

PENNYRAIL

October 2009

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 10

Please send your digital photos and story material to bill@fbcmadisonville.com

or mail to
Bill Thomas,
First Baptist Church,
PO Box 607,
Madisonville, KY
42431.



Chapter Chatter

**Next Meeting Monday,
October 26, 2009**

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

**Program by
Chuck Hinrichs**

The L&N

**Ron Flanary
Or**

The Henderson Sub

Steve Neff

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

Refreshments by Ricky Bivins

Western Kentucky
Chapter, NRHS, Inc.

111 Reed Place
Madisonville, KY 42431

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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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*Rex and Melanie Easterly
enjoy the sunshine
during the Crofton Picnic*

Rich's Ramblings

President, Rich Hane

We had a great time at the meeting in September with a fine feast provided by Jim and Thomas Bryan and an interesting program by Wally Watts on how the Southern Pacific handled the snow problem in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Those folks really had to work hard to keep the trains rolling through sometimes dozens of feet of snow and snow slides. An interesting sidebar was the group standing outside the 1929 train depot watching the International Space Station go by overhead with the smell of fresh fish cooking on the grill. It doesn't get any better than this.

Many of us had a great time at the annual Crofton picnic the following Saturday and our thanks to Chuck Hinrichs for spearheading this fun event. Many trains came by at speed which is

Thoughts and Prayers

For Chapter Members experiencing health challenges

Jim Finley - recovering from tumor removal and cancer treatments.

always exciting and the weather was great.

During the upcoming October meeting we will be having the first call for nominations for the Chapter's officers. This is an annual event and I encourage everyone to consider offering their name for any of the offices. We are a very friendly group and welcome the participation of all our members in helping to run the Chapter. We presently have a vacancy for the office of Vice-President that I wish you would consider. We always consider all offices open so don't be shy about running for an office, no one will be upset if we have two or more people's name in the hat. It is always a good sign for any group to have interested members offering their help. We will have a second call for nominations and the election at the November meeting.

I am sincerely looking forward to seeing all of your smiling faces at the next meeting on Monday, October 26th, 2009 at 7 pm at The Center (the old L&N Railroad Depot) in beautiful downtown Madisonville.

If you know of chapter members with health issues, please let me know, bill@fbcmadisonville.com.

Ron Stubblefield - Moving and Respiratory 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

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.

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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/

Layout for any Pennsy Fan!

A glimpse into Dr.
Fred Ripley's
Pennsylvania Layout



"Playing PRR in Western KY" **Above:** At the 4-track interlocking at Smithville, OH (MP 129.5 from Pittsburgh on PRR's Pittsburgh-Chicago main line), we see two scenes, taken two years apart. In April 1958, coming out of the sunrise and facing the camera, is the westbound New York-Chicago "Admiral", a maid-of-all-work schedule with significant head-end traffic as well as coaches, a diner, and sleepers, right on schedule at 7:48 AM. A pair of E-8's (which the PRR calls EP-22's) is the power. **Below:** About to meet No. 51 is eastbound CS-6, a Chicago to Conway freight, running slightly behind schedule & powered by two FM "Erie-Built" (FF-20's to the PRR).



Those Were the Days!

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- submitted by Dr. Fred Ripley

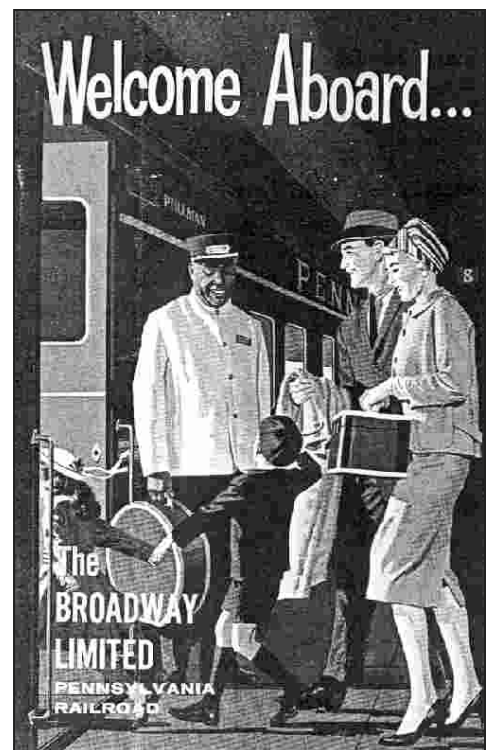


PHOTO SECTION



This shot was taken on October 12, at Grand Rivers, KY. The long-vacant BRT3 trackage is now being used to store excess coal hoppers. The coal business is off a bit both due to economics and to the mild summer weather. Photo by Chuck Hinrichs.



The Coming Storm: On the eve of Pennsylvania's first snow of 2009, two Buffalo & Pittsburgh GP9s idle at the DuBois, PA yard on 14-Oct-2009 awaiting their next duty on the Dubois locals. Photo by Chris Dees.

Photo Section Continued (Crofton Picnic)



A cool, breezy but sunny fall afternoon greeted 14 members and 5 guests at the Veterans Park in Crofton for the 4th annual Chapter Picnic. CSX cooperated with 3 intermodals and 2 regular freights during the afternoon. Wally Watts brought his German steam engines for everyone's enjoyment between trains. Steve Miller had his computer set-up to keep track of trains and Chuck Hinrichs provided the soft drinks and chips. The Easterlys were on hand with their new home – a travel trailer – and were headed to Missouri after the picnic. -photos by Chuck Hinrichs



New Member Spotlight On Tom Johnson Birth of a Rail Fan



If there was one thing in this world that my uncle, Roy, loved more than anything else, it was the passing of the Illinois Central freight trains and coal trains in front of the house where he lived with my grandmother and my aunt. No matter what he was doing, when he heard a train approaching, he would run to the front of the house, take out the handkerchief that he always carried in his hip pocket, and wave it back and forth over his head as the engine passed and again when the caboose came by. (In those days every train had a caboose.) The engineers would always reward Roy's waves with waves of their own and with some nice long blasts of the train whistle, which would cause him to squeal with laughter. When trains passed after dark but before everyone had gone to bed, Roy would turn the front porch light on and off repeatedly, and the engineer would always sound the train whistle.

Roy was my mother's brother, and he had Down's syndrome. He could not live independently, so he lived with my grandmother and my divorced aunt in a little country house on a one acre lot in rural western Kentucky. There was a set of IC RR tracks that passed within one hundred feet of the front of the house, so close that passing trains would shake the old house and rattle the windows.

Roy had the mind of a ten year old child, and he had a child-like innocence about him. He loved everyone and was quick to forgive whenever someone teased him; Roy never held a grudge against anyone in his life. If all of us could love and forgive others the way Roy did, the world would sure be a better place.

Roy was the "man of the house," and he chopped kindling, brought in coal from the coal shed, and started a fire in the cooking stove every morning. There was no running water in the old house, and one of Roy's chores was to draw water from the well just outside the back door. He also kept the yard mowed and the weeds cut during the summers. Roy took great pride in performing all of his chores, and my grandmother and aunt

depended on him.

I spent entire summers at my grandmother's house in 1957, 1958, and 1959, when I was eight, nine, and ten years old, and I shared Roy's love for those trains, especially when the steam locomotives, which were in the process of being phased out, were still in use.

One day a minor miracle occurred. The train, which had been going back and forth doing some switching of coal cars at the tipple about an eighth of a mile down the tracks, stopped dead still in front of my grandmother's house, and the engineer climbed down from the cab of the locomotive, motioning for Roy to come to him. He then handed Roy a railroad lantern! Needless to say, that lantern was Roy's prize possession for the rest of his life.

Roy died at age 51 in January of 1976, and the railroad men sent flowers to the funeral home for him. I know that they must have missed his enthusiastic greetings as they passed that house.

Sadly, the old house has been torn down, and even the railroad tracks have been taken up. That little one acre paradise of my childhood summers is gone forever, but it lives on in my memories and always will.

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.

September 2009 Minutes Summary

Minutes approved for the August meeting.

Treasurer's Report approved.

Director's Report: No report.

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

Old business: Discussion was held on our items at the Hopkinsville and Nortonville museums. Nothing decided. Keith has not yet had opportunity to contact the Bowling Green Museum about the possibility of putting some of the items there.

New Business: Dennis reports Chuck will check with the Bowling Green Museum about accepting our donation of the radio console which was originally believed to be at the station in Madisonville. Discussions were held concerning the old films left the chapter by David Cooper, and suggestions made we donate them to other chapters where some of the scenes were filmed. Suggested we make such donations in memory of David. The thought is they are doing us no good, as most of them were not filmed in this area. Suggestion made we keep the ones pertaining to our area, with the L&N and I.C. railroads. Rich has some of the WHS tapes belonging to the chapter and will bring them next month so discussion may be had on what to do with them. Keith gave a brief report on this year's L&N Historical society convention (in Chattanooga, TN). Dennis suggested we get golf shirts to present to charter members next year when our chapter is 25 years old. Other members could purchase them at cost. No decision, and further discussion tabled till next month. Meeting was adjourned to refreshments by Jim and Thomas Bryan - A fish fry!

Next Meeting: Monday evening, October 26, at 7 pm, at the Center, Chuck Hinrichs will have the program and Ricky Bivins, the refreshments.

Members Present at August Meeting: Bill Thomas, Liam Thomas, David Millen, Thomas Bryan, William Corum, Dennis Carnal, Steve Miller, Fred Ripley, Donny Knight, Betty Knight, Keith Kittinger, Wally Watts, Rich Hane, D. A. Fraser, Tom Steiner, Birk Fischer, Steve Gentry, Ricky Bivins. Guests: Tom Johnson, Paige Shoulders, and Joe Thomas.

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.

September 28, 2009 Financial Report

Report Date: September , 2009, by Wally Watts.

Beginning Balance 1917.07

Income:

National Dues Received	00.00
Chapter Dues Received	13.00
Royalty from Neff Video	00.00
Other (Raffle)	11.00

Total: **24.00**

Adjusted Balance 1941.07

Expenditures:

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

Total: 22.00

Ending Balance: 1919.07

Membership Statistics

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



Regional Rail Notes



I (Chuck Hinrichs) was at Guthrie yesterday afternoon and caught R J Corman/Railpower Genset (Railpower #2406 RP20BD) in fresh red paint outside the shop building. R J Corman acquired the assets of Railpower earlier this year and 2406 has been on lease to UP but is now in the RJC fold.

TIMETABLE #110

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF RAILFANS ONLY

- **Madisonville Headquarted and Energized Railroad Buffs (MH&E RRB)** - Thursday, October 5, Location to be announced. All are welcome!
- **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.
- **MH&E Railfan Meeting** - Monday, November 9, at home of Bill and Angela Thomas, 1025 Lakewood Drive, Madisonville, KY. Everyone welcome. BYOS. Campfire provided. Will meet in garage in case of poor weather.
- **Clayton - Watts Open House** - Saturday, November 7, 2009, pm. 750 Wilson Drive, Madisonville, KY.

Regional Rail Notes Cont.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Canadian National Railway Co. next week will unveil the three-year, \$100 million renovation to its Johnston Yard freight car switching facility in South Memphis. The railroad will commemorate its massive investment of time and money on Sept. 24 at 11 a.m. at the yard, 297 Rivergate Road, off Horn Lake Road.

- Chuck Hinrichs

Long, long ago... Oct. 2, 1960, marked the end of the steam era on the Illinois Central Railroad. On that date 4-8-2 2613 pulled a round trip excursion from Louisville, KY, to Dawson Springs, KY. After the trip, the big Paducah-built 4-8-2 was returned to storage at Paducah. The Kentucky Railway Museum tried to save 2613, but the road was unwilling to donate the locomotive. Instead the IC offered to sell 2613 for its scrap value. The museum didn't have the cash, and 2613 went to scrap.



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

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