



### Planning



Working Trackside

The Board of Directors and Officers met in Roanoke on April 11-12 at the Virginia Museum of Transportation, the NWHS Archives, and the Center in the Square. The purpose of the three different meeting places was to 1) discuss a product development strategy to develop new products for our Commissary, 2) develop a communication strategy for a NWHS outreach program, 3) review on-going plans for the NWHS building on Salem Avenue, and 4) conduct the normal business of the NWHS.

Most of the NWHS's operating costs are paid for by Commissary sales. Commissary sales are dependent on having products to sell. The BoD/officers discussed how to capitalize on 611's return to service, more posters similar to the 611 Blueprint posters, diesel vs. steam, employee seniority lists, railroad maps, small quantity printing, digital projects, marketing to non-railfans, and three possible book projects. Plans are being

developed on digital projects and future books.

Peg McGuire, VMT Marketing and Communications Director, offered advice on possible communication strategies to reach both NWHS members and non-members. Based on her advice, we developed two 90 inch by 30 inch vertical banners, two handouts, ran a contest, and had multiple give-aways at the 611 Send Off in Roanoke and the Streamliners event in Spencer, North Carolina.

After touring the NWHS building and listening to proposed plans for the Archives and Commissary, the BoD approved plans to replace part of the roof and paint the building. However it was decided that additional information was required before plans on rearranging the Archives and Commissary could be approved. While at the Archives Member Wayne McKinney, author of book, *Roanoke Locomotive Shops and the N&W*, showed a video made from still photos enhanced by computer program. He presented a proposal for a documentary video on Roanoke Locomotive Shops featuring interviews of surviving employees or train crews.

The BoD held their third meeting of the NWHS term-year on June 26 prior to the opening of the annual convention. The NWHS term-year runs from July 1 to June 30. The BoD voted to:

- 1) Pursue a project of scanning the Norfolk & Western Employee Magazines. The index to the magazines would be placed on the website, and a DVD of the magazines would be offered for sale. The current intent is to provide a certain number of magazines per DVD to keep the cost low for customers who do not want a full set of the magazines.
- 2) Review the committee structure of the NWHS to determine what committees are appropriate to the NWHS in a digital age.
- 3) Develop a better communications strategy for email and web use.
- 4) Raise membership dues by \$10 for regular members and \$15 for sustaining members.
- 5) Adopt a different approach to late membership renewals. Late renewals have been costing the NWHS approximately \$7.00 per late renewal as we would send out an "Arrow" package when a member renewed late. The BoD decided to close out the renewal date 19 days earlier to coincide with the "Arrow" packaging date. A late renewer can still get a copy of the "Arrow" by adding an appropriate fee to the late renewal. This action was taken because late renewers were costing the membership account approximately \$1,000 per year.

Under "New Business" the BoD seated Hunter Atkinson, Gordon Hamilton and Ben Shank who were elected to three-year terms as Directors. The BoD elected Alex Schust to serve as Chairman, Ron Davis to serve as President, Roger Link to serve as Vice-President, Jim Flynn to serve as Treasurer, and David Lugar to serve as Secretary. These are one-year terms.

### Membership Dues Increasing on January 1, 2015

The January 2014 *Talk Among Friends* noted that after the membership related bills were paid there was about 50¢ left over from each regular membership to go towards paying the operating expenses of the NWHS. After considerable discussion and financial analysis of all the NWHS revenue streams during the last three board meetings, the Board of Directors voted on June 26, 2014, to raise regular membership dues from \$35 to \$45 per year and sustaining membership dues from \$50 to \$65 per year effective January 1, 2015.

I have been a NWHS member for approximately 12 years and this is the first time my membership dues will have increased. Over those years NWHS has increased the *Arrow* pages from 144 pages per year to 160 and gone to a heavier paper with an all-color format for the *Arrow*, added a website, launched two electronic mailing lists, added a Facebook page, and added an electronic newsletter. The dues increase will allow us to continue to increase membership services and have a member's dues provide a larger contribution to the operation and maintenance expense of the NWHS.

Alex Schust

## Features

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## NWHS Calendar of Events - 2014

|           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| Jul 10-13 | Archives work session |
| Jul 26    | GOB-East work session |
| Aug 7-10  | Archives work session |
| Aug 9     | Lynchburg Rail Day    |
| Aug 23    | GOB-East work session |
| Sep 11-14 | Archives work session |
| Sept 27   | GOB-East work session |

## NWHS Activities

### NWHS Headquarters

The NWHS is headquartered at 2101 Salem Ave SW in Roanoke, Virginia. The NWHS-owned building houses part of the NWHS Archives, the commissary, meeting space, a warehouse, and storage space for NWHS-owned equipment. Ben Shank, a member of the NWHS Board of Directors, is the building supervisor.

We completed the last of the building modifications required to meet Fire Department regulations and have passed the required inspection.

In May we hired a contractor to replace part of the buildings roof at a cost of approximately \$17,000. In June we hired a contractor for approximately \$5,000 to pressure wash and paint our building.

As part of our normal operations we have a rodent/pest service that sprays for pests once a month, and a cleaning service that cleans the building after every Archives work session.

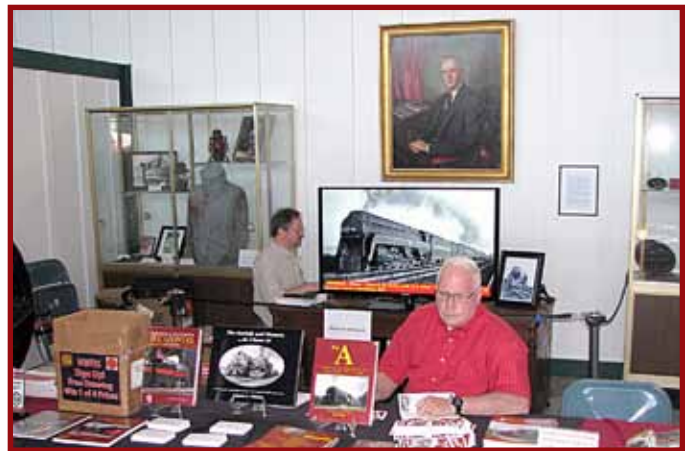
### 611 Send Off/Streamliners at Spencer

As part of our Outreach program, NWHS participated in the “611 Send Off” in Roanoke on May 24 and the “Streamliners at Spencer” event at Spencer, NC during May 29 - June 1.

We used our new banners to attract people and our large screen TV to run a random slide show of NWHS Archives and activities. We had multiple give-aways – Old Arrow magazines, the Commissary, 8.5 by 11 Class J poster with NWHS facts on back including vision and mission statement, single sheet convention flyers, membership applications, whistles and coloring books. We displayed eight of our publications. We ran a free drawing featured three NWHS published books and one-year membership.

NWHS members Harold Davenport, Jim Flynn, Larry Hill, Roger Link, David Lugar, Alex Schust, and Ben Shank spent time at the “611 Send Off” talking to about 300 people and handing out close to 200 membership applications. We had 151 entries in our free drawing. We got to meet and talk to a number of NWHS members and solicit their views on NWHS, archives, eTAF, the survey, etc.

We used the same set up and had the same give-aways as we used at the “611 Send Off” for the “Streamliners at Spencer.” NWHS members Harold Davenport, Ron Davis, Larry Evans, Roger Link, David Lugar and Bucky Wilson spent time meeting and greeting the hundreds who stopped by our display. We had 140 entries in our free drawing.



Roger Link at the computer and Jim Flynn at the table finalizing our display before the crowd started arriving at VMT for the 611 Send Off.



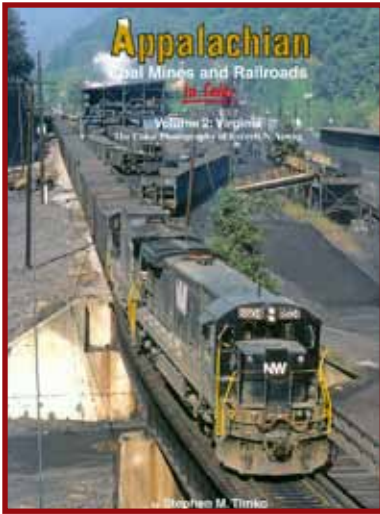
Left - VMT before the crowd. Right - Harold Davenport recruiting new members. All VMT photographs by Alex Schust



Skip Salmon photographed 611 from the 10th bridge as it left for Spencer on May 25. He also photographed the train as it went through Hardy, Virginia on the old Virginian tracks



Roger Link photographed 611 at Spencer on May 30



**Appalachian Coal Mines and Railroads (in Color), Volume 2: Virginia**, by Stephen

**NWHS Book Review**

M. Timko, features the color photography of Everett N. Young. This 128 page, hardbound book from Morning Sun Books, contains 273 color photographs that Everett took in southwest Virginia. The photographs are dated from 1973 to 2005.

There are 130 N&W/NS photographs from the N&W's Clinch Valley District including the main line, Dry Fork Branch, Coal Creek Branch, Dumps Creek Branch, Big Creek Branch, Wyatt Cutoff, Buchanan Branch, Levisa Branch, and Dismal Creek Branch. If you add in the former Interstate/Southern operations there are an additional 53 photographs featuring Southern/Norfolk Southern operations. The remaining photographs are from the Clinchfield, L&N, and CSX Transportation operations.

Each photograph caption notes the location and date of the photograph. Two end-sheet maps and two in-text maps help the reader find the general location of the photograph.

One of the interesting things about the book is the span of years at a location. As an example, photographs on Dumps Creek Branch were taken in 1973, 1984, 1991, 1998, 2000 and 2004. This 31-year span of photographs show the change in

locomotive power used on the branch line and the change in the branch line. Everett's 1998 photograph of Sandy Ridge Tunnel was taken before the tunnel was abandoned in 1999.

The importance of this book from a historical perspective is the photographic documentation of a disappearing part of our railroad and coal mining history. Some of the photographs are of parts of the railroad and coal mines that have been abandoned since the photograph was originally taken.

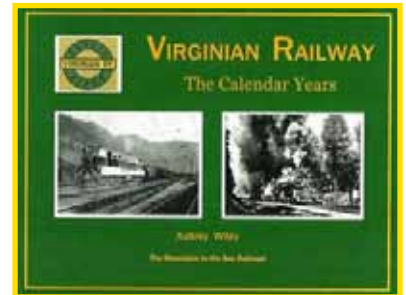
While not a major distraction, the book could have used better attention in editing to provide consistency in nomenclature. Two captions point to the wrong photograph. Regardless, the book is a valuable edition to any railroad fans library. SKU# 138.181

*Alex Schust*

**New at the Commissary**

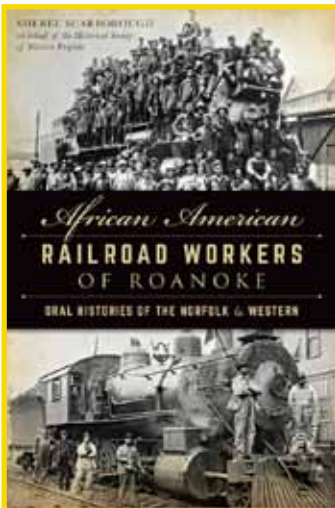


The NWHS 2015 Calendar features 16 classic black and white photos of steam and diesel. The dates of the photographs range from 1932 to 1987. Five of the photographs were taken in the 1950s. SKU# 131.03H



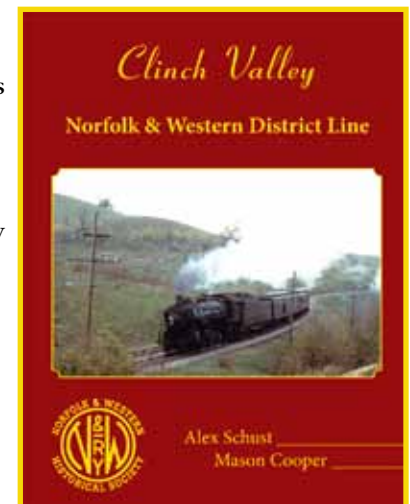
*Virginian Railway: The Calendar Years*, by Aubrey Wiley. This 132-page, soft-cover book has over 155 classic pictures from private collections that show a variety of Virginian Railway subjects and locations in Virginia/West Virginia from 1906 through the merger in 1959. The large, almost full page

pictures include employees, passengers, all types of locomotives, all types of rolling stock, structures, wrecks and beautiful scenes with informative, in-depth captions. These are the best from the first 10 years of the Virginian Classic Calendars plus many other photos. SKU# 138.182



*African American Railroad Workers of Roanoke: Oral Histories of the Norfolk & Western* by Sheree Scarborough. Ms. Scarborough developed this 160-page book on behalf of the Historical Society of Western Virginia. The interviews range from janitors and track workers to engineers, conductors and railroad executives. All from Roanoke, Virginia. SKU# 138.183

NWHS's newest Branch Line series book, *Clinch Valley: Norfolk & Western District Line*, expected to be available by September 2014, is projected to be over 200 pages long as it covers the Clinch Valley District mile by mile. The book is developed around the 1916 Resurvey, the 1916 N&W Industrial Guide, and 1917 ICC Valuation of the Clinch Valley main line and each of its major branch lines. The 1916 Resurvey included details on 43 different Clinch Valley spurs and branches. Details on the construction of the District Line are taken from the original 1886-1892 construction ledgers. There are over 80 photos, 175 drawings and 40 maps to illustrate and guide the reader through the history of the railroad. SKU# 139.19



## Archives Report

### March - April - May Work Sessions

We had 18 attendees at the work session in March, 24 in April and 18 in May. The larger number in April was because the Board of Directors were meeting in Roanoke. There was a cadre of 17 members who attended two or more of the work sessions at Salem Avenue. This cadre included: Hunter Atkinson, Jim Blackstock, Harry Bundy, Ron Davis, Landon Gregory, Gordon Hamilton, Larry Hill, Chris & Harold Hunley, Roger Link, Louis Newton, Skip Salmon, Charlie Schlotthober, Ben Shank, Joe Shaw, Dave Stephenson and Aubrey Wiley.

Bob Cohen, Harold Davenport, Larry Evans, Rob Fisher, Dick Kimball, Dave Lugar, Eddie Mooneyham, Cecil Price, Gary Rolih, Alex Schust, and Brent Stevens attended one of the three work sessions.

All NWHS members are welcome to attend the Archives work sessions, which are held on the second weekend of each month. Session hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Sunday.

### Specific Research Requests

Much of the administrative and research work for research requests is done outside archives work sessions. Archive volunteers handled 36 specific research requests over the February, March, and April time period. Some specific research requests included:

- 1) Landon Gregory and Harry Bundy worked on research requests for VGN AFE copies, and a replica of the Bristol station schedule board circa 1925.
- 2) Harry Bundy and Louis Newton developed timetable information for a replica of the Bristol station schedule board. One interesting observation is that the Southern trains were listed on Central Standard Time, but the N&W trains were on Eastern Standard Time.

### General Archives Activities

There is a considerable amount of database work done at every work session. In March (1) Joe Shaw, Jim Blackstock, Roger Link and Ron Davis entered over 500 drawings in the HS-B and C series, (2) John Swann completed the locator numbers for the alphabetical-by-railroad section of the Library, working from home. In April (1) Joe Shaw entered nearly 650 drawings from various sources (e.g., VMT, Roanoke Chapter NRHS), (2) Jim Blackstock, Roger Link, and Ron Davis entered over 75 drawings in the HS-series from VMT, Library of Virginia, and the Virginia Tech collection. Roger Link also entered several photos of the N&W Male Chorus. In May (1) Joe Shaw worked on the HS series drawings for box cars and covered hoppers, (2) Roger Link added photos of the N&W model railroad, mechanical drawings and HS series drawings, (3) Dick Kimball entered slides mostly from the Durnwald collection, (4) Ron Davis and Jim Blackstock worked with the HS series drawings, and (5) Hunter Atkinson organized items from the Gillum Collection and entered them into the database.

Many individuals worked on assorted long-term projects. Harry Bundy and Landon Gregory continued their ongoing effort of flattening, classifying and processing drawings from the HS series. Joe Shaw continued his work on the freight car Hollinger boxes. Skip Salmon entered data from several VGN post cards. Louis Newton continued

researching data for his upcoming articles in *The Arrow*. Eddie Mooneyham, Chris Hunley and Cecil Jones refilled a large backlog of drawings.

Gordon Hamilton sorted through slides of the old Roanoke Transportation Museum in Wasena Park and is organizing them into a presentation about the old museum for a meeting of Roanoke Chapter NRHS.

Hunter Atkinson continued his work on bills. He also worked on membership and started research on the Norfolk & Petersburg. As a special project Hunter developed N&W magazine page counts for a potential DVD conversion project.

Charlie Schlotthober and Larry Hill scanned and printing drawings for sales orders and scanned drawings from the archives collection. Charlie also helped several visitors with their research projects. Perhaps the most significant was finding a model that may answer the question, what is the right shade of Tuscan Red for the Class J stripe.

Dave Stephenson accessioned items on the donation table, entered new library books into the database, compared the library inventory



Chris Hunley sorts through drawings on April 11, 2014. Alex Schust photograph



Hunter Atkinson uses one of the Archives work stations to search the on-line data base on April 11, 2014. Alex Schust photograph

with the new locator codes, and secured a donation of locomotive photo safety cards. One of the more interesting donated items was a book, "Demonstration of Heavy Tonnage Train Handling" from the Virginian Ry. The test was conducted from May 24 to 27, 1921. This was forwarded to us from the PRRT&HS archives. Another was a collection of photos commemorating Afro-American employees of the N&W. They document Charles Hale's employment on the N&W and as a member of the N&W Male Chorus. Other items of interest were (1) Virginian EL-C instruction manual, two FM parts catalogs from P&WV and Virginian, 1966 Car and Locomotive Cyclopedia, Operating manuals for SD45, GP35, SD35, U25b from Bill Mason; (2) an

additional copy of the book, Modern Coal-Burning Locomotives, an ad for Robitussin featuring N&W 578, and several items from the Powhatan Arrow dining car service from Ken Hicks; and (3) N&W trading cards with safety mottoes from Lee Ash.

## GOB-East Archives Activities

GOB East work sessions were held February 22, March 22 and April 26. Ron Davis, Robert Ervine, Landon Gregory, Gordon Hamilton, Roger Link and Joe Shaw attended two or more of the work sessions. Tom Salmon and Brent Stevens attended one of the work sessions.

In February, Joe Shaw brought Rob Ervine, a friend from work, to join the GOB-East work sessions. Rob returned for the March and April work sessions.

Tom Salmon continued his research on the early history of the Virginian Railway. He scanned a number of pages of correspondence from the Deepwater and Tidewater railways. The wooden boxes the letters had been stored in for many years were crumbling and falling apart so Ron Davis and Tom repackaged them into acid-free file folders and Hollinger boxes.

Gordon Hamilton continued with his review of Deepwater and Tidewater topographic maps used to lay the route of the Virginian Railway. There are a number of surprises there that Gordon is looking to publish in a future "Nuggets" article in "The Arrow."

Landon Gregory concentrated on flattening rolled drawings with the mangle press. He was helped by Brent Stevens and Rob Ervine. Joe Shaw worked on trimming the flattened drawings.

Considerable effort was expended by Joe Shaw, Rob Ervine and Brent Stevens in sorting and moving books and drawings from pallets and onto shelves in the Virginia Tech room. This included sorting through the Roanoke Chapter collection drawings. Enough shelf space was cleared so that the remaining pallet of large rolled drawings could be placed on shelves to better protect them until they can be processed. The contents of 1½ pallets were placed on shelves. During the three work sessions enough space was freed up to move four pallets from the hallway.

## Visitors to the Archives

In March, Cecil Jones spent most of Saturday at the archives with Charlie Schlotthober and Dave Stephenson. He is interested in volunteering. Joyce Taylor delivered two boxes of N&W magazines in March that her father had acquired. They will be used to fill in parts of our collection.

Gary Wood and Tommy Duncan (both retired from N&W/NS) stopped by for a visit in April.

In May John Holm and David McCall visited the archives looking for information on the Winston-Salem Line for modeling purposes. Harry Bundy and Dave Stephenson assisted them in finding track charts and some miscellaneous papers. New member Matt Stevens also stopped by in May and expressed interest in volunteering. Dave gave him a tour of the archives and a sample of the type of work that we do. We hope to see him again.

## Archive Equipment and Work Space

Roger Link replaced the Roanoke computer located beside the laser printer, and the Eggleston scanning station. This should conclude our major computer upgrades. There are other smaller changes planned.

Since we have over 50,000 slides in our collection, we purchased a high speed 35 mm slide scanner. We plan to install it at the June.

Over the last year we have upgraded our research work stations with new computers, purchased a new printer to replace our old printer we could no longer get parts for, purchased a new high speed scanner for drawings, purchased a

high speed 35 mm slide scanner, purchased a Blu-ray DVD player and a 50-inch HD TV. All of this equipment is being used to meet our Mission and Vision statements.

### Archive Donations

Bob Bowers donated his slide collection to NWHS. The collection consists of 37,396 slides in 54 metal boxes covering diesels, cabooses and maintenance-of-way equipment.

The Tom English Estate (Model Railroad Services) donated several cartons of N&W decals. Charlie Schlotthober is inventorying the cartons. Many of these decals will fill slots listed as “Temporarily Out of Stock” in the Commissary.

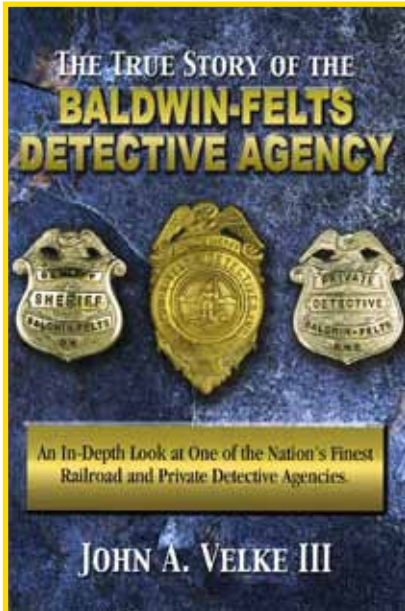
### A License to Volunteer

You don't need a license to volunteer at the Archives, but many volunteers do like to show their support to railroading, the Norfolk & Western/Virginian, and the NWHS. Photographed on April 11, 2014 by Alex Schust.



## NWHS 30th Anniversary Convention

The 30th Anniversary edition of the NWHS's annual convention was held in Roanoke June 26-29. There were 104 pre-registered participants and an additional three registered at the convention. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to visit the NWHS Archives, go on four tours (that visited six places), listen to 10 seminars/clinics, attend a cookout at the Virginia Museum of Transportation (where you could photograph multiple trains that went by and take a short trip on a train operated by the Roanoke Chapter of NRHS), and attend a banquet and breakfast. Or just visit and renew old acquaintances and make new friends.



The seminars/clinics were balanced between five historical presentations, two modeling clinics, a photographic tour of the N&W lines that radiated from Roanoke, and in-depth seminar of signal operation on the N&W. The most talked about seminar was the presentation by John Velke on the Baldwin-Felts Detective Agency which acted as special agents for the N&W. William Baldwin, founder of the detective agency, was Velke's great-uncle and Velke's grandfather was one of the agency's detectives. The NWHS Commissary will have a limited supply of Velke's books to sell in August.

Rather than a traditional banquet speaker, Ron Davis, Rick Stone and Jim Brewer delighted the crowd with a presentation on the NWHS that covered the 30 years of the organization's existence.

The convention also honored those members who volunteer so much of their time to keep the NWHS one of the top railroad historical societies in the world. Award recipients were:

The *Precision Transportation Award* was given to Steve Summers and John Munson  
 Charlie Schlotthober received the *Brakeman Award*  
 H. Reid Memorial Award was given to Landon Gregory  
 Frank Bongiovanni received the *Golden Arrow Award*



On June 28 over 90 attended the two tours of the restored Virginian Station. The tours included orientation, tour of the building and grounds, display of Virginian artifacts, and an aerial photo of the old Virginian complex in Roanoke. A DVD showed Skip Salmon's 2009 interview with VGN Yardmaster-Roanoke Rufus Wingfield telling of his VGN career. Mr. Wingfield passed away in 2010. The DVD is an example of other interviews Skip has done and is still doing of former VGN RWY employees to be shown to visitors when the Station is completely restored. Each conventioneer was given a "goody bag" when they boarded the bus to leave.

In the top photo, conventioneer Frank Bongiovanni, kneels in front of Virginian Electrical Foreman-Mullens Greely Wyatt as the guru of VGN electric locomotives answers Frank's questions.



In the bottom photo, Jim Cosby is next to the P. Buckley Moss print given to the Station by the artist and Landon Gregory is at the end of the table. The other men at the table include Dewey Houck, Raymond East, Wis Sowder, Gordon Glen, Greely Wyatt and Frank Breedlove. The Virginian Brethren sitting at the VGN artifact table explained the items and answered questions. Artifacts included: Virginian Railway AG whistle, builder's plates, Trust plate pattern, map of Deepwater-Tidewater, VGN bowling team plaque, phone jack from office, shovel, date stamp, lantern, switch lock with key, pantograph wire, high voltage signs, insulator, Harriman award, sugar bowl from VGN business car and VGN Special Agent Joe Byrum's badge and ID. Also shown were items found in the rubble during Phase I Construction.

*Skip Salmon photographs*



# A Smattering of Convention Photos from Friday

Convention photos are being posted to the NWS web site at:  
<http://www.nwhs.org/convention/2014roanoke/photos/>

