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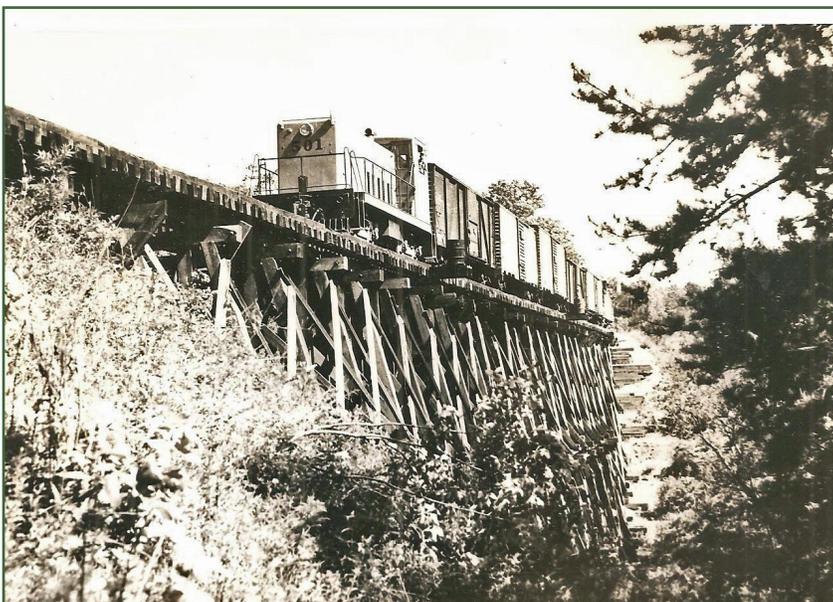
The Vintage Rabun Quarterly

TRESTLES OF THE TALLULAH FALLS RAILROAD 42 TRESTLES IN 58 MILES

THE MOST INTRIGUING ASPECT OF THE TALLULAH FALLS RAILROAD WAS ITS WOODEN TRESTLES. THERE WERE 42 TRESTLES ALONG THE SCENIC 58-MILE ROUTE. IT WAS SAID THAT THERE WERE ORIGINALLY 58, BUT SOME WERE REPLACED WITH EARTH FILLS WHEREVER POSSIBLE AS THE TRESTLES WERE HIGH MAINTENANCE. TRESTLES SPANNED RIVERS AND LOW AREAS WHERE IT WAS NOT FEASIBLE TO BUILD FILLS. THEY WERE CONSTRUCTED OF HUGE TIMBERS, MANY OF THEM OVER A FOOT SQUARE.

A BRIDGE CREW MAINTAINED THE TRESTLES ALONG THE ENTIRE ROUTE. SHANTY CARS CARRIED THEM FROM PLACE TO PLACE. THEY COOKED AND ATE IN ONE AND SLEPT IN ANOTHER. THEY USED LEVER CARS TO MOVE ABOUT ON THE TRACKS AND HAUL THEIR TOOLS.

WE HAVE HIGHLIGHTED PHOTOS OF A FEW OF THE MOST MEMORABLE AND UNIQUE TRESTLES.



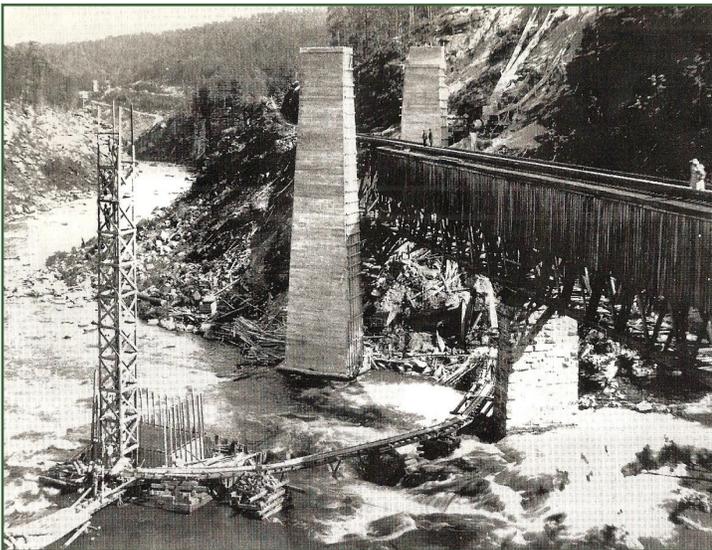
The Hazel Creek trestle was located in Habersham County. It was the site of a tragic trestle collapse in 1927.



The Pine Pole trestle at Tallulah Gorge ran along the upper rim of the gorge.



A massive fire in December 1921 destroyed much of the town of Tallulah Falls including the long curved trestle that literally stretched across the rooftops of the town. The trestle was quickly rebuilt so the railroad could resume service.



The only concrete and steel trestle on the route crossed Tallulah Lake. It replaced the original bridge that crossed the Tallulah River before the completion of the Tallulah Falls dam that created the lake. The lake level would have almost inundated the old bridge. This photo shows the old wooden trestle and the new trestle under construction.

The huge trestle at Wiley was known as "Big Cannon". It was 799' long and three decks tall at its highest point.





This curved trestle crossed Scott's Creek just south of downtown Clayton. The location is the site of present-day Supply Mart.

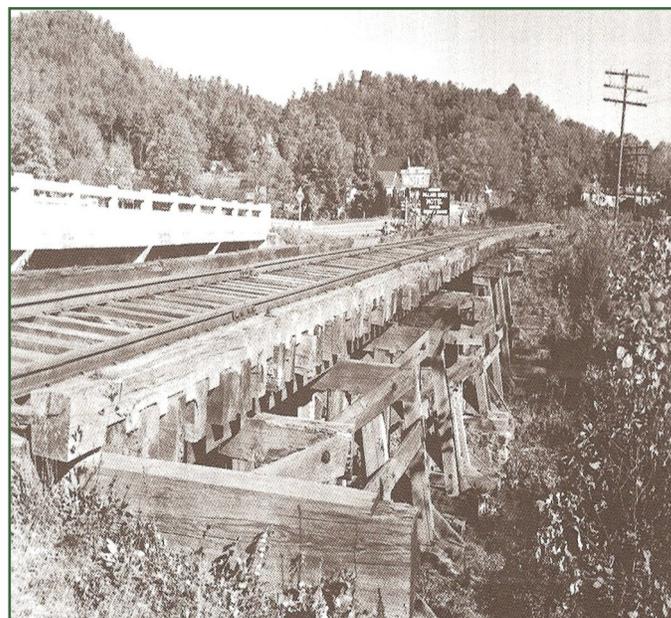


This trestle was located just a few hundred yards north of the Clayton Depot. It was approximately at the location of the current fire department on North Main Street



Known as the Queen trestle, this one was located just south of Mountain City over what is now File Street, formerly the main road from Clayton northward.

Betty's Creek trestle was located adjacent to U.S. Hwy 441 just south of Dillard.



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Our museum room is currently closed for an extensive renovation. The research room is open on Saturdays from 12:00-3:00 for genealogical and county research.

Museum Renovation

Work on the museum renovation continues to progress as we are now mounting some of the artifacts for display. Informational signs, along with maps and diagrams, have been written and designed and have been printed. We are excited about the signage which is beautiful as well as functional. We cannot predict a date that we can hold a grand opening due to the ongoing pandemic.

