

PENNYRAIL

September 2008

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 9



Chapter Chatter

Next Meeting

Monday,

September 22

(First Day of Fall)

7:00 pm

The Center

(Former L&N Depot)

Madisonville, KY

Program by Tim Moore

**Refreshments by Jim and
Thomas Bryan (fish fry!)**

Crofton Picnic!

**Saturday,
October 4, 2008**



This Issue

*Follow-Up on
Paducah &
Louisville's
Madisonville
Industrial Spur
Pulled Up!*

*Indiana History
Train Coming
in October*

*Coal Boost to
Ohio County
Kentucky*

Photo Section

*Gustav Damage
to CN/IC Near
New Orleans*

*Regional
Rail Notes and
August Meeting
Minutes*

**Deadline for
October Issue
is Friday,
October 17,
2008**

Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

111 Reed Place
Madisonville, KY 42431

* * * * *

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Rich Hane

Vice President
Rick Bivins

Sect. Treas.
Wally Watts

National Director
Wallace Henderson

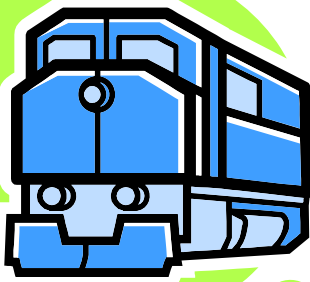
Director at Large
Bill Thomas

"PENNYRAIL" is the
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historical notes and
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Responses to the Abandonment of I.C. Fugate Spur in Madisonville



From from our President *Rich's Ramblings*

We had some good news about one of our oldest members, Ron Stubblefield. On Tuesday, September 9th, Ron came home from the hospital after a 14 day stay fighting a bout with pneumonia. He is still tired and sore and will be recovering for a number of weeks. We all wish him well and look forward to seeing him back at our meetings. Speaking of meetings, our last program of recent slides taken in Indiana by Jim Pearson, Chuck Hinrichs, and Bob McCracken was great. They provided the slides and narration for their recent trip along with Chris Dees. It was very well done and the photography was great. I hope that all of you members have been enjoying the excellent Bulletins that have been coming regularly in the mail. They are coming close to getting back on schedule and the quality of the publications is outstanding. As always, I look forward to seeing your smiling faces at the next meeting on September 22, at 7pm.

I was reading with much interest the pulling up of the tracks to Fugate Lumber and then you asked for some feedback with those with some experience with it. Believe it or not I do have a vivid memory of it in the following paragraph.

In the mid to early 70's, my Aunt Betty lived on a street that dead ended at the beginning of the "yard". She lived in a duplex just up the hill on the left. My sister and I would spend a week or 2 in the summer with her there. She would allow me to walk down to the end and watch the switcher work the yard with the freight house.

The crew was friendly, but I was too young to be up in the cab. It seems that they would start switching about 4:00 in the afternoon, break for dinner, and begin again into the night. Every time the engine came past, the engineer would wave every time.

Once, when my parents went for a visit, I remember the engineer telling me that "they were going to dinner and that I should go get something to eat too. But, when you hear us going again, come on back to the end of the street to watch!"

I also remember the front of the Freight House from U.S. 41 when we were in town. My Aunt Betty Wilson still lives in Madisonville and resides with my cousin, Juliana Pearson.

-Bill Grady, Louisville, KY.

(I.C.) Crews referred to the spur as the "Freight House Lead" or "Madisonville Freight House Lead". Dad recalled a Pennsylvania 80+ foot auto boxcar being set out at the freight house for delivery of an American LaFrance Fire Truck, the second fire truck inside went on to some place in Mississippi.

One bitter cold February, while switching the freight house, four boxcars became derailed due to the build up of ice and snow. When things came to a stop, the lead car was its own width away from the rails. After looking the situation over, the crew decided that just maybe the ground might be frozen enough for the engine to slowly pull them back on the newly cut flangeways in the hope that they might re-rail themselves—Yes, it worked!

Illinois Central Business Car #1 (President Wayne A. Johnston's Private Car) has been at the freight house many times during the Coal Field Festivals. On one occasion the car was picked up by a switching crew at West Yard at 1:00 a.m.. On that particular day, Wayne A. rode into town, not in his private car, but in the cab of the engine that was delivering his car to the freight house. On a side note, president Johnston was known to be approachable to the rank and file, but could be hell on his own subordinates. He knew that if there was a problem, a working man more than likely couldn't hesitate to tell him about it.

In the late 1970s, my parents were remodeling their home in Bremen, KY. New Floors, walls, ceilings and trim were planned. My dad had known the Fugate's for many years, I think even prior to the

(Continued on page 3)

Armstrong Coal Gives Boost to Ohio County, Kentucky

PRESS RELEASE INFORMATION FROM THE KENTUCKY COAL ASSOCIATION

A coal company in Ohio County is now open for business, again. Friday 14 News got a rare look inside a working coal mine. Ohio County leaders celebrated the start of mining for Armstrong Coal in what some say is a silver lining in hard economic times. Jobs are coming in, as tons of coal is going out. Kenny Allen, the Vice President of Operations for Armstrong Coal said, "This facility is going to provide a good living for a lot of families here in our community. We're proud of that." That couldn't make county leaders more excited. "This is going to mean so much to the budget of Ohio County, whenever they start really processing the coal and we start getting some of this return back as coal severance dollars. We're going to be able to do things that we've never been able to do here in Ohio County," said Ohio County Judge Executive David Jones.

Armstrong Coal has over 250 employees already with more to come. The company hopes to have as many as 900. With over 50 percent of the electricity in the United States generated by coal, Hord Armstrong is banking on business to be good. "I think we will be part of an increased Renaissance in the production of coal and ultimately there will be a day when coal produces natural gas and liquid fuels as well," said Armstrong. With gas prices hovering around \$4 a gallon and America's dependence on oil a daily debate, look no further than Kentucky.

"We're a energy based economy," Allen said. "We have enough coal to run this country 300 years. We can become much more energy independent if we take care of all this coal, here at home."



Fugate Spur Responses Continued

lumber company being in business. During this time, dad was on the job that was switching Fugate Lumber regularly. Dad took the opportunity to purchase needed materials for his house at Fugates while on switching assignment there. Pappy ordered several sheets of plywood, a few pounds of nails, and six pre-hung door casements. After the order was tallied up, the clerk asked my dad to bring his truck around back to load it up. The clerk was then stunned to learn that no truck was involved, but, "If you would please load it up on the I.C.G. 199696 parked out on the edge of the property?" Delivery by caboose is not as rare as you might think. As I can recall instances of feed, seed, car parts, farm implements, and yes, 40 piglets to McCracken Co., and lastly, just about every Christmas tree in several homes in December.

- Tony Clark, Greenville, KY.

Luxury Rail Tour Company Fails

A company that offered luxurious rail tours aboard refurbished vintage cars and was a major charter customer of Amtrak has shut down.

GrandLuxe Rail Journeys Inc. ceased operations last week. "We are financially unable to continue operations," the company said in an Aug. 26 note to people booked for upcoming tours. It said it did not know whether people would get their money back. It is unclear what caused the move. Phone calls Wednesday to GrandLuxe headquarters in Evergreen, Colo., were greeted by a message saying the mailbox was full.

Bob Whitley, president of the U.S. Tour Operators Association, said other luxury-tourism companies do not appear to be suffering, despite a soft tourism market overall. "The only area doing really well is the luxury side," he said. "It's less affected by the economy and the weak dollar." GrandLuxe was not an association member.

For Amtrak, the closure of GrandLuxe, known as American Orient Express before it came under new ownership in 2006, means the loss of several million dollars in annual revenue, Amtrak spokesman Cliff Black said.

GrandLuxe relied on Amtrak to pull its train on various scenic routes. The national passenger railroad provided locomotives and engine crews for the trips, which lasted seven to 10 days and cost upward of \$4,000. Amtrak did not provide onboard staff or mar-

(Continued on page 7)



Don't miss the train! The Indiana History Train visits Sullivan, Bargersville, New Castle and Evansville in October. This fall, hop aboard the History Train and get a hands-on, close-up look at Hoosiers whose lives were touched by the Civil War.

Three 65-foot refurbished freight cars will roll into four Indiana communities with a unique traveling exhibition, Faces of the Civil War, which explores Indiana and the Civil War. Hands-on activities and a Civil War-era actor/interpreter help visitors learn more about Indiana life during that era. Enjoy the film Well Done, Indiana and purchase Civil War-related items at the depot gift shop.

The Indiana History Train is open Thursdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. To schedule group visits call (800) 447-1830 or email welcome@indianahistory.org. The tour is free, but space is limited.

Schedule

- Sullivan, IN, October 2-4
- Bargersville, IN, October 9-11
- New Castle, IN, October 16-18
- Evansville, IN, October 23-25

The 2008 Indiana History Train is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and a gift from Lilly Endowment Inc. The History Train is a partnership between the Indiana Historical Society and The Indiana Rail Road Company and is sponsored by BKD, LLP.

You can read more details about the railroad related elements of the train by going to www.indianahistory.org.

Clayton/Watts Open House

Huge O-Scale
(3 and 2 rail)
Layout.

Saturday, November 1, 7:00 p.m. at the home of Don Clayton, 750 Wilson Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431. Co-hosted by Don Clayton and Wally Watts.

Links of Interest

National Railway Historical Society

www.nrhs.com

Railway Preservation News

www.rypn.org/

Kentucky Railway Museum

www.kyrail.org/

Indiana Railway Museum and French Lick Scenic Railway

www.indianarailwaymuseum.org

Indiana Transportation Museum

www.itm.org/

Illinois Railway Museum

www.irm.org/

Tennessee Central Railway Museum

www.tcry.org/

PENNYRAIL™ is your publication. If you have photographs or other material of current or historical interest that you would like to share with Chapter members, your editor would appreciate hearing from you. Your material will receive the best of care while being readied for publication. Your help is appreciated. *Bill Thomas, editor*
bill@fbcmadisonville.com

**SEND YOUR ARTICLES AND PHOTOS TO:
BILL THOMAS**

bill@fbcmadisonville.com

AS RAILFANS WE ARE OFTEN AT TRACKSIDE AND IN POSITION TO OBSERVE EMERGENCY CONDITIONS THAT COULD AFFECT RAILROAD SAFETY OR SECURITY. KEEP THESE NUMBERS HANDY TO REPORT INCIDENTS.

- BNSF 800-832-5452
- CN/IC 800-465-9239
- CSX 800-232-0144
- NS 800-453-2530
- UP 888-877-7267
- Amtrak 800-331-0008

Photo Section



Photo by Tom Barrows

Left: Radio chatter from this business train indicated it came South from Chicago. After arriving at CSX Howell Yard in Evansville, IN, crossed the Ohio River and followed the Texas line towards Louisville. First three cars behind engine are in an IC paint scheme, while remaining ten are BNSF. Image copyright Tom Barrows



Left: Pam Clemmer, sister of Bill Thomas, editor, got this shot at the Cass Scenic RR. in July, 2008.

Right: Andrew Futrell sent this photo of the CN (former IC) trackage just north of New Orleans, following its beating by hurricane Gustav. Hard to believe I just traveled this route at 60 mph in June.



Damage by Hurricane Gustav

August 2008 Minutes Summary

Western Kentucky Chapter, NRHS

The Center (Former L&N Depot),
Madisonville, KY

May Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance \$1,938.83

Income

Nat. Dues	\$00.00
Ch. Dues	\$00.00
Donations	\$00.00
Raffle	\$18.00
Video	\$00.00
Other	\$00.00
TOTAL	\$00.00

Adjusted Balance \$1,956.83

Expenses

Nat. Dues	\$00.00
Postage	\$27.72
Printing	\$49.62
Video	\$00.00
Supplies	\$00.00
Other	\$00.00
TOTAL	\$77.34

Ending Balance \$1,879.49

MEMBERSHIP Total - 63

DIRECTORS REPORT: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business.

NEW BUSINESS: Crofton picnic is on for October 4, at Veterans Park in Crofton, KY, by the fire station. Chuck reports cold drinks will be provided. The Amish store has excellent deli sandwiches, or bring your own. The Monterey, TN, trip is on for October 11. Don Clayton has information from Mike Keipp that trains have been run all the way into Monterey with no problems.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: David Millen reports a train called the Indiana History Train will come to Evansville October 23-25. Wallace Henderson displayed a new NRHS T-Shirt which can be ordered from NRHS headquarters.

No other business was brought before the body. Meeting closed for refreshments by David Millen and Bill Thomas

Our next meeting is Monday, September 22, 7 pm, at The Center, with program presented by Tim Moore. Jim Bryan will have his fish fry for refreshments.

ATTENDANCE: 15 members.

Andrew Futrell with CN sent these photos of Gustav's toll on the CN/IC trackage north of New Orleans.



Roadbed?



Luxury Trains Continued

keting for those tours, Mr. Black said.

Last year, the companies attempted a closer partnership, announcing that GrandLuxe cars -- including spacious sleepers, dining rooms and lounge areas -- would be attached to certain regularly scheduled Amtrak trains during the holiday season. The idea was to offer a shorter, less expensive option with the same five-course meals and other luxury amenities as GrandLuxe's usual tours. Amtrak helped market the service, dubbed GrandLuxe Limited, through its loyalty program, Guest Rewards.

However, the service, originally planned for three routes, was scaled back to just one train, the California Zephyr, between Chicago and Emeryville, Calif. The partnership wasn't renewed this year.

It is unclear what will become of the company's 1940s and 1950s passenger cars.

Steam To Owosso Michigan

The Largest Railroading Event in America is Coming to Michigan in 2009 Owosso, Mi- (8/8/08) – Coming July 24-26, 2009, the sounds of steam whistles, the clicky-clack of steel wheels on rails, the smell of coal smoke and excitement of children of all ages will take over the Steam Railroading Institute in Owosso, Michigan. This quaint American Town is located in the central region of Michigan just outside of Lansing. All the charm of Owosso will welcome tens of thousands of visitors from all over North America and other regions of the world to Train-Festival 2009. The theme of the weekend will be Trains, Trains, Trains!

During the weekend of July 24-27, 2009, visitors to the museum will experience a great event. Steam and Diesel Locomotives from around the country will be on display for visitors to tour the cabs, take photos, watch demonstrations and much more. Huge model train layouts will be on display including a massive all-

(Continued on page 8)

Regional Rail-notes

IOWA INTERSTATE TO OPERATE STEAM TRIPS FOR SARock Island, Ill. -- On October 18-19, 2008 the Iowa Interstate Railroad (IAIS) will operate Railroad Development Corporation's (RDC's) 2 QJ-type steam locomotives on two days of special events to benefit The Salvation Army's efforts to assist communities impacted by June flooding. A variety of rail-oriented events and rail excursions will be held, with the City of Rock Island, Illinois acting as host and coordinator of the event.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.rigov.org (click on "train tickets" under important links). Customers will first have to establish an account before tickets can be purchased. Tickets can also be purchased through Rock Island Parks and Recreation by calling 309.732.PARK (7275) or in person at 1320 24th Street, Rock Island, Illinois from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST Monday through Friday. Special hotel rates will be available as part of the excursions online at www.visitquadcities.com. Event day activities "Rail Ride for Flood Relief" event t-shirts will be sold for a \$20 donation. A limited-edition shirt (100 maximum) is available for a \$35 donation prior to the event and \$40 on-site. The shirt will feature a same-day photo of the record-setting steam-hauled tonnage pull from Iowa City to Rock Island that will start the event.

Excursion train might be derailed for good. The owner of the East Broad Top Railroad says this might be its last year. By BIL BOWDEN Daily Record/Sunday News Article Last Updated: 08/01/2008 09:53:22 AM EDT

For die-hard railroad fans, the East Broad Top Railroad is one of the few left regionally. York County's two excursion trains have died, their whistles and chug-chugging silenced, at least for now. But in Rockhill Furnace, about two hours' drive west of York, the EBT still takes passengers back to the 1900s. If you want a ride on its five miles of track or to browse its historic industrial complex, you might want to hurry. EBT owner Joe Kovalchick hints this year might be the end of the (rail) road. The country's oldest narrow-gauge train, the EBT is running up against tougher environmental and safety requirements. Kovalchick says those regulations are making it difficult for the train to run - and impossible to profit from - and this year might be the last. But volunteer welders, carpenters, engineers and firemen say they've heard all that before.

Lee Rainey, vice president of the Friends of the East Broad Top, acknowledges the uncertainty. "The East Broad Top has a great future, we're just not sure exactly what that is yet. So our job is to help preserve this historic railroad so that we're ready for that future when it comes."

Evidently Jim Finley is at least a part time engineer for **Fredonia Valley RR**. FVRR 3145 just went by the Pidcock Road crossing at 8 tonight heading for the Princeton Yard. Couldn't tell if engineer Jim Finley was at the controls or not. Plenty of empty gons in the yard here in Princeton for him to take back to the Fredonia quarry. Looked like about 18 loaded cars at least tagging along behind 3145.

-Chuck Hinrichs

(Continued on page 8)

Regional Rail Notes and Rumors

I've received word that another loop track, washer and prep machinery is in store for Warrior Coal on the west side of Madisonville, KY, in Hopkins County. After some comments from the CSX roadmaster in July, it seems that coal from Dotiki, in Webster County, will be belted to Warrior for prep and loading at the proposed new tipple. What this means for the Morganfield branch west of the Madisonville Industrial Park is uncertain at this time. If you have info from reliable sources, let me know. -Bill Thomas, editor

Owosso Michigan Continued

Lego model train. Railroad vendors from around the globe will have unique items for purchase that you won't find any where else. Families will be able to take an all day excursion to Alma, MI, or shorter one-hour train ride behind various vintage locomotives. For the thrill seeking visitor, you will even be able to pull the throttle and blow the whistle on one of these steam locomotives.

Railroad equipment is currently being arranged. As soon as a final list of equipment attending the event and a schedule is finalized, it will be posted on the event website at www.trainfestival2009.com. The website will be interactive including a web blog, forums, video and much more.

For more information contact: Steam Railroading Institute, 405 South Washington Street, Owosso, MI 48867, (989) 725-9464

TIMETABLE #110

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- Crofton Picnic**, Saturday, October 4, Crofton, KY, lunch time
- Tennessee Central Excursion**, Saturday, Oct 11
- **Clayton/Watts Open House**, Saturday, Nov 1

Buy, Sell, Swap!

- **Rick Andrews** has an assortment of nice HO Scale equipment for sale. (270) 841-7140
- Two **Illinois Central Passenger Cars**—MTH O Scale, 3-Rail wheels and couplers. Contact Bill Thomas, 339-9482



VISIT THE CHAPTER WEB SITE: <http://www.westkentuckynrhs.org>

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