Joyce*

Cleer, and Charles LaBoone. Fifth: Bonnie Cheeks, Mary Cabe, Heward Johnson, and Phyl-

lis Sutton. Sixth: Betty Sue Williamson.

Shirley Sorrells, Ethel Sorrells, Hilda Sanders, Barbara Medlin, Sylvia Lecford, Betty Cloer, Delma Carpenter, Ann Cabe, Olivia Carpenter, Kenneth Jones, and John-

Seventh: Patricia Shope, Thelmia Shope, Patsy Cunningham, Allere Williamson, Ida Mae Ramey Dorothy Stockton, Jean Ser ers, and J. B. Wee y.

Eighth: Lona Bot., Maty Jo-Henderson, Linda L. et. Betty Jean Ramey, Virginia Guiffia Wathyan An Lana Gribble, and Kathryn An.

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