

The Railway
Historical
Southeast



& Locomotive
Society, Inc.
Chapter

Newsletter No. 53, June, 1999

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER SPONSORS RAILCAMP STUDENT

Derek Sands, a 15-year old student at Bishop Kenny High School, Jacksonville, Florida, will be sponsored by the Southeast Chapter of R&LHS, at the first 1999 session of Steamtown's Railcamp 1999. The session will run from July 18 to July 24.

Derek and others will be working and learning under the supervision of National Park Service rangers, employees of Steamtown and volunteer counselors of the National Railway Historical Society.

Students will experience during the week: Train Dispatching -Railroad Operations - Steam Locomotive Operation - Steam Locomotive Repair and Restoration - Modern Railroad Operations - How to tell the story of railroad history to the general public (interpretation).

Derek is a very active railfan, a modeler and an Operation Life Saver trainee. He also plays high school football.

The North Florida Chapter of NRHS is making arrangements for Derek to travel via Amtrak from Jacksonville to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where NRHS representatives will meet him for the journey to Scranton.

Derek will be our featured speaker at our September meeting.

Read more on page seven.



Southeast Chapter Meetings

Our July 8th meeting will feature two program events. First, Chairman Jim Smith will present a brief slide shown on a trip he made to the Kingsport - Erwin, TN area. So start thinking about AC's and coal trains, along with the ever popular Q690/Q691 merchandise trains.! Our second feature will be a video titled Streak Of Orange which is being provided by Paul Newton. Train Q651 is one of the most service sensitive trains operated on CSXT, so the title truly represents how it is handled on the railroad.

The August 12th meeting will be a presentation on Railfair '99 to be given by three Southeast Chapter members who attended the BIG show. Reid Adams, Bill Howes, and Jim Smith will share their experiences and slides of this special joint R&LHS/NRHS convention. Come on down for some California railroading!

BELOW: The R&LHS Group: Art Towson, Jim Smith, Cliff Vander Yacht, Bill Howes and Reid Adams at the scene of the Mt. Dora Doodlebug.

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RAILCAMP 1998 ...

DEVELOPING NEW TALENT IN RAIL PRESERVATION

R. L. Eastwood, Jr.
Photos by Bruce Hodges

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[The NRHS], in cooperation with the National Park Service, embarked on a path toward the future of the rail history movement with the hosting of **Railcamp 1998** July 19-25 at the Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton, PA. Nineteen young adults between the ages of 14 and 18 spent a full week learning all facets of rail preservation, rail history interpretation, transportation career opportunities and railroad operations. Their high level of interest and enthusiasm was readily matched by a cadre of Park Service, NRHS and rail-associated personnel, all committed to providing an educational, yet enjoyable, experience.

The railcamp concept originated with Coastal Plains Regional Vice President James M. Phillips and Northeast RVP Bruce J. Hodges, who advanced the idea to their fellow regional vice presidents during their usual meetings at NRHS board of directors gatherings. Hodges, in 1997, approached the Steamtown management to gauge their interest in cooperating on this venture, to which he received a positive response. Ray Sauvey, of the Steamtown Institute, a joint economic development venture of the University of Scranton and the Steamtown Site, facilitated the planning and negotiating sessions held with increasing frequency through late 1997 and early 1998, establishing the desired goals of Railcamp 1998, the pilot project.

Seven goals were advanced as the planning process moved forward:

1. To develop a hands-on experience that would give students an understanding of a railroad (developing an understanding and appreciation of the complexity of the railroad operating system).
2. To give students access to the Steamtown experience at a higher level than the regular visitor.

3. To develop an appreciation of history and link railroad history to the larger context of America's cultural heritage.
4. To develop an appreciation of preservation of our heritage and foster attitudes of caretaking and stewardship.
5. To develop an appreciation of the role of modern railroads.
6. To develop an appreciation of the role of railroads in the creation/promotion of the National Park Service.
7. To develop a curriculum that is strong in helping to promote career choices.

Steamtown Superintendent Terry Gess designated newly-arrived Assistant Superintendent Harold "Kip" Hagen to guide the project to fruition, and Hagen, through eager Steamtown subordinates, developed an all-encompassing curriculum which evolved to easily fill out a busy week for potential attendees. Sauvey, meanwhile, worked with the University of Scranton to insure that all on-campus logistical needs, including lodging and meals for Railcampers (and their counselors), were provided for.

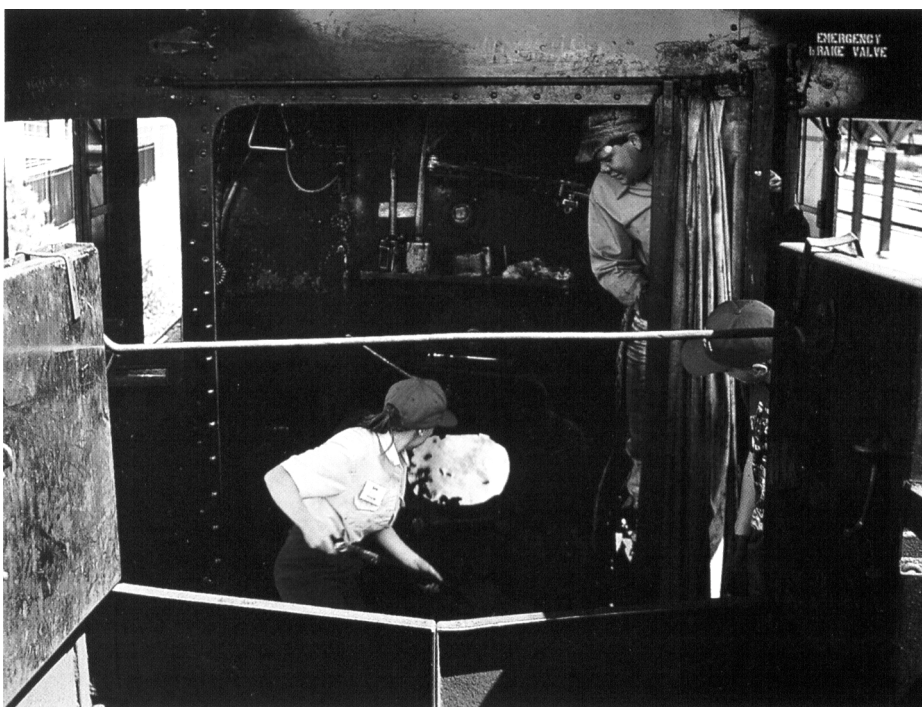
Because of some insurance concerns as well as the usual glitches associated with trying something the first time, publicity for Railcamp 1998 reached its desired audience later than anticipated. But numerous NRHS chapters quickly came forward and expressed an unanticipated commitment to sponsor attendees to the event, and they used various means, from newspaper releases to essay contests, to solicit and select candidates.

Hodges and the writer, meanwhile, set about finding counselors willing to spend a week of their summer sleeping on hard college-dorm mattresses, arranging some outside activities to occupy Railcampers' spare time, as well as gauging response to publicity, answering correspondence and



such tasks as assigning rooms and roommates for registrants. When Railcamp time arrived, 17 boys and two girls had been signed up. Nine different chapters sponsored 11 participants, with the other eight having signed up through magazine listings or gifts from relatives. In addition to the above, counselors included Charles J. Benz of Delaware Valley Chapter, Harla Lazur from Utica & Mohawk Valley Chapter and the late Eastern Region Vice President Bill Mathews, from Pottstown & Reading Chapter.

On Sunday, July 19, the five counselors ar-



rived at air-conditioned Gavigan Hall, on the University of Scranton campus overlooking the Steamtown mainline and downtown, awaiting the arrival of their charges. By late afternoon, counselors and campers were settled in and all went to dinner in the University's dining facility, where introductions were made, orientation and safety briefings were held.

Following a sleepless night of anticipation, everyone walked to breakfast, held each morning at "The Estate," the magnificent 1867-vintage mansion of industrial magnate Joseph H. Scranton located in the center of the UofS campus. Railcampers found out early that the University's caterer, ARA Ser-

vices, would provide plenty to eat for the entire week, and no complaints were heard about institutional food.

After a one-mile walk from the dorm to the Steamtown Core Complex, Railcamp 1998 was officially underway as Assistant Superintendent "Kip" Hagen greeted everyone, introduced his staff and provided safety instructions to everyone. Monday, July 20, was spent entirely on methods of interpretation of rail history, with morning classroom sessions giving way in the afternoon to first-hand inspections of equipment under restoration, as well as completed and untouched examples to show how the job is done and how the story is told. Interpretive Specialist Glenn Smith, Rangers Bill Clark and Kenny Ganz, Restoration Specialist Wayne Dobson and Curator Ella Rayburn all provided heavy emphasis on the need to insure that equipment is not only preserved and restored, but that there is the ability to tell what the equipment did and why it is important to the heritage of our nation.

But, as long as the day was, everyone still was able to muster the energy to travel by chartered bus to Lackawanna County Stadium for a Triple-A minor league baseball game between the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Red Barons and the Durham, NC, Bulls.

Arising early on Tuesday morning, Railcampers were told to wear gear that they could “get dirty,” and by the end of the day that promise had been fulfilled. Railcampers were split into two groups, alternating between a roundhouse session with Roundhouse Foreman Roger Samuels and Locomotive Shop Foreman Chris Ahrens. After being challenged to remove all the bolts from the smokebox door of former Boston & Maine Pacific 3713, under restoration, the Railcamp crew tackled the project and went back to the dorms that evening very dirty, but proud that their mission was successful!

In order to provide a bit of a breather in a busy week, Wednesday was designated as “career day,” with Railcampers getting the opportunity to visit and interact with professionals who could provide career advice. In the morning, they were bused to Johnson Technical Institute, a Scranton trade school, where they were provided a tour and information on various courses that could prepare them for careers. Following an enjoyable barbecue lunch prepared and served by Steamtown’s maintenance personnel, *Railfan & Railroad* Managing Editor and NRHS Member Steve Barry told how he went from being an accountant to the staff of a leading rail publication. Following Steve’s presentation, at which Railcampers were presented T-shirts, Steamtown Volunteer and Amtrak Engineer Tom Wyatt spoke on the challenges of being a locomotive engineer on a high-speed railroad in an urban environment.

Thursday morning found participants in the restoration shops, with the split groups alternating between the welding and woodworking areas. As counselors nervously watched, Railcampers were exposed to plasma cutting, hot riveting and arc welding, with all tasks successfully and safely executed. Venturing into the woodworking area, campers were shown the intricate woodworking involved in restoring a Birney streetcar in the

Steamtown shop. Throughout the day, campers in pairs went off to learn how to fire Baldwin Locomotive Works 0-6-0 No. 26 as it made its shuttle runs around downtown Scranton.

Tired as they were, Railcampers would not be satisfied until they had experienced Railroad Operations Day on Friday, July 24. Steamtown Chief of Railroad Operations Mark Brennan and his staff went out of their way to insure that Railcamp 1998 closed on a high note. Crammed into an all-too-short day were an Operation Lifesaver course, dispatching, yard operations, locomotive familiarization, tower operations and on-train op-



erations. Each participant was provided his own copy of Steamtown’s huge Operating Rules book, and Steamtown Engineers Seth Corwin and Bob Hutchinson guided two separate groups through most of the above areas of rail operations. A visit to Bridge 60 tower saw dispatcher Sam Botts providing hands-on completion of a train dispatching worksheet, with alternating groups receiving Form D instructions for the normal Steamtown excursion trains to Moscow and return. Engineer, brakeman and general yard procedures were also covered during this busy day.

At 5 PM, as Steamtown closed for the day, Railcampers in their familiar blue baseball caps gathered around the turntable in the Core Complex, where, with Canadian National 2-8-2 No. 3254 patiently panting in the background, Superintendent Gess, Assistant Superintendent Hagen

and Railcamp Director Larry Eastwood presented each Railcamp 1998 “graduate” with a course completion certificate. As the sun set over the Lackawanna Valley, Steamtown hosted a huge picnic provided by its employees for the staff, the Railcampers and their parents. It was a fitting way for everyone to say “thank you” for such an unusual and wonderful experience.

As Railcamp 1998 closed on Saturday morning, four different groups made presentations to their peers and parents in the auditorium of Redington Hall, from a three-evening project designed to encourage thinking about rail history preservation and how to present it. In the scenarios, Railcampers were told to revitalize a half-abandoned river town around a tourist railroad, and show how it would be financially viable. Alternate groups worked on the theoretical restoration of a Reading T-1 4-8-4, only to discover that they could not raise sufficient funding to make the project self-supporting. It was a valuable lesson in the pitfalls of historic equipment restoration which the Steamtown staff hoped Railcampers would remember as they went home, many of them to share their experience and newly-learned skills

with their local chapters.

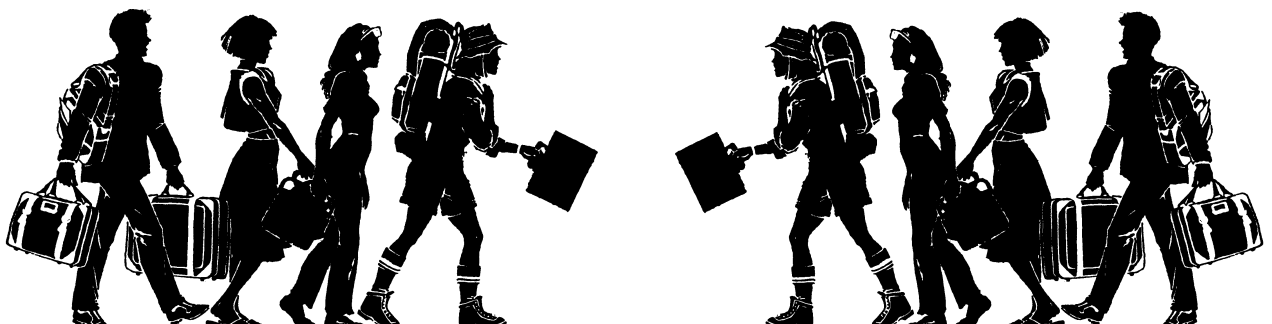
Personal belongings and dirty laundry were gathered, names and addresses exchanged along with “good-byes,” and the five counselors gathered to relax for review of the week’s events on the bench outside Gavigan Hall. Railcamp 1998 had indeed lived up to its expectations, and NRHS personnel on hand eagerly accepted Steamtown Superintendent Terry Gess’s expressed desire to make it an annual event.

As we enter 1999, plans have been made to operate two “basic” RailCamps at Steamtown, July 18-24 and July 25-31, 1999. Information can be obtained from NRHS headquarters in Philadelphia. When asked about their experience at Railcamp 1998, most attendees said they would return to repeat the same course in 1999, even if the curriculum did not change. This is certainly the best testimonial to Railcamp 1998. Nineteen young adults had the experience of a lifetime, and the five adults charged with their well-being had fun, too!

R. L. Eastwood, Jr. serves as Senior Vice President of the Society and was an NRHS counselor for Railcamp 1998.

Steamtown RailCamp - update

Derek Sands, will be leaving Jacksonville on Saturday, July 17th to attend Steamtown’s RailCamp at Scranton, PA. Sponsored by the Southeast Chapter of the R&LHS, we plan on making his departure on the Silver Meteor a media event. So we need a big bunch of our local members to come down and see him off. Our friends from the North Florida NRHS Chapter will be joining us as Derek starts his week-long RailCamp adventure. Some of us may even get together for an afternoon of railfanning in the JAX area before going to the see Derek get on the train. Our chapter is proud to promote railroading among young people by sponsoring this scholarship for Derek Sands to attend RailCamp. The Silver Meteor is scheduled to leave at 4:26 PM, so mark your calendar now and plan on spending a little time at the station on July 17th.



Minutes of the Southeast Chapter, Railway & Locomotive Historical Society

The March meeting of the Southeast Chapter, Railway & Locomotive Historical Society was held on Thursday, March 11, 1999, at 6:00 PM in the CSXT General Office Building in Jacksonville.

Treasurer's Report

- A) Dues are due.

Old Business

- A) Twenty-five copies of the Bulletin #86 Reprint sold at February's train show.
- B) The organization has received no response to the February announcement concerning the Scranton Rail Camp. Interest from local groups will be looked into.
- C) Larry Brennan and Jim Smith are to review a club web page with Don Hensley.
- D) Larry Brennan is to collect various corrections to the reprint that have been discovered. These are to be published in the ***Southeast Limited***.
- E) Discussion of Railfair '99 June 21 through June 27 in California.

New Business

- A) Again, dues are due!
- B) The group needs to make a "Chapter Activities" report for the National organization.

Committee Reports

- A) The April edition of the ***Southeast Limited*** will probably include a special insert on the "Eureka & Palisade's Iron Ponies" by C. W. Hauck. The cost is \$50.00.
- B) Trip Committee — Reid Adams reported on several local and longer trips members could take to discover railroading in the area. After much discussion some of the trips members thought sounded most favorable include a tour of Custom Car at Green Cove Springs, a tour of the St. Mary's Railroad, a historical tour of railroading in Jacksonville by Larry Brennan, and rides on Amtrak in the area.
- C) The Southeast Photo Book Committee reported on findings in the Jacksonville area and a possible trip to Tallahassee.

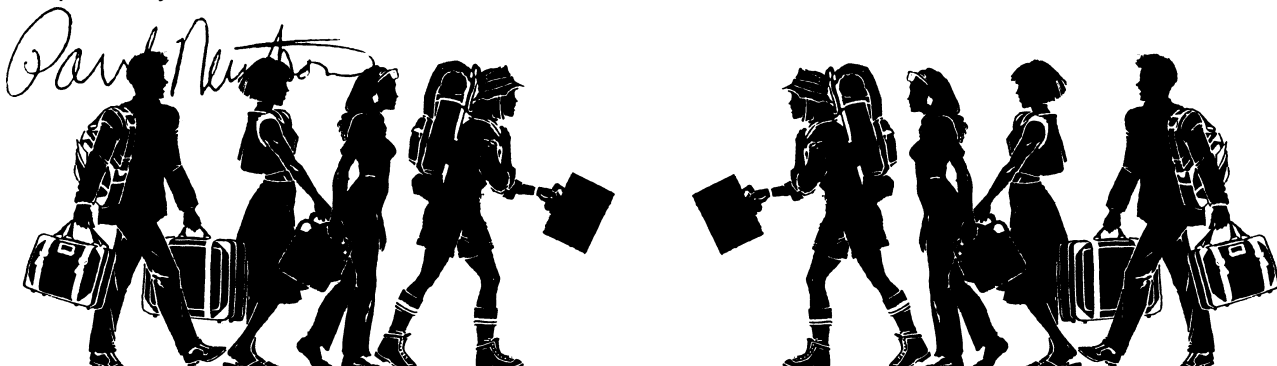
Announcements

- A) The Clay County Railroad Festival is Saturday, March 13th from 10-4.
- B) The editor of the organization's national newsletter has announced his plans to retire.

Next Meetings

Program by Gary Sease on the Farewell to Conrail. Goodies to be provided by William Howes. We are planning a joint NRHS/R&LHS meeting in April or May. The host would be Dick Hillman of the Georgia Northeastern and the meeting would tentatively be held May 13th at the CSXT Southpoint location.

Respectively submitted,



Minutes of the Southeast Chapter, Railway & Locomotive Historical Society

The April meeting of the Southeast Chapter of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society was held on Thursday, April 8th at the CSXT General Office Building in Jacksonville, Florida.

Old Business

- A) There are a lot more **Bulletin #86** Reprints to sell.
- B) Art Towson announced the group has made a final decision on a youth to sponsor and send to the Scranton Rail Camp this summer. Fifteen-year-old Derek Sands is a student at Bishop Kenney High School. Travel arrangements have been made for Derek's departure and return to Jacksonville.
- C) Larry Brennan is collecting corrections to the **Bulletin #86** Reprint.
- D) A reminder — Railfair '99 takes place June 21 through June 27.
- E) Also as a reminder — dues are due!
- F) The Southeast Chapter needs to make a "Chapter Activities" report for Nationals.

New Business

There was no new business to report.

Committee Reports

- A) Reid Adams reported on possible trips for the group to take in the coming weeks. Plans are being made to visit the Mt. Dora Scenic Railway Co. in Mt. Dora, FL. The organization is looking to head there on Saturday, May 15, and meet at the Orange Park Station at 7 AM for departure in members vehicles.
- B) Bill Howes and Art Towson are to head to Tallahassee to search for photos for a Southeast Photo Book.

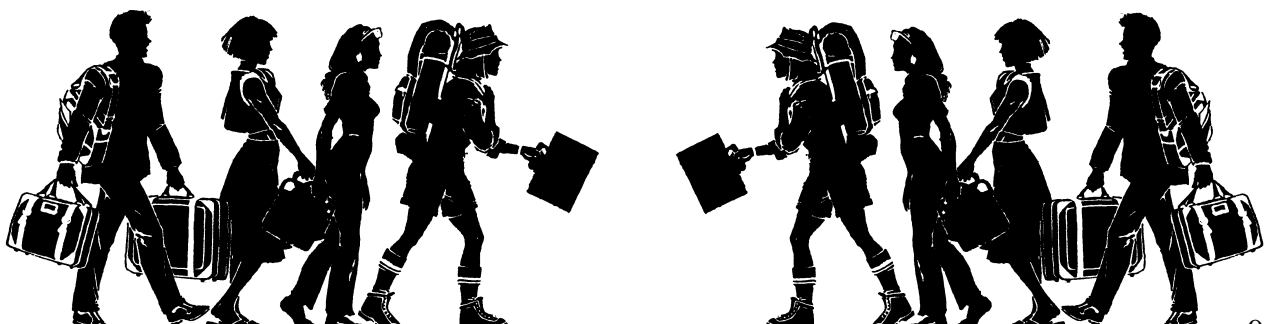
Announcements

There were no new announcements.

Upcoming Meetings

- A) The May 13th meeting will be a joint meeting with the National Railway Historical Society and will take place at the CSXT Southpoint Building 1. The program will feature Dick Hillman's accounts of the Georgia Northeastern.
- B) The June 10th meeting will feature Gary Sease's "Fairwell to Conrail". Paul Newton is to bring snacks.
- C) Derek Sands is to speak at the August meeting on his accounts of the Scranton Rail Camp.

Respectfully submitted,





A new tourist oriented rail line began operation out of scenic Mt. Dora, Fla. on December 17, 1998 over a line called the Mt. Dora Scenic Railroad. The line's lone gas-mechanical car is lettered Mt. Dora, Tavares & Eustis Railroad. The car is billed as an Edwards motor car, supposedly built by the Edwards Motor Car Manufacturing Company, of Sanford, N.C. that went out of business in the 1920s. In reality, the car is a rebuilt Philadelphia & Western 160 series Brill car that more recently was located at Keokuk, Iowa. The rebuilder, also in Iowa, has done a credible job of cloning an Edwards car, changing the end window configuration to the four-window Edwards design. However, the Brill trucks and the rivet pattern in the car sides where P&W had taken a center door out, give away the car's real heritage. [**Electric Rails, National Railway Bulletin** V64, No2, 99]

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