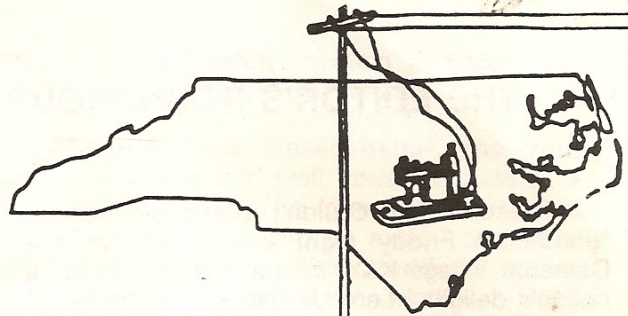


The Tarheel Telegrapher

Richard T. Lasater, Editor

The East Carolina Chapter, NRHS, is incorporated under the laws of the State of North Carolina as a non-profit organization. Contributions are solicited for our Rolling Rail Museum. All donations are tax deductible, as per the Internal Revenue Service.



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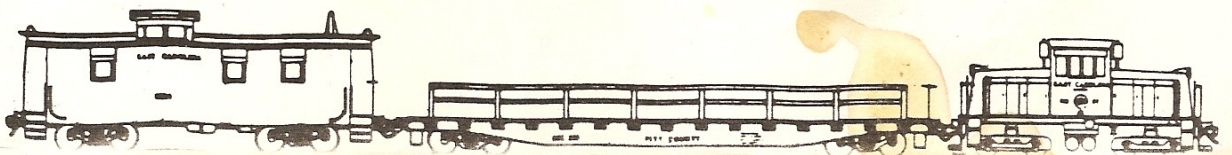
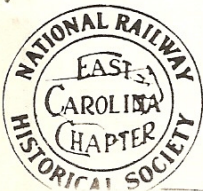


**ENGINE NO. 67 pulls out of Bonsal
carrying a full load of Open House passengers.**
(photo by Richard Lasater)

FIRST OPEN HOUSE OF 1988 IS A BIG SUCCESS

by David Younts, Mary Barham, and Richard Lasater

The first Open House for the New Hope Valley Railway 's 1988 operating season was held on Sunday, April 24th and proved to be a big success. (continued on page 4)



FIRST OPEN HOUSE OF 1988 IS A BIG SUCCESS

(continued from page 1)

Chapter members assembled at the Bonsal museum site by 11:00 A.M. Sunday morning and rushed to be ready for our first guests. Maynard Slaughter and his kitchen crew set up the refreshment stand while all other members

NORTH CAROLINA RAILROAD MUSEUM

A Project of The
East Carolina Chapter, N.R.H.S



The
New Hope Valley Railway
Welcomes You To Bonsal, NC



David Younts puts final touches on the Exhibit Car herald.

metal steps for boarding the train and for entering the exhibit car had been built by Jack Lancaster. The grass was cut and gravel areas wetted down, and two Port-a-Lets had been rented.

Everyone got into the act! Train Conductors for the day were Timmy Carroll, Bob Majors and David Younts, with Mike Everette assisting. The engine crew was Jim Wright, Bill Brooks and Melvin Best. Jim Mead and Robert Middour served as Flagmen. Jack Lancaster, Gray Lackey and Roger Barham operated the Whitcomb as the Bonsal yard switcher. David Campbell and Tom Weaver parked cars while Ralph Northcutt, Linda Crisson, Mack Lackey and Blair Slaughter assisted in loading and unloading passengers. Mary Barham acted as hostess in the Exhibit Car and later on the trains, informing passengers about our operations, and other members served as tourguides about the site. Richard Lasater manned the ticket window in the Exhibit Car, stamping tickets and getting passengers to sign release forms. Angela Campbell and the owner of the craft shop where she works ran the gift shop. Edna Snyder was on duty as First Aid Officer with her EMT bag.

The well-organized refreshment stand turned out to be a real crowd pleaser. Peggy

met for a brief safety meeting at which final crew assignments were determined.

The site never looked better. The Yard Office, outhouse and well house sported new coats of red paint. The former U.S.Army tool car was transformed into an exhibit car, complete with gift shop, railroad artifacts and a real passenger station ticket window. New

Lackey, Beth Slaughter, Maynard Slaughter and new member Jinny Reid sold hot dogs, soft drinks and snacks under a tent cover loaned by Trice Funeral Home in Fuquay-Varina. Peggy had cooked homemade hot dog chili, and Maynard had even brought a roll steamer. (Editor's note: The hot dogs were superb!)



Beth Slaughter sells hot dogs to a visitor.

We originally scheduled trains to leave at 1:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M., with provision for more if necessary. By noon, a large group of 68 persons from Durham assembled and we dispatched our first train of the day. Later, full capacity trains carrying 100 guests departed (continued on page 4)

FIRST OPEN HOUSE OF 1988 IS A BIG SUCCESS (continued from page 3)

Bonsal at 1:20 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. The last train left the station at 4:15 P.M. with 52 passengers, for a total of 320 passengers hauled that day.

Operation of the trains proceeded very smoothly. Use of the Whitcomb locomotive as the Bonsal switcher greatly simplified and speeded switching out the road engine and reassembling the trains between runs. Even though we held the last trip several minutes for stragglers, several people showed up too late to ride. They all said that they would be back on May 29. The only complaint heard was that of several persons who had to wait for a later train in order to ride on the open flat car.

The Chapter made about \$300.00 on re-

freshments and over \$350.00 in donations. Sales in the gift shop were slow, but we had many requests for Lightning Bug Route patches and T-shirts. Several persons filled out membership applications on the spot after their ride. Considering that we did little advertising, we had a good turn-out. Many of the guests said that they had read about the Open House in the April 24th Sunday Durham Morning Herald.

It was really great to see the cooperation of all of the volunteers and to hear the many compliments about our efforts from our guests. Our next Open House will be held on May 29. See you there!

Volunteers Needed: for our next two Open Houses on **May 29** and **June 26**. If you'd like to help, please call David Campbell at Bonsal, 919-362-5416 and leave a message. Any and all assistance is greatly appreciated!
