



# Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, Inc.

## Southeast Chapter

### Newsletter No. 98 – December, 2006

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#### R&LHS Senior Achievement Award Presented at SE Chapter Banquet to Robert G. Lewis

This year, the Southeast Chapter's Annual Banquet was held in November at the Hilltop Restaurant in Orange Park. The primary reason for this change was so our chapter could host a presentation of the R&LHS Senior Achievement Award to a gentleman who was unable to attend the regular presentation made at the October Directors meeting at Cedar Rapids, IA.

This year marks the first R&LHS Senior Achievement Award, which was given to George M. Hart of Pennsylvania and Robert G. Lewis, of Ormond Beach, FL. The November 6 banquet business meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Howes. R&LHS President, Charles Zlatkovich and his wife, Sandy, and Mark Entrop, R&LHS History Awards Chairman, were present along with a number of visitors.

Mr. Entrop presented R&LHS member and evening guest, Robert G. Lewis, with the Society's **Senior Achievement Award** based on his many years of railroad industry work. Mr. Lewis began his railroad career in 1934, working a number of jobs for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

He is perhaps most known for shaping the role of the industry's most popular trade journal, *Railway Age*. He began as an associate editor in Chicago in 1947 he became publisher in 1956 and still serves as a consultant and director of special projects. In addition to his 59 year tenure with this journal, he has written a number of books. His most recent one, *Off the Beaten Path: A Railroader's Life in Pictures*, chronicles our nation's railroads pictorially since the 1930s.

Even though he is 90 years old, Bob still likes to ride the rails - most recently on a trip with other SE Chapter members from Deland, FL to Tampa and return, including a two mile walk to visit the trolley car barn at Ybor City!

Mr. Lewis is a well known "journalist, publisher, photographer, book author, and avid rail traveler" who is eminently qualified to receive the R&LHS Senior Achievement Award!

Mr. Robert G. Lewis received the R&LHS Senior Achievement Award at the Southeast Chapter's November banquet. Shown standing, right to left, are SE Chapter Chairman, Bill Howes, R&LHS History Award Chairman, Mark Entrop, R&LHS National President, Charles Zlatkovich and his wife, Sandy.



*Southeast Limited*

## **Southeast Chapter - Recap of recent meeting Minutes:**

Their was no **October, 2006**, meeting due to the R&LHS Board meeting held at the Lexington Group get together in Cedar Rapids, IA.

The **November 6, 2006** meeting and yearend BANQUET was called to order by Chairman Bill Howes at the Hilltop Restaurant in Orange Park at 7:00 PM. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, Nominating Committee chairman, Robert Van Nest, presented a slate of SE Chapter officers for 2007. The banquet was a great success with R&LHS President, Charles Zlatkovich, Mark Entrop, R&LHS History Awards Chairman, and many visitors attending. During the meeting, Mr. Entrop presented R&LHS member and evening guest, Robert G. Lewis, with the Society's Senior Achievement Award.

The **December 14, 2006** meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Jim Smith. Treasurer John Leynes reported that we had funds totaling \$6,857.92. Under Old Business, we had a general discussion regarding our Chapter's Educational Outreach plan for the coming year. Under New Business we discussed the following items: 1) Jim Smith advised that he is studying an election procedure that would streamline our current process and will advise further next month, 2) Robert Van Nest advised that he is cataloguing Richard Dickinson's book collection for possible donation to a museum/library. He has 30 containers of books and papers which would create a "Richard Dickinson Library", 3) Jim Smith suggested that the Chapter have a sales table at the February Prime Osborn Convention Center train show. All agreed with this proposal. Our program was presented by John Leynes and included a showing of CD's regarding: the "Mandarin Train", an old Jax Zoo train, an interview with SE Chapter member, Ed Mueller regarding the history of the St. John's River and Jacksonville, an interview with country music singer by T. K. Hilton and his parents, and an extract of the "Trains & Boats & Planes" from the November Jacksonville Follies Show.

## **Southeast Chapter 2007 Elections**

At our November meeting Nominating Committee chairman, Robert Van Nest, presented the following slate of officers. Ballots are included in this newsletter. Please return yours completed ballot no later than January 10<sup>th</sup> to: SE Chapter, R&LHS, PO Box 43534, Jacksonville, FL, 32203-3534

Bill Howes	President
Jim Smith	Vice President
John Leynes	Treasurer
Art Towson	Secretary

## **Announcements:**

January 20/21, 2007 - 19<sup>th</sup> Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Deland, FL.

January 27, 2007 - North Florida Chapter, NRHS, Annual Banquet - contact Linda Carter.

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### **SOUTHEAST CHAPTER OFFICERS**

<b>William F. Howes, Jr.</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>James A. Smith</b>	<b>Vice-Chairman</b>
<b>Arthur L. Towson</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>John Leynes, Jr.</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

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Mr. Robert G. Lewis of Ormond Beach, FL, was presented the R&LHS Senior Achievement Award at the Southeast Chapter November, 2006, banquet.

Show below, right to left, are Senior Achievement Award winner, Bob Lewis, R&LHS History Award Chairman, Mark Entrop, SE Chapter Chairman, Bill Howes, SE Chapter Vice-Chairman, Jim Smith and his wife Ann, SE Chapter Secretary, Art Towson, and R&LHS National President, Charles Zlatkovich and his wife, Sandy.



**Florida Train Accidents Down 33% During First Six Months of 2006**  
**Nationwide Train Accident, Employee Casualty Rates Lowest Ever After Six Months**  
**AAR Press Release, Oct. 13, 2006**

WASHINGTON--Florida experienced twelve fewer train derailments and collisions during the first half of 2006 - a 33% reduction - as compared to the same period last year. Nationwide, U.S. railroads are on track to record their safest year in history in terms of train accidents and employee safety, according to preliminary data released by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

Across the U.S., train accidents were down 16.1 percent from the first six months of 2005, FRA Joseph H. Boardman announced. Specifically, the number of derailments decreased by 13.6 percent and train-to-train collisions fell 34.1 percent. Florida was one of 37 states that saw a reduction in incidents.

"Nothing is more important to the nation's railroads and their more than 200,000 employees than safety," said Edward R. Hamberger, president and CEO of the Association of American Railroads (AAR). "This improvement is the direct result of our efforts to maximize safety." Railroads are working closely with both the FRA and rail labor to improve safety and are developing new technology that promises further safety advances, he added. "Technology is one of the industry's greatest tools in the quest to improve safety," noted Hamberger. "Advanced train control technologies that are now being tested will reduce instances of human error, which is still the single largest cause of train accidents."

Through the first six months of 2006, the railroad train accident rate was 4.2 percent lower than in 1997, currently the safest year ever in terms of train accidents. This year's rate is also 18.4 percent below the train accident rate during the first six months of 2005. The employee casualty rate was down 9.9 percent from 2005, which set a record low rate for a full year. Employee fatalities were down 54.5 percent.

"Our industry has faced numerous challenges this year to our safety record," Hamberger continued, "including record volumes of freight and hiring thousands of new employees to operate trains, as well as to maintain tracks, signals and equipment. Our ability to improve safety under these conditions stands as a tribute to the dedication of our employees and the thoroughness of our training programs for new employees."

Also showing a reduction this year was the total number of rail-related fatalities, which was down 5.9 percent from a year ago. More than 98 percent of those involved either highway-rail grade crossing incidents or trespassers over which railroads have little control. The grade crossing incident rate was down 2.65 percent from a year ago while the number of fatalities increased by 5.8 percent. The trespasser incident rate was down 3.45 percent, while the number of fatalities was virtually the same as a year ago.

**Happy Holidays**

The officers of the Southeast Chapter hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and wish one and all a Happy New Year!