

# ROWLESBURG RIVER LINES



Rowlesburg Revitalization Committee, Inc. Website: <http://www.rowlesburg.org> Newsletter # 5 - December, 2005



P.O. Box 135  
Rowlesburg, WV 26425

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Your Name engraved  
on a Brick

Join RRC - \$10 per year  
\$200 Lifetime

## Greetings to Friends, Near and Far and Merry Christmas to All

After two years in office, Co-Chairs Katie Wolfe and George Nassif and Secretary Anna Nassif chose not to serve another term. Our time as officers was very rewarding and we feel we accomplished some good things. RRC elected a new Executive Committee listed on the left.

## Labor Day Weekend:

The Town of Rowlesburg, Park/Ambulance/Fire Department (PAF), RAHS, RRC, and Greater Downtown Rowlesburg all worked together to make Labor Day Weekend a smashing success, despite the price of gasoline. From Saturday through Monday, the town was a flurry of activity with the depot dedication, model railroad train displays, bicycle road trip, carnival rides, trips to Cannon Hill, socializing in the RRC tent, lots of food, duck race, ox roast and fireworks. Photos are posted on the website at <http://www.rowlesburg.org>

On display at the depot are two B&O model trains donated to RAHS by RRC and installed by Walter Shaver. They run along tracks built around the upper perimeter of the depot, with tunnels and all. Also housed in the depot are a wealth of photos, items of historical significance, railroad memorabilia, and some original depot furnishings, all in the capable hands of Curator Lucille Grimm. See the historical society's webpages @ <http://www.rowlesburg.org/rahs.html>

## Class Picture Book:

We had excellent response to the picture book with all but one class represented from RHS. Over Labor Day Weekend we collected close to 100 names of people who will purchase one when they become available. Katie & Walter Burke are in the process of getting quotes from publishers so we hope to have a price soon. The book will be in the \$25 - \$35 range. We'll

let you know when they are ready.

## Email Address?

If you have email and want to be notified of special announcements or events, send an email to Katie Wolfe at [kvwo@comcast.net](mailto:kvwo@comcast.net) with "my email address for RRC" in the subject line. We promise not to stuff your mailbox with junk mail and will not give or sell your address to others.



## Thanks for Bricks

We are so grateful for your generosity. You came through like troopers and bought enough bricks to make the walkway a really attractive addition to Main Street Garden and downtown Rowlesburg. With five new trees, seven benches, black-eyed susans, butterfly bushes and chrysanthemums lining the walkway, the garden was spectacular in the fall. New orders for bricks will be held and placed in the walkway after the spring thaw.

## Donations are Welcome:

Engraved bricks and engraved 8 x 8 tiles are still available for purchase.

The gazebo is estimated to cost around \$2,400 for building materials plus labor. A list of donors will be placed in the garden.

**We are asking for carpenter and "go-fer" volunteers who will build the**

**gazebo after we purchase the materials in the spring of 2006. If you're willing to volunteer your time, please call Shirley Hartley at 304 329-1240.**

We are also accepting donations for gazebo materials, street lamps, waste containers and other items for future placement in the historic district.

Unrestricted gifts are certainly welcome.

### **RHS Community Center::**

Through efforts of RRC member , Charles Felton, we were encouraged to apply for grants to purchase and renovate the old Rowlesburg High School.

**Eureka!!!! We've been approved** to formally apply for a \$200,000 grant from the Department of Transportation's Enhancement Program which grants funds that are used directly to impact WV highways and transportation. On good advice, we chose to join with Scenic Byways who will maintain a welcome center in the school. RT 72 from Kingwood to Rowlesburg (the river road) is described as a "crown jewel" in the WV Scenic Byway program and it goes directly by the school. Because the catch word these days is "tourism", we will focus on that and include Friends of the Cheat and the new Mayor's Task Force on Tourism, as well as set aside space in the building for future accommodations for overnight guests. Also in the building, we will rent out space for a WV craft shop, coffee shop, and antique shop. The present owner, Appalachian Whitewater Rafting, will lease back space for their business and, in the future, when Rails to Trails is complete, a bike shop can serve cyclists.

The Intent-to-Apply form was submitted in November and **we just received word that our proposal has been accepted.** We now will make formal application with a detailed plan on how the funds will be spent, a business plan to explain how the project will be managed and will submit proof of **matching funds of 20%**. All of this must be submitted by **January 15th.**

**That means we must have \$40,000 in matching funds in order to qualify for the grant. So, we are appealing to you to help us by pledging \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000 or more, as your financial situation allows. At this point, we need only pledges, not cash. When finally approved, we will need the cash.**

**Donors will be recognized in the following manner:**

**\$10,000 - Front entry plaque**

**\$5,000 - Your name on a classroom door**

**\$1,000 - 5 names on a classroom door**

**\$500 - 10 names on a classroom door**

**\$100 - Names on hallway plaque**

**\$1 - \$99 - Names on hallway plaque**

Please call in or email your pledges to:

Doris Wolfe Rooks -352 726-2223 (Jan 3-25 - 304 454-9707)  
dorisrooks@earthlink.net

Katie Wolfe Orescanin 630 879-6955 (Jan 3-25-304 454-9634)  
kvwo@comcast.net

Anna Nassif - (608) 255-6624 Annarnas@aol.com

Shirley Hartley - 304 329-1240 shartley812@verizon.net

**If you need a year-end tax deduction, send your check now and we will deposit it as restricted RHS funds and hold it until needed.**

This grant application is sponsored by the Town of Rowlesburg, which will then sub-grant the funds to RRC.

### **Railroad Spike**

Walter Shaver has designed some shiny engraved railroad spikes depicting Tray Run Viaduct with train crossing and the wording "B&O Railroad, Rowlesburg, WV, M&K Junction". They are perfect paperweights for you or as a gift. 50 of them are in production now and are available to buy at \$30 each plus \$4 shipping.



### **Rowlesburg Economy**

Think about depositing some extra cash you have "just laying around" into an account at First Community Bank in Rowlesburg. It will help the economic health of the town. The interest rates are competitive: \$5,000 CDs yield 3.51 percent for 11 months, and \$1,000 CDs yield 1.5 percent for six months.

### **W W II Museum**

Jef and Maggie DeWeirdt Verswyvel moved their "Black Box" miniature airplane parts business from Main Street to the old Sanders Sawmill offices on RT 72. In addition, artist Jef has designed and sculpted authentic, realistic, life-size models of World War II fighters as well as smaller war paraphernalia to create a magnificent display. The museum had a gala opening of "**The Greatest Generation**" on Veteran's Day and will be open to the public the first of April. What a treat for tourists to the valley!!

### **Rope's End Restaurant**

Several Vietnam veterans are opening a new restaurant and bar in the old Black Box location (next to Gloria Dean's Curiosity Shoppe) on Main Street. They plan to open on January 1, 2006. At last, a good restaurant is coming to town!!

## **Listen to the Call of the Hills**

### **Tourism:**

The Mayor's Tourism Commission has been organized to promote tourism in the valley. Chairman Tim Weaver and his committee members are researching ways to attract visitors to come and see Cannon Hill, Cheat River Scenic Byway, Tray Run Viaduct, the RAHS Depot, W W II Museum and many other historic and scenic locations. The valley is also great for cycling and whitewater rafting. Maybe they will convince someone to open a B&B.

### **Raffle**

Thank you for buying tickets for the bird raffle. Rowlesburg residents won both the eagle and the pelican.

### **Brick Orders since last newsletter**

111 bricks & 1 family tile: Raymond Nagle, Robert Proudfoot, Mary Virginia Jones, James & Lula Gary, Judy Kimble Beeson, George & Lilan Grimm, Jack & Mary Sanders, Neil & Ellen Whitehair, Doran Ford, Diann Keener, Inky & Bettye Pyles, Harry Funk, Francis Deakins, RHS Class of 1953, Bo Thompson, Roger Richards, VFW Auxiliary Cannon Hill Post 3008, Jeanine Caniford Yesenofski, John Wilson, Beulah Myers Shahan, Hugh & Helen Felton, Duncan & Ruth Tichnell, Doug DeMoss, Darrell Dean, Jr. Darlene Adams, Kathleen Orescanin for Delbert Wolfe, Maryellen Wiles, Betty Miner Hartley, Richard Baumgardner, Sr., Franklin & Bessie Hixenbaugh, Paul & Andrea Wolfe, Helen Loughrie, Algretta Martin, Joseph Nassif, Doris Rooks for Bever family, Sandra Corder Waters, Phillip & Mary Wotring, Roxanne Weaver Hare, Jacqueline Miller Hare, Suds Powell, (Inky Pyles, Bob Pyles, Dutch Bolyard, Jack Goff & Bub Hart for Coach Ayersman), Jerold & Betty Hare Knotts, George & Nila Lipscomb, VFW Cannon Hill Post 3008, Alta Shaver Watkins, Karen Ayersman Smith, Nancy Loughry West, Mr & Mrs Wallace Shatzer, Patricia Loughry Goff, RRC for Dick Baumgardner, Eugene & Joan Bonner Faris, Dan Loughrie, Rowlesburg Masonic Lodge #165, Anna Nine Henline, Patsy Nice Hovatter, Leon McCreary, Katheryn Beasley, Orpha Rogers Loughry, Gerald & Lucille Milslagle Cathell, RHS Class of 1958 in memory of Bill Wiles.

### **"New" Caboose**

### **"New" Caboose**

As George Nassif so eloquently states, "we have an original B & O Caboose that ended its active career in Rowlesburg prior to being in Cool Springs Park, returning to sit in triumphant glory on the site hallowed by heroes in battle defending the town, the bridges and the B&O". George has such a way with words! The "new" caboose was donated to RAHS by Harlan Castle of Cool Springs and transported to its site at the depot by Timothy Weaver. With help from volunteers (Paul Riggs, Allen Six, Don Shields and Jim Weaver) and out of pocket expenditures, Tim gave the caboose new windows and fresh paint to make it a spectacular addition to the town of Rowlesburg.



*photo by Tim*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from all of us at RRC,

Katie Wolfe Orescanin, Editor  
Rowlesburg River Lines

