



by
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NOVEMBER 2004



OCT 7 2004 MDTC MEETING/BAVARIAN HALL

Notes from Oct 7, 2004

Get well wishes are extended to Fred Ellis and Dick Johnson who are currently hospitalized.

An evening of reminiscing and discussion on our favorite topic...railroading from our respective eras and the contrast to present time. As an example, NS is experiencing a shortage of Yardmasters requiring qualified train crew personnel to pinch-hit.

Discussion about the possible re-opening of new coal mines on NS and RJ Corman lines, which would impact traffic positively.

We enjoyed an evening of good conversation and fraternity, as usual.

CORRECTION TO LAST NEWSLETTER

The Logan House dinner mentioned in the October newsletter will not be presented this year. Sponsors of the event, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, is unable to host the event

this year and hopes to re-schedule for November 2005.

RAILROADER'S MEMORIAL MUSEUM

RRM has just concluded arrangements for acquisition of a turntable for the museum yard. The table is being acquired from the Virginia Central Railway (Tourist Line) which operated between Charlottesville, VA and Staunton, VA. The table is a 105 foot beam and was originally used by the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac RR. The acquisition by Railroader's Memorial Museum also includes a working drop table for the new roundhouse to be constructed on the museum grounds. These acquisitions will complement a full functioning machine shop infrastructure, which was acquired two years ago and is currently stored on museum property. Arrangements are underway to prepare to ship the tables to Altoona.



These railroad 'spike' sculptures are offered for sale by the Horseshoe Curve Chapter, National Railway Historical Society in Altoona. These are original designs by member Neil Myers. Single figures are \$20. each or set of 3 for \$50. The separate 4-figure sculpture is by special order only at \$89.95. Sales help support the Chapter's maintenance costs on coaches used on the Everett RR. Other items include videotape of the history of the Altoona & Logan Valley Electric Railway (19.95) and a post-card picture history booklet of Altoona and the PRR for \$10.00.

TRAIN SHOW AND SALE

Sunday, November 7th, Pinecroft Firehall from 8:30 a.m. to 2 PM. Model trains (all gauges), railroad memorabilia, and the above items.

Special congratulations to John Conlon, who will be honored by the Blair County Historical Society for his contribution in the preservation of Blair County history. John's many articles in the Altoona Mirror certainly create an awareness of the history of Altoona and the railroad industry. John will be honored at the Annual Meeting of Blair County Historical Society on Sunday, November 14, 2004 at the Calvin House.

Dates in Altoona History

10-27-84: Scott Electric Company in Altoona razed the former PRR Upholstery Shop along Chestnut avenue to expand at their location.

12-18-1997: James E. Corbett, the dining car waiter who survived the wreck of PRR's Red Arrow, died on this date.

11-25-1956: Three veteran employees of the PRR Test Department --Donald F. Loose, Walter J. Seasholtz and Arthur B. McIntire -- this week were presented 50-year service emblems by M. A. Pinney, engineer of tests.

12-2-1966: Rea Shop Gets Big PRR Order 1200 freight cars to cost \$16.5 million. Earlier that year (Feb 23) \$7.3 million to be spent for Gondolas.

6-28-1967: The 175 foot smokestacks of the PRR power house at 4th St., Altoona, were razed by Controlled Demolition of Baltimore, MD. The stacks were dynamited at 3 PM. Your secretary got to see the show after first shift at Juniata Scales.

If you haven't driven by Sam Rea Shop complex recently, you will be amazed at the activity to be seen there as 2004 draws to a close. The rail in the Frankstown yard is torn up and the same is happening on the Hollidaysburg end, especially leads into the shop. Car storage in Hollidaysburg has been diminishing steadily and the salvage workers seem to be converging on the remainder of the property.



View of Frankstown end looking west from road crossing.

FROM THE ALTOONA MIRROR 1-20-1988

"The Pennsylvania Railroad Locomotive No. 1187 is 100 years.

The engine was built In January 1888 at Altoona and was used at a quarry in Birdsboro during the 1930's and was a topic of conversation at the New York World's Fair.

It is the oldest original PRR locomotive in existence today.

The locomotive is on display at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in Strasburg. On Jan 30 (1988) the museum plann(ed) to throw a party in celebration of the engine's birthday to which the public (was) invited"

..."The Class R Locomotive, of which No. 1187 is the sole remaining example. Class R locomotives were the heaviest and most powerful freight hauling engines on the PRR system over a century ago.

..."Because of its historical significance, No. 1187 was selected by railroad management for display at the 1939-40 New York World's Fair."

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Your secretary will be absent for the next meeting, Thursday, Dec 2, 2004.