



Penny Artis Nunes, Railroad Electrician
Shawsville Virginia



The article beginning below and continued on the next page was written by Penny Artis Nunes, an Electrician who has worked for the Norfolk Sothern Railroad for 16 years. When asked to describe the job she was performing in the above photo, this is what she said: *"I am right above the wheel, which on a locomotive is a big DC motor. There is a little magnet head that sticks into a hole on the motor and counts the gear teeth. Therefore it makes an AC voltage and tells you what speed the motor is going. We need to know this because if the motor locks up and starts sliding, the rails will warp and the train will wreck. I have my head under there trying to put a ty-wrap on the rest of the slack so that the flange of the wheel doesn't cut it in half."*

My Railroading Life by Penny Artis Nunes

Well. Let's see what I can tell about my railroading life. First of all I was hired in 1993. I had gotten out of the Air Force and needed a job. About a year out, Norfolk Southern was hiring electricians. So I went to the hotel conference room with about 300 guys for the grand total of 4 jobs. Needless to say, they always start out by saying you will be pee tested and randomly from here on. OK, 10 minute break. Half the people did not come back. (Continued on the next page.)

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