

# Caboose Ride March 22, 2009



**Run By at Restored Dearborn Tower  
Photo Frank Kammer**

**The Cincinnati Chapter National Railway Society sponsored a caboose on the Banta Rails Caboose Ride that was operated on the Whitewater Valley Railroad.**

**I was working the train as a car host. I started at 8 AM by reporting to our South Connersville yard. It was about 30 degrees at the yard. The crew was already trying to get # 1 a GE 66 Ton Center Cab engine started. This engine has two motors one is to operate the train and the second is to keep the generator running and the batteries charged up. Well, as it is with railroading, the second engine would not start for love nor money.**

**The decision was made at about 8:25 AM to switch out the #1 and bring out #25. #25 is a Lima Automotive Works 750 HP stitcher that was built specifically for Cincinnati Union Terminal back in 1951. This black switcher started right up but we had to wait for the air and the temperature to gain to operating numbers. Air is at 90 lbs and only takes a few moments really to build up. The running temperature has to be above 110 before the engineer would even attempt to move it at a slow speed. This process took about 25 minutes putting us right at 9 AM to get moving.**



**#25 with string of caboose or cabooses (take your pick) at Laurel, IN  
Photo Martin (Delaney) Mason**

We hooked up to the caboose train and lo and behold there was an air leak on the last car. More time lost as wrenches were retrieved and the air dropped, not once but twice. At least they got the leak repaired and off we went 15 minutes late to go to the Station. We arrived at 9:30 1/2 hour late to run the train.



**Train approaching Grand Central Station  
Connersville, IN Photo Martin (Delaney) Mason**



**Restored Dearborn Tower  
Photo Frank Kammer**

We loaded and one of our men observed that a hose was hanging too low on the #25 and that was tied up before the trip got underway.

First stop was the restored Dearborn Tower at the south end of our South Connersville Yards. We were able to go up and view the switch levers and watch the run by from above.

We continued on with stops for run bys along the river, at Laurel and at Metamora at the covered bridge and then on to the end of our track.



**Train crossing White Water River  
Photo Martin (Delaney) Mason**



**Passing Covered Bridge Metamora, IN  
Photo Frank Kammer.**

We headed back to Laurel for a wonderful meal at the Laurel Inn. We spent a good amount of time sitting with other folks and talking about the day and the trains.

**We got back on the train and headed back to the Grand Central Station at Connersville. The trip was a total of 37 miles. Total ridership was 42 and Cincinnati Chapter NRHS had 13 riders with one having to leave early.**



**NRHS riders at Grand Central Station Connersville, IN  
Photo Martin (Delaney) Mason**

**We then all bid a farewell and promised to return for another ride here or somewhere in the future.**

**We arrived back at the yards and had to do a little switching before the day was over.**

**We completed the switching and put all the tools away and shut down at 5 PM, a ten hour day to the minute.**

**Temperature rose to somewhere in the low 70's and the sky was just the best blue you ever saw and the Whitewater river was so clear you could have been at a mountain stream.**

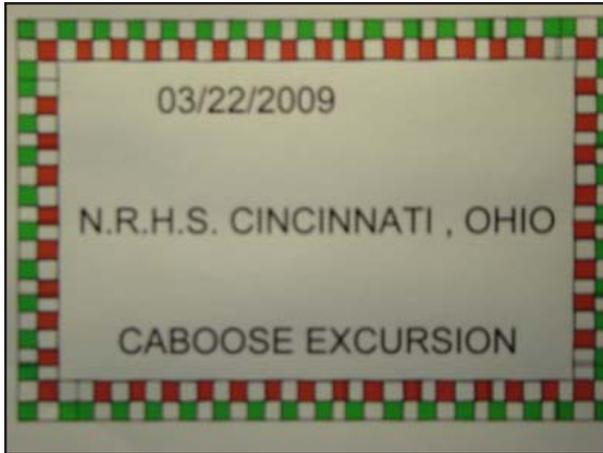
**It was a great day for all!  
Frank Kammer**



**A view of the Whitewater River Valley  
Photo by Frank Kammer**



**You could imagine a mountain stream  
Photo Frank Kammer.**



**Sign by Martin Delaney  
Photo Martin (Delaney) Mason**



**Our Host Brian Banta  
Photo Martin (Delaney) Mason**



**Welcome to Connersville  
Photo by Mike Schmidt**



**#1 ready to go to work  
Photo by Mike Schmidt**



**Train from inside the Dearborn Tower  
Photo by Frank Kammer**



**Whitewater Canal  
Photo by Frank Kammer**



**E L & E Caboose for NRHS**  
Photo Martin (Delaney) Mason



**B&O Caboose for NRHS**  
Photo Martin (Delaney) Mason



**Grist Mill at Metamora**  
Photo Martin (Delaney) Mason



**#25 Builders Plate**  
Photo Martin (Delaney) Mason



**View from the Cupola**  
Photo by Frank Kammer



**Switching engine at Leonard's Siding**  
Photo by Frank Kammer