

Whistle Stop



Volume 30 No. 1

Mike Jackson, Editor

January 2010

Duane and Harriet Swank, Printing/Circulation

WATAUGA VALLEY NRHS CHAPTER MEETING IS JANUARY 25

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The next General Membership Meeting of the Watauga Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society will be held Monday, January 25, 2010, at 6:30 pm, at the Johnson City Public Library, 101 West Millard St. Johnson City, TN. We will start the New Year with a special program presented by Jack Cope. Also, details of our 2010 excursion plans will be explained at this meeting. This will be a meeting you do not want to miss, so bring a guest and enjoy the first meeting of the New Year and a great night of railroading.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues' notices have been sent out for 2010. Please get your dues into the Membership Chairman, Harriet Swank, ASAP. It makes it so much easier if everyone can get their dues in before their membership expires. Please send back to the Chapter's address on the dues' notices or just bring the renewal notice and fee to the January meeting.

DINNER ON THE DINER

We would like to thank Helen Calhoun and all the volunteers who made the 2009 annual Christmas Dinner a big success. The Jonesborough Visitors Center Convention Hall was an excellent place to have the even, and plans are underway to have it there again next year. For those who missed the dinner, you missed out on some good food and fellowship. The 2009 Christmas dinner had the largest number of people in attendance that we have ever had over the years.

SPRING EXCURSION

We will have our annual Spring Excursion on Saturday, March 27, 2010, on the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad from Bryson City, NC, to Nantahala Gorge, NC. Details of this trip will be announced at the January 25th meeting. If you want to host a bus on the trip or just buy a ticket, a signup sheet will be available at the next meeting.

ACTIVITIES FOR 2010

Many of our 2010 activities including excursions and special events will be announced at the January meeting. Get involved in the planning stages of our 2010 events and volunteer for one of them including membership on many committees that will be formed.

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2010

Mike Tilley	President
Bob Schubel	Vice- President
Betty Jackson	Secretary
Duane Swank	Treasurer
Jim Pahrís	National Director
Gary Price	Historian

Directors

Bill Beagen
Jim Calhoun
Helen Calhoun
Art Devoe
Mike Jackson
Penny May
Nick White
Bob Yaple

Appointments

Jim Magill	Chief Mechanical Officer
Bob Yaple	Asst. Chief Mechanical Officer
Mike Jackson	Newsletter Editor
Duane & Harriet Swank	Newsletter Circulation
Nick White	Publicity Chairman
Fred Waskiewicz Jr.	Webmaster
Mike Tilley	Trip Director
David Denny	Chapter Attorney
Nancy Jewell	Membership Notes Reporter
Harriett Swank	Membership Chairman
Walter Byrd	Communications Chairman
Jack Maloney	Spring St Coach Yard Maintenance
Jim Pahr	Chapter Librarian

PROGRAMS FOR 2010

We need programs for our General Membership meetings each month in 2010, so if you have any programs, including railroad slides, a video, a DVD, or know a possible guest speaker, please volunteer at the January meeting or call the chapter phone 423-753-5797.

HELP AT THE JONESBOROUGH SPRING STREET COACH YARD

Due to the demands of preparing our equipment for the 2010 season, we need volunteers to work at the Jonesborough Spring Street Coach Yard. Projects, such as restoring the *Crescent Harbor* and General Maintenance work on our other equipment, is at the point where we need more volunteers. Please volunteer one day or as many days as you can to help us out. **THERE IS A JOB FOR EVERYONE, AND YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE MECHANICALLY INCLINED TO HELP OUT.** All you need to do is show up, and we will have all kinds of jobs available for you to do. Workdays are Tuesdays and Saturdays. Please call the Chapter office at 423-753-5797 and leave a message so we can contact you on times and dates.

CHAPTER WEB SITE

Be on the watch out for our new web site going on line in the next couple of months. The site will be more friendly and easier to use. Our web site address is www.wataugavalleynrhs.org.

Mike Tilley, Chapter President

Watauga Valley Chapter NRHS**Minutes for Chapter Meeting, November 23, 2009**

The Chapter meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m., on November 23, 2009, at the Johnson City Public Library. Mike Tilley, President, presided. Jack Maloney made the motion to omit the reading of the October minutes, Mike Jackson seconded, and the motion passed.

Old Business

Mike Tilley reported that the fall Amtrak excursions were highly successful and complimented everyone who volunteered to work on the Spencer, NC, to Charlottesville, VA, and Spencer to Asheville, NC, excursions. Both trips were SOLD OUT. He stated there will be adjustments made to the bus tickets distribution, schedules and routes next year. Everything our Chapter requested that the North Carolina Transportation Museum do was done, Mike said. Also, the survey forms filled out by the passengers will be ready at a later date for our review.

The Clinchfield North End Tour went real well as the group stopped at several key locations and visited the Clinchfield Railroad Museum in Elkhorn City, KY. Six car loads went on the tour, and Mike thanked all the drivers and the members and guests who participated.

Mike reminded everyone to get their dues in for the 2010 year. He said it makes the membership chair's job a lot easier if everyone sends in their dues as soon as possible.

In New business, the Chapter's Christmas Dinner will not be on the diner this year since the *Moultrie* is in Spencer, NC, for the holidays. Helen Calhoun said the event has been moved to the Jonesborough Visitors Center on Boone Street and will be held Saturday, December 5, from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Please bring a vegetable and a salad by 11:45 a.m. Also, Helen said she needs volunteers to arrive around 10:30 or 11 a.m., to decorate the tables and the room. Please return the form in the newsletter and bring enough food for you and your guest(s) and even more for others who may attend without bringing food. The Chapter will provide the two meats—roast beef and ham. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Calhoun.

Chapter Members Jack and Jeanne Cope said they appreciate those who expressed their sympathies on the passing of Jack's mother. Jeanne also thanked those members who voted for her in her write-in bid for membership on the Board of Directors. She added that she plans to run again next year.

Chapter National Director Jim Pahr gave his report on the fall National Board of Directors meeting and reported on basic proposals the National BOD is considering to deal with financial matters facing the organization. He said 2010 may see a growth in membership, and he believes there will be no dues increase until 2011 or later. Jim will attend the winter BOD meeting in January. He said he hopes some of our Chapter members will attend the 2010 National Convention June 22-26 in Scranton, PA (please see the brochure on page 8). Jim will have a more inclusive report in a later newsletter.

Jack Cope will have the program for the January 2010 meeting, and tonight's program was presented by Duane Swank.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Jackson, Acting Secretary.



News from the Chapter's Membership Chairman and the Chapter's Members' Notes Reporter for *Whistle Stop*

About 56% of our members have paid their 2010 renewal dues. It would be greatly appreciated if the other 44% could get their dues paid by the end of February. The renewals have to be sent in to the National Headquarters the first week of each month. If your dues come in after that time, you are delinquent according to National since you won't show up on their March reports as paid. Thank you and looking forward to receiving your renewal dues.

In December, the following people made monetary contributions to the Chapter:

Jan Edwards
Paul Feist
Penny May
Nick White
Harriett Williams

Also In December, the following people made monetary contributions to the National:

Nancy Jewell
Bob Yapple

Finally, we reported three new members in December. They are:

Jane DeVoe (wife of Member Art DeVoe) of Jonesborough, TN, Donald Findley of Bluff City, TN, and Kathryn Pierce (George Pierce's spouse) of Canton, GA .

Harriet Swank, Membership Chairman

WELCOME to our newest Chapter members: Donald Findley, Bluff City, TN, Kathryn Pierce, Canton, GA, and Jane DeVoe, Jonesborough, TN. Chapter activities and meetings are open for your enjoyment.

Thanks to the following members who made donations in December to the Chapter: Jan Edwards, Paul Feist, Penny May, Nick White, and Harriett Williams; or to National: Nancy Jewell and Bob Yaple.

Our sympathy is extended to Jack and Jeanne Cope in the November death of Jack's mother, Grace Cope of Sylva, NC. Mrs. Cope had observed her 102nd birthday in October; and to Paul Marcum in the death of his father, Dan Louis Marcum on January 6, 2010, in Kingsport. Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. Hayes Hutchinson and family in the death of her husband, James K. Hutchinson on January 5, 2010. "Hutch" was a 25 year Chapter member having joined in 1984. He was a loyal member, worker, and friend. He will be missed.

We are pleased to report that George Ritchie is recovering from injuries that he received in early December when he was struck by a car. Skip Banner called to let us know that his mother, Anna Banner, is back home in Elizabethton after having surgery and spending some recovery time with his family in Virginia. Keep these folks in your thoughts as they continue the healing process. Please remember Patrick Jackson, Mike and Betty's son, who faces additional surgery on his right hand.

Please let us know of friends, members or their families that might get a "boost" from receiving a card or phone call. Keep in touch by calling the Chapter phone, 423-753-5797 or Nancy Jewell at 423-282-0918.

May 2010 bring you peace, joy, and good health.

Nancy Jewell, Members' Notes Contributor



Gary Price, Keeping the ole' N&W safe...one tie at a time

Nicknames

Railroads and nicknames have gone hand-in-hand throughout the years from engineers nicknaming their faithful locomotives with names like Big Boy and Challengers to the railroad executives nicknaming their fast passenger trains like The Crescent, The Tennessean, and The Powhatan Arrow. Even fans would nickname their favorite railroad with corny names like Nights & Weekends, (Norfolk & Western) and one of my favorites Eat Taters and Wear No Clothes (East Tennessee & Western North Carolina). The most predominate of them all are the nicknames that railroad employees would bestow upon each other. Some good, some bad, some in good humor, and some could be down right mean, but nevertheless, the more you would fight it, the more the name would stick.

Interesting enough, the two of the most famous nicknames of American Folklore came from the pages of Railroad history. Here is a brief look at the two:

John Luther Jones rode to fame on April 30, 1900, when he died at the throttle of the Cannonball Express when his train rear-ended a stalled freight train at Vaughn, Mississippi. What was it that enshrined him in the halls of history? The accident? The train? The act of bravery by staying at the throttle and becoming the only casualty? The nickname of Casey? Of course the answer is all of the above. The song about the accident propelled him to stardom, but his birth name was never mentioned in it. Legend has it that there was several John Jones' so his fellow employees dubbed him Casey, the name of his hometown.

Joseph A. Broady was a known to be a fast, reckless engineer beginning with service on the Norfolk and Western, which fired him due to too many rule violations, and ending on the Southern Railway with tragedy on September, 27 1903, when he was at the throttle of locomotive 1102 as Old 97 plunged off Stillhouse Trestle in Danville, VA. What secured his place in history? Was it the wreck? Maybe it was his attempt to get her into Spencer on time? Was it that he was going 90 miles an hour? Or was it his nickname of Steve? Once again, the answer is all the above. The song ensured Joseph's place in the pages of history, but once again, his real name was never mentioned. His fellow employees were well aware of his reckless work habits and nicknamed him "Steve" after the infamous Steve Brodie who gained daredevil status after claiming to dive off the Brooklyn Bridge in New York in 1886.

Two famous accidents and two birth given names lost in history because of nicknames.



Today's modern railroads are becoming more formal, and nicknames on a corporate level are slowly fading into the past. Already gone are the days of the Chessie and the hickory stripped bibs and cap. They have been replaced with lettered logos that have become company names as well. CSX, BNSF, NS on t-shirts, blue jeans, and ball caps are the clothing choices of today's railroaders. Management now frowns upon personnel nicknames, and has put out memos discouraging them in fears of employees being offended by them and the possibility of lawsuits. However we still occasionally hand out a nickname here and there to deserving recipients, and here are a few examples of employees whom I have had the pleasure of working with, and I know that they accept their nicknames just as if it were on their Birth certificate.

BONECRUSHER: (It is rumored that he has broken just about every bone in his body at one point or the other.)

MARIO: (Yes, he looks just like the Nintendo Game Character)

SPLINTERHEAD: (A can of hair styling Mousse and a spiked hairdo brought this one on.)

HOOCH: (He resembles the dog from the movie "Turner and Hooch"...he does)

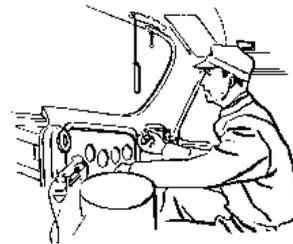
BULLDOG: (Looks like one.)

C-DOGG: (no idea!)

MULE: (He is as stubborn as one)

SPIKEDOCTOR: (Believes he is the best there is at driving a spike.)
But the most re-curing nicknames that I have heard are **PEANUT** and **MOOSE**.

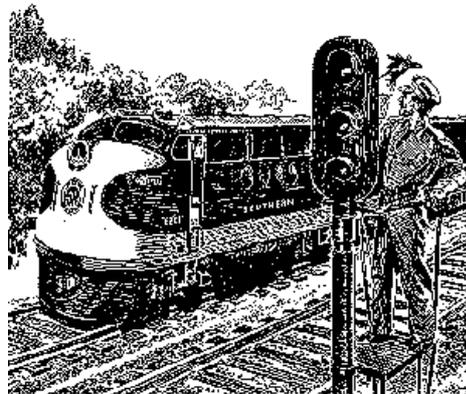
Oh and me...due to my large stature, my foreman in 1997 gave me my nickname that I still hold to this day...**Heavy Duty**...and I wouldn't have it any other way.



Gary Price, Keeping the ole' N&W safe...one tie at a time

Rail News from Jeff Jones

NORFOLK, VA—During the snow storm the weekend before Christmas, Norfolk Southern told customers it was keeping in place a "force majeure" declaration for coal deliveries, after absorbing damage to its big ocean terminal for coal loadings onto ships just as it was recovering from the massive winter storm, according to the Journal of Commerce. NS first declared force majeure on Dec. 18, as what turned out to be a record snowfall began moving into the Appalachian and mid-Atlantic states at the center of the NS rail map. Invoking that clause -- for unanticipated disruptions to normal service conditions -- allows a railroad to lift delivery guarantees tied to its pricing. The snow paralyzed commerce across the region for the next week and then required days more to get highway and rail traffic flowing smoothly as crews removed downed trees on the track, repaired broken rail and waited in parts of Tennessee and Virginia for electricity to be restored. But NS said its huge Lambert's Point trans-loading terminal, on the Elizabeth River at Norfolk, Va., suffered machinery damage on Dec. 26 and again Dec. 27. Normally the facility can load two ships at a time with Appalachian coal using separate conveyor belt systems that dump the coal into a ship's hold. The incidents took out first one conveyor and then the other. NS said Dec. 29 that "while service had been restored following winter storm conditions," the problems at Lambert's Point rendered both ship loaders temporarily inoperable." In the first week in January, NS said "most rail service had returned to normal."



NORFOLK, VA—According to NS Chairman and CEO Wick Moorman on page 26 of the current issue of *Railway Age*, "At this time, we don't anticipate purchasing new locomotives or freight cars in 2010. We will be increasing our investments in technology to improve the utilization of our fleet. We are enhancing our locomotive and car management systems to give us sophisticated ways to manage service delivery and determine the optimal size of our fleet. We're also investing in locomotive technology that reduces our carbon footprint." The entire article may be viewed at <http://www.railwayage.com/in-this-issue/2010-freight-rail-outlook.html>

MARTINSBURG, WV—Virginia's only inland port near Front Royal, VA, has been a magnet for 24 major companies, about \$600 million in investment and has contributed to the creation of about 7,000 jobs, according to the state's port authority. The inland port has been a "catalyst" for economic development in the northern Shenandoah Valley since it opened in 1989, said Greg Edwards, external affairs director for the port authority. Virginia's intermodal connection in the Warren County community of Cedarville is close to the intersection of Interstates 66 and 81, Edwards said. The port is connected to the seaports of Virginia's Hampton Roads region by NS railroad service, and its largest customers are The Home Depot, Family Dollar and the makers of Red Bull energy drink with large distribution centers nearby.

JACKSONVILLE, FL—At press time, CSX Corporation was expected to present its fourth-quarter earnings on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time via teleconference and live internet webcast. The company expected to issue its fourth-quarter and year-end financial and operating results after the market close on Tuesday, January 19, 2010. Those interested in seeing the report should go to the company's website at <http://investors.csx.com>. In a related item, Fourth Quarter 2009 Earnings Report for Union Pacific Railroad was expected to be released on Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 8:45 a.m. Eastern Time. You can go to the company's website at <http://www.up.com/> on that date for more information.

From CSX and Union Pacific News

The Whistle Stop

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National Railroad Historical Society
P.O. Box 432

Johnson City, TN 37605-0432

Meetings are the fourth Monday, except December, 6:30 p.m.,

Johnson City Public Library, 100 West Millard Street, Johnson City, TN

Opinions or viewpoints are those of the writer and may not necessarily reflect those of the Chapter members, officers or directors. Items of interest are welcome and will be credited to the author; however, because of space constraints, all submissions are subject to editing.

Clip Art of Railroad Heralds Courtesy of Ken Houghton (*KH*) Railroad Clip Art.

Mike Jackson, editor, Duane and Harriet Swank, Printing and Circulation.

Mike Tilley, Nancy Jewell, Bob Yaple, Art DeVoe, Jim Pahr, Gary Price,

Nick White, Jeff Jones, and Betty Jackson, contributors

Send correspondence to ki4ojomichael@gmail.com

From the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders

- The MEMRR has announced the winner of the George L. Carter Museum logo contest (please see the next page for a re-print of the front page of the Club's January newsletter).
- The business meeting for January will be the 19th while February's business meeting is the 16th. Meetings are held at 7 p.m., in the Brown Hall Science Building (Room 312) on the East Tennessee State University campus, Johnson City, TN.
- Open House for viewing the Club's layouts is held every Saturday from 10 a.m., to 3 p.m.
- Work nights are held each Thursday beginning at 5 p.m.
- Officers for 2010 are: Fred Alsop, president, John Carter, vice-president, Donald Ramey, secretary, Duane Swank, treasurer, Ted Bleck-Doran, newsletter editor, and John Edwards, webmaster.
- The Club's membership has grown to 96, according to a report by the Club's president in the latest newsletter, *The Signal Bridge*. "We have had a wonderful year and accomplished many things together that we can all be proud of and thankful for as we enter this special holiday season," Club President Fred Alsop said.

CLUB OFFICERS

President:
Fred Alsop

Vice-President:
John Carter

Secretary:
Donald Ramey

Treasurer:
Duane Swank

Newsletter Editor:
Ted Bleck-Doran

Webmaster:
John Edwards

LOCATION
ETSU Campus,
George L. Carter Railroad
Museum



HOURS
Business Meetings are held
the 3rd Tuesday of each month.
Meetings start at 7:00 PM at
ETSU Campus,
Brown Hall Science Bldg,
Room 312,
Johnson City, TN.

**Open House for viewing every
Saturday from 10:00 am until
3:00 pm**

**Work Nights each Thursday
from 5:00 pm until ??**



Knoxville's Phillip Brooks wins Carter Railroad Museum logo contest

From ETSU Accent, December 9,
2009 Vol. 50 No. 8

Phillip Brooks of Knoxville submitted the winning entry in ETSU's George L. Carter Railroad Museum logo contest.

Brooks was recognized and received a \$500 cash prize during an award ceremony today (Dec. 3) at the Tennessee Credit Union branch at 310 Sunset Drive.

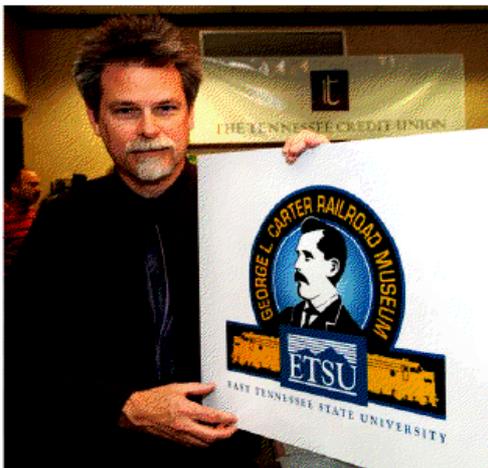
The logo contest was held in November in conjunction with the Carter Railroad Museum's second anniversary and National Model Railroad Month. Artists of all ages were invited to participate in the contest, which was coordinated by the museum, ETSU and the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders (MEMRR).

Brooks, a 1982 ETSU graphic design alumnus, is a model railroader and a fan of Southeastern railroading, history and modeling.

"The logo incorporates design elements important to George L. Carter's life and work," Brooks wrote in a letter accompanying his entry. "The shape of the logo and locomotive artwork echo Carter's own Clinchfield Railroad logo, and frame a stylized Carter portrait. The locomotives are early EMD 'F' units, which were also used by the Clinchfield.

"Another nod to local railroad history is the use of Southern Railway's font in the museum name, with gold lettering on a black background reminiscent of Southern's 'tuxedo and gold' scheme. Southern ran through Johnson City until Norfolk & Western and Southern merged to form Norfolk Southern Corp. in the mid-1980s."

The new Railroad Museum logo also incorporates the classic ETSU mountain logo, as required by the contest rules, as well as the university's colors of blue and gold.



Phillip Brooks with his winning logo design.

Other participating regional artists whose designs placed in the competition included Tommy G. Tidwell of Johnson City, first runner up; Sandy Green, a school teacher from Erwin, second runner up; and Lillian B. Brooks of Hendersonville, third runner up. They received \$250, \$100 and \$50 respectively in prize money. Funds for the prizes were provided by Tennessee Credit Union.

The Carter Railroad Museum, located in the Campus Center Building, is open to the public every Saturday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., staffed by volunteers from the MEMRR. Admission is free. For more information, contact Dr. Fred Alsop, museum director, at 439-6838 or alsop@etsu.edu.

Above, the Mountain Empire Model Railroader's (MEMRR) January newsletter with the front page story on the winning logo that was submitted by Phillip Brooks of Knoxville, TN. The front page is re-printed with permission of the MEMRR and Fred Alsop, president.



Join Us In Scranton!

for
The Annual Convention
of the
National Railway Historical Society

June 22-26, 2010

Hosted by the Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Chapter

Enjoy:

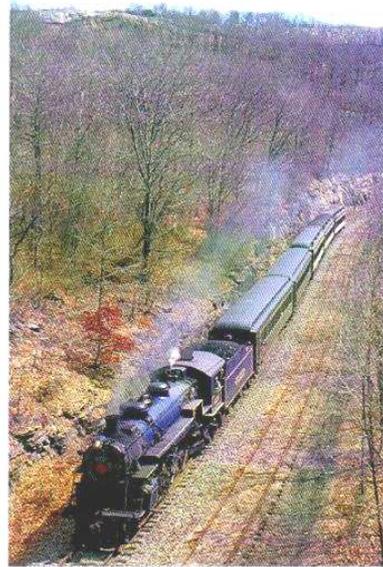
- All Day Steam and Diesel Excursions!
- Short Line Trips with Rare Motive Power!
- Unique Photo Opportunities!

Explore:

- Historic Sites and Museums!
- Area Tourist Railroads and Coal Mines!
- Steam, Diesel and Electric Traction!

Discover:

- Why Scranton is called "The Electric City"!
- The true "Birthplace of the American Railroad"!
- What became the "Anthracite Capitol of the World"!



Be sure to ask an Endless Mountain Rails Staff Member for Registration Info!



Endless Mountain Rails 2010
PO Box 4195
Wyoming, PA 18644

www.endlessmountainrails.com

Remembering when the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina—East Tennessee Railway Served Elizabethton during the Line's Diesel Era!



East Tennessee & Western North Carolina's RS-3 No. 210 hauls a string of coal hoppers from Clinchfield Railroad to the North American Rayon (NARC) Plant in this August 1977 photo.

East Tennessee Railway RS-32 No. 212 showing a 55-foot gondola through downtown Elizabethton to Elizabethton Herb for scrap loading in this December 31, 1984 picture.



Engineer Clarence Smith waved from the 212 as the train returned to Johnson City after working Inland Containers, Elizabethton Herb, Alcoa Aluminum, Paty Lumber Company, and NARC in this 1991 picture at the Cedar Grove community. Photos by Mike and Betty Jackson.



Jeanne Cope and Bob Yaple were among the Watauga Valley NRHS Chapter members and guests who attended the Chapter's annual Christmas dinner on December 5, 2009, at the Jonesborough Visitor's Center. Helen Calhoun and several Chapter members decorated the meeting room before the dinner was served, and most folks who attended said they enjoyed this year's event because everyone had an opportunity to eat in one setting. Photo by Mike Jackson.

**Railway Historical Society
Watauga Valley Chapter
P.O. Box 432
Johnson City, TN 37605-0432**

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