



Newsletter December 2002

Minutes of the Meeting  
November 7, 2002

These are paraphrased comments due to the absence of the Secretary at this meeting.

Minutes of the October 2002 meeting were distributed in a trial newsletter format developed by the Secretary as furnished to J R Conlon.

In the absence of the Secretary at the November meeting the following notes are paraphrased for the benefit of review as furnished by J R Conlon to D W Seidel.

New member Joe Blackburn was welcomed to the meeting.

R C Marlett furnished John Conlon an audio tape of his recollections of work experience on the Roaring Spring local. This will become part of the Middle Division Transportation Committee" archives of railroad history in the greater Altoona area.

A local Norfolk Southern locomotive engineman (name omitted) visited the Middle Division Transportation Committee and reported on recent Altoona developments.

A new train pool-crew has been added to operate trains between Altoona and Allentown.

Also reviewed the new yard switching activities at Rose yard Altoona. The locomotive engineman's job has been abolished and the locomotive is now operated by the Conductor and a brakeman via remote control. To appease the locomotive engine bargaining unit, the agreement prohibits the Conductor or

Brakeman from entering the cab of the locomotive at any time, regardless of prevailing weather conditions. Much discussion on this subject.

Apology

The Secretary apologizes for missing the November and December meetings due to conflicting obligations.

ARMM CHANGES

*As most everyone knows from published newspaper reports, Mr. Cummins McNitt has been terminated from the staff of Altoona Railroader's Memorial Museum. Mr. McNitt and his wife and son have purchased the historic Newlin house in Tyrone, which was the former residence of the Superintendent of the PRR in, Tyrone, in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, which they will operate as a Bed and Breakfast. Mr. McNitt will also teach history part-time at Altoona Campus, PSU.*

*The annual meeting of the (Life) Membership of Altoona Railroader's Memorial Museum will be held on December 21, 2002 at the Museum, Building B, commencing at 1:00 PM. Plans for the new administration will be discussed at that time along with proposed changes to the existing by-laws (which can affect membership voting rights), as well as a new Business Plan for the museum. As previously announced, Mr. Scott Cessna will be assuming the post of Executive Director and a new slate of proposed Directors will be voted upon. Candidates thus far for Directors on the museum Board, are:*

*Joe Stevens III                      Kristin Cantrell  
William Thompson Jr      Rob Luciano  
Bob Abernathy                      Rudy Husband  
Representative Richard Geist  
Patrick Fanelli      Dr. Andy Mulhollen*

*It is also anticipated that Westsylvania Heritage Corp., publishers of Westsylvania Magazine dealing with western Pennsylvania history, will assume management control of the museum facility. Staffing changes are anticipated for all other positions at the museum and Horseshoe Curve National Historic Site also.*

*All LIFE members of Altoona Railroader's Memorial Museum should make every effort to attend the December 21, 2002 Annual Meeting.*



*Joe Blackburn, Operator at MG Tower March 1985. Photo by D W. Seidel*



*PRR Roundhouse and Shops Hollidaysburg PA. Antique post-card view.*

#### DID YOU KNOW DEPARTMENT ?

*September 8, 1910: Long Island RR started to operate from the new PRR Penn Station, NYC*

*November 27, 1910 NY Penn Station officially opened.*

*October 28, 1963: NY Penn Station given over to wreckers ball for demolition.*

*February 7, 1941: Bellwood Branch, PRR, was abandoned to Blandburg. Line formerly double-tracked with a 'horseshoe bend', connected to the Irvona Branch, Clearfield. The Bellwood PRR station was demolished in 1953.*

*August 8, 1923: PRR Special hauled the Funeral Special of the late President Warren G. Harding from Baltimore and through Altoona.*

*PRR Class T-1 Locomotive # 5524 was the last steam locomotive built by Juniata Shops, August 1946 under construction number # 4584.*

*July 7, 1972 (following Hurricane Agnes), the Bedford Branch of Penn Central RR was reported out-of-service from MP 51.0 (4 miles north of Mann's Choice) to end of Branch.*

*June 13, 1942: Eight German spies came ashore on Long Island from a German U-boat submarine. Captured after one of their group contacted and furnished information to the FBI. Plans in their possession included intended targets in the U.S. such as the Horseshoe Curve and Gallitzin Tunnels. Six of the 8 were executed on Aug 8, 1942 after trial by a military tribunal.*



*The Pennsylvania Special PRR at Cresson PA from an antique post-card view.*

*April 10, 1858: The PRR opened the new Radebaugh Tunnel with passage of train No. 302 (east) and Train No. 3 (west).*

*June 4, 1965: The PRR's mainline was back in service after the Radebaugh Tunnel "day-lighting" in Westmoreland County was completed.*



*PRR Broadway Limited from an antique post-card view.*