



Official Newsletter  
of



NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1361  
Altoona, PA 16603-1361  
[www.hscnrhs.org](http://www.hscnrhs.org)

**Fall 2023**

**CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:** Francis X. Givler, Jr., 114 Scott Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602

*NOTE: \*time-sensitive correspondence should be sent to this address\**

[ottodocfac@atlanticbb.net](mailto:ottodocfac@atlanticbb.net)

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Ronald A. Givler, 208 S. 24th Street, Altoona, PA 16602-3432

[givlerronald@gmail.com](mailto:givlerronald@gmail.com)

**CHAPTER DELEGATE TO NRHS & WEBMASTER:** Joseph A. DeFrancesco

1266 Lincoln Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686

[jdefrancesco5@verizon.net](mailto:jdefrancesco5@verizon.net)

**SECRETARY:** Joseph P. Harella, 3806 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602

[jkharella@gmail.com](mailto:jkharella@gmail.com)

**TREASURER:** Denny Walls, 123 Sandcastle Lane, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

[d63w@aol.com](mailto:d63w@aol.com)

**CHAPTER HISTORIAN/EDITOR:** Leonard E. Alwine, 212 N. 11th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601

**NOTE:** Horseshoe Curve Chapter, National Railway Historical Society was granted a charter by the NRHS on May 11, 1968 (3 months and 10 days after the PRR-NYC merger), evolving from the Altoona Railway Museum Club (1965-1968). We meet on the FOURTH Tuesday of each month except December, at the Railroaders Memorial Museum, Altoona, PA, at 7:30 PM. Occasional exceptions are announced to the membership.

90 (+) % of all communications and notices are handled by e-mail. Please keep your e-mail address current with the officers, especially the President and the Chapter Historian/Editor.

## IN THIS FALL ISSUE 2023

The first article is about a 1,340 steam engine order built in America for the Societe National des Chemins de fer Francisise (SNCF) railroad in France in 1945. These engines were assembled in just 72.5 hours each. A lot quicker than the K-4 restoration but these manufacturers were geared up for this project.

Next is an article on “Benny” being found. In the Fall issue of 2022 the caboos from Benzel’s Pretzels was moved to ARMM and the “man” in the window waving to visitors seemed to be lost. But now he had been found and is in desperate need of some TLC. Maybe a project the chapter could undertake?

Joe Harrella continues to keep us informed with local news and the chapter minutes. Due to a “bleep” in the last issue, three months were missed. They are listed here with the next three months minutes along with a short report on the chapter picnic. No meeting was held in August due to the picnic.

The next article deals with the introduction of two local teenagers working to preserve local rail history. Kevin Stiver has written a book about the town of Glen White and Zack Noonan is helping work on the caboos at ARMM and attended the NRHS Rail Camp this summer.

It is with sadness that we must announce that Larry Lear, a chapter member and train ride host, passed away last month. He is remembered in the In Memory section.

A very short Look Back section then closes this issue with some rail history.

So the staff of the Coal Bucket wishes all a happy and enjoyable Fall. Maybe some members can get out and photograph trains with the fall foliage in the background for use in future issues.



## A BIG STEAM ORDER FROM FRANCE

by Leonard Alwine

For this Coal Bucket issue, I once again refer to an article in one of my old Railroad Magazine books I purchased recently. It is an article about a multi unit purchase of steam engines for the Societe Nationale des Chemins de fer Franeaise (SNCF) railroad in France. Before the war they had over 17,000 engines on the roster. But following the war fewer than 3,600 remained in operational status. They also had few men or builders able to produce for SNCF.

Robert Leguille, Chief Mechanical Engineer for SNCF looked to America to quickly build steam engines as replacements for those lost in the war.

The engines had to be built close to SNCF standards for power, weight and size. P.E. Perry of Lima Locomotive Works in Ohio and Ralph Johson and Charles Kraus of Baldwin Locomotive in Eddystone Pennsylvania collaborated and came up with a design for the model 141R engine produced for the SNCF. A total of 1340 engines were ordered.

The first one was ordered March 1945 and was dedicated July 30th and shipped to France in September and entered service two months later after testing on the SNCF. These engines could pull 600 ton passenger trains at 65 mph or 1500 ton freight trains at 30 mph.

The order for the 141R engines was split between several U.S. and Canadian builders.

Lima Built	1-130, 1021, 1120
American Built	181-440, 861-1020, 1121-1160
Baldwin Built	441-860, 1061-1200
Montreal Built	1201-1300
Canadian Loco	1300-1341

Once built they were shipped in special trains by rail to Wechawken, N.J. shipyard where they were lifted by crane aboard boats and shipped to France. Sadly, 17 of the Montreal built locomotives were lost at sea en route to France when that boat sank.

The amazing thing is that these locomotives could be final assembled in 72.5 hours from frame bed to live steam operation testing. Of course, many parts were built in other areas of the shops and funneled into the final assembly area.

Just another example of what could be described as America's "hard work" ethics. Something missing from today's labor force.

- Two pages copied from Railroad Magazine to follow here -



Basic cast frame bed for future 141R 121 on erecting floor.

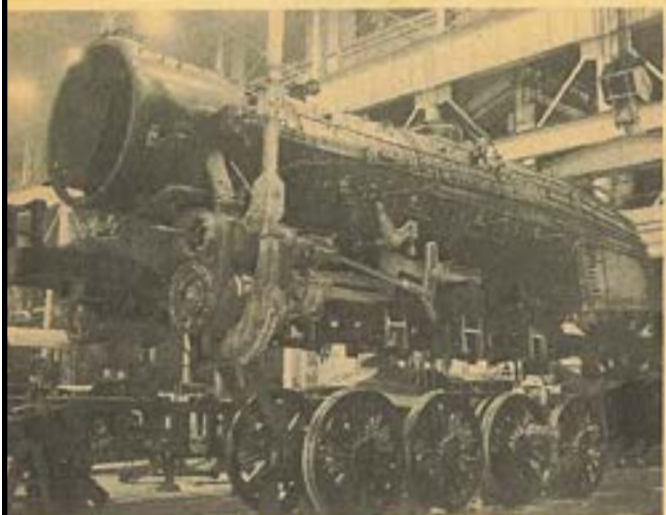


Cylinder saddle attached, boiler, firebox is lowered on frame.

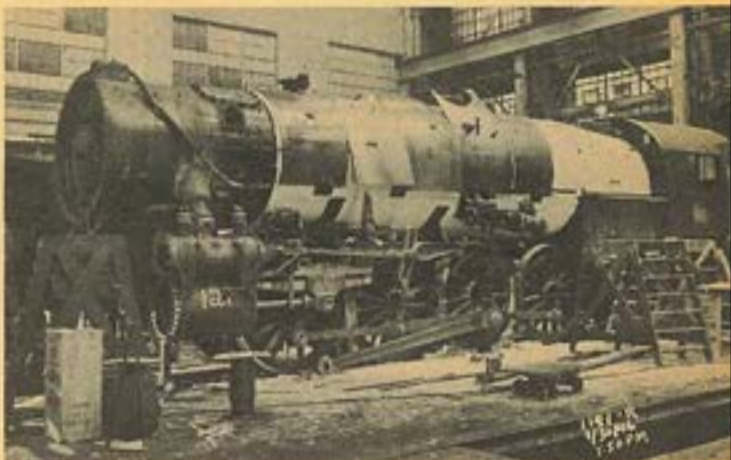
## Giving Birth to a Locomotive in 72½ Hours

World War I had ended and the victory cries had barely died down, while Lima and the other builders were still busy turning out the 1340 ordered 141R's for France. The efficiency in locomotive construction had advanced to the point of three days being all that was needed to turn a suggestive engine frame bed into a sizzling full-size Mikado, ready for the test track and the paint shop. Much could be said, too, for the ease of construction when you were dealing with an order in the hundreds. The tools and dies, once set, could turn out the required parts in volume very rapidly. The usual time wasted from actual production in retooling from one locomotive order to another was eliminated. Furthermore, the familiarity of the shop crews with the locomotives' design certainly led to increased speed in assembling and knowledge of what comes next.

All photographs from Lima Locomotive Works



Boiler, cylinders, and frame are raised to add drivers.



Cab, valve gear and lagging makes locomotive take form. Cab plaque is already attached. Note left-hand reverse and awaiting buffer soon to be attached to engine.

Pilot beam, sand domes, front and rear trucks show U.S. lines.



Engine 141R 121 being tested, 72½ hours after first photo.





Stacks covered, buffers removed, cabs boarded, a total of 1340 engines and tenders left Weehawken, bound for France.  
*Photograph from Lima Locomotive Works*

These horses at La Guerche on Jan. 9, 1968, seem disinterested in both the steam train and the photographer.



## BENNY IS FOUND

by Leonard Alwine

In the Fall 2022 issue of the Coal Bucket there was an article about caboose #477802 being donated and moved to ARMM after many years displayed at Benzel's Pretzels along 6th Avenue in Altoona. Benzel's used the caboose as a symbol of advertising for the company and had "Benny" inside the car waving at visitors coming to the factory for tours and the outlet store.



The caboose at Benzel's with "Benny" waving from the right hand window.

When the outlet closed and the tours stopped, the caboose was eventually donated to ARMM and moved to the museum yard area. When I wrote the article for the Fall 2022 issue, I contacted Benzel's to see how long the caboose was displayed there and how long it was a company advertising symbol. I also asked the question, "Where is Benny now?"

No one at Benzel's could give me any answers as they didn't seem to know. Even the long time employees all said it was there when they came and they couldn't tell me where Benny came from or went!

While on a photo mission at ARMM recently to photograph the changes in the display units in the yard, I was very happy to find Benny still waving from inside caboose #477802!!! It seems that he made the trip with the caboose and has spent the past winter inside it at ARMM.



"Benny" still inside the caboose at ARMM waving from the same window.

After spending who knows how many years inside the caboose, Benny is showing some signs of wear and fatigue. Since leaving Benzel's and his pretzel diet he is very skinny and is in need of new clothes. He is in real bad shape now, he really needs help.

Perhaps our chapter could help bring him back to his former self and then he could wave at visitors coming into ARMM. At the very least, we should get him a new outfit!



Benny from inside the caboose. An electric device helps him keep waving his arm and it most likely needs repaired also. New clothes would make him look a lot better.

## **LOCAL YARD NEWS AND CHAPTER MINUTES** **by Joe Harella**

### **HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS**

#### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Frank Givler at 7:18 P.M..

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by Gary Price, second by Dick Charlesworth. The motion passed.

The financial statements were read by Treasurer Denny Walls. Joe DeFrancesco made a motion to accept the financial report, Mark Yingling second. The motion passed. We are still searching for some type of investment to increase the interest on our bank balance.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Liability Insurance**- A question was asked as to whether or not we renewed this policy? Pres. Givler informed everyone that we did not renew this policy and the coverage has been canceled.
2. **Coal Bucket** – Len Alwine recently sent out the latest copy of the coal bucket either by mail or email. Let Len know if you did not receive your copy.
3. **Bus Trip** – Dick Charlesworth said that he is not sure yet if he is going to run another bus trip this year, so there's nothing new to report.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Guest Speaker – Dick Charlesworth was able to get in touch with author Dan Cupper to see if he would like to speak to us at one of our chapter meetings. Dan is a retired railroad engineer and was also a member of the High Speed Rail Commission. He also has written many books. Dan said that he would be glad to speak to us at some future meeting.
2. Theater/Auditorium Renovations- Museum Executive Director Joe DeFrancesco spoke to the members about the upcoming renovations . He said that when completed the theater would be dedicated to former member Dave Seidel.  
He also said that he would like to include the history of the involvement of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter with the museum by way of a short lead-in film before showing the "ALTOON AT WORK" film. Visitors would then learn just how the museum began. Joe said that the film could also be shown up at the Horseshoe Curve.  
The members then held a discussion on whether or not we want to make a donation towards this project. The suggested amount to donate was \$15,000. Ron Givler made a motion to donate the \$15,000, with the stipulation that the Horseshoe Curve Chapter is recognized for making this donation, Dick Charlesworth second, the motion passed. Joe then thanked everyone for the donation. He also said that as the project gets underway, volunteers will be needed. Pres, Givler said that since our income is very limited now, any future donations would be rather questionable. Ron Givler also warned that we should keep a close eye on our finances in the future.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Len Alwine reported that he attended the first lecture of the year which was held at the Railroader's Memorial Museum . He said that there was a very nice turnout.
2. Twilight at the Horseshoe Curve- Len also suggested having one of our meetings in the evening up at the curve when the museum is sponsoring this activity, possibly in June or July.
3. Denny Walls informed us that the "speeders" will be here on April 16<sup>TH</sup>.
4. Joe DeFrancesco reported that once again the brush at the horseshoe curve will be cut way back , soon.

Ron Givler then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Don Goebel second, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 P.M. – 18 Members Present

ATTENDANCE - Ron Givler, Mary Ann Stanley, George Stanley, Dee Hartman, Don Goebel, Betsie Price, Gary Price, Gary Clare, Dick Charlesworth, Larry Lear, Karin Givler, Frank Givler, Mike Walls, Denny Walls, Mark Yingling, Joe DeFrancesco, Len Alwine, Joe Harella

JOSEPH HARELLA

RECORDING SECRETARY

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS



## HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on April 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Frank Givler at 7:08 P.M..

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by Ralph Simpson, second by Mark Yingling. The motion passed.

The financial statements were read by Treasurer Denny Walls. Ralph Simpson made a motion to accept the financial report, Gary Clare second. The motion passed. Denny also reported that all bills have been paid.

#### Old business

1. Liability Insurance- Pres. Givler reported that he has received a cancellation notice for this policy.
2. Volunteer Insurance- The premium for this policy as well as the one for the Walters have both been paid.
3. Guest Speaker- Dick Charlesworth reported that since the theater will be under going renovations, we probably won't have Dan Cupper here to speak until the theater is completed.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Penn State Altoona- Pres. Givler and Dick Charlesworth visited the Altoon Campus recently to meet up with the two students who received scholarships sponsored by the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS . They also met up with Penn State Chancellor Ron Darbeau. The two scholarship winners might attend a chapter meeting in the future.
2. K-4 Fund Raiser- A fund raiser for the K-4 will be held at the museum on Saturday, May 6<sup>TH</sup> . Officials from FMW Solutions will be here to give an update on the project. The Everett Railroad is sponsoring a train ride on the same day to benefit the K-4. The train will leave the Hollidaysburg train Depot at 12:00 noon.

#### GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Bus Trip- Dick Charlesworth might run a bus trip to Lancaster later this year. More on this later.  
Don Goebel then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ralph Simpson second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M. – 17 members present.

Attendance- Don Goebel, Dee Hartman, Mary Ann Stanley, George Stanley, Mark Yingling, Gary Clare, Marge Simpson, Ralph Simpson, Dan Summers, Wil Teeter, Dick Charlesworth, Mike Walls, Denny Walls, Larry Lear, Karin Givler, Frank Givler, Joe Harella

Joseph Harella

Recording Secretary

Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS

## HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on May 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Frank Givler at 7:13 P.M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by Mark Yingling, second by Ron Givler. The motion passed.

The financial statements were read by Treasurer Denny Walls. Ron Givler made a motion to accept the financial report, Mark Yingling second. The motion passed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. PSU Scholarship Fund- We still have \$3000 remaining in our chapter scholarship fund. However, a new fund in the chapter's name was begun as a \$5000 renewal. We are not sure exactly what happened here and we will need clarification from Penn State.
2. K-4 Fund Raiser- The fund raiser for the K-4 which was held on Saturday, May 6<sup>TH</sup>, included a news conference at the RoundHouse and also a train ride on the Everett Railroad. There was a nice crowd for the news conference, but we're not sure as a fund raiser just how much money the event took in.
3. Model Train Museum- Dick Charlesworth said that there had been some discussion on the group moving out of the 9<sup>TH</sup> avenue building. However, when the motion was put to a vote, it was declined. The train shows plus Lights on the Lake are helping to sustain them for now.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. June Chapter Meeting- Pres. Givler informed everyone that if the weather is good we might hold our June meeting at the Horseshoe Curve
2. Denny Walls reported that he attended the East Broad Top war reenactment. However, he said that the event was not very well attended. He also visited Duncansville where the historical society gave a presentation. Denny also spoke to Mark Ickes who is the Executive Director of Explore Altoona. Mark asked Denny if the chapter might consider rejoining Explore Altoona again? A discussion was then held regarding the Railroader's Memorial Museum.

#### GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Pres. Givler informed everyone that he brought to the meeting two boxes of pictures and other items of interest from the collection of Dave Seidel. Please help yourself.

Don Goebel then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ron Givler second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 P.M.- 16 members present

ATTENDANCE- Mark Yingling, Mary Ann Stanley, George Stanley, Gary Clare, Ron Givler, Nancy McKnight, Dean McKnight, Karin Givler, Frank Givler, Will Teeter, Dick Charlesworth, Denny Walls, Mike Walls, Dee Hartman, Don Goebel, Joe Harella

Joseph Harella

Recording Secretary

Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS

## HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on June 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Frank Givler at 6:02 P.M.. The meeting was held up at the Horseshoe Curve.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by Don Goebel, second by Ron Givler. The motion passed.

The financial statements were read by Treasurer Denny Walls. Ron Givler made a motion to accept the financial report, Dick Charlesworth second. The motion passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. PSU Scholarship Fund- Pres. Givler reported that we now have \$4000 in the fund, and we are good for four more years. He also informed everyone that he and Dick Charlesworth met up with two students who were recipients of our scholarships. They were both very appreciative.
2. Alto Model Train Museum- Pres. Givler reported that the group voted down a motion to move to another location, and will remain at the 9<sup>TH</sup> avenue building.
3. Horseshoe Curve Funicular- Executive Director Joe DeFrancesco said that the state inspection has not taken place yet, however, that should occur within the next two weeks. The funicular will then be up and running. Obtaining additional required permits also held up its' reopening.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Thank you card from Zach- A thank you card was received from Zach Noonan for the chapter sponsoring him to go to Rail Camp this year. The Alto Model Train Museum also co-sponsored the cost of Zach's tuition. He is having a great time and thanked everyone for this wonderful opportunity.
2. Pres. Givler informed everyone that Larry Lear has suffered a stroke. Several members have been in to see Larry and he appears to be coming along slowly. Visits and cards would be most welcome.
3. Len Alwine reported that member Jeff Holland and his wife Rebecca have moved to Hawley, Pa. [ Wilkes-Barre, Scranton Area ]. The two are Methodist Pastors and they were both transferred there. Len also said that he attended a presentation by Kevin Stiver on Glenn White. It was held in the theater of the Railroader's Memorial Museum. Len said that it was very interesting.

### GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Denny Walls reported that a friend of his rode AMTRAK out to Wyoming and he really had a great trip. He questioned why more people don't ride the train? The trip took two days.
2. Denny also reported that he was given some railroad memorabilia that belonged to deceased member Paul Campbell. Lots of interesting items.

3. K-4 Fund Raiser- Joe DeFrancesco informed everyone that the fund raiser for the K-4 which was held on May 6<sup>TH</sup> netted about \$2000 in profit.
4. Buick Club of America-Ron Givler reported that on June 24<sup>TH</sup>, the Appalachian Chapter of the BCA held a spring tour to the East Broad Top Railroad. The EBT is currently under going a revitalization project which included the purchase of three new period correct passenger cars. We had a very enjoyable ride out to the picnic grove and back to the station. Former chapter member Neal Meyers was serving as the locomotive fireman. We then proceeded to Hoss's in Huntingdon where we held our meeting and ate dinner. It was a very enjoyable day.
5. Circus Train Memorial Service-Member Larry McKee reported that he attended the memorial service that was held on May 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 to remember the five people and hundreds of animals who were killed in the Walter L. Main circus train wreck. The accident occurred on May 30<sup>TH</sup>, 1893.

Pres. Givler informed everyone that the next meeting will be held at Perkin's on July 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

Ron Givler then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Don Goebel second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.- 11 members present.

ATTENDANCE-Frank Givler, Len Alwine, Don Goebel, Denny Walls, Ron Givler, Dick Charlesworth, Jean Noonan, John Fisher, Larry McKee, Joe DeFrancesco, Joe Harella

Joseph Harella

Recording Secretary

Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS

#### HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

#### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

JULY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on July 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Frank Givler at 7:08 P.M.. The meeting was held at Perkin's Family Restaurant.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by Ron Givler, second by Ralph Simpson. The motion passed.

The financial statements were read by Treasurer Denny Walls. Gary Clare made a motion to accept the financial report, Dick Charlesworth second, the motion passed.

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. Pres. Givler reported that Larry Lear is still recuperating from suffering a stroke. Cards and visits would be appreciated.
2. Bus Trip To Lancaster- Dick Charlesworth gave an update on his trip to Lancaster. The trip will take place on Saturday, September 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2023. The cost will be \$134 for coach and \$149 for the parlor car. We will be eating at the Golden Corral.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Pres. Givler informed everyone that he received an email from Charlie Webb . Charlie said that there will be a train show sponsored by the Central Pa Chapter NRHS IN August.
2. Chapter Picnic- Our chapter picnic will be held on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at the Horseshoe Curve at 1:00 P.M. Please bring something to share. Also, there will be NO regular meeting in August.
3. A Thank-you from Rebecca Gerstung-A thank-you was received from Rebecca Gerstung who is the Rail Camp Program Director. She thanked us for sponsoring Zach Noonan and for supporting the Rail Camp Program.
4. Denny Walls reported that the Genealogy Society will be sponsoring a talk on Glen White. He wasn't sure if Kevin Stiver will be the speaker or not.  
Also, Denny attended an auction by Colonel Miller. There were a lot of interesting rail road items.  
Denny also informed us that his father Mike Walls has suffered a stroke and is now recovering. He said that thoughts and prayers would be greatly appreciated.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Zach Noonan 's Trip To Rail Camp-Zach said that he had a great time at Rail Camp this year. There were 28 students in the class. Zach said that the boys [no girls] were kept busy from 5:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. Activities included cab rides, cab tours, participation in railroad operations, experienced railroad history, worked with real railroad equipment and many others. The camp was held in Newark, DE .and the boys stayed at the University of Delaware. Zach said that it was a wonderful experience and he thanked the chapter as well as the Alto Model Train Museum for this wonderful opportunity.

Gary Clare then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ralph Simpson second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.- 17 members present

ATTENDANCE-Ron Givler, Dee Hartman, Don Goebel, Nancy McKnight, Dean McKnight, Gary Clare, Dewayne Miller, Marge Simpson, Ralph Simpson, Zach Noonan, Jean Noonan, Dick Charlesworth, Karin Givler Frank Givler, John Fisher, Denny Walls, Joe Harella

JOSEPH HARELLA

RECORDING SECRETARY

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS



Members at the meeting held at Horseshoe Curve.



Some of the many geese who also came to the meeting at the Horseshoe Curve that night.

# LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE PRESERVING HISTORY

by Joe Harella

## Part 1 - New History Book Published

This past April a new history book was published by the Blair County Historical Society about the “Forgotten Town” of Glen White. It was written by Kevin Stiver.

Kevin is an amazing young man who is very interested in local history. He began his research for this writing at the age of 14 after his grandfather, Ray Stiver, took him on a car ride passed the old coke ovens of Glen White, located about two miles above the Horseshoe Curve. Kevin spent about a year researching all he could find out about that area.

The result is a 70 page book with a very detailed listing of all the buildings, people and the coal company of that town, including the town’s demise. It sells for \$20.00 and is worth the price in photos alone.

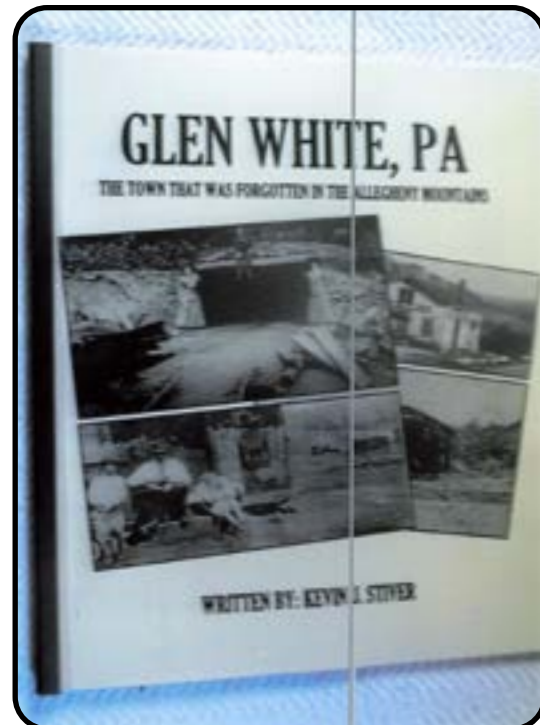
Kevin, now 15 years old, presented talks about the town and his book at the ARMM on June 21st (sponsored by the Blair County Historical Society as part of their monthly lecture series) and also at the Horseshoe Curve on July 22nd.

It is great to have a “young” person so interested in local history and it is this editor’s hope that that interest will continue to grow.

Editor’s Note: Joe Harella’s grandmother lived in the town of Glen White and she is listed in the pages of the book.



Kevin at the Horseshoe Curve with a coal auger from Glen White, now a part of Kevin’s collection.



The cover of the new book about Glen White.

## Part 2 - NRHS member receives an award

Zachery Noonan recently graduated from AAHS and received an award from the Altoona Career & Technology Center, a Senior award in Computer and Network Technology.

Zack is a member of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS and usually attends chapter meetings with his mother, Jean.

Zack was the chapter's sponsorship to this year's Rail Camp. He made a report about that trip at the July 25th chapter meeting (see chapter meeting minutes under the Local News section).

He is also helping Joe Harella work on the restoration of the bay window caboose at ARMM, a photo of him doing that was in the Summer 2023 issue of the Coal Bucket.

Congratulations Zack on receiving this award and the staff hope that you will continue to help preserve the local history as you go on with your life.



Newspaper article about Zachery's award and his photo from that article.

## A LOOK BACK

**50 YEARS AGO** August 11, 1973, a new 5 car Amtrack train purchased from France arrived in Altoona after stopping at the Horseshoe Curve for a photo shoot.

**25 YEARS AGO** Conrail officially ceased to exist at 12:01 am, as Norfolk Southern and CSX Railroads took over the system.

American Track Systems, Inc. (located at the Juniata Shops of Conrail and built switches and track parts) declared bankruptcy. They owed Conrail \$170,000.00 in rent money and Judge Norman of the Blair County Court System gave Conrail permission to evict them.

The Altoona Curve baseball team started playing in the Eastern League at Blair County Ball Park in Lakemont Park.

## CHAPTER PICNIC HELD AT THE CURVE

On Sunday, August 27, 2023 at 1:00 pm, the annual chapter picnic was held under the pavilion at Horse-shoe Curve Park. There were 36 members present.

President Frank Givler kept the hamburgers and hot dogs coming off the grill and Karin Givler had all the condiments and salads and desserts brought by the members arranged in order on the buffet table.

The day was enjoyed by all who attended with many “stories” swapped about railroad work and buffing.

Many trains went by that day and at one time one was going in each direction. Although they were kinda hard to view from under the pavilion, a short walk past the gift shop building provided a good look at the tracks as the trees in that area were trimmed for that purpose. Sadly, the incline is still out of service so only a few members walked up the 196 steps to the top.



Frank manning the grill cooking hamburgers and hot dogs.

Members loading up their plates at the buffet table.





## IN MEMORY

LARRY W. LEAR, age 81, passed away August 2, 2023. Larry was a long time member of our chapter where he helped with the train rides that the chapter used to hold. He had taken sick on a bus trip in Ohio and never recovered. He will be missed the chapter members.

May you rest in peace Larry.

- A complete obituary is being printed because of the many items and groups that he helped during his lifetime.-

### Larry W. Lear

May 23, 1942 – Aug. 3, 2023

Larry W. Lear, age 81, of McKee, went to Heaven on Thursday at Conemaugh

Nason Medical Center, Roaring Spring. He was born in McKee, son of the late Kenneth and Susanna (Wertman) Lear.



Lear

He is survived by two sisters, Janet K. Moyer and her husband, Ralph, of Lebanon and Kathy A. Koser and her husband, Carl, of Carlisle; a niece, Stacy Moyer of York; and three nephews: Doug Moyer and his wife, Cindy, of Lebanon and their children, Rachel and Trevor; John Walter of Washington; and Dustin Koser of Shippensburg.

Larry was a 1960 graduate of Roaring Spring High School. He then graduated from Altoona School of Commerce. He retired in 2015 from Roaring Spring Blank Book Co. after many years of service.

He was a lifelong member of McKee United Methodist Church, where he had served as treasurer for many years.

Larry was also a member of National Railway Historical Society — Horseshoe Curve Chapter, where he enjoyed helping with their train rides for the public.

He also enjoyed deep sea fishing, going to Atlantic City and going on bus trips with Bollman Tours.

Larry volunteered at Mission Central Hub and the American Rescue Workers Food Bank.

Friends will be received from noon until the 1 p.m. funeral service Friday, Aug. 11, 2023, at **Todd T. Thompson Funeral Home Inc.**, Roaring Spring, with Pastor Trina Miller officiating and Pastor Cheryl Gonsman assisting. Interment will be made at Greenlawn Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Larry's memory may be given to McKee United Methodist Church.

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