

# PENNYRAIL

September 2009

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 9

Please send your digital photos and story material to [bill@fbcmadisonville.com](mailto:bill@fbcmadisonville.com)

or mail to  
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## Chapter Chatter

**Next Meeting Monday,  
September 28, 2009**

**7:00 pm, The Center  
Former L&N Depot  
Near Arch and Main Streets  
Madisonville, KY**

**Program by  
Wally Watts**

## *Southern Pacific's Donner Pass*

**Bring a guest and something for  
Show and Tell**

**Refreshments by  
Jim and Thomas  
Bryan  
(Fish Fry!)**



Western Kentucky  
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

111 Reed Place  
Madisonville, KY 42431

\* \* \* \* \*

President  
Rich Hane

Vice President  
Vacant

Secretary Treasurer  
Wally Watts

National Director  
Wallace Henderson

Director at Large  
Bill Thomas

“PENNYRAIL” is the official publication of the Western Kentucky Chapter, NRHS. Send news notes, historical notes and other rail information to:

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## *Program Preview*

This recently released DVD about Donner Summit in California shows the difficulties the Southern Pacific Railroad tackled in traversing this 7,000 foot-high pass. Sure to contain some spectacular footage and scenery.



## Rich's Ramblings

President, Rich Hane

Those of you who were at the last meeting were treated to an excellent slide program by Fred Ripley on Pennsylvania RR operations. It was interesting to see and hear his discussion on how the several yards operated and how they tied in to the overall scope of the railroad and its customers.

In April of this year, Charles Bertram "Bert" Pennypacker passed away at the age of 85 of an aneurysm. He was a very well known photographer and author who covered many aspects of mid-century railroading in this country. He was the author of over 200 articles and 8 books, primarily on Northeastern railroad subjects. His easy style of writing and the way he would draw you into his subject were liked by all. He had a real knack for

explaining complex subjects in a way that was easy to understand. Pennypacker's large body of carefully researched and substantial work stands as a lasting contribution to our understanding of railroad history. His wife of 56 years, Theresa, survives him.

I hope to see all of your smiling faces at the next meeting at the Center in beautiful downtown Madisonville at 7pm on Monday, September 28th, 2009.

## Thoughts and Prayers

For Chapter Members experiencing health challenges

If you know of chapter members with health issues, please let me know, [bill@fbcmadisonville.com](mailto:bill@fbcmadisonville.com).

Jim Finley - benign brain tumor removed - lung cancer, undergoing chemo and radiation treatments.

Ron Stubblefield - respiratory and back issues

**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](mailto: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 |

### National Railway Historical Society

[www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com)

### Railway Preservation News

[www.rypn.org/](http://www.rypn.org/)

### Kentucky Railway Museum

[www.kyrail.org/](http://www.kyrail.org/)

### Indiana Railway Museum and French Lick Scenic Railway

[www.indianarailwaymuseum.org](http://www.indianarailwaymuseum.org)

### Indiana Transportation Museum

[www.itm.org/](http://www.itm.org/)

### Illinois Railway Museum

[www.irm.org/](http://www.irm.org/)

### Tennessee Central Railway Museum

[www.tcry.org/](http://www.tcry.org/)

## August Meeting Photos

Chapter member and program presenter Fred Ripley and President Rich Hane enjoy some railroad conversation at the August meeting.



Hopkinsville Elevator  
GP16 at Atkinson Yard  
August 24, 2009  
Photo by Chuck Hinrichs

NREX GP10 at Atkinson  
Yard August 24, 2009  
Likely a loaner  
replacement for HEC  
1817 while repairs are  
made.  
Photo by Chuck Hinrichs



# Norfolk Souther Ends Humping at Sheffield

Submitted by Chris Dees

**Do Not Hump** - Norfolk Southern announced Wednesday, July 15, 2009, that they will close part of the operations at its Sheffield rail yard, a move that involves cutting 84 jobs. Robin Chapman, a spokesman for Norfolk Southern in Atlanta, said about 130 people work at the yard.

The rest of the local rail yard will remain open, company officials said. Chapman said 57 layoffs are train and engine positions, and 27 are mechanical employees. "The humping operations will be going to Chattanooga or Birmingham," he said. "There will be some switching operations going to Decatur."

Chapman said the nation's economic climate forced the move. "The reason we're idling humping operations is because of the traffic conditions," he said. "In this economy, traffic is way down and we can't support humping operations at Sheffield." The rail yard is just east of the overpass on Wilson Dam Road, but is referred to as the Sheffield yard by company officials.

Those being laid off will be sent home immediately when the announcement is made Wednesday, but receive pay for 60 days, under a labor agreement, Chapman said. Chapman said employees work on a seniority basis, so those affected by layoffs can displace employees with less seniority in other cities within the railroad's seniority district, which includes company operations in Alabama and Tennessee.

"The jobs could come back, theoretically, if we resumed humping operations at Sheffield," Chapman said. "But whether specific employees could come back, that depends where they go and what they do from this point. The ones laid off are on furlough status and would be recalled by seniority." He said trains will continue to travel through the area and local trains that serve area industries will continue to do so. "Traffic stays the same, it's just they wouldn't be humped in Sheffield."

# The Big Shovel Movement

Submitted by Dennis Carnal

(a reprint from L&N Magazine, October 1956)

Even if the way is clear, the moving of a 1,200-ton electric shovel some three miles across the county wouldn't be easy.

Such a three-mile jaunt - made by a 1,200-ton electric shovel, belonging to the Homestead Coal Company, to a new strip mining area at White City, near Morton (now Morton's Gap), KY, - was climaxed recently by moving the mechanical monster across the L&N main track and U. S. Highway No. 41, south of Morton.

Previously, for the past nine years or so, the big shovel had been hard at work at the Homestead Mine near Nortonville, KY, and had finally worked itself out of a job-temporarily at least.

This big shovel propels itself along on four double sets of caterpillar tracks with its boom facing forward. It is powered by a 5,000-volt electric power supply and drags up to 6400 feet of special high voltage cable. It has a rated capacity of 35 cubic yards of dirt but is normally equipped with a 20-cubic yard bucket whose size can be appreciated by the accompanying picture.



The crossing of our tracks and the highway was planned by Homestead Superintendent Frank Gilbert, working with representatives of the L&N's maintenance of way department, the Kentucky Highway Department and the American Telephone and Telegraph Company whose lines are on our right of way. Prior to the day set for crossing the

*(Continued on page 6)*

## ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

2009 Annual Meeting plans finalized!

WHEN: Saturday, November 21, 2009.

WHERE: Whistle Stop Restaurant (former IC freighthouse), 701 Main Street, Mendota, Illinois (just south of Amtrak station and Mendota Union Depot Museum)

PRICING: \$25 per person for entire event. Includes entrance to swap session, dinner, and evening show. \$2 for those attending only the swap \$5 table fee for vendors

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: ICRHA  
2009 Annual Meeting, c/o Mike Hogan, 15408 Pine Drive, Oak Forest, IL 60452-1623

PROGRAM: Double-header! Former ICG employee Jerry Pyfer will present a sound/slide presentation assembled exclusively for the ICRHA 2009 Annual meeting. Jerry, who is also currently president of the North Western Illinois Chapter-NRHS, is well-known for his clever, entertaining, and popular slide presentations (his program at the Milwaukee Road Historical Association meet in Terre Haute last year drew a standing ovation). His show for the ICRHA will focus on the 1970s-era Illinois Central Gulf. For our second program, Rory and Cedric Peterson present a program featuring the work of their late father, Roy Peterson. We will see STEAM and early -diesel-era Illinois Central scenes in the Rockford/Freeport/southern Wisconsin area. (Picture if you would, a steam-powered IC Hawkeye flying over The Milwaukee Road at Genoa, Illinois, in the 1930s, or bucolic scenes of the Dodgeville, Wis., branch.) Roy photographed much of northern Illinois from 1930 into the 1960s, and you will also see some Milwaukee Road, Chicago & North Western, and Burlington thrown into the mix. This will largely be unpublished material that has only been seen by a few people to date.

-submitted by Chuck Hinrichs

## Photo Section No photos submitted

### Restored Great Northern F45 to Hit the Road

Great Northern F45 441 will soon ride the BNSF Railway from Albia, Iowa, to Essex, Montana. This locomotive has been restored as luxury "Locomotive Lodging" and will be installed at the Izaak Walton Inn on the border of Glacier National Park.

The locomotive interior is being converted to a deluxe living accommodation featuring a master suite, spacious living area and fully equipped kitchen. It will be decked out with antique oak hardwood floors complimenting a fireplace, providing a rustic and inviting interior worthy of Glacier Park.

The operators cab, including control stand, seats and electrical cabinet, has been restored to better than new condition. The cooling fans have been converted to skylights with glass above the fans. At the flick of a switch, the engine access doors will open to a picture window view of the adjacent BNSF mainline.

Restoration work and rough interior construction was performed by RELCO Locomotives. They used original EMD paint diagrams to apply the resplendent Great Northern "Big Sky Blue" paint scheme. Interior finishing will be completed after installation at Essex, and it is expected to be ready for lodging in the fall of 2009. For more information including photos and floor plan, or booking information, visit <http://www.izaakwaltoninn.com>.

-submitted by John Licht, originally posted to Yahoo groups by Joel G. Kirchner.

**Editor's Note:** If you have time and a high-speed internet connection, check out some of the video clips of trains on You Tube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)). I have a few there myself, most of my garden railway. Bill Thomas, editor.

## NRHS Mission Statement

National Railway Historical Society, Inc. Mission Statement - The National Railway Historical Society promotes railway heritage preservation and educates its members and the public about rail transportation, its history and impact, with a focus on North America.

### Objectives

1. To foster the experience of rail transportation
2. To develop and expand educational services and programs
3. To build and maintain archives, to encourage and to support archival activities, and to disseminate information in archives
  - A. To increase collaboration between existing archives
  - B. To develop listing of National and Chapter archives
4. To support preservation of memorabilia and
5. artifacts
6. To facilitate association and networking
7. To maintain and grow the organization

## Regional Rail Notes

**CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.** — A \$6 million railroad project in Chattanooga for the new Volkswagen plant and suppliers at the Enterprise South industrial Park will be funded partly with federal stimulus funds. The project set to start in August will help Volkswagen deliver cars when production starts in early 2011. - Chuck Hinrichs

**Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum - Chattanooga, TN** - a collection of historic photographs by noted commercial and industrial photographer O. Winston Link will be shown in a newly-created display gallery at the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum's Grand Junction Station from August 22 through November 1. The exhibit Steam, Fading into the Night includes fine-art photographs documenting the last great steam locomotives used by the Norfolk & Western Railway in Virginia during the 1950's. Link captured the sights and sounds of the powerful locomotives and the communities along the line.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Shovel Movement Continued

tracks, all telephone and signal wires had been replaced with underground cables in pipe conduit; large corrugated pipe had been installed to carry surface water in the various drainage ditches and the approach fill had been constructed. Several hundred cubic yards of dirt were also stockpiled nearby to be used as a "cushion" across the railroad and highway.

To protect the railroad and highway from the enormous weight of the shovel it had been decided to cover them with a four-foot earth fill and, in turn, use 18-inch timber mats on top of the fill for the shovel to move over. With the passing of No. 66, a northbound freight, the big job of filling over the tracks began. About an hour later the shovel was crossing our tracks and the highway was being covered and highway traffic was detoured over the fill covering the railroad. Shortly there after the shovel crossed the highway and connected into a power line previously constructed on that side, thereby clearing the way for the gigantic cleanup job of removing the earth fill from the railroad and highway.

By carefully planning the work and scheduling the time of the crossing, the entire operation was completed in two hours with no delay to trains and a few minutes delay to highway traffic. Several hundred on-lookers were on hand to give the matter their undivided attention and to watch history being made as the Railroad handled its largest movement ever.

**Original article by M. W. Cox, Assistant Division Engineer, Evansville, IN.**

# Got News?

**SEND YOUR ARTICLES  
AND PHOTOS TO:  
BILL THOMAS  
bill@fbcmadisonville.com**

## August, 2009 Minutes Summary

**Minutes** approved for the July meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** approved.

**Director's Report:** Wallace reports that the 2010 convention will be in Scranton, PA. There will be good trips coming up for that. The 2011 meeting will be in Tacoma, WA. There were 600 attending the recent convention. New chapters were formed in Japan, where there are four potential new chapters upcoming. There were 24 who attended Rail Camp: 12 at Ely, NV, and 12 at the adult camp. A committee has been formed to study why NRHS is set up the way it is, and will report at the October meeting in St. Louis. The NRHS library is temporarily set up in Palmer, MA. Ours (West Kentucky) is the largest chapter in KY, with 48 National members. Owensboro has 29. The winter board meeting is first weekend in January, 2010 in Charleston, SC.

**Activities Report:** The Crofton picnic is on for Saturday, October 3, at the Veterans Park.

**Old business:** There was none.

**New Business:** Matt Gentry has free tickets for the semi-pro game in Evansville, September 9. Keith mentioned the L&N Convention is one month away in Chattanooga, TN, September 25-27, 2009. A question was raised as to who owns particular items at the museum in Hopkinsville, KY, and Nortonville, KY. Keith will check to see if we could place some of our items in the Bowling Green, KY museum.

**Next Meeting:** Monday evening at 7 pm, at the Center, September 28. Wally Watts will have the program and Thomas and Jim Bryan, the refreshments.

**Members Present at August Meeting:** Bill Thomas, John McGee, Wallace Henderson, Bob Moffet, David Millen, Thomas Bryan, William Corum, Thomas Hurley, Dennis Carnal, Steve Miller, Fred Ripley, Donny Knight, Betty Knight, Chuck Hinrichs, Keith Kittinger, Wally Watts.

# Need Photos!

I need fresh material from the chapter members for our Photo Section of the PennyRail. Even if you have old or new slides, I have a scanner with which to transfer them to digital format. Just make an appointment with me some time - 270-821-3611.

## August 24, 2009 Financial Report

Report Date: August 24, 2009, by Wally Watts.

Beginning Balance 1981.63

### Income:

|                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| National Dues Received  | 00.00 |
| Chapter Dues Received   | 00.00 |
| Royalty from Neff Video | 00.00 |
| Other (Raffle)          | 9.00  |

Total: **9.00**

**Adjusted Balance 1990.63**

### Expenditures:

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| National Dues Paid  | 00.00 |
| Postage             | 22.00 |
| Printing (2 months) | 57.56 |
| Flowers             | 00.00 |
| Supplies            | 00.00 |

Total: 73.56

Ending Balance: 1917.07

### Membership Statistics

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| Beginning Membership   | 68 |
| National Members Added | 0  |
| Chapter Members Added  | 0  |
| Ending Membership      | 68 |



## Regional Rail Notes Cont.

The majority of Link's photographs were recorded in the dark of night using a complex system with dozens of flashbulbs triggered by a custom-built **electric unit connected with hundreds of feet of wire.** - TVRM Website

**Note:** anyone interested in a day-trip to see this exhibit, contact John Licht, [madrterminal@yahoo.com](mailto:madrterminal@yahoo.com).

**Hardin, KY** - Just to let you all know that the former NC/L&N track operated by the Hardin Southern RR between Hardin KY and North Murray KY is being taken up and scrapped starting Monday 8/3/09 by A&K materials. They are starting at Hardin and moving South to just north of the former Webasto spur. This brings a sad close to the HSRR fiasco.

-Submitted by Chuck Hinrichs with permission to print email message from Steve Wilhelm.

# TIMETABLE #110

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY



- **Madisonville Headquartered and Energized Railroad Buffs (MH&E RRB)** - Thursday, October 5, Location to be announced. All are welcome!
- **Crofton Picnic and Train Watching** - West Kentucky Chapter of the NRHS - Saturday, October 3.
- **42nd Annual Model Train Show** - Presented by Cincinnati Division 7-N.M.R.A., Saturday October 24th, 2009 12:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M., Sunday October 25th, 2009 11:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. Lakota West High School at 8940 Union Centre Blvd. in West Chester, OH. 45069 - Free Parking! - Model trains in all scales - Operation Layouts and displays - Retail sales - Hourly Door Prizes! - FREE-Engine checkup and "How To" classes-Admission - Adults \$6.00 - Children under 12 FREE - Scouts in Uniform FREE - Table rentals and layout space-Roy Hord at 513-777-5337 or rhord@fuse.net.

Looking for...

Pictures and/or historical information on the Chattanooga Traction Company, predecessor line of Southern Railway's Redbank or Signal Mountain branch in north Chattanooga, TN. (have checked web)

- Bill Thomas, bill@fbcmadisonville.com

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

## **PENNYRAIL**

% Bill Thomas, Editor  
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