

# The Main Line



*The Newsletter of the Friends of L&N Depot • Bowling Green, Ky • Volume 3 Issue 2 • September 2008*

## Locomotive Ready To Join Consist



The much anticipated, long-awaited **E8A 796** is ready to move from Mid-American Locomotive and Car Repair in Evansville, Indiana. Thousands of volunteer hours have gone into this painstaking labor of love. After arrival in Bowling Green, four interactive exhibits and galleries will be housed in the interior, detailing the evolution of locomotive technology. Watch for more details of the exciting and long anticipated movement of the E8 into its home as the glorious head of our rail consist!



This summer the **Railroad Post Office** exterior was sand blasted, primed and painted by Donnie Firkins, Dorian Walker, Richard Warden, Joe Williams, Ken Hines and Dick Webber.

On the evenings of August 12-14, Donnie, Ken, Joe, and

Dick converged to sandblast and paint the end of the diner in preparation of moving the RPO. Then a contingent consisting of Ronnie Amos, John Forsee, Dorian Walker, Joe Williams and Dick Webber moved the 400-pound steps from the end of the Diner to the side in preparation of the move. During this time, Central Plumbing, with the assistance of Larry Bryant, Ronnie Amos and Richard Warden, worked on the installation of two public restrooms inside the RPO.



Then the exciting moment arrived! At 1:30pm on August 14, Richard Worden, Jim Lockwood and Dick Webber attempted to move the RPO in place. With the assistance of a come-a-long and a backhoe, the RPO was inched forward and connected to the Diner!

Work continues on the RPO interior, which will include two interactive galleries showcasing the business of the RPO. Bowling Green Technical College replicated a missing letterbox. Volunteers are needed to help with completion of the RPO interior.



# The All Aboard Series Begins

The former "Docent Donuts" meetings have acquired a new name with our efforts to incorporate a wider interest in the culture and experience of the rail experience at the gatherings.



The May meeting was exciting and lively as our own Ed Grimes regaled anecdotes and experiences of his days on the Railroad Post Office car. The meeting began with the viewing of the DVD "Men in Motion" in the museum theatre and afterwards a walk to the Mail Car where he demonstrated the action of the mail catcher arm.



A special presentation of a grant check from State Farm Insurance for volunteer efforts by Charles Jackson on the RPO was awarded to the Friends of L&N.

In June, Nick Wilkins, aka Broadway the Clown, took us inside Life on the Circus Train. Having graduated from Ringling Brothers and Barnum Bailey Clown School in Orlando, FL, Nick spent two years with the circus before returning to his home town of Bowling Green. Nick's visit coincided with the opening of Circus Square Park, just a few blocks from the L&N Depot.

The July meeting was attended by approximately 50 members and visitors who turned out to honor Mr. Lawrence Vance of



Glasgow, KY. At age 92, Mr. Vance is one of the oldest living Pullman Conductors in America. He joined the Pullman Company in 1940, was drafted during WWII and returned to the Pullman Company in 1945 where he was employed until 1960 when Pullman suspended its operations.



Here is the calendar for upcoming meetings and topics:

- Aug. 30 – Jonathan Jeffrey, KY Library and Archives  
***"Sights and Sounds of Warren County and the Railroad"***
- Sept 27 - Norman Warnell – Mammoth Cave National Park  
***"Mammoth Cave Railroad Excursions – Past and Present"***
- Oct. 25 – Greg Matthews – Kentucky Railway Museum –  
***"Irish Immigrants and the Railroad"***
- Nov. 29 - Trace Moore – Hart County Historical Society  
***"Battle for the Bridge" – the L&N Railroad during the Civil War***
- Dec. 27 - to be announced
- Jan. 31 – Michael Barron – Morris Jewelers  
***"Railroad Timepieces"***
- Feb. 28 – Dr. Janet Bass-Smith  
***"Railroad Music and Folklore"***
- Mar. 28 – Tommy Hines – Shaker Museum at South Union  
***"L&N RR and the Shaker Community"***
- Apr. 25 – Ray Buckberry  
***"Bowling Green and Glasgow RR Feud"***

If you have particular interest you would like to explore, call Sharon at 745-7317.

# Meet our Volunteers

It is with much appreciation and gratitude that we thank the following volunteers, in representing the Historic Railpark and Train Museum in various capacities:

## Docents

Charlie Kelly	Mike Dowell
Richard Warden	Hugh David Roe
Shirley Karrick	Jerry Barnaby
Mary Travelstead	Gil Calhoun
Ellen Linder	Pat O'Rourke
Virginia Cole	Bob Kirby
Joe McFarland	Ed Schwab
Ward Coleman	Joe Williams
Ken Hines	Bob Spiller

## Museum

Mary Travelstead	Dorian Walker
Larry Bailey	

## RailCar

Pat O'Rourke	Dick Webber
Ken Hines	Larry Bryant
Richard Warden	Donnie Firkins
Dorian Walker	Jim Lockwood
John Forsee	Joe Williams
Marshall Love	

## Maintenance

Pat O'Rourke	Jim Lockwood
Marshall Love	

## Newsletter

Dan Westphal	Rachel Adams Walston
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# Have you noticed?

Have you noticed some changes at the Depot?

- New signage on Kentucky St.
- New directional signs on the property
- Newly painted trim on the building
- Newly sealed and striped parking lot
- New sidewalk being installed along the front of the consist
- Newly painted cart in front of the Depot. Thanks to volunteer Joe McFarland during the hot, hot days of June for his effort!



Excavation for the sidewalk alongside the consist begins. The sidewalk is due to complete this fall.

# Upcoming Depot Events

We had a busy summer at the Railpark with bus tours, weddings and receptions. The fall looks to be busy as well with a variety of events.

- The Warren County Public Library annual book sale returns to Historic Railpark beginning Monday, September 15th through Sunday, September 22nd. The book sale will take place during regular Museum hours.
- Dress up and step out for Dancin' At The Depot on Friday, October 24th for an anniversary fund-raiser celebration of the L & N Depot, which officially opened in October 1925. Dancin' At The Depot will feature dancing to the melodic masters of Doc Livingston and Friends, numerous hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer and sweets. Dress up in costume from the twenties, thirties and forties or regular black tie (optional). Tickets are \$100.00 per couple and availability is limited.
- The L & N Depot will host the kick off reception for the World's Greatest Studio Tour and Art Sale on October 26th and will be a featured stop on the Tour November 1st and 2nd.
- Fountain Square Players arrives at the Depot for a mesmerizing murder mystery on Thursday, November 13th. The audience solves the twisted tale and the guilty party is cuffed and whisked to jail by Bowling Green's finest.
- Western Kentucky University Opera Theatre will present two one act operas at the Depot. Director Wayne Pope will direct Gianni Schicchi by Giacomo Puccini and Sunday Excursion by Alec Wilder on Saturday, November 22nd at 7:30 pm and Sunday, November 23rd at 3:00 pm.
- Festival of Trains is back and bigger than ever on December 6th and 7th! Come to the annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, presented by the Bowling Green Jay Cees, to see the Friends of the L & N "train float". Visit the Kentucky Museum Christmas Open House and then come to the Festival of Trains at the Depot for all kinds of holiday rail treats and Santa Claus!

**Keep watching for more details in the local media outlets.**

# Education Outreach

The Historic Railpark Train Museum continues to move forward in developing educational programming and outreach at the Historic Railpark.

Sharyn Bailey, wife of Board Chair Larry Bailey and a teacher at Moss Middle School, completed a detailed, accessible **Teachers' Resource Guide** with relevant KARA references matching a variety of educational needs. Sharyn tailored the guide based on her teaching experience as an education professional. This guide has been uploaded to our website, [www.historicrailpark.com](http://www.historicrailpark.com), and can be downloaded as a PDF document. Thank you Sharyn!

We are partnering with WKU Kentucky Library & Museum on school visits. Beginning November 2008, The **History Express** will offer teachers a full day excursion. The day will begin with a tour at either the **Kentucky Library & Museum** or the **Historic Railpark** and continue to the next location after lunch. We are focusing on Bowling Green schools and plan to grow to include Warren County in 2009. This has great potential for both venues as well as students and teachers. Christy Spurlock, Education Curator at WKU Kentucky Library & Museum has extensive experience in building one of the most dynamic education outreach programs in the region. We are also working to develop combined school tour options with the **Corvette Museum, Riverview at Hobson Grove, and Lost River Cave**. As our school tour program expands our need for docents to assist with these tours is critical, and will focus on supporting the curriculum topic of that particular group. If you have an interest in participating or know of someone who would like to help, call Sharon at 745-7317.

The **Housing Authority of Bowling Green** and The **Historic Railpark** have partnered in another education outreach program. Working with the highly successful **"We're Reaching Out To Educate"** (W.R.O.T.E.) after-school program, the Historic Railpark will provide access for focused field trips tailored to the specific needs of up to 150 students and their counselors. With numerous experiential educational opportunities available at the Historic Railpark, The **Learning Express** has great potential for students to discover a way to use a museum as a learning resource for life. The program is funded by a modest grant from the Bowling Green Enterprise Community, Inc.



Robin Cooper, Great-grandson of L&N President Milton H. Smith, and family visited the Museum this July. They pause at the end of their Railcar tour to stand at the back of the 353 which served as the personal car for his Great-grandfather.

## Meet the Staff

**Ronnie Amos** is our part-time maintenance professional. Ronnie keeps the building clean, does minor maintenance and facilitates events when needed.

**Barry Jenkins** (aka B.J.) is a graduate of WKU in the History Department. B.J. works in the capacity of tour guide, sales associate, event facilitator, and technical advisor.

**Duncan McKenzie** -Business Development Director Well known in the community for his various interests and talents, Mr. McKenzie joined the team in April 2008. His focus is marketing and development of programs and events to expand community awareness and business growth.

**Alisha Martin** is a Folk Studies graduate student at Western KY University. A native of Washington state, she joins us in the capacity of museum curator, training coordinator, sales associate and docent.

**Sharon Tabor** – Executive Director. A native of Hart County with roots in Allen, Warren, Cumberland and Christian County, Ms. Tabor returned from a long sojourn in Virginia and North Carolina to join the Friends of L&N Depot team in May 2007 as Assistant Administrator. In January 2008, Ms. Tabor was appointed Executive Director with job focus on overall facility operations

**Dan Westphal** works part-time in the gift shop a couple Sunday's per month. As a sHOW model member he brings us the knowledge of the model exhibits and railcar history.

# Volunteer Update

## Opportunity to Serve

The Friends of L&N Depot's continued growth means more opportunities to serve!

Our need for **Docents** (tour guides) is ongoing. As we continue to attract travelers and school groups there is a need for more people who love to tell the history and experience of the railroad to represent our museum. We divide large groups of people into smaller groups of 10 or less due to the close proximity of the Pullman Sleeper. We need to limit the tours to approximately 30 minutes, otherwise the groups are too large. Therefore we will eventually need 2 docents per shift, primarily on weekends.

We provide our volunteers with the following for their time:

- Training
- Annual Family Membership pass after the first 12 hours of time given
- Historic Railpark shirt or cap after 30 hours
- Annual Awards breakfast
- Annual Social

If your talent or interest isn't geared toward small groups, we have the following committee opportunities for service:

**Grounds/Landscaping** – beautification and upkeep of grounds other than cutting the lawn

**Museum** – assisting with exhibit implementation; maintain cataloguing and documentation of museum artifacts utilizing proper conservation methods and materials

**Programming/Special Events** –assist in setting up and implementation of events and fund-raising activities; assist with newsletter

**Railcar Maintenance and Restoration** – upkeep, cleaning, and maintenance of rail stock as needed.

Call 745-7317 to showcase your talents and interest in these committees!

## September Social

Our Volunteers often don't get to know each other or have the opportunity to meet. So, mark your calendar for Monday, September 29, 6pm-9pm for our Volunteer Potluck and Cookout. Weather permitting we will convene under the butterfly shed as our board members grill out hotdogs and hamburgers. In case of rain we will move indoors to the Lobby. More details will be in your mailbox soon.



Janice Smith (left) and Charmaine Gatewood (right) – daughter and granddaughter of L&N Cook Sam Travis visit the Museum this summer. Mr. Travis is featured in one of the museum's interactive displays.

## As We Grow!

One of our goals at the Historic Railpark Train Museum is to join the Smithsonian Museum as an Affiliate Member. Application was made in April of 2008 and we are still anticipating a site visit by this prestigious organization.

With this in mind, and to ensure the continuing excellence of our collection, we have offered internship opportunities to WKU Folk Study Graduate students who assist us in our growth as an infant museum.

Betty Ann Lloyd joined us for the last part of the Spring 2008 term and helped institute our Docent Training Program along with initial museum conservation practices.

In May, we had the privilege of partnering with Ms. Alisha Martin for her summer internship and she will continue with us until her graduation in May 2009.

Alisha has continued with our quarterly Docent Training class. Professionalism and excellence in service is our goal. To that end, we require that anyone who is available to provide tours on a regular or occasional basis to attend one of the classes before being included on our call list. Topics that are covered include age appropriate tours, professionalism in appearance, timing the railcar tour, safety and emergency procedures.

Alisha also presented a mini two hour seminar on Museum Conservation to a class of area museums interested in artifact conservation. Attended by our own Mary Travelstead as well as ten volunteers and staff from the Simpson County Historical Society and the African American Heritage Center in Franklin, Alisha covered the basics of storage, documentation of gifts and loans, and proper procedures required in identification and display of items. This class will be offered again in January to anyone who is interested in learning more about, and getting involved with, preservation and maintenance of our collection.

# Museum Passes Milemarkers

The J. Marshall and Judi Hughes Railroad Theatre officially opened on May 8 as part of the City Vision premiere. Over 150 people attended the dedication, including Speaker of the House Jody Richards and local dignitaries. The construction of the theatre and equipment was made possible by a generous gift from the Hughes family. Both J. Marshall and Judi have personal connections with the railroad.



On display adjacent to the 25-seat theatre is the pocket watch owned by Marshall's grandfather and used during his career on the railroad. Judi traveled frequently on the L & N with her father, Ken Given, on trips to

broadcast ball games for Western Kentucky State College. Be sure to thank the Hughes's the next time you see them.



Kentucky Rail Museum recently loaned the Historic Railpark Train Museum a baggage hand truck and scale. Both were found in the L & N offices in Louisville. We thank them for their generosity.