



Roanoke, Va. (May 18, 1974) **J. E. Dorn Thomas**, a former resident of Gatun, Canal Zone, observes the final placement of the Panama Canal "Mule" on its display track at the Roanoke Transportation Museum. Mr. Thomas located this Electric Towing Locomotive in storage in Schenectady, N. Y. and spent two years in working out the details that resulted in its arrival for permanent display in Roanoke. The unit, along with many other similar locomotives, was used in the Panama Canal Locks from 1914 until the early 1960s to control ship movements while the ships transit the Locks.

This "Mule (No. U.S. 686) is one of the only three units still in existence at this time. It is now being restored to its original appearance by the City of Roanoke and the Roanoke Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. When restoration is complete the "Mule" will be dedicated to the men and women that participated in the construction and operation of the Panama Canal.

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