

*M. Jones*

Jacksonville Terminal Company was started in 1901 by five railroads Seaboard Air Line Railroad, Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, Southern Railway, GS&F Railway and Florida East Coast Railway.

At the beginning Jacksonville Terminal Company purchased 4 switch engines, numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4. After a few years, it bought Engines Nos. 5 and 6.

The first five Engineers were Messrs. Highlick, Lem Wilson, Al Ferria, C. D. Watkins, Sr. (my father) and Fred McGee.

My father went to work for Jacksonville Terminal Company in 1904. He began as the first Shop Foreman; then went to hostling job and later became an Engineer. He retired in 1955.

Later as the company became larger, it purchased Engines Nos. 7 and 8. Later a used switch engine, No. 9, was purchased.

At the beginning of the war, the JT Company purchased switch engines Nos. 10 through 25, used engines, which they rebuilt.

During the war years we had as many as 300 trains in 24 hours, with all 25 switch engines being utilized.

During the middle of the forties, they bought two Diesel engines, Nos. 30 and 31. Later Nos. 32 through 39 wer4 purchased. The steam engines were disposed of through sale; those that could not be sold were cut up for junk.

I started working for the Terminal Company in 1917 and retired in 1970. I started as a water boy in the Section Gang then I ran a motor car hauling materials; then I went to the storeroom; later I became a signalman. In 1920 I went to Beaver Street Tower as a leverman; then to Myrtle Avenue Tower. In 1938 I was promoted as Assistant Train Director at Myrtle Avenue Tower. In 1939 I was promoted to Train Director at Myrtle Avenue Tower and was holding this position until retirement in 1970.

Mr. J. C. Blanton was the first President, followed by Messrs. John Love, Wilkes, W. A. George, *J. H. Dill - McJennette*, the last President being Mr. E. B. Hardwig.