

Dorothy Jean Boley

Dorothy Jean Boley was born and raised in Hinton. Her grandfather and four of his brothers left their family farm in Alleghany County, Va. They settled in the railroad city of Hinton, seeking employment and began Dorothy Jean's family ties to the city. Her grandfather would go on to become a passenger engineer between Hinton and Clifton Forge, Va., before her father came of age and went to work in the machine shops. Following in her family's footsteps, Dorothy Jean was employed by the C & O Railroad for 43 years. She began her employment as an office stenographer, and retired as the secretary to the District Superintendent.

She was the caregiver for her mother from her grade school years until her mother's death, as her mother contracted polio after Dorothy Jean was born, and she was her father's caregiver from his retirement until, as she says, "He went home". Her father was supervisor of machinists at the roundhouse.

Dorothy Jean was one of the co-founders of the Hinton Railroad Museum in 1991 and she has been its president for 27 years this year.

The Hinton Railroad Museum most likely would not exist if it had not been for Dorothy Jean Boley. The Museum has been the impetus for preserving historical buildings in town and revitalizing the downtown area of Hinton. When the City of Hinton obtained the building and the idea for a railroad museum, Dorothy Jean became its president and collected countless numbers of railroad memorabilia and artifacts, mostly from families with ties to the city and its railroad. In a way, the photographs, ledgers, uniforms and stories that fill the once-vacant building form a part of both the city's and Dorothy Jean's personal family album.

Every October the city hosts Railroad Days during the last two weekends of the month. Dorothy Jean serves on the committee that organizes the event. People from all over the country take the train from Huntington pulling usually 23 cars with around 1,300 people to celebrate.

Dorothy Jean was selected as West Virginia History Hero – 2016 by the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History

On June 30, 2018 Matthew French Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution presented Dorothy Jean Boley The DAR Community Service Award.

Now in her 90s, she continues to serve the citizens of Hinton at the museum 4 days per week, helping prepare materials for museum brochures, and conducts tours through the museum.

Dorothy Jean Boley We Salute You!

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Babcock State Park - July 1974
L to R - Nadien Vass, Dorothy Jean Boley, Maude Carter, Charles Boley, Virginia Gwinn



Dorothy Jean Boley - Secretary to C & O Superintendent
Employed - 4-16-1943 - Photo 1969



Dorothy Jean Boley - Clerk - 10-18-1983



Dorothy Jean Boley - HHS Class of 1941



Dorothy Jean Boley - 2017



L to R - Jean Ray, Dorothy Jean Boley, Rhodetta Jones Hamm - RR Days 2016



1971 - Jerry Lilly, Dorothy Jean Boley, Patty Foster, Martha Gill, Jean Hank Luella Anderson, Virginia Gwinn, Joyce Jarrett, Nadien Vass, Nancy Smith



Former Machinist - C.F. Boley, his Wife, Kathleen and Daughter Dorothy Jean
Dorothy Jean is a clerk. Photo - February 1960



Dorothy Jean Boley - Railroad Days 2018



Clerk, Dorothy Jean Boley blowing out candles on her birthday cake at Road Foreman's office 3-9-1953

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