



# The Order Board

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## ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC TIME AGAIN



Photo by Bob Mount

Once again it is time for the annual meeting of the members of the Haley Tower Historical & Technical Society. The meeting is followed by the annual picnic - a tradition that pre-dates the formation of the Society. Further information on the time and date will be found on page 3.

Items of business that will come before the members this year will include the secretary's report on the 2003 meeting/picnic and the treasurer's report on finances for the 2003 fiscal year. President Bill Foster will then report on progress at the Wabash Valley Railroaders Museum during the past year.

The constitution of the Society needs no changes this year so no votes will be taken in that area. However, three positions on the board of directors must be voted on at this year's meeting. Members present at the meeting will vote on the office of president and will also vote on two directors' positions.

Nominations will be taken at the meeting so this is the opportunity for anyone interested in serving on the board to step forward. The only requirement is a willingness to serve.

Society president Bill Foster has agreed to serve another three-year term if re-elected. A message from Bill appears on page two of this newsletter.

Directors Charlie Foster and Bill Eccles have reached the end of their terms in office. Both have indicated that they are ready to serve another three years and will therefore be up for re-election.

After the Society's business has been conducted members will hold their picnic with the food and the grill provided by the Society. Members should bring their choice of non-alcoholic beverage and lawn chairs. A person to do the cooking will be drafted from among those present.

The afternoon will also provide the chance for members and other visitors to see the progress made at the Museum during the past year. The biggest change will be seen in the viewing mound. It will now be easier to see the signals at West Haley because the top surface of the mound is much closer to the fence. Also, by the time members receive this issue the top of the mound should also be covered by brick pavers.

Attendees will also view the many items acquired recently such as the concrete signal bungalow, color position light signals, a very old time clock from the Big Four depot and the logo mosaic also from that depot.

The directors and officers hope that many Society members will attend this year's meeting and picnic on August 28.

Greetings folks:

I was asked if I have any "words of wisdom" to the members to include with this ORDER BOARD. So, here's a little something I got in my e-mail.

When you have an "I Hate My Job" day, try this. On your way home from work, stop at your pharmacy and go to the thermometer section and purchase a rectal thermometer made by Johnson and Johnson. Be very sure you get this brand.

When you get home, lock your doors, draw the curtains and disconnect the phone so you will not be disturbed. Change into very comfortable clothing and sit in your favorite chair, open the package and remove the thermometer.

Now, carefully place it on a table or a surface so that it will not become chipped or broken. Now the fun part begins - Take out the literature and read it carefully.

You will notice that in small print there is a statement, "Every rectal thermometer made by Johnson and Johnson is personally tested" Now, close your eyes and repeat out loud five times, "I am so glad I do not work for quality control at Johnson and Johnson."

On a more serious note, as my second term as "elected President" comes to an end (I think I had been quasi President during the 10 previous years), I am very proud of what we have accomplished in just 6 years. To put it in the words of a local businessman, we have "created a Landmark!"

We've rescued 6 railroad related buildings/structures (2 interlocking towers, 1 depot, 1 bungalow and two steel out-buildings), two Monon baggage carts, pieces of the former Terre Haute Big Four Depot and numerous pieces of railroad signal equipment; including one of the original switch motors from the Haley interlocking. This list goes on. We've also got several acres of commercial real estate as well. All of this more or less follows our 5-year master plan, as presented to the Wabash Valley Community Foundation and the folks at CSXT in 1999. While there are a few variations and we do not have a caboose on the property just yet, we have a lot to be proud of.

One of the items in the master plan was the construction of a viewing platform adjacent to the current East Haley interlocking. CSXT even went so far as to donate funds towards its completion along with reconstruction of Haley tower. Using the debris that was unearthed during excavation of Haley tower's new foundation and some debris from installation of a water line across our parking lot, we were able to construct the base for what is becoming a very neat observation platform for train watchers. It is my hope, as the slave driver I am, to try and have most of it complete in time for a 5 year anniversary celebration on Friday October 22.

October 22 is 5 years to the exact day of the week that we stood CSXT on its ear, proved the pessimists wrong and successfully moved Haley tower off CSX's property; a day ahead of schedule to boot. I am very proud of that day, as I know many others are as well. In addition to the membership, I would like to invite those at CSX and the Community Foundation who had a part in helping us orchestrate the move, as well as a few politicians who stepped up to the plate and helped the effort along. While celebrating the move, we can also show them what their investment has created. I hope many of you can make it to that event, as well as the annual meeting on August 28.

As I mentioned earlier, this is the end of my second term and with it comes some changes for me personally. My employer is relocating me closer to Indianapolis. Hence I will not be as available to drop things like I once could and run right down to the museum for group tours on week days, etc. I've lived in the Terre Haute area for over 25 years; 20 of those working the job I still have. Living close to the museum has worked out well, especially since my job offered the flexibility to get things done there and with the society. Those days are gone. I've been asked by the board to stay on as President; if nominated and elected. I will be glad to, but want to make sure the membership is aware of the changes that are taking place and the way they will effect my ability to manage day to day operations and projects. I won't be able to run right out for a tour or head down to the museum in the evening to tend to the little things that need to get done like I have been. What I'm getting at is, things are going to slow down and I don't want to disappoint anyone by not being able to do things the way I once could. Others will have to take up the slack; maybe one of you?

On that note, I will end this letter and "words of wisdom". I hope to see some of you I haven't seen in quite some time and those I have yet to meet at either the picnic or the anniversary celebration.

Sincerely, I am,



Bill Foster  
President