

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James D. Porterfield is an author and columnist with a special interest in the history and culture of railroading. His book *Dining by Rail: The History and the Recipes from America's Golden Age of Railroad Cuisine* (1992), a history of eating on the train accompanied by 330 recipes, has been praised by food writers and rail historians alike. *From the Dining Car: The Recipes and Stories Behind Today's Greatest Rail Dining Experiences* (2004) celebrates today's best chefs at work on private rail cars and dinner trains, in private luxury rail service, for Amtrak and VIA, and on freight railroad business cars. He was, for over thirty years, a Contributing Editor for *Railfan & Railroad*, one of the nation's leading magazines for those with an interest in railroading. There he wrote a monthly "On the Menu" column about various aspects of rail dining, compiled an annual "Guide to America's Dinner Trains," profiled the work of railroad artists in an annual "Portraits of Railroading" feature, and explored places where railroad history occurred and changed American history in "Site Guides to Railroad History." Jim edited and introduced Jack Orr's biography of his father, O. P. Orr, a Pennsylvania Railroad engineman between 1904 and 1949, titled *Set Up Running* (2001), and introduced a reprint of Harry Bedwell's classic American railroad novel, *The Boomer: A Story of the Rails* (2006).

Jim served for ten years as the organizer and Host of Penn State Altoona's annual Railroad Heritage Conference, and was for many years a lecturer on board the American Orient Express, including for the Pacific Coast Culinary Tours launched in 2004. Jim has also written about food for Radisson's in-room *Voyageur* and United Airlines' *Hemispheres* magazines. He has lectured at the Association of Tourist Railroads and Railway Museums, American Association of Private Railroad Car Owners, the Lexington Group in Transportation History, The Children's Museum of Oak Ridge (Tennessee), for Amtrak's Chef Certification and Training Program, and numerous community historic organizations. He served as the founding Director of the Center For Railway Tourism at Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, West Virginia; and as the founding Executive Director of the American Society of Railway Artists. A graduate of Edinboro State University, Jim currently resides in Elkins, West Virginia, and devotes full time to writing projects for children and adults.