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From the Chairman

Suzanne O'Conner

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From the Chairman:

Dear Foundation Members:

The railroads of America formed the backbone of the new and growing country. As the country grew and matured, the railroads grew, matured, and, in some areas, died. As the railroads changed, they often left behind depots which were once teeming with passengers, and agricultural and industrial products. So it is in Huntsville. The passenger depot is operated as a museum and the freight depot, which is the oldest operating freight depot in the country, is partially used for storage, but, for the most part, sits between the tracks unused.

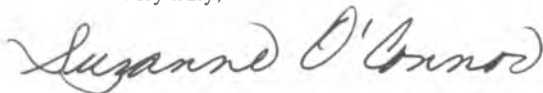
The foundation paid to have the roof on the freight depot stabilized. Additional work needs to be done on the facility. Norfolk-Southern, however, is unwilling to put money into a building from which they receive very little benefit. So the building continues to deteriorate. Can another use be found for the building? Can an alternative access be provided to it? In short, can the building be saved? The Preservation Committee of the Foundation, chaired by Carol Harless, is presently addressing these and other concerns. If you have any ideas which might help, please get in touch with Carol.

Other projects of the Foundation are just getting started. We will be reinstalling the "little lion" which, for many, many years, was situated near the Big Spring and was a favorite animal ride for countless children. We are currently trying to gather background information on the cast iron figure. If you know when the lion was originally put in the park, who made it, what organization was responsible for putting it there, or any other information which might help, please let me know.

Trade Day is being chaired by Pat Ryan and B. J. Robinson. They are busy getting committees together and coming up with some new ideas to make the event even better. They will be needing your help. Call B. J. at 539-0739 to volunteer. As always, we need additional volunteers at Harrison Brothers. Call 536-3631 to volunteer at the store and find out how much *you* can be appreciated.

This article is my *Quarterly* swan song as Chairman of Historic Huntsville Foundation. It has been an interesting and busy two years. I would like to thank all those people who worked on the various projects which we have undertaken during this time. Without your help and willingness to volunteer, none of these projects would have come to fruition. To the members of the Board, thank you for the guidance and support which you have given me and all the work you have done. To all the Foundation members, thank you for your positive comments, wonderful food at the covered dish meetings, and your friendship. You make the Foundation what it is! Thanks for all you have done and will continue to do.

Very truly,



Chairman