



Posted by u/GreyWolfPact 1 year ago

Trainspotting

I had sent this to Dal to post on his site, but he hasn't done it yet. I figured I'd share this here for you all as well

So here is my BOTG solve.

I wrote this BOTG solve from the airport, while I was waiting to take the plane back home.

Now I had heard people mention train solves before, but had never really looked into it. Search Google for yourselves; there is maybe one or two pages on them, in all. The most popular theme is to explain how WWWH describes a train halt and then match the other 8 clues to a place on a railroad, and that's it.

There is so much more to it than that. (btw I paraphrase anything that Fenn might have said).

I chose to go with the Cumbres and Toltec railroad (Colorado-New Mexico), as most people do, but here's why:

Several movies have been made over the years featuring this train: Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade, Bite the bullet, Wyatt Earp, Billy the Kidd and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (starring Robert Redford). Sound familiar?

- When Fenn was a child he had a goat named Billy, the Kid.
- He also says that a "Kidd" would probably know how to find it (the tc).
- He also had an old vehicle named Bullet.
- He has often mentioned Indiana Jones and has been compared to him.
- Even the Catcher in the Rye has a train scene in it!

Fenn also often hints to "Going or living out on the edge". The C&T railroad goes through the NM and Colorado borders 11 times. He also mentions visiting a Borders bookstore in TToTC.

Let's look at what Fenn has said (in interviews and such):



Colorado.

- he said he made two trips from his "car" to where he hid the tc. Could it be a train car?? (He said he used a Sedan the day he hid the treasure, yes. Maybe that was only up until he hopped onto the train. He gave a sketchy answer anytime someone asked him if he used another means of transportation that day. He never explicitly said "I drove my Sedan up until the HoB, then walked the rest of the way to the blaze").

In his books, Fenn has hinted to trains:

- He remembers the trainyards from his youth and loved to hear the train whistles.
- Nowadays, he makes and buries small bells all over the place (which look like train bells).
- The lumberjack clearing the forrest to make way for train tracks.
- Notice the Gypsies' wagons...they look like train cars.
- The children, each holding onto a piece of string, like a train.
- There's even a train car on the C & T for the Biddies (it's called the Parlor car, where there is VIP food service and the seats are waaay more comfortable).
- The milk truck story hints that when the vehicle stops, you really want to rush to get your job done (get the tc).

Fenn has an old train bell given to him by Eric in his backyard. It's mounted on a special wooden post taken from the San Lazaro Pueblo, before the industrial age (so it was cut by hand tools).

Now most of you have argued against the whole train idea by saying: "Well you're crazy if you think an 80 year old man is gonna jump off a moving train to hide a treasure."

And what if the train stopped for him, and, well for everyone else aboard that train??

How, you ask?

A geology tour.



something is weird. It is written in a way that something is going on, but we can't quite put our finger on it. Humor me and pretend that one of the C&T trains is telling you it's story, by way of a poem:

As I have gone alone in there

(there is only one track, so the train goes in there one at a time (alone))

And with my treasures bold

(the name C&T is written in bold on the side of the train)

I can keep my secret where,

(if Fenn hid it on the geology tour, only the train and Fenn would know, since the train was 42 pounds lighter once everyone got back on)

And hint of riches new and old.

(the train hints to this with it's name: Cumbres and Toltec. Cumbres pass was built in the late 1880s (new) but the Toltec are an ancient civilisation (old))

Begin it where warm waters halt

(There are 3 halts on the full line of the railroad: Sublette, Osier and Cumbres pass. For my solve I used Sublette, although technically, WWWH could be anywhere a train stops for awhile (as in Chama or Antonito))

And take it in the canyon down

(By "take it" he means take the train)

Not far but too far to walk.

(it's 5 miles to the put in)

Put in below the home of Brown

(It passes through Mud tunnel: they made this tunnel by burroughing through volcanic ash. Unfortunately, when it became wet, it turned to



create spectral phenomena and apparitions, speaking and conducting.
Now Fenn has hinted to phantoms a couple times, but has removed those posts a long time ago. When I read about this, I figured this would be an awesome place for Fenn to "lay his bones". You have the view of Rio de los Pinos below, the Toltec Gorge, trains going by everyday and you can materialize as a ghost if illuminated at night. How epic!!

The end is ever drawing nigh

(the end is soon, or to the left. Both apply in this case because Osier is soon and on the left)

There'll be no paddle up your creek

(you continue past Toltec creek)

Just heavy loads and water high

(This was Osier for me. But it can be any of the 5 stops. The heavy loads refer to the coal they use to fuel the trains. For a full trip, a train is filled with 2.5 to 3 tons of coal. Water high means the water towers used to fill the trains. There is coal and a water tower at each station. Each train holds 5000 pounds of water and is filled 4 times per trip).

If you've been wise and found the blaze Look quickly down your quest to cease

(I thought the past tense here "you've been" meant that "when you've made your trip to Osier, if you were wise to find the blaze and had looked down at the appropriate time during travel, that you could then walk, once off the train, to retrieve the tc. The "look down" part could be done only in the Gondola car (see below for reasons why)).

Tarry scant with marvel gaze Just take the chest and go in peace

(Unless you have taken the geology tour and can exit the train during the trip, you are probably stuck with a regular train ride and have to walk to retrieve the tc. There are 4 trips on each side of the track, per day. So don't take time to examine and marvel the tc. Once you get it, just take it and hightail outta there, before another train comes)



They have left the rest to seek

The answer I already know

(the train already knows because it has done this trip many times)

I've done it tired, and now I'm weak

(the stations or halts are strategically placed along the railroad to help the locomotives refill their tanks by way of water towers. The engineers also do a quick inspection before the train leaves again. The climbs the trains need to do are hard, and it (the train) is tired and weak after. Sometimes they even need a helper train to push the main train up the hill on the steeper climbs).

So hear me all and listen good

(the bell and whistle of the train)

It will be worth the cold

(There is an open Gondola car on the train. It can get chilly with the wind and the cold temperatures at 10020 feet. This car allows you to look down. Warning: Doing so from the regular cabins is not recommended and dangerous (they even warn you), since the cinders from the train could land in your eyes, or a rockface could remove your head (not recommended if you wish to continue looking for treasure))

If you've been brave and in the wood

(Think Thomas the train: "the brave little engine that could", or brave for walking on or beside the train tracks. Being in the wood is interesting here, because all the cars are made of wood, and you are literally "in the wood" when riding in any of them.

I give you title to the gold

(the chest is yours)

I believed that the Phantom curve was the blaze. It's not white per se, but the reflecting phantoms it displayed would have been. Heck, even I



wet, becomes very slippery. Make sure to check weather before heading up there. It's about a 50 min drive.

- Also there is no cell coverage on the train or on the road to Osier.
- remember to bring sunscreen. It can burn if you to stay in open car too long.

Other connections to clues:

- Between Chama and Osier, you pass through a private ranch named the "Ranch of the cinnamon colored bears" or in spanish "Rancho Del Oso Pardo" (could be another HoB).
- The railroad has two trustles (bridges) that are over 100 feet high (possibly no place for the meek)?
- A couple of creeks cross the rails at one time or another. And lest we forget the traditional railroad marking: a huge "X".
- The Omegas look like the entrances to the tunnels.

If anyone has any questions about the train, don't hesitate to ask me. I spent 3 days there, checking it out.

I wish everyone good luck on their searches out there. Be careful, it is wild country!!

Peasy

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