# Train's Last Run A Sad Day

## Springhill Junction-Parrsboro Service Ends After 80 Years

### By STAN FERRIS

SPRINGHILL JUNCTION — After 80 years of train service from Springhill to Parrsboro, Saturday, marked the end of the service between the two towns. The regular train made its last run on Saturday afternoon.
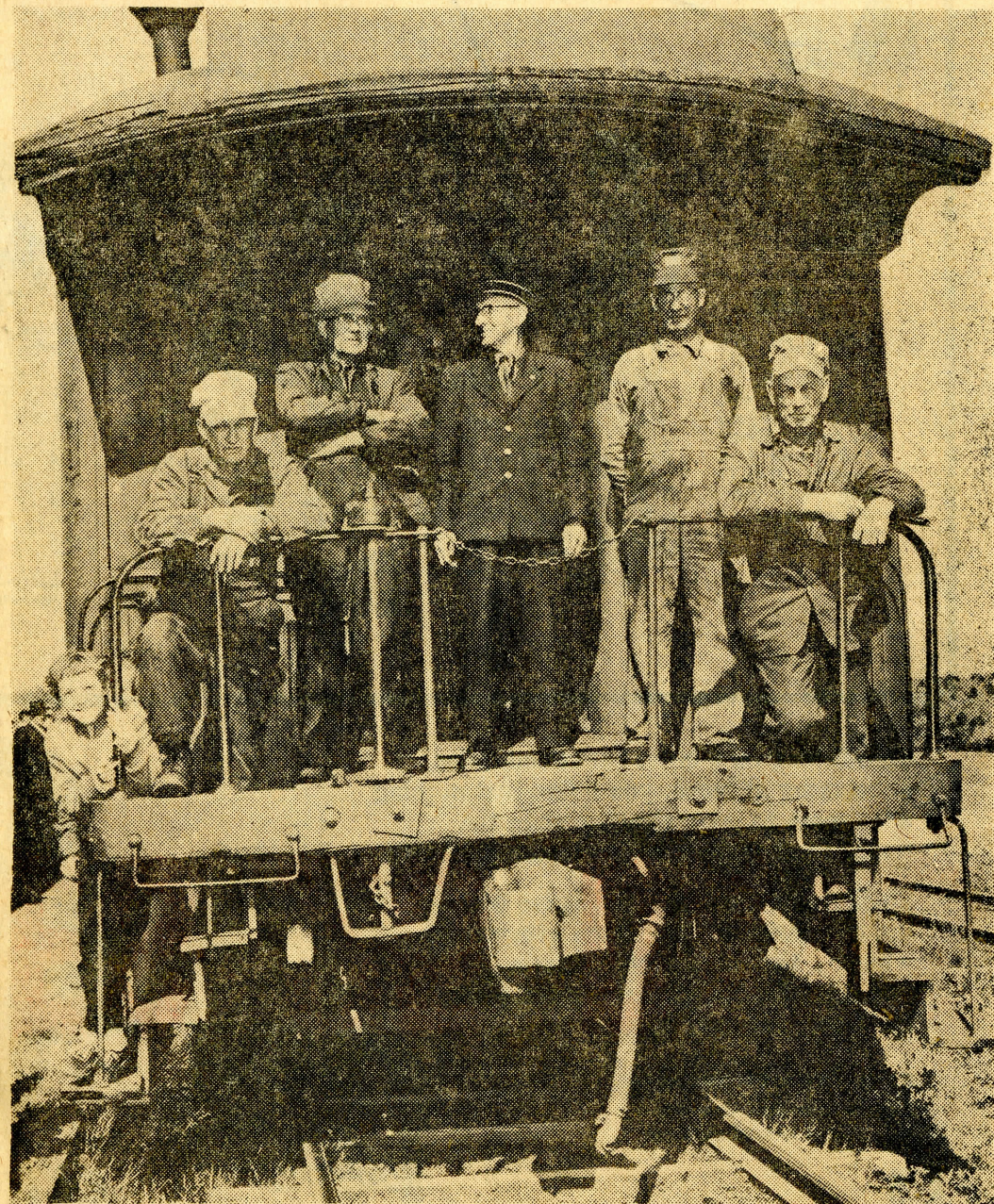
This was a sad day for many, as was "black Friday" the 13th, when several railway men received notice from the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company that their services would no longer be required.

The train, one passenger car, a freight car and a locomotive, pulled into Springhill from the Junction around 2 o'clock in the afternoon. About 20 passengers boarded the train, to make the last 27 mile run to Parrsboro, many of the passengers being railwaymen.

The topic of discussion was recalling the old days of railroading between Springhill and Parrsboro when most all coal and lumber was shipped through the port of Parrsboro. At that time the "regular" would haul two passenger cars, express car and freight car and perhaps 12 coal cars and eight or ten lumber cars.

*LAST RUN-LAST TRAIN—* This Springhill-Parrsboro train crew not only made their "last run" Saturday . . . the train also did. After 80 years' operation, the train service between the two Cumberland towns was discontinued. Left to right are Eddy Nicholson, brakeman; Bill Proctor, engineer; Arthur Fraser, conductor; Ronald Thompson, fireman; and Samuel Terris, brakeman.

# Trains Last Run Sad Day

Still in use was the old passenger car with the oil lamps, wooden floor, leather seats and the "pot bellied" stove.

The train, travelling on a slow order of 15 miles per hour, was about two hours making the trip to Parrsboro.

Upon arrival a large crowd was on hand to see the last train to enter the town.

People rushed into the old passenger car to get a seat to have the last drive on the "regular" on its journey back to Springhill.

Perhaps one of the most outstanding events of the trip was the meeting of conductor Arthur Fraser and Arthur Tucker, station agent at Parrsboro. Both men retired Saturday with a total of 108 years service. Fraser with 51 years service, and Tucker 57 years service. Mr. Tucker was at the station to greet Mr. Fraser as he stepped off the train.

The train stayed in Parrsboro for a half hour and people from the two towns exchanged greetings. As the train left Parrsboro those remaining at the station waved a last farewell some not without tear-filled eyes.

Passengers from Parrsboro drove out of the town, leaving the train at different points. Train stops are at East Southhampton, Southhampton,, Westbrook, Lakelands and Parrsboro. Among those taking the last ride was Allison Smith, MLA, of Parrsboro. As the train headed back to Springhill people along the line would hear the shrill of the whistle and rush out to the track to see the train and to receive for the last time the custom of a friendly wave of the hand from the engineer and the train crew.

The train completed the round trip to Springhill Junction and then back to the Springhill yard.

First known as the Springhill and Parrsboro Coal and Railway Company, an act of incorporation to form a company was passed in 1872 and the company was formed in 1873 with a capital of a million dollars. The campany was said to have been granted by Act of Legislature $5,000. per mile and ten thousand acres of timberland towards the construction of the railway. The line was completed in 1877, and later became known as the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company.

For many years the trains were run by word of mouth later a more modern system was used with much better train service.

One citizen in Parrsboro commented as follows: "This train is as important to us as the Canadian National is to Canada. This line is not as long, but it is just as wide, and we are all going to miss the daily visit of the "regular."