

RAILROAD SLANG

Compiled by Steve Robbins

alley
baby lifter, groundhog, pin puller, stinger
bakehead, diamond hustler, tallowpot
banjo
beanery queen
bend the iron
bendin' weenies, **bucklin' the rubbers**
bighole it, plug it, dump it, soak it
boomer
boxcar tourist
brains, **captain**, **skipper**
brass hat, silk hat, tin hat
brass pounder, lightning slinger
brethren
brownies
bunch of thieves
buzzard's roost, bee hive, stock pen
calliope
car toad, car knocker
cinder dick, bull, pussyfoot(er) (plainclothes)
circus
collar and elbow joint
company jewelry
company notch
couldn't pull a setting hen off her nest
cow cage, pig palace
cripple
croaker
crowning him
crow's nest
Crystal Palace
cushions
dancing on the carpet
delayer, detainer, moving spirit
dinge, general, **ringmaster**
dog catcher
dope
drawbar flagging
drop a little run-fast, grease the pig
Eastman, etc.
elephant style
eyeballs
Federalies
flimsy
fly light
foamer, GERF (Glassy Eyed Rail Fan)
fresh fish, piglet, FNG
garden, field
gas can, oil can
gate
glory hunter
goat
good set
green eye
greetings from the DS
griever
hash house
clear track in a switching yard
brakeman
fireman
fireman's shovel
waitress
throw a switch
connecting air hoses
make emergency brake application
employee who moves around a lot
hobo
conductor
railway officers or officials
telegrapher
fellow operating dept workers
demerits for breaking rules, etc.
wrecking crew
yard office
steam locomotive
car inspector
RR special agent
railroad
boardinghouse
trainman's hat, badge, & switch keys
throttle (Johnson bar) most efficient setting
derogatory description of locomotive
livestock cars
bad ordered car
company doctor
coupling a caboose on a made up freight train
caboose cupola
company headquarters
passenger cars
called to the supt's office for discipline
dispatcher
yardmaster
crew sent to relieve an outlawed crew
switch list, orders, official instructions
flagman leaning on caboose drawbar instead of going back a distance
oil the engine
train traveling in specified direction
all motive power units facing same direction
loco headlights
FRA personnel
train order
go on duty after missing a meal
railfan
new hand or hire or trainee
rail yard
tank car carrying petroleum
switch
reckless, fast running engineer
switch engine
train with no problems and good air
clear signal
train orders
union rep at investigation
railroad restaurant

head shed, brain shack, monkey house, clown wagon
high daddy
high iron
high wheeler
hitting the grit
hogger, hoghead, **eagle eye**
in the hole
Indian Valley RR
jack'n the throttle
jam buster
jerkwater town
join the birdies
knock her in the head
laplander
lay down some grit
merry-go-round
mule, hoptoad
muzzle loader, hand bomber
number dummy, mudhop
nut buster
old man
op
over the knoll
paddle
paperweight
pig pen
play ball
Pocatello yardmaster
pounding their ears
pull the calf's tail
pull the pin
put on the nosebag
Queen Mary
rag waver
railbender, iron bender, **dollyflopper**
rap the stack
rattler
red onion
rubberneck car
runt(y)
shake and bake
shiner
shotgunned train
shuffle the deck
smoke orders
snakehead
snipe, gandy dancer
spotter
strawberry patch
thousand miler
tie 'em down
top dresser drawer
tripper
varnish, plush run
when do you shine
whiskers
willie
wind pumping back to the shack
windy
wing her

caboose
flying switch
mainline
passenger engine
falling off a car
engineer
on the siding (off the main)
mythical RR - always good jobs awaiting - happy haven of RR legend
move throttle excessively, causing slack action
assistant yardmaster
small town with few facilities
jump from a locomotive before a collision
slow down
passenger jostled into someone's lap in crowded car
apply sand to rail
turntable
movable derail
hand fired steam locomotive
yard clerk
mechanic
superintendent
operator
getting up the hill
semaphore signal
RR clerk, office worker
locomotive roundhouse
get to work, get busy
derisive term for boomers
sleeping
yank the whistle cord
knock off work or go home for the day
eat a meal
light engine move
flagman
switchman
throttle wide open
freight train
railroad eating house
observation car
dwarf signal
spotting the dock
trainman's lantern
train with cars unblocked
switch house tracks at a station
moving train without orders by looking for smoke of approaching train
rail coming loose & piercing car floor
track laborer
company spy
rear end of caboose at night
typical starched blue shirt worn by trainmen universally
set hand brakes
upper bunk in caboose
yard shifter
passenger train
what time were you called for
seniority
waybill
air brake lines pressurized all the way to the caboose
car going down a track with no air or hand brake applied
set brakes on a moving train