

James Henry Noel

Henry was reared in Raleigh County, in Beaver, WV. He graduated from Shady Spring High School. As a young man he was hired by the C&O Railway Company, to the position of Fireman on the Steam Locomotives. He was promoted to Engineer and continued his career on the C&O/Chessie System until his retirement. He trained many young train engineers during that career.

He was an avid hunter and fisherman. In 1956, he had traveled to Kirby, WV, in Hampshire County on a deer hunting trip with the Red Hat Hunting Club from Beaver. The club declined to return to Kirby, but Henry, (having made new lifetime friends) and a few others continued to hunt there for deer, turkeys and squirrels. This continued until his passing. He loved to fish on the New River, Greenbrier River, and Bluestone Lake.

As a Bobcat Booster, he sold more ads for their football programs than anyone. He had a passion for that. He was always at the games selling the programs and you didn't get past him without buying one from him. If he wasn't selling ads, he would be selling the homemade fried apple pies that the Boosters and Boosterettes made. He loved the Bobcats and being a Booster.

He worked hard for the Lions Club selling brooms and mops and working their concession stand at Railroad Days.

He coached Little League Baseball in Hinton, with his good friend, Jack Holt. Henry loved kids, and if you went by his house in the West End, you'd probably see many youngsters playing in his yard. Ruth once told him "We don't have any grass in our front yard". Henry just replied, "These kids will be grown before we know it, and we'll have plenty of grass then."

He served a term on Hinton City Council, but politics wasn't his goal. He did love Robert Byrd for all the things he had done for West Virginia.

He was an expert gardener, and he loved tomatoes. He would scrape off the seeds of the tomatoes at the dinner table and dry them in his cellar. At the end of February each year, he would plant those seeds in his homemade "hot bed". At the end of April/first of May, many railroaders, family and friends would stop by Henry's house to get their tomato plants. He was truly a beloved community leader.

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**The following is Henry's obituary from the Hinton News of May 30, 2000
(Re-written for better legibility.)**

James Henry Noel, 77, of 1721 Temple Street, Hinton, died Tuesday, May 23, 2000 in Roanoke Memorial Hospital, Roanoke, VA.

Born March 26, 1923, in Covington, VA, he was the son the late Forrest L. and Lena A. Fritz Noel.

Mr. Noel was a retired train engineer for the Chessie System in Hinton, with 42 years of service.

He was a member of the Hinton Masonic Lodge No. 62, the United Transportation Union (having served as the local President) and was an active of the Bobcat Boosters (also, having served as President).

Mr. Noel was a member of the Hinton Lions Club and he attended Riverview Chapel in Hinton.

He was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Lena Rebecca Noel in 1948, a son, Richard Alan "Dickie" Noel in September 1988, two brothers, Thomas and Billy Noel, and an infant granddaughter, Lori Ann Ford.

Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Ruth Tallman Noel, two sons, James Noel Jr. and wife Valerie of Wheeling, WV, and Dan Noel of Colorado Springs, CO, three daughters, Ann Tassos and husband Steve of Nimitz, Barbara Noel of Chapman, KS, Robin and Ricky Ford of Forest Hill, WV, a sister, Edna Kidwell of Beckley, nine grandchildren, Brian and Eric Noel, Steve Ewing, Alex Tassos, Tucker and Tara Ford, Megan Noel, and Danny and Justin Noel.

Services were held at 1pm Saturday, May 27th at Pivont Funeral Home Chapel, Hinton with Pastor Roy Lee Honaker, Jr. and Lynn Maddy officiating. Burial followed in Restwood Memorial Gardens, Hinton.

Pallbearers were Dan Jr., Brian, Eric, and Justin Noel, Steve Ewing, Tucker Ford, Alex Tassos, and Keith Hughes.

Honorary pallbearers were Buster Noel, H.B. "Blub" Westmoreland, Howard Cashwell, Tom Prince, Ed Cain, Tom Clinebell, Donald Mock, Dink Anderson,

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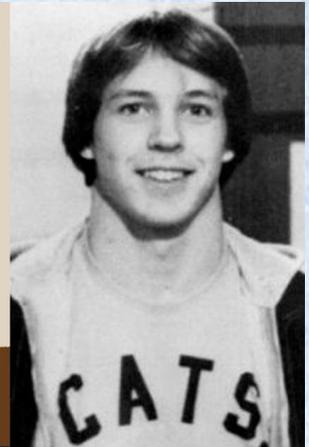
Jackie McClung, Sam Linkenhoker and members of the Hinton Bobcat Boosters and the Hinton Lions Club.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the Richard Alan “Dickie” Noel Scholarship Fund.

Arrangements by Pivont Funeral Home, Hinton.

James Henry Noel We Salute You!

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