

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release



Rural Retreat Depot Grand Opening Celebration -- October 14, 2017

Including observance of the 60th Anniversary of O. Winston Link photos

Rural Retreat, VA, September 1, 2017

The public is invited to attend the Grand Opening Celebration of the Rural Retreat Depot Event Center and Museum. This historic building, first constructed in 1856 by the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, was purchased by the Foundation in 2011, with a mission to Acquire, Restore and Manage the Depot for the benefit of the community. The Event Space is available for civic meetings, reunions, receptions and other community activities, and the Museum provides displays of Depot and community history, using interactive kiosks to enrich learning opportunities.

The Grand Opening Celebration begins at 10 AM on Saturday, October 14, and will finish around Noon. The first portion of the Celebration includes remarks by the Foundation's chairman and president, the announcement of room dedications, and a ribbon-cutting conducted by Rural Retreat mayor Tim Litz. The program then shifts to observance of the 60th anniversary of O. Winston Link's famous photographs, including Link's favorite "The Birmingham Special Gets the High Ball at Rural Retreat", taken at the Depot on Christmas 1957. The program includes remarks by Conway Link and Bill Arnold, representing the O. Winston Link Museum in Roanoke, VA. A program highlight will be the re-creation of the sounds of church bells and a steam whistle as recorded by Link in 1957. Following the celebration, we invite all of the many people who helped make the restoration possible, and all those attending, to join in group photos. The Depot will be open until 3 PM for photos, tours and 'meet and greet' with Foundation representatives and Mr. Link.

Registration begins at 9 AM, is free, and all registrants will receive a souvenir commemorative ribbon. Food will be available for purchase, and a variety of Depot and Link memorabilia will be available for donations. The program will be held outdoors, beside the Depot, weather permitting. Please bring a chair if you wish to be seated. Further details at www.theruralretreatdepot.com.

Restoration of the Rural Retreat Depot required extensive structural repairs, and installation of modern heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment as well as state-of-the-art audio-visual and communications capabilities. The former waiting rooms now comprise a Museum while the former freight area provides a comfortable and well-equipped meeting and event space capable of seating up to 80 people. Information on booking Museum visits and Events is provided on the website.

The Rural Retreat Depot Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that accepts donations and support to restore and manage the historic Rural Retreat Depot. To make a donation please visit the Foundation website at www.theruralretreatdepot.com, or send your check to The Rural Retreat Depot Foundation, P.O. Box 843, Rural Retreat, VA 24368. Follow our progress on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/theruralretreatdepot> and Twitter @SaveRRDepot.

Press contact: Frank Akers Tel: 415-602-0481 Email: info@theruralretreatdepot.com