

**Oct. 1st - West Virginia Dejevu or
“WooO! WooO!” ...“Waa’dea Nuts?”**

WooO! WooO! - A few days ago I wrote about taking a trip on a 1910 steam locomotive excursion train. So much did I enjoy that ride, that I signed up for another train excursion on [The Tygart Flyer](#), this time pulled by a 1960’s era diesel engine. This was a 4 hour “leaf viewing” trip alongside the Cheat River and into the adjacent “high hills”. After work today I arrived at the Elkins’ Railway Station for my passage in their premium “parlor car” which had individual armchair seating, a catered buffet lunch and even a desert bar.

After the customary blowing of the trains air horn (**WooO!, WooO!**), we started our trip. We traveled through a 1/4 mile mountain tunnel, around a bunch of “S” curves, and even stopped for a while alongside a secluded waterfall. Since it was a cool, rainy and even gloomy day, the endless coffee pot was well appreciated, especially after my half mile hike to see the water falls. This was another relaxing and scenic rail ride that profiled the natural beauty of West Virginia’s mountains in Autumn.

Waa’dea Nuts? - When I made my earlier tour of the [Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum](#), it was purely a “historical” account of this large psychiatric hospital that was built in the mid 1800’s and closed the latter portion of this last century. After today’s leaf excursion and a short flight to capture some aerial photos of my train, I made the drive over to Weston to begin their 7 PM start of an entirely different type of tour. One might say that it was more **Hysterical** than **Historical**. Entitled **Hospital of Horrors**, ([click here for poster](#)) it borrows from the “Haunted House” theme that abounds each October, and carried this caveat-- **WARNING!: NOT for the Faint of Heart!! All children under 13 MUST be accompanied by an adult**. In fact, during my evening tour I saw one of the volunteer cast members, a 16 year old girl, in tears and wanting to go home. She said, that while alone in her empty “skit room” something shoved her, almost knocking her down. She turned around, but no one was in there with her.



The Elkins Railway Station, where the tours begin



In front of the Salamander & Tygart Flyer trains



The Flyer seen from 500 feet above the tracks



Its hard to distinguish the Inmates from the Orderlies
So just who is running this Asylum anyway?



In the Parlor Car before the crowds arrived