

# Technical Genius

Ashley Webb, Curator

Historical Society of Western Virginia

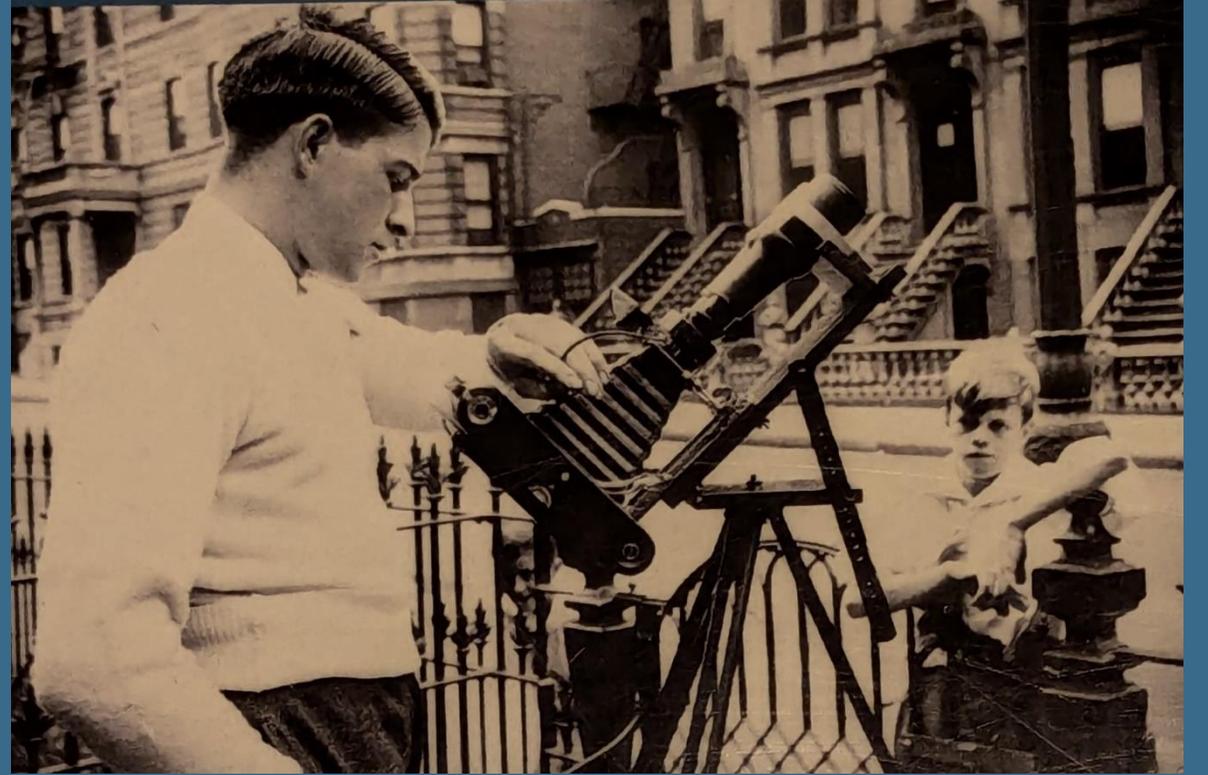
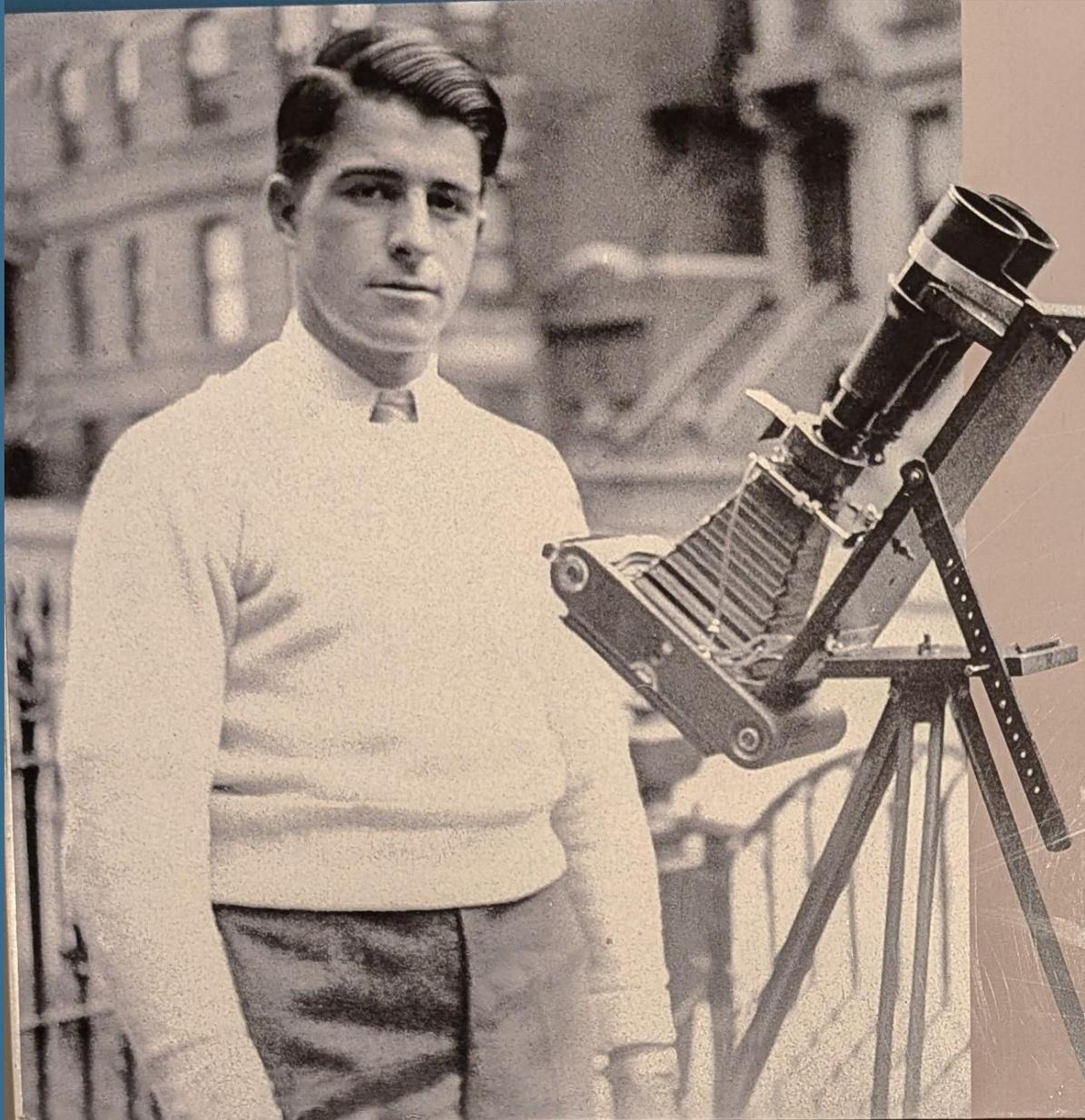
Roanoke History Museum

O. Winston Link Museum















*Missouri Pacific 4-6-0 #2325 Switches at Freeport Sulphur Company, Port Sulphur, Louisiana, 1946 - 1st night photograph using flashbulbs*



F89 in Flight 8-18-52

Weston Rating TR1 X - 128  
 Approx Speedy Plane - 200mph + camera

Best Results on after-burner  
 1/500 f4.7 1/1000 thin  
 → 240volts ←

Best firing done with mechanical tripper preset to fire when plane at correct angle. Also delay introduced in wire finder to compensate for uncontrollable factors

Successful Photos - Start 730 AM  
 Aug 20 Clear  
 200K North

- 27 ① API 142 - 1/500 SKY 100 - K2-f8  
 SKY 1/4 exp.  
 SKY Fine but too light for after burner
- 28 ② API 143 1/500 - SKY darker K2-f8  
 OK after burner starts to show
- 55 ③ API 145 - 1/500 - K2-f8 -
- 56 ④ API 144 1/500-f4.7 - SKY 25 No filter  
 SKY lighter - less after burner than ③
- 9 ⑤ API 146 - 1/500 f4.7 SKY 6.5x1 - No filter  
 excellent - this one used (SKY 1/10 of full necessary)
- 10 ⑥ API 147 NG
- ⑦ API 148 - 1/500 f4.7 SKY very dark Burners much better

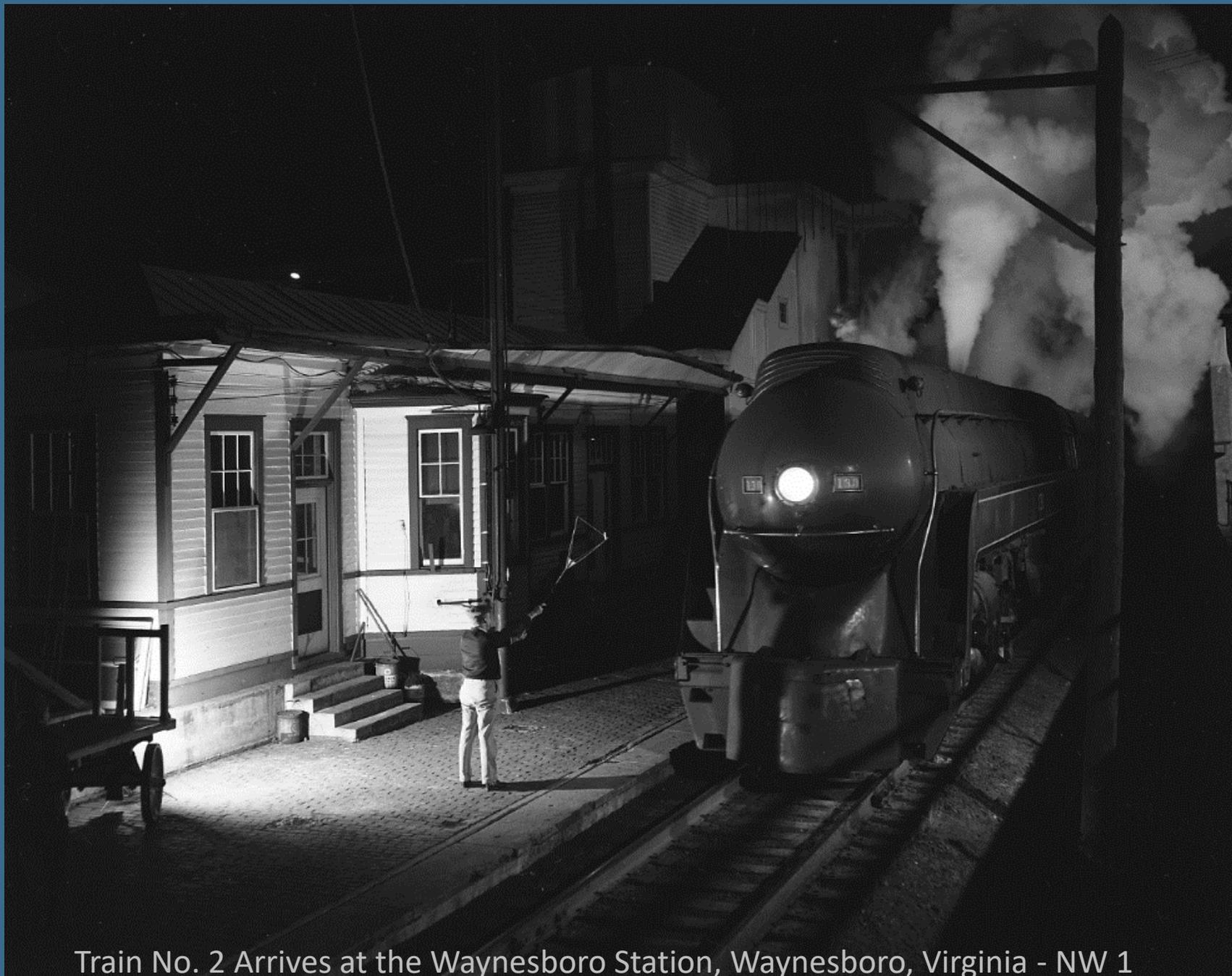








Cracked Window, Waynesboro,  
Virginia - NW 32

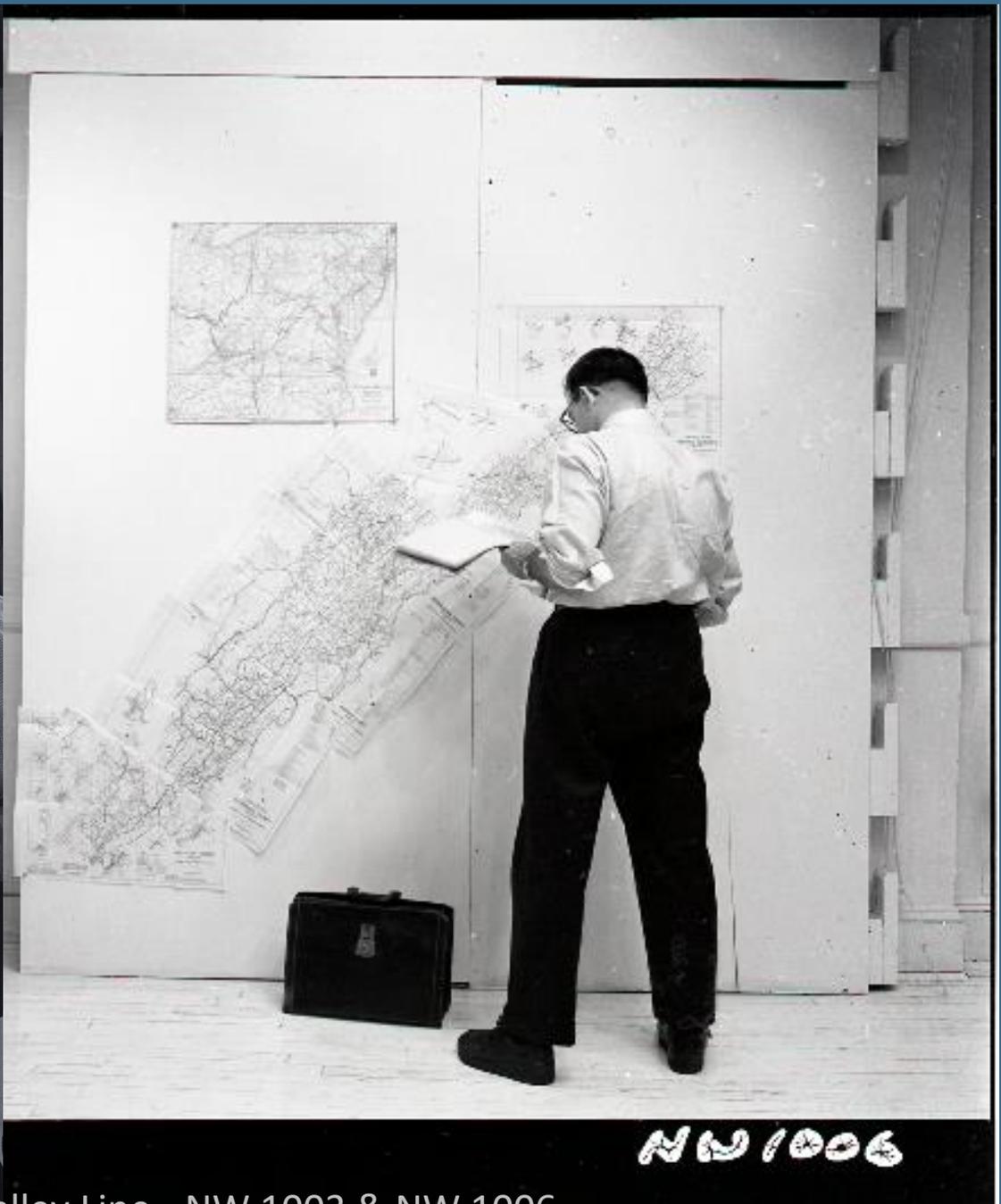


Train No. 2 Arrives at the Waynesboro Station, Waynesboro, Virginia - NW 1

5

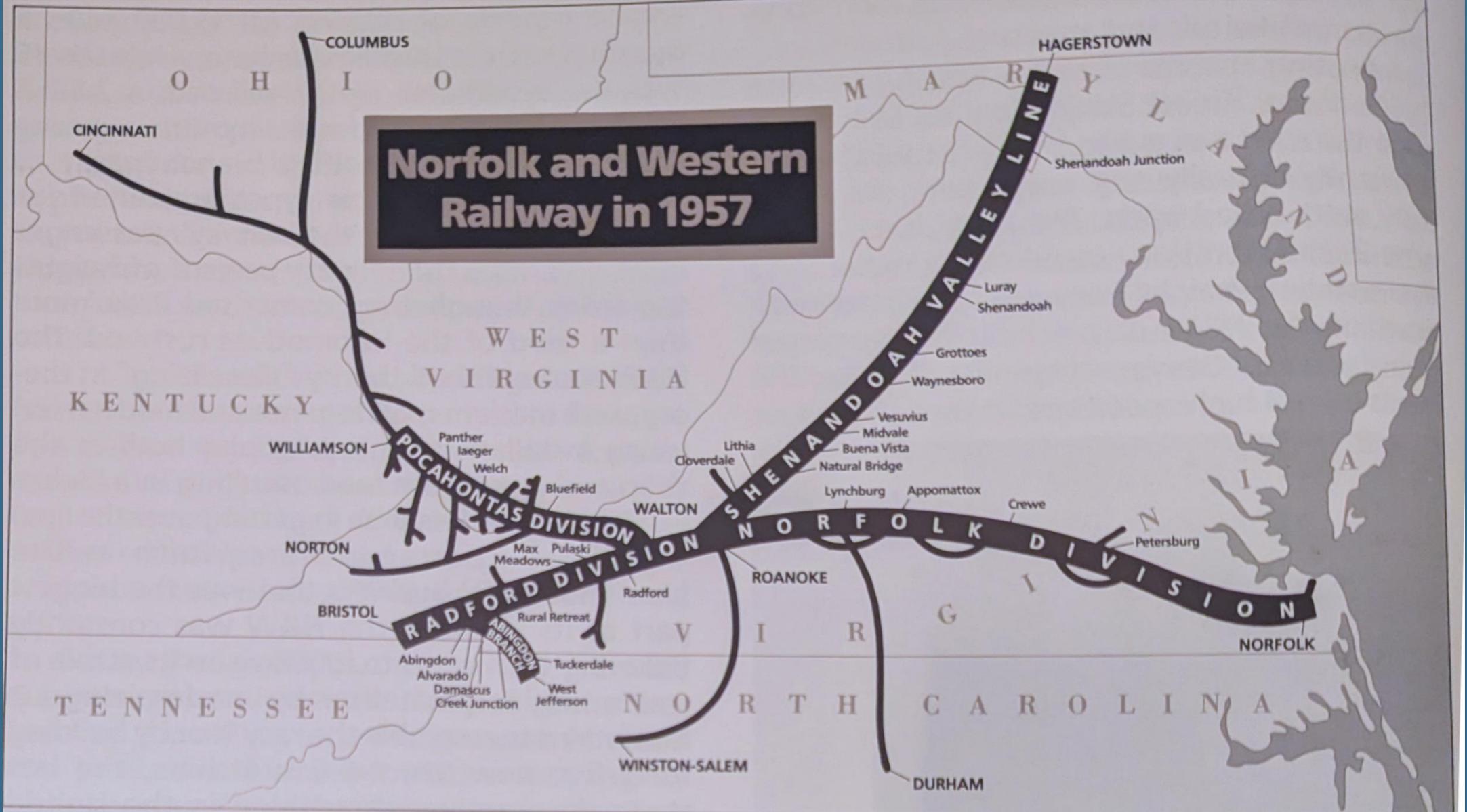


Corn Pickup, Watauga, Virginia - NW 34K



Line Plotting Locations on the Shenandoah Valley Line - NW 1003 & NW 1006

# Norfolk and Western Railway in 1957



July 12, 1955

Mr. Ben Bane Dulaney  
Norfolk & Western R<sup>r</sup>  
Roanoke 17, Va.

Dear Mr. Dulaney:

Here is an approximate schedule of the pictures I hope to make on the next trip to N&W territory July 22 to July 30, 1955.

It may be that we won't be able to get everything for one reason or another but we have enough on the schedule to select from.

The picture listed will have this permanent number until we have a negative when it will be given a NW number.

- No. 1 No. 1 & No. 2 meeting South of Hagerstown. July 23 A. M. Maybe you can give me some advice on this situation. Does one wait on a siding to let the other through? Are both in Hagerstown at the same time. It looks like they meet 5 minutes S. of Hagerstown.
- \* No. 2 July 23 P.M. Lithia, Va. Shot including old mill and train in background. Models to be rounded up.
- \* No. 3 July 23 P.M. Lithia, Va. Shot including arch bridge over stream. Train in background. Models to be rounded up.
- \* No. 4 Salvation Army Camp Joy near Bluefield. Check it. July 24 drive from Roanoke to Bluefield. Photos in grease pit.
- No. 5 Bluefield Coal Bunker with two or three locos being coaled. A Y6, S1, J or K. July 24.
- \* No. 6 Shot at Camp Joy across swimming pool. Finish up Bluefield yard photos if practical. July 25 (Monday ngt)
- \* No. 7 Drive to Leager. July 26. Shot of outdoor movie with train in background.

July 27, Wednesday

Look over Crossing at Welch Your photo No. 13362A  
Can we get two trains here? One on over pass and one on main line?

~~Nfld to Petersburg  
at Crabtree Falls  
near Cosovius, Va.~~

~~851 Watermelon Patch  
R. small road near~~

~~851 1/2 Windsor~~

~~802 Wakefield~~

~~Sawmill possible  
just W of Station~~

~~812 Silo Barn - L -  
2 Silos - well located  
no tops on silos -~~

~~Boats near ↓  
Barn Stave plant R~~

~~812 Waverly~~

~~Park to Richman~~

~~821 Barn Stave plant  
E of Disputanta Road~~

~~851 Petersburg~~

~~910 Lu Petersburg~~

~~931 Good Housing Devl  
Brick house - nio R  
60° to Tracks  
Emb Bar-B-CW "yard"~~

~~932 HY 60-11-HY Chease~~

~~ED DOREMUS~~

~~Box 328~~

~~Bryn Mawr Branch~~

~~Seattle 88, Wash~~

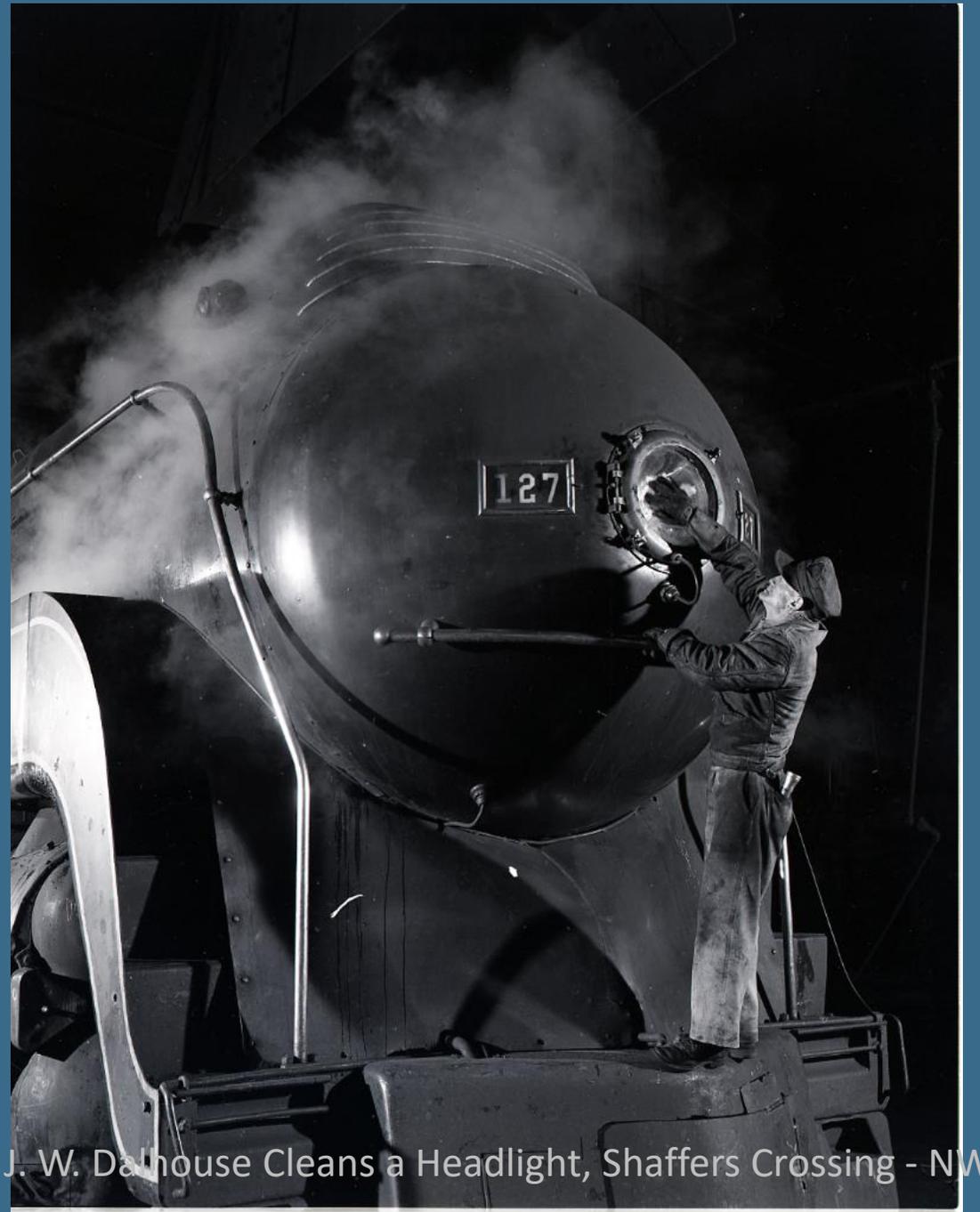
~~Kay Box 359 Cudwin, Fla.~~

~~Crayton - Lantidell Beach Hotel~~

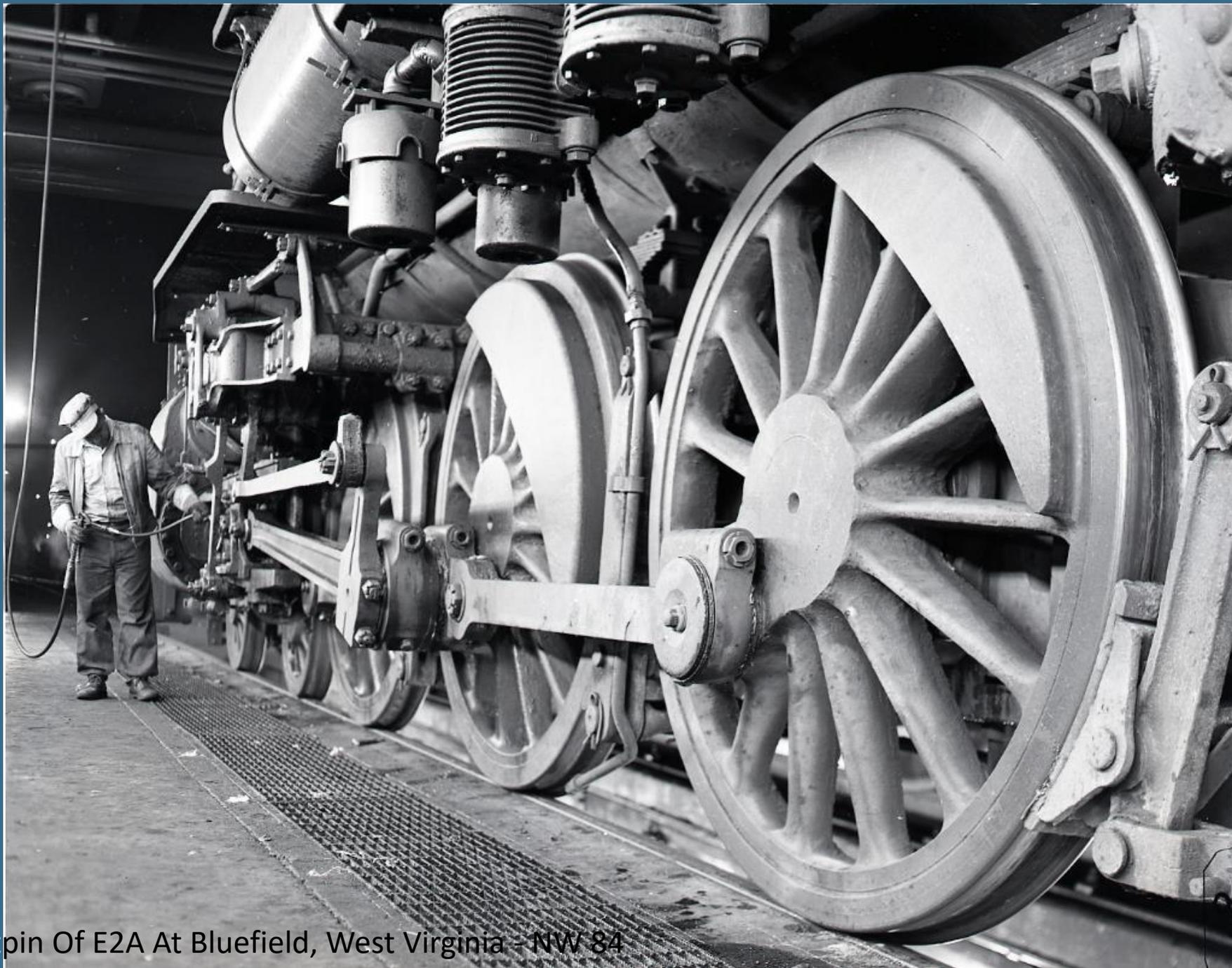
~~Clark - Box 591 Winton Park~~



Class J NO. 605 moves into the Washing Plant at Shaffers Crossing Yards, Roanoke, Virginia - NW 12



J. W. Dalhouse Cleans a Headlight, Shaffers Crossing - NW 09



Greasing Wristpin Of E2A At Bluefield, West Virginia - NW 84



Sometimes electricity Fails, Vesuvius, Virginia - NW 1124



Double Header at Blue Ridge, Blue Ridge, Virginia - NW 83K



Mainline On Mail Street, Northfork, West Virginia - NW 1964



Abingdon Branch Engine 382 Leaves Damascus, Virginia - NW 1208



Train Arriving in Nella/Husk, Virginia - NW 75K



Two Pigs, Tuckerdale, North Carolina - NW 133K



Old Maude Bows to the Virginia Creeper, Green Cove, Virginia - NW 1230



Train No. 17, The Birmingham Special, Gets a Highball, Rural Retreat, Virginia - NW1635



Train No. 2 Arriving At Natural Bridge, Virginia - NW 869





The Meeting Of Train No. 1 And Train No. 2, Hagerstown, Maryland - NW 1330



Link Working On The Power Supply, New York, New York - NW789



Winston Link and George Thom photographing Archie Stover, Luray, Virginia - NW 829

July 16, 1956

Dear Ben,

We are planning to leave NYC on the morning of July 28 to make more night shots along the N&W. Here is the schedule:

1. July 28 Shenandoah Jct. Meeting of NO. 2 and B&O at the Y
2. July 29 Line up Vesuvius photo  
Recordings of Buck Stewart at Roanoke  
Photo of Buck Stewart  
Recordings at Montgomery Tunnel
3. July 30 Bluefield Camp Joy
4. July 31 Outdoor Movie Iaeger
5. August 1 Lithia Mr. Buchanan pumping water
6. August 2 Lithia Bridge over stream at Buchanans
7. August 3. Arcadia Cows in stream at Bridge 425
8. August 4 Natural Bridge Recordings of trains North bound  
We'll need lots of whistling here.
9. August 5 Vesuvius General store and old gas pump
10. August 6 Stream and swing near Ingham Block just North of Shenandoah.
11. August 7 Kids in stream at Luray. Retake from last summer.

This is all. All you have to do is let the Shenandoah Dispatcher and the dispatcher for East of Bluefield and Iaeger areas know we'll be around and will need their cooperation.

There may be variations in this schedule but we aren't allowing for and foul ups --- that should be behind us.

Please let me hear from you even if it is just a word or two.

Sincerely,

Shenandoah Valley (2)

Millwood - 2-3 mi S. of Berryville - old c  
NG & graveyard - check this for  
winter shot

Front Royal - modern station - good curve for engine  
✓ Berryville - Stereo - good station & Ro  
Xing - fine rural scene - Fa  
Stone diagonally across from S  
\* has cobwebs on walls.

Whit Post - via Big Tree new station - summer

✓ Fry Bentonsville - Compton Creek on 1 mi N of Raleyville  
" " " 3m " "  
High P.E. Bridges near HY  
here - 4 of them

Rileyville - Good Xing - old stone  
on hill.

LURAY - ✓ Grain Silo  
✓ Post house cngate  
Stream & hwy bridge & RR  
SUMMER

Stanley - Good street crossing  
going N in car - nice

Shenandoah - crane car  
Turntable  
Switches & sidings

Winnwood - Farm of James Earman  
Part Republic

Wagner bar - Engine water firing switch engine

Vesuvius - Old gas pumps - Edgar W. Austin - Carl Mink Store  
(5-100) - station  
- Gorge & rock walls of Vesuvius - 1 mi

Midvale - LOG CABIN - GUY D. HARTNESS (RT 714)  
RT 1

Riverside - ✓ V of station - Foot Bridge  
Just S of station - Pile of firewood R-5  
man carry wood into house

5 mi from Rainsville - Beaut ST - c - Rockmountain Delmar RR. HY  
& RR Xing river - good spot  
Cable Bridge RSB  
New School - R-Low (Radio)

January 11, 1957

Chief  
Grottoes Fire Department  
Grottoes, Va.

Dear Sir:

I have enclosed a copy of the N&W Magazine from October which will give you an idea of the photographic project I am working on.

On the next and last trip into the Shenandoah Valley I would like to make a few shots in front of the fire house in Grottoes with the engines pulling out as if going to a fire. A steam train will be passing behind either north or south. I will need enough firemen to man the equipment to add realism to the scene.

Would you cooperate with me on this shot? We expect to leave NYC on Jan 20 and should get to Grottoes approx. Jan 25 if we follow our schedule. If you give me a telephone number I could inform you as I work along. We'll start at Hagerstown and end up in Bristol on this trip trying to capture the remainder of our original schedule before the Valley Line loses steam for good.

Hoping you'll be willing to work along with me. Waiting for trains is the toughest part of the work.

Sincerely,

O. Winston Link

Member  
SHENANDOAH VALLEY FIREMEN'S ASSOC.

FIRE CALL ONLY  
2922

GROTTOES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

"ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE"

GROTTOES, VIRGINIA

Jan. 14, 1957

Mr. O. Winston Link  
Photography  
58 east 34th st, New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

We would be very pleased to cooperate with you in taking pictures at our fire house on the given date, or any other date that will suit you.

You may call Grottoes 2136 which is my telephone number my wife or I will receive the message.

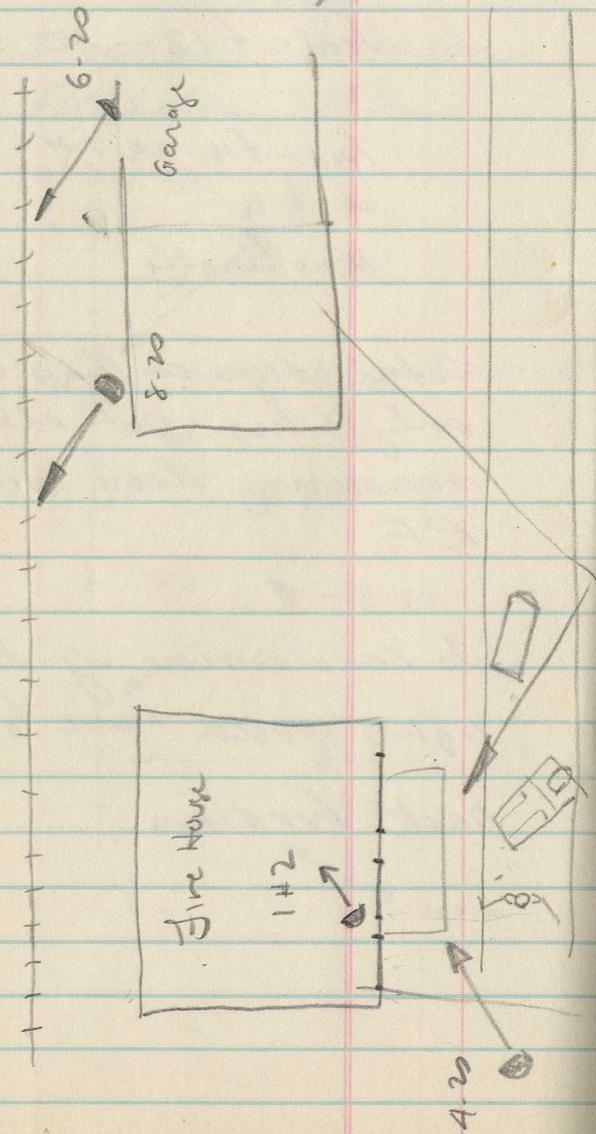
Sincerely,

Grottoes Vol. Fire Dept.

Chas. W. Stickley, Chief

Grottoes, Virginia

GROTTOES  
Fire Dept



Very Stupid Trick

\* Never put exposed  
slide back in hidden  
after film has been  
removed & never pull  
a slide to see if film  
is used!

33#20

2-10-57

10-20  
55

4-20



Grottoes Volunteer Fire Department Answers the Call, Grottoes, Virginia - NW1349

O  
Winston  
Link

Photography • fifty eight east thirty fourth street, new york 16, n. y. mu 5-7326



March 12, 1956

Mr. T. F. Humphries  
Park Station  
Waynesboro  
Virginia

Dear Mr. Humphries:

Sometime within the next week I'll be making a trip through the Shenandoah Valley to get some more steam pictures. In order to save room in the car I'm going to send 3 cases of flash bulbs to you to hold for me via No. 1

Do you know the agent at Luray? I'm going to send 3 cases to him too. I've already asked the N&W in Roanoke to notify him. As a double check, maybe you could call him if there isn't any company rules against it.

See you within a week. Thanks a lot.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "O. Winston Link". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

O. Winston Link

Mr Link

Waynesboro Va Park Station Mch 14th 56

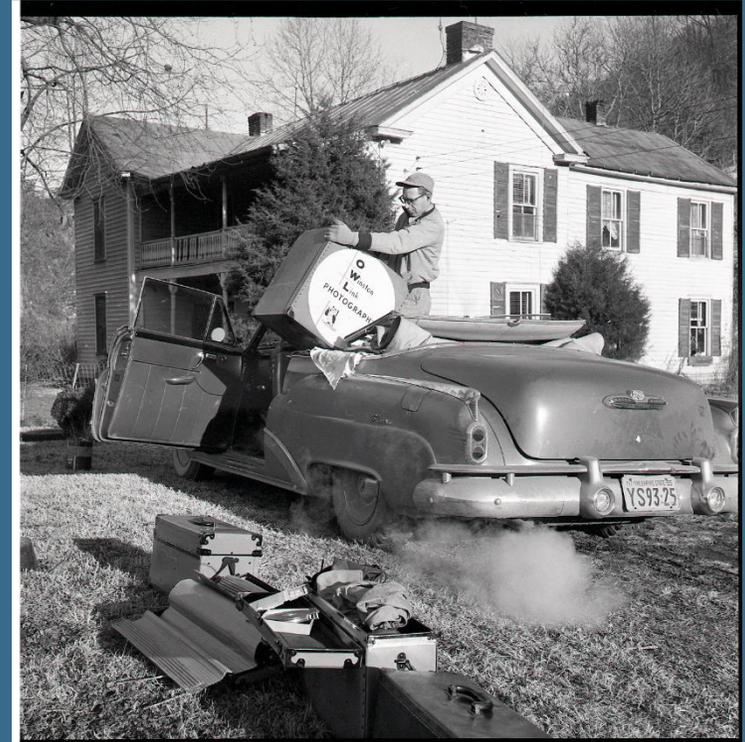
In reply to above letter I called the freight agent Luray va this date and explained to him that you were making another trip over the valley and were shipping him 3 ctns of the bulbs for the reason you explain above. His name is W.D. Leach-He said that he had them on hand this date so they should be ready for your arrival. I will be on the outlook for same here and have them for you hoping you the best of success.

T.F. Humphries-

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "T.F. Humphries". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name.

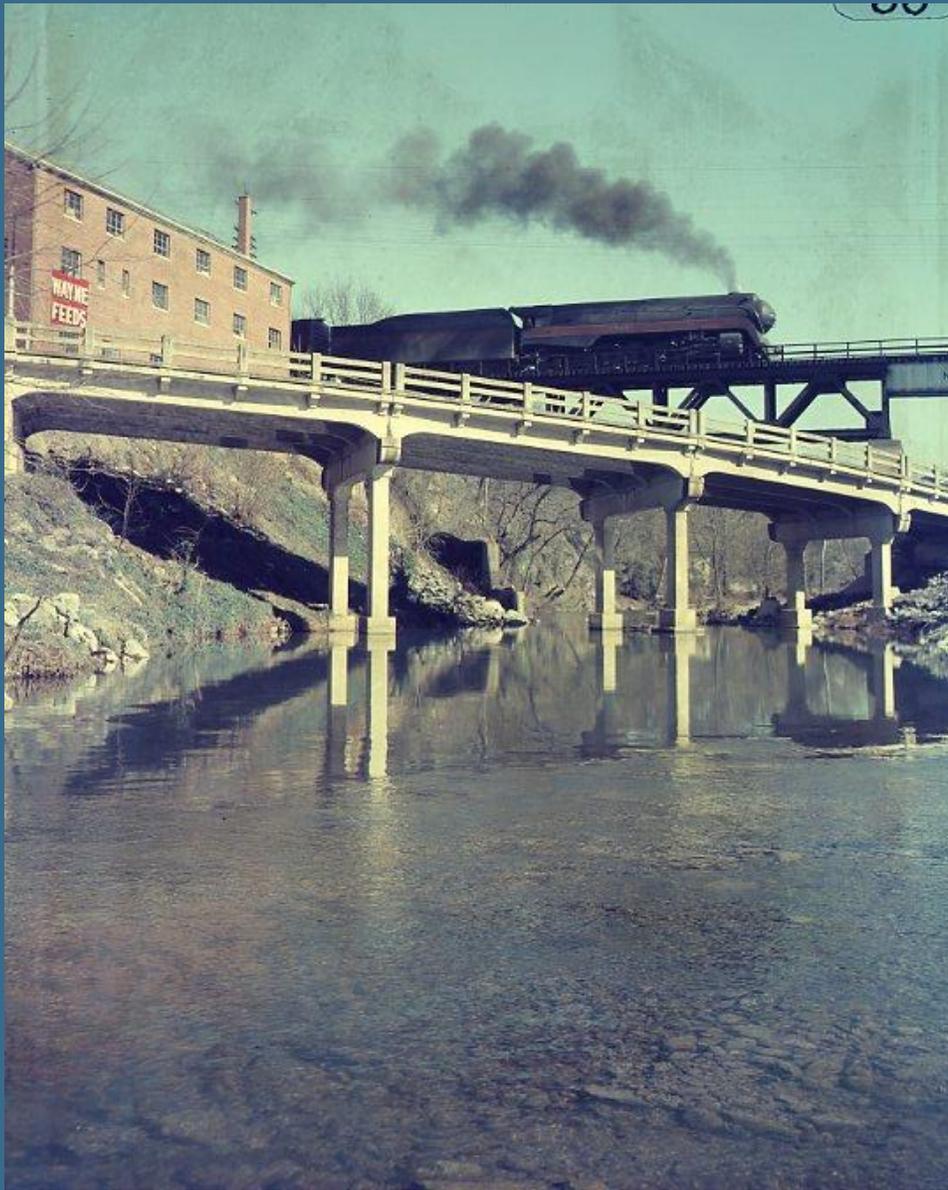


NW 762



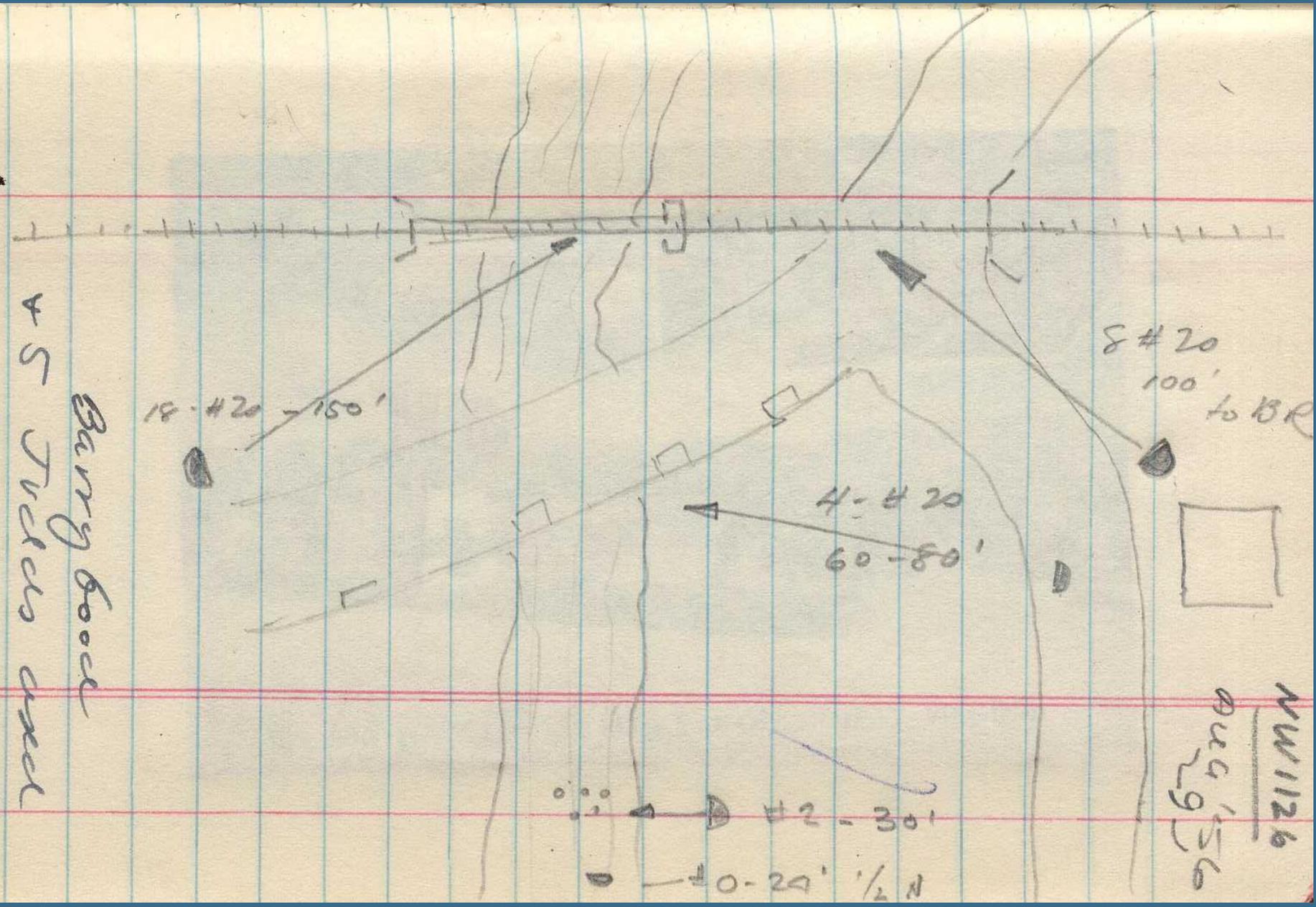
NW 760

George Thom Unloading Reflectors from the 1952 Buick - NW 760, 762

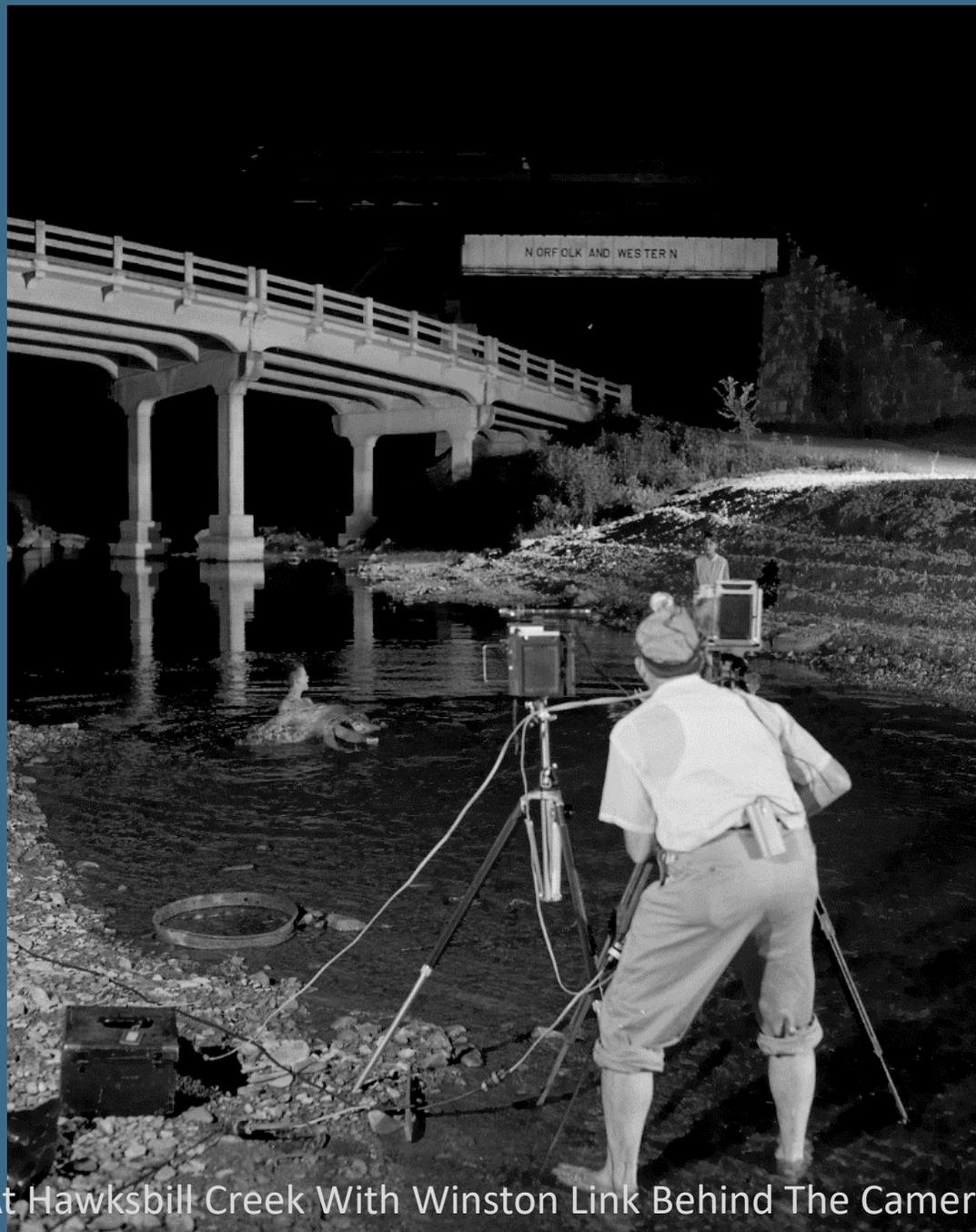


Train No. 13 On Bridge Over Hawksbill Creek, Luray, Virginia – NW 840

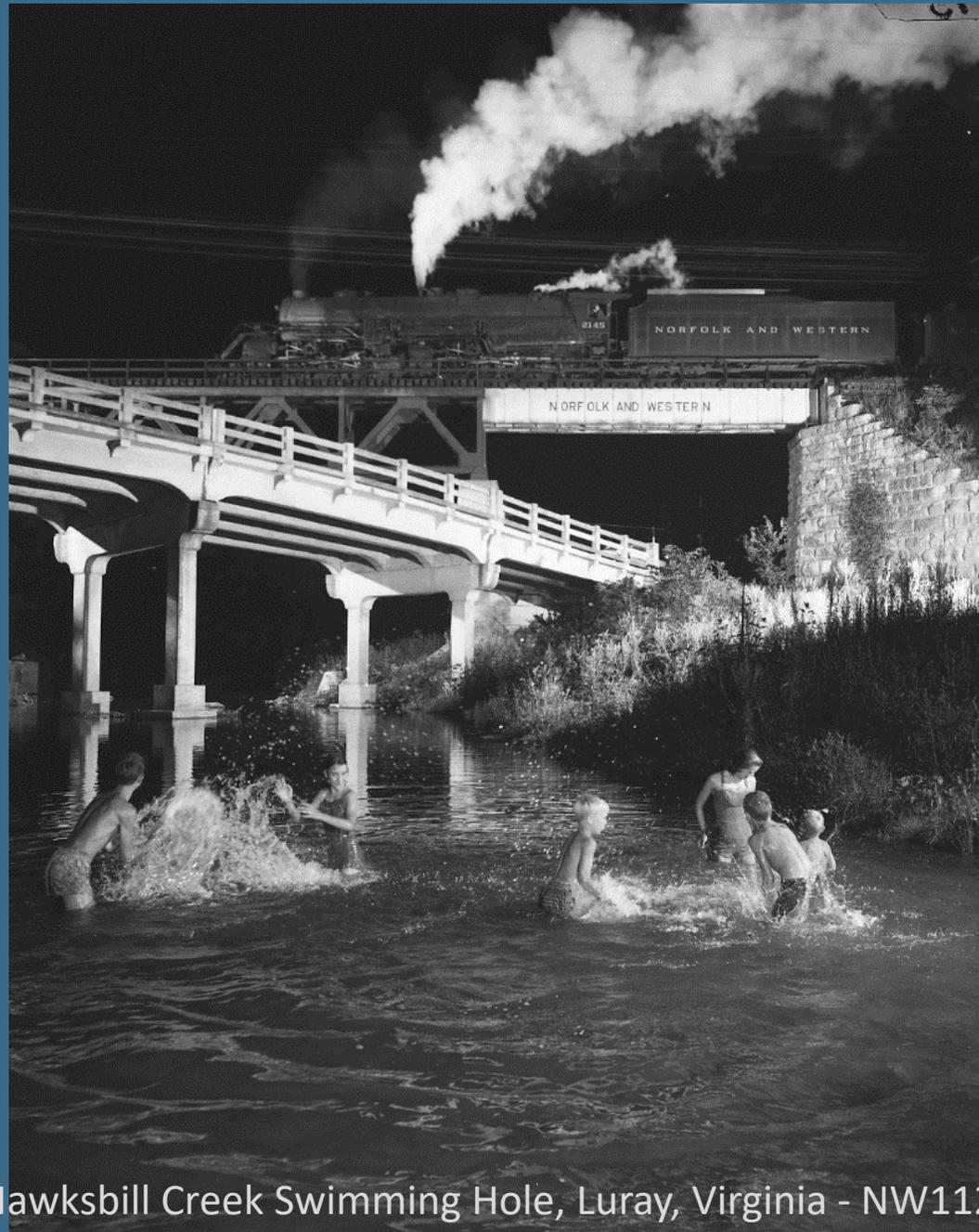
Barry Book  
US Trucks used  
Larry - Kias in  
Hawks 56.11 Creek



NW 1126  
Aug '56  
2956



No. 2 Northbound At Hawksbill Creek With Winston Link Behind The Camera, Luray, Virginia - NW369



Hawksbill Creek Swimming Hole, Luray, Virginia - NW1127



Hotshot Eastbound, Iaeger, West Virginia - NW1103-76

June 30, 1955

Manager  
Outdoor Movie Theatre  
Wilmore  
West Virginia

Dear Sir:

I am making a series of photographs showing a steam railroad operating at night. While traveling over the M&W last week I noticed the entire parking area and screen built inside a curve of the RR. From the bridge over the stream it looked as though I could get a good shot over the tops of cars showing a train rounding the bend to the right of the screen. The picture would show the parked cars, the screen and the train.

We would make two shots, no cost to you of any kind. Do you know what night we would have the most number of trains go by and do you know the distance from the bridge to the screen. That distance didn't look to great but judging these distances from a fast moving train in the daytime is misleading.

Many thanks.

Very truly yours,

O. Winston Link

IAEGER DRIVE-IN THEATRE

IAEGER, W. VA.

July 11, 1955

O. Winston Link  
58 East 34th St.  
New York 16, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

In reference to your letter of June 30, about photographing our theatre, we would be very happy to cooperate.

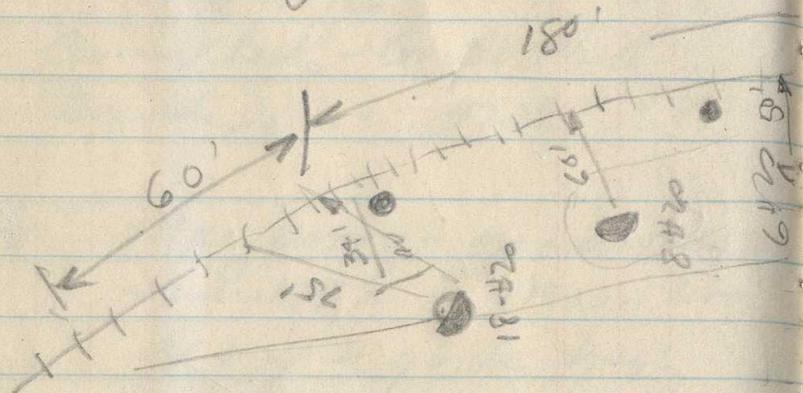
I think the railroad has about the same schedule every night except on weekends. Several trains go by each night. The distance from the bridge to the screen is about 600 feet.

Sincerely,

IAEGER DRIVE IN THEATRE

*Jack Edwards*  
Jack Edwards, Manager

Taegu Drive In  
 Aug 2, 1956

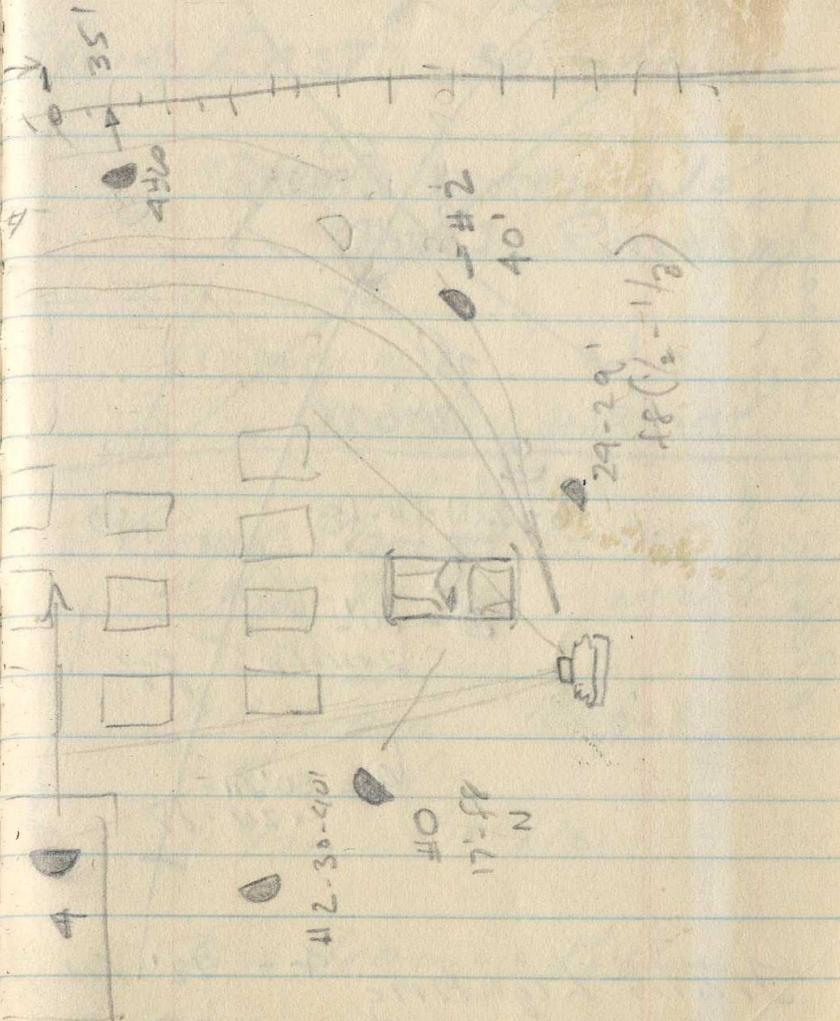


Trains E every 30-40 min  
 after dark - There were  
 4 trans - 1 Diesd - 3 Steam 1 with  
 poster,

← Screen

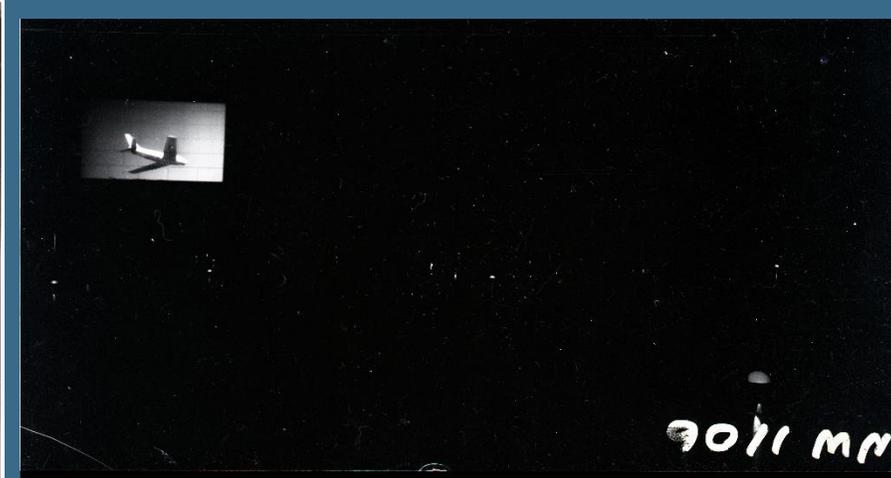
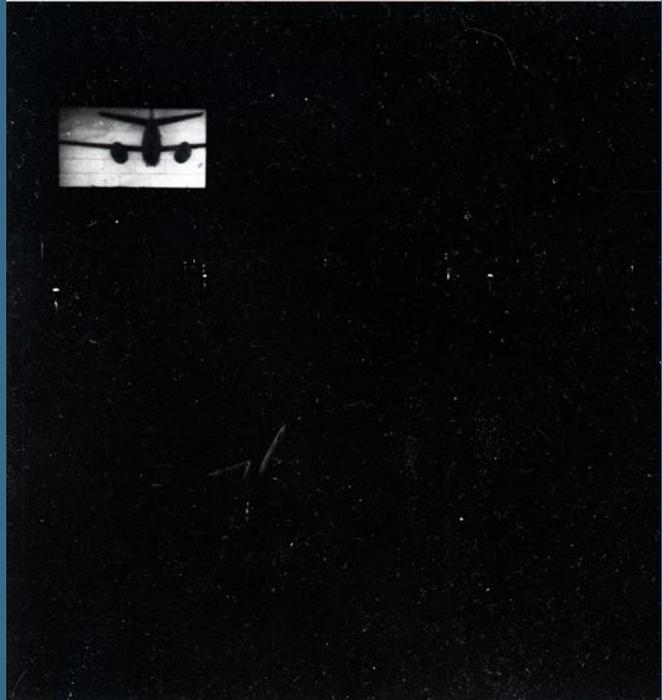
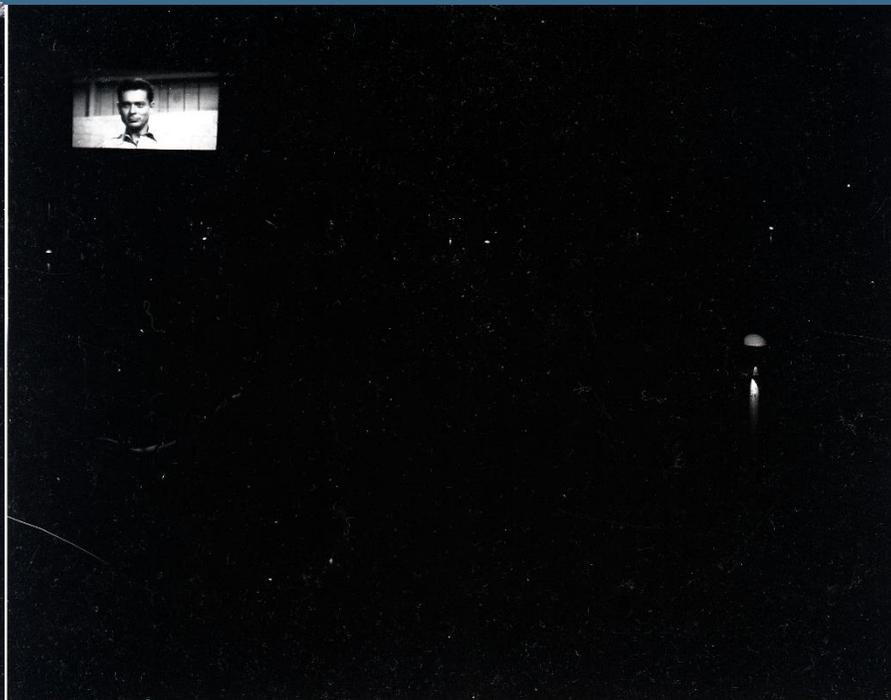
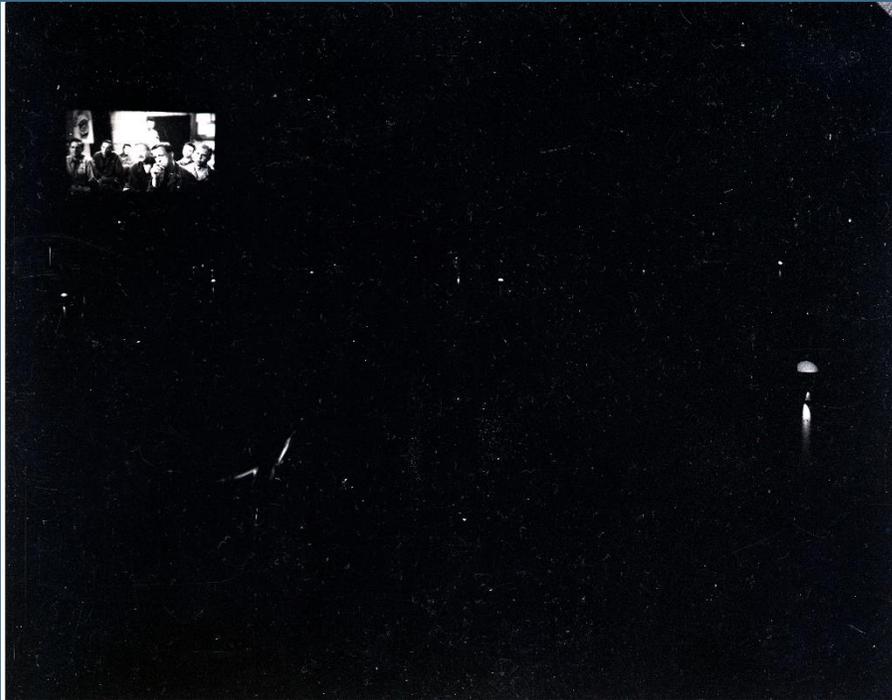
This is a good location  
 for Diesel units -  
 4 on E trains

Taegu Drive In



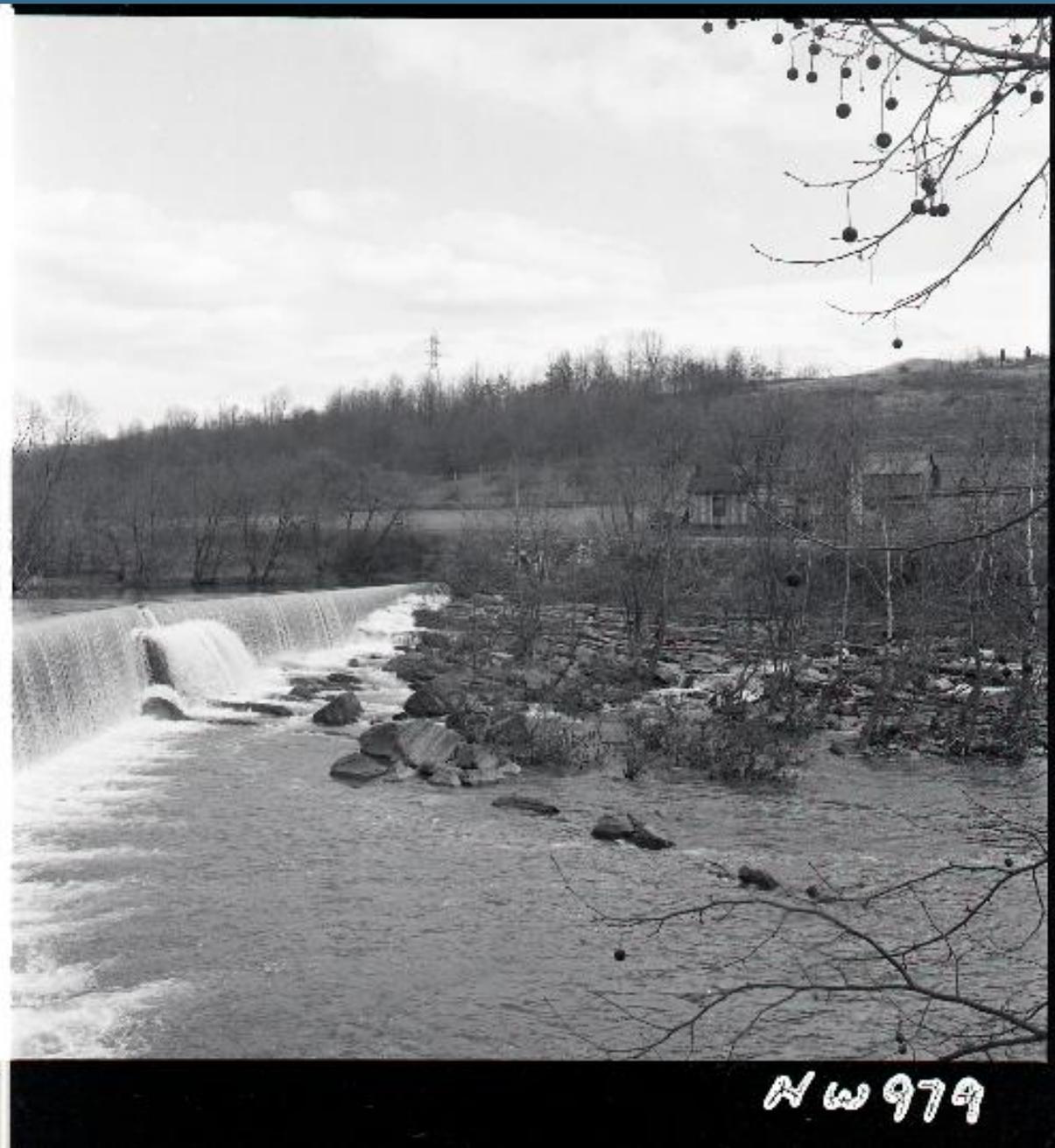


Hotshot Eastbound, laeger, West Virginia - NW1103

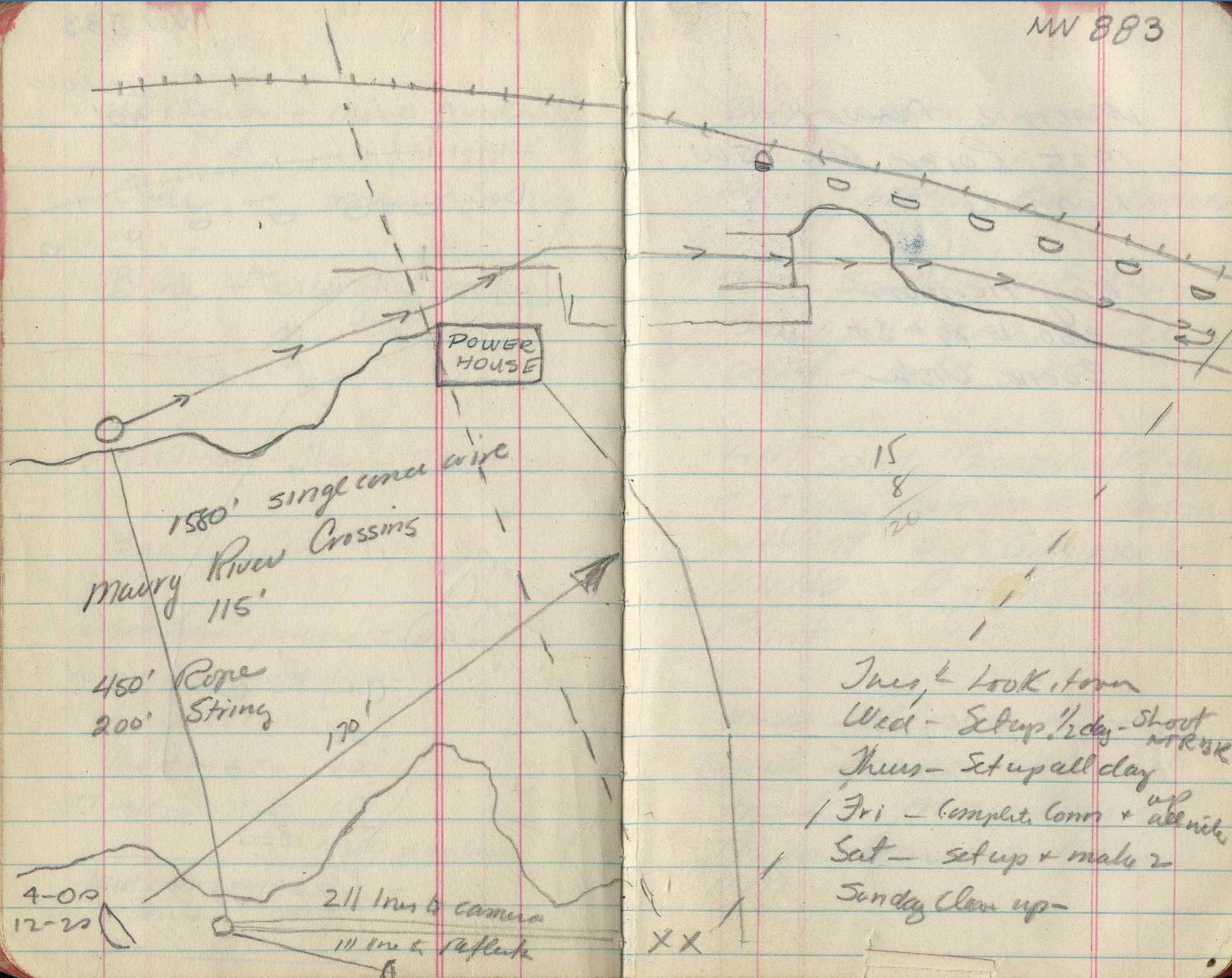




Hotshot Eastbound, laeger, West Virginia - NW1103-76



NW 979



15  
8  
20

Tues, & Look it over  
 Wed - Setup 1/2 day - shoot  
 Thurs - Setup all day  
 Fri - Complete conn + all night  
 Sat - set up + make 2  
 Sunday Clean up -

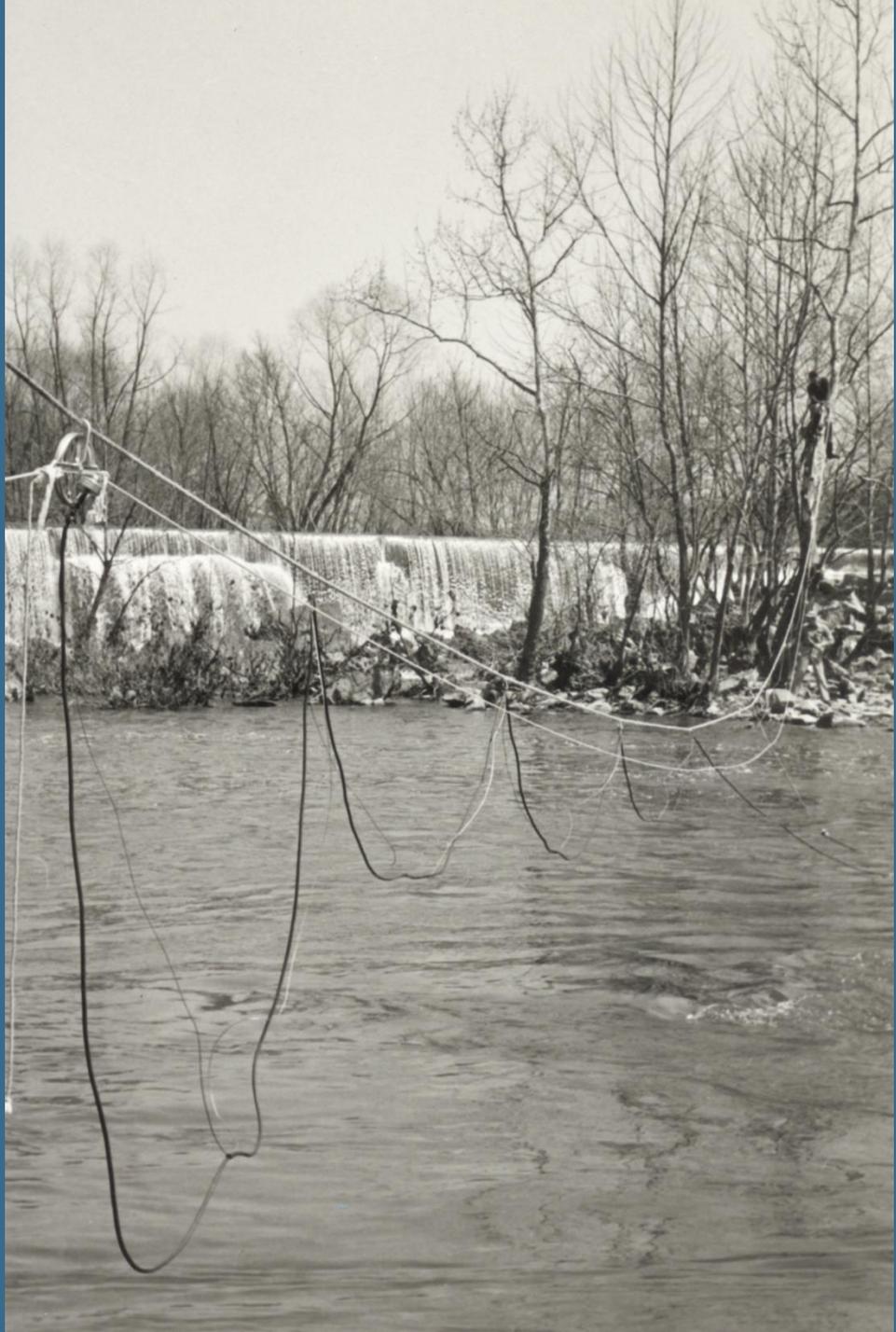
4-00  
12-25

XX

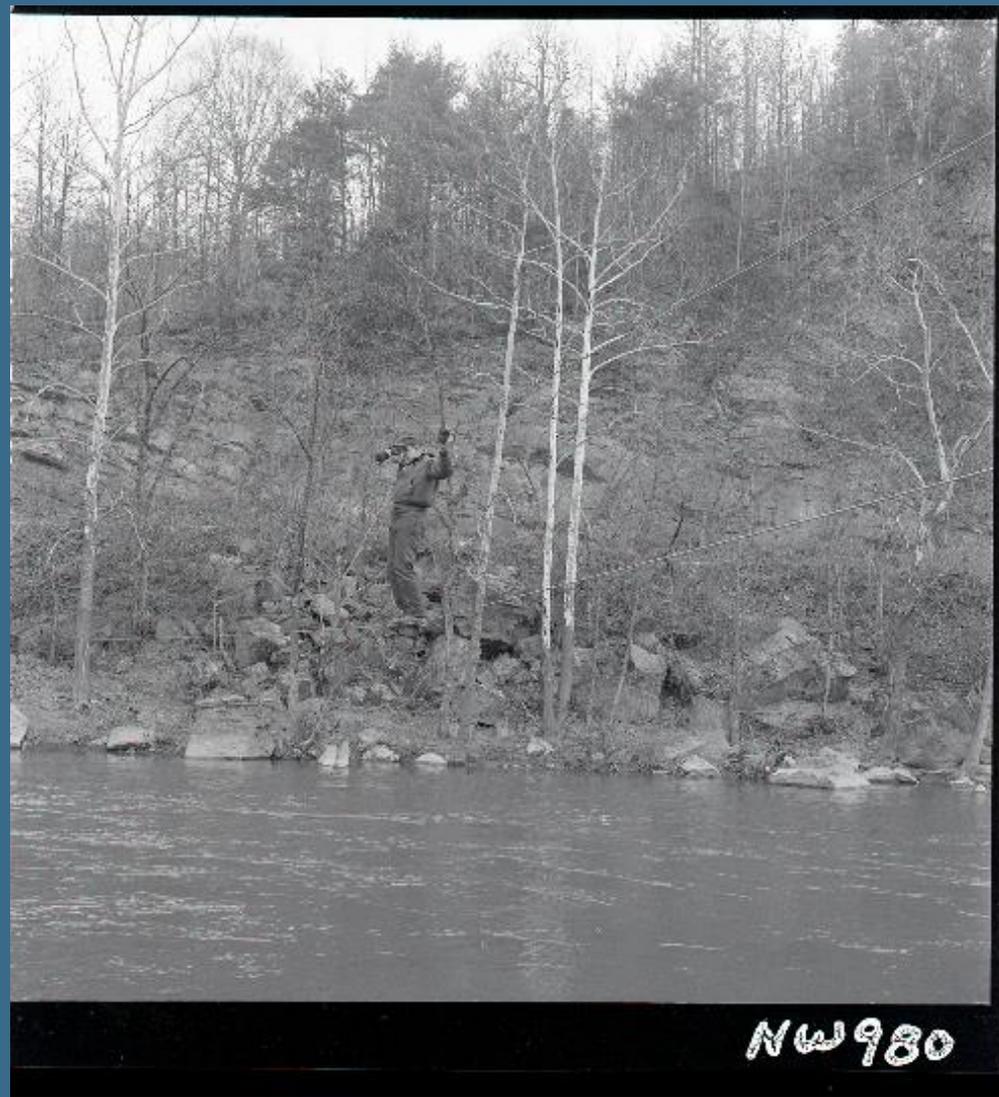
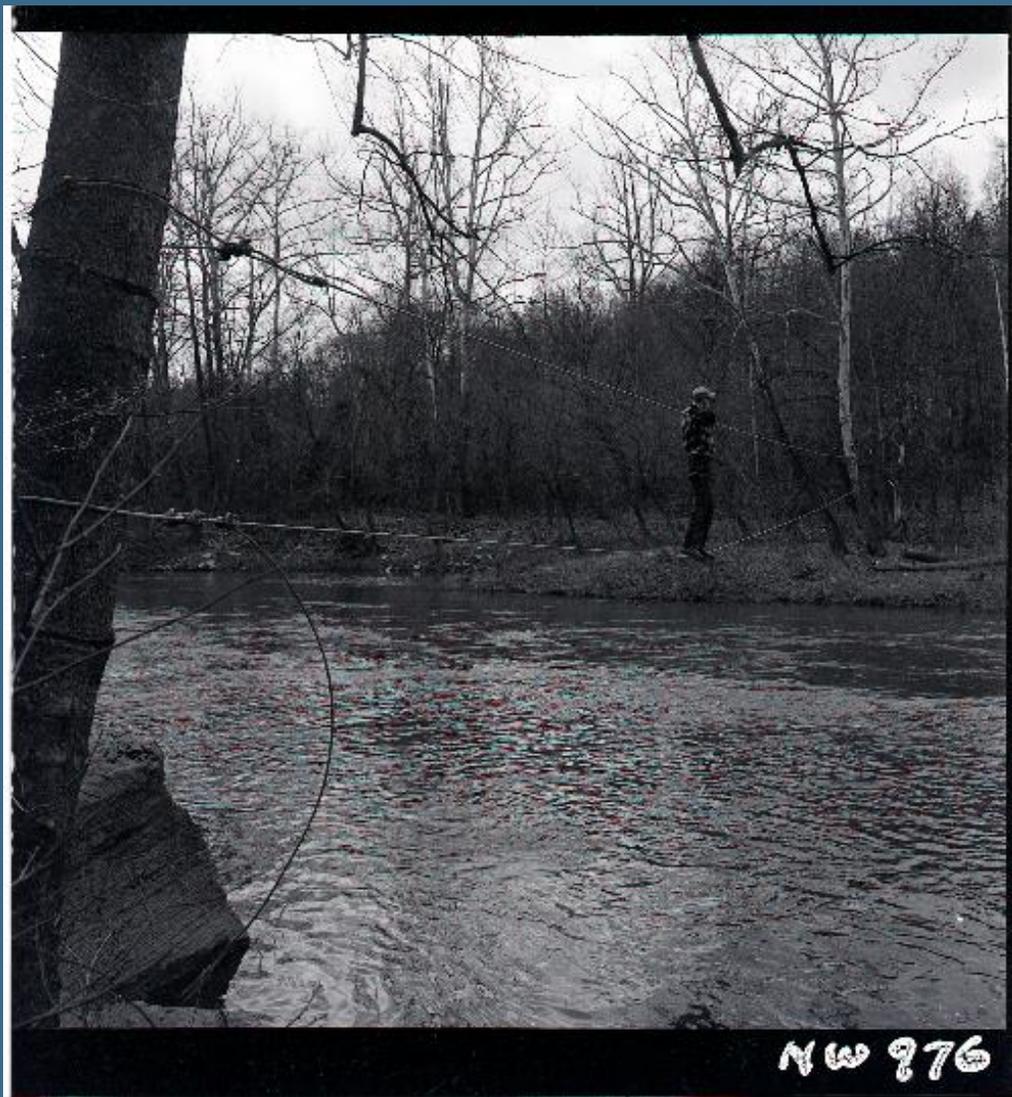




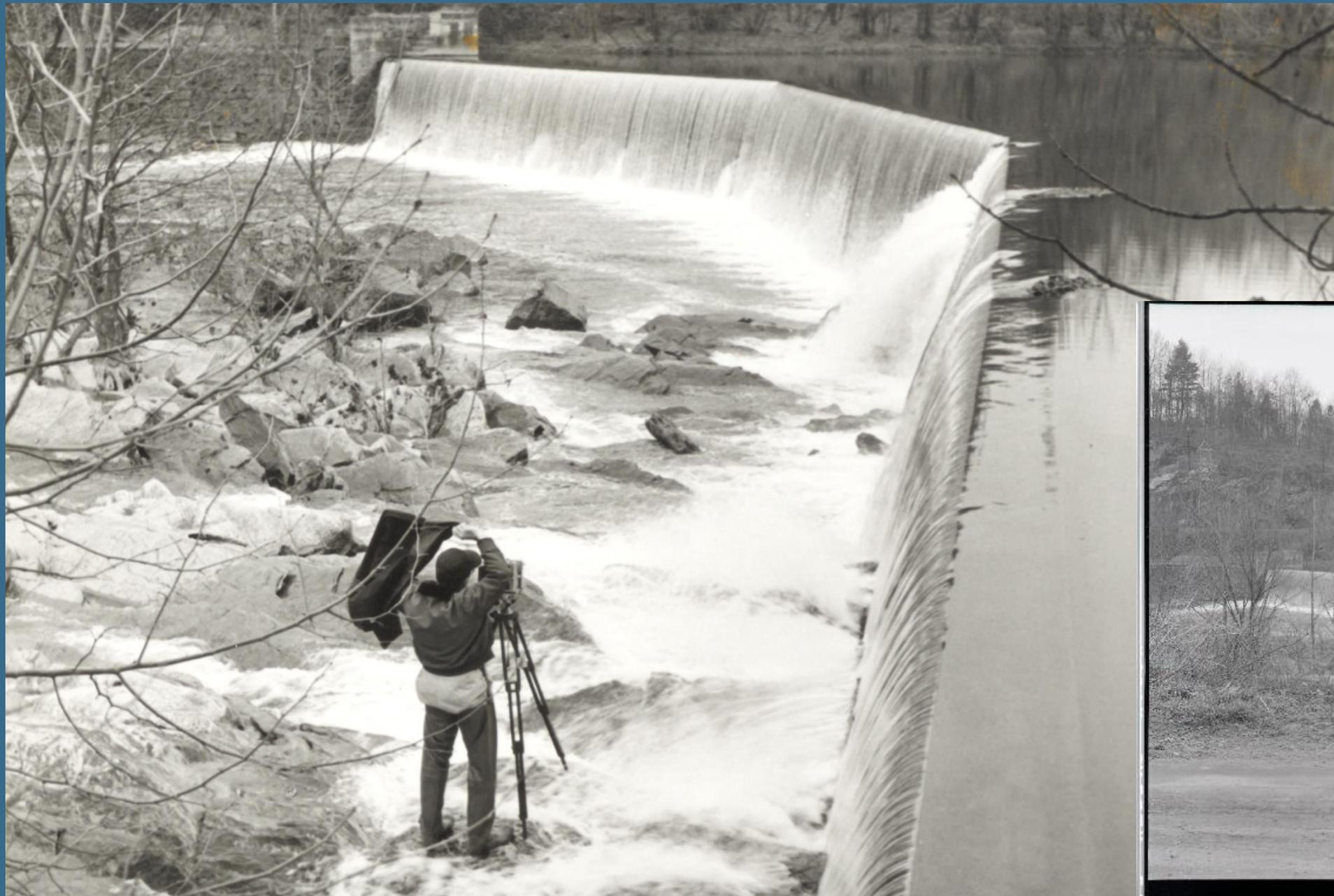












NW973



Gooseneck Dam on the Maury River, with Train No. 2, Buffalo Forge, Virginia- NW 883





Waiting for the Creeper, Green Cove, Virginia - NW 1248

# *Ex-Wife Is Accused of Marketing Photos She Stole*

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By **Daniel J. Wakin**

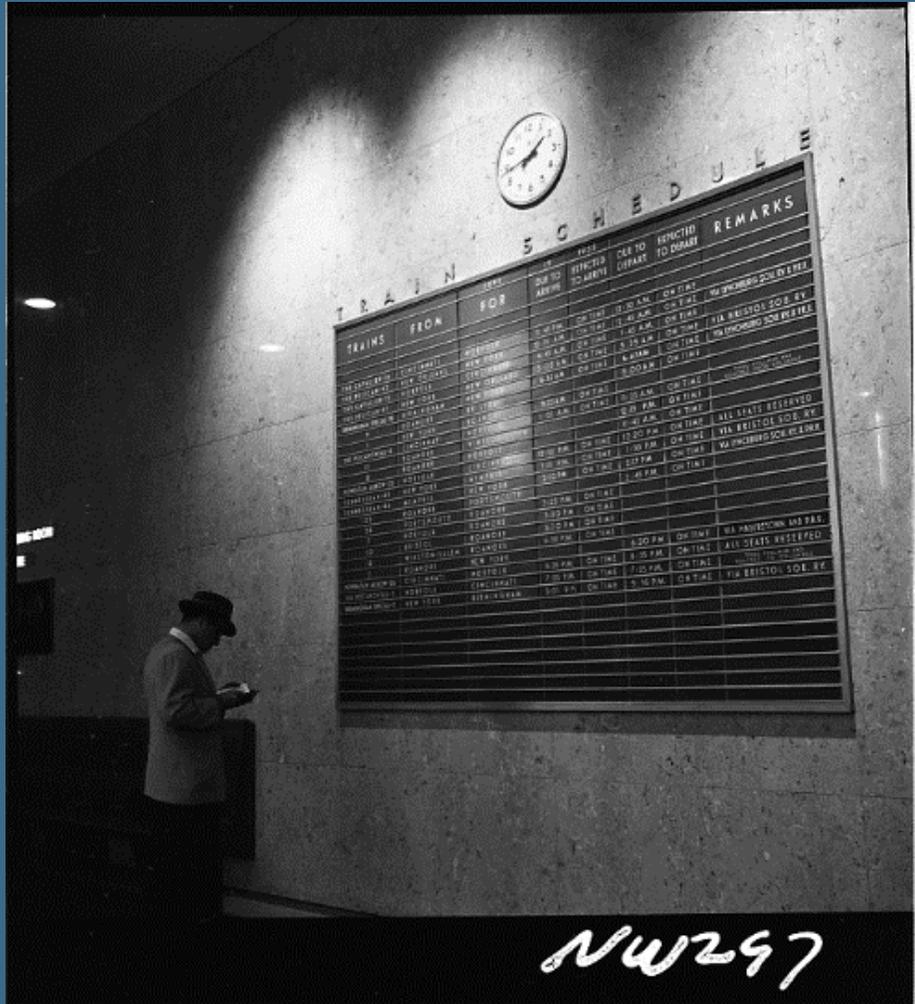
May 30, 2003

The former wife of O. Winston Link, a photographer famed for dreamy pictures of trains, spent five years in prison for stealing 1,400 of his prints. The photos were never found, and throughout her trial and even after her release a year and a half ago, she never uttered a public word about their whereabouts.

But a recent foray into the art market, the authorities said, has landed her back in jail.

The ex-wife, Conchita Link, 67, and the man she married after Mr. Link's death two years ago were arrested and charged yesterday with conspiring to sell 31 of the photographs through an antiques dealer in Millerton, Dutchess County, said the Westchester County district attorney, Jeanine F. Pirro.

The antiques dealer, who was not charged and who cooperated with investigators, put the photos up for sale on the eBay Internet site for an average minimum price of \$5,000, Mrs. Pirro said, below



Winston Link Looks At The Train Schedule At The Roanoke Station – NW 297

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help keep the Link Legacy alive!



Become a member



Donate

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