



Official Newsletter  
of



NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

**Spring 2025**

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**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 ISSUE - SPRING 2025

1. Editorial -- The Golden Years of Modeling by Leonard Alwine
2. Model Train Open House - by Editor
3. Under The Wire and A Look Back -- New light shed on an old trolley wreck combined with a photo essay on Logan Valley Truck 18
4. A Play on Words -- An article about a sign at the restaurant where the chapter meets for supper. - Editor
5. Pizza Social -- Report on the chapters social and a calendar of events at the ARMM. - Editor
6. Chapter Minutes -- by Joe Harella for the past Winter.
7. The Wreck of the Broker - Report on a lecture held at the Altoona Railroad Memorial Museum about the deadliest train wreck in New Jersey by Frank Givler, President. Also a list of future lectures at the ARMM.
8. Keystone Series - Railroads -- A report on a new film buy WPSU about local railroad attractions and histories - Leonard Alwine.

It has been a hard Winter for the Coal Bucket Staff. The Winter issue was late due to health problems. Hopefully all is better and healed up and we will try to get the issues back on schedule this Spring!

## Happy Spring & Easter

- The Coal Bucket Staff

## **EDITORIAL**

**by Leonard Alwine**

The Golden Years of modeling are over! I recently needed a few brushfuls of enamel paint to touch up a spot on a project in my kitchen on the stove. Since I have not been building any model for sometime due to my health problems with my fingers, all my paint had become hard. So it was off to the hobby store to get a new bottle. That is when I got “sticker shock” at the high prices of models and model building supplies.

A 1/4 oz. bottle of Testors paint was now \$2.99 plus tax = \$3.17. I remembered purchasing this same paint when I began building models in the early 1960’s for \$.10 cents. I remember it getting to over \$1.00 years later when I sort of had to quit building models due to my hands not working as well. But do the math, a whole gallon of this paint would be equal to \$1,530.88!! plus \$46.83 tax!!

I took a quick look around the model shelves and found that all the reissues of old models are now in the sky high price range. Model cars, which I remember purchasing for \$1.98, are now in the \$25 to \$40 dollar range and model trucks I built in the 1970’s to 1980’s are now \$60 and up compared to the original \$4.99 prices. These are not new models, only reissues. Looking around at model train cars I found that reissues of old Athearn and AHM model cars that used to sell for \$1.00 to \$2.00 are now at \$25 or more!! And Plasticville houses that were around \$1.50 each are now reissued at \$30, that is if you can find a local store that is selling them.

It made me think about the hobby and model building in general. Over the past 45 or so years I guess I built around 1,500 models of cars, trucks, firetrucks (mostly scratch built) railroad cars, houses, buildings, model busses and trolleys and layout and dioramas. I wish I would have kept track of them on a record sheet, but I did not.

I also belonged to at least half a dozen model building clubs which went “belly up” due to declining membership. And I think I know why.

The hobby has priced itself out of existence! Young people, kids and teenagers, can no longer afford to start building them. Even older adults maybe cannot afford a large layout or model collection. The large running layouts have been replaced by 1 foot by 4 foot shelf layouts with end to end running. And at close to \$100 for a model kit and supplies to build it, many collections have become just a couple sitting on the coffee table.

And these smaller layouts and collections cannot keep the hobby stores in business. Think about a few years ago when hobby stores were all around and even department stores and hardware stores had a model selection and train items as part of their “toyland” especially at Christmas time.

And even the clubs that were formed to help members get into the hobby and try new things have disappeared as dues have climbed to near \$50 and members dropped out or quit the hobby altogether.

And as you take a look at these current prices, remember that a lot of these reissues and new products are made outside the USA and will soon be maybe 25% more once the proposed tariffs are in place.

Yes, the “Golden Years” of modeling seem to be over.

## **MODEL TRAIN OPEN HOUSE**

**by Leonard Alwine**

The Alto Model Train Museum Association, 1117 9th Avenue, Altoona is now hosting an open house every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

They are located about half a block from the ARMM building. Inside their many rooms are operating model train layouts including N, HO, S, O27, and O gauge scales. Also, many “special” train models are displayed in cases along the walls and other real train items and photos in the museum room.

Best of all, the admission is FREE!! (Donation jars are located around the layouts.)

Special group tours can be arranged by calling 814-942-2676.



A model of the Horseshoe Curve Landmark is built into the O gauge layout.

## **UNDER THE WIRE AND A LOOK BACK PHOTO ESSAY**

### **NEW MEMBER SHEDS “SPARKS” ON OLD DE-RAILMENT**

**by Leonard Alwine**

At the February NRHS pizza social, a new member joined our chapter. It was an interesting night as the Editor has been friends with him for over 40 years in the fire service. But that night, we both realized we shared an interest in railroad history also. And it was that night that he revealed that it was his father, Al Corbin, who was a motorman for the Altoona & Logan Valley Electric Railway. That information put a lot of new meaning into the many photos that I have of Service Truck 18 which is now owned by the chapter.

The new member is Gerald Corbin of Hollidaysburg and his late Father, Al, was the motorman who was operating car #178 which crashed into the Gaysport crossing gate at the PRR Hollidaysburg train station.

The trolley line did not go the whole way to the station but stopped at the bottom of the steep hill across route 22.

On that day, May 27, 1948, Al stopped the trolley at the bottom of the hill and was changing the poles on the ends of the car when the brake came loose and the car traveled about the length of two football fields, crossing

busy route 22 and crashed into the crossing arm gate at the PRR station. No one was hurt.

The car was #178, a 1913 St. Louis car, one of eight purchased used from the Ohio Valley Electric Railway in 1918, and used mainly on the Hollidaysburg line.

Once the car was stopped it was necessary to get it back on the tracks and “Under the Wire” again. To do so, Truck 18 was brought to the scene. That truck was a 1946 Walthers purchased by Logan Valley in November 1946 as shown in the photos in my collection of the derailment. The Walthers had no problem pulling the car back to the end of the tracks where the car was “electrified” again and driven under its own power back to the car barn about five miles away.

Service Truck 18 has a colorful past also as most chapter members know. But to close this article I will tell of some of it’s past and show some of the many photos I took of the truck over the years.

The truck was acquired by the Altoona & Logan Township Bus Authority on November 1, 1959 when the Logan Valley assets were purchased by them. In 1980, it was retired and donated to ARMM. While there it was give a PRR maroon paint job but left outside in the yard where weather and vandals destroyed the truck. In 1995, the chapter acquired the truck from ARMM so it could be restored as the only existing example of Logan Valley equipment. At that time it had only 15,072 miles on the odometer. On September 6, 1997 it was moved to Lafferty Trucking Body Shop to begin the task of restoring the body work. The body work repairs and repainting were completed by November 22, 1997 and it was then taken to Frank’s Auto Service in Lakemont to do mechanical repairs. It was again running and took part in Altoona’s 150th birthday parade in May 1999. In May 2007, the snow plow and grader blades were restored and put back on the truck. It was then put inside a garage to protect it from weather. In November 2024, six new tires were purchased and installed on the truck. It is hoped to get it back out of storage and on display during 2025.



Car #178 on top of the Gaysport RR crossing gate



Hooking the Walthers Truck 18 up to pull #178 back to the rails



Ready to move back across Route 22



Guiding #178 back to the rails





Truck #18 inside the car barn 1965



Truck #18 at ARMM 1980



Truck #18 at ARMM repainted PRR maroon



September 6, 1997 loading Truck #18 for its move to Lafferty for restoration.



Project Chairman Len Alwine wonders if we bit off more than we could chew



Dismantled and sandblasted at Lafferty's Paint Shop



Joe Harella built new door frames in his wood shop



Len and Diane Alwine take apart the old seats to rebuild them.



Louise Alwine sews new material for the seat in her upholstery shop



Len Alwine built new window frames in his welding shop for the new window glass



New orange paint finally applied





Black paint applied and  
cab reassembled



November 22, 1997, Jack White  
relettered Truck #18



Truck #18 moved to Frank's Auto Service in  
Lakemont to restore the mechanics



Truck #18 running in the Altoona  
150th Birthday Parade May 1999



The original snow plow was installed in 2005  
so that restoration of it could begin.



Snow plow and scraper blades restored  
and installed 5-28-2007



## **A PLAY ON WORDS**

by Leonard Alwine

The Chapter has been holding it's monthly meetings most of the time at Perkins Family Restaurant on Pleasant Valley. The food and the service is excellent. They allow us to use the private room in the back for several hours.

They also have plenty of baked goods available for purchase at the check out counter which are very hard to resist passing up. They are made fresh and the smell of these baking entices you to make a purchase even if you are still stuffed from your supper.

This past January they even put a sign along the road about that smell, which uses a "play" on words for the phrase "Smells like a bakery, don't it."

Sign using a play on words at Perkins.



## **PIZZA SOCIAL MEETING REPORT**

by Leonard Alwine

The February monthly meeting of the chapter was held at ARMM on the 25th. It was a social meeting with pizza provided by the chapter as a replacement for the Christmas dinner which could not be held in December 2024.

Those attending had a good time beginning at 6:00 p.m. with pizza and fellowship and then leaving around 7:30 p.m. following an ARMM update by Joe DeFrancesco about the projects and the coming tourist season. A schedule was available regarding these events.

Joe Harella has a more complete report in the February chapter minutes located later in this newsletter.



Dean McKnight is first to slice into the pizza at the meeting



Several members enjoying the pizza and fellowship at the meeting



# 2025 EVENTS

RAILROADERS  
MEMORIAL MUSEUM

*For more event details visit [railroadcity.org/events](http://railroadcity.org/events)*

\*  
notates an event that will showcase live music!

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p><b>15th</b> - History After Hours</p> <p><b>31st</b> - Tuxedo Junction: * Railroad City Music</p>	<p><b>6th</b> - History After Hours</p> <p><b>8th</b> - Wreck of the Broker Documentary Screening</p> <p><b>21st</b> - Laugh Tracks: Comedy Night at the Museum</p>	<p><b>6th</b> - History After Hours</p> <p><b>13th</b> - Trivia Night at the Museum</p>
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p><b>10th</b> - History After Hours</p> <p><b>19th</b> - Rails &amp; Tails Egg Hunt</p>	<p><b>8th</b> - History After Hours</p> <p><b>10th</b> - Wing Fest Express *</p> <p><b>31st</b> - Twilight at the Curve</p> <p><b>26th</b> - Memorial Day Event</p>	<p><b>21st</b> - Cookout at the Curve</p> <p><b>7th</b> - LIVE! at the Museum *</p> <p><b>14th</b> - Twilight at the Curve</p>
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<p><b>5th</b> - Main Line Mania *</p> <p><b>19th</b> - Twilight at the Curve</p>	<p><b>9th</b> - BBQ-94 Fest *</p> <p><b>16th</b> - Twilight at the Curve</p> <p><b>31st</b> - Cars &amp; Couplers (Mel's Car Show)</p>	<p><b>6th</b> - Twilight at the Curve</p> <p><b>8th</b> - K4 Classic (golf outing)</p>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p><b>4th</b> - Seafood &amp; Brews in Railroad City *</p> <p><b>25th</b> - Haunted House Event</p>	<p><b>Unknown</b> - Trivia Night at the Museum</p> <p><b>Unknown</b> - Laugh Tracks: Comedy Night at the Museum</p>	<p><b>5th</b> - Santa's Coming to Town: Christmas at the Curve</p>

## **HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS**

### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Frank Givler at 7:15 P.M.. The meeting was held at Perkins Family Restaurant.

The minutes of the November meeting were read by Pres. Givler in the absence of the Secretary, which included one correction. The Penn State account runs from July 1 until June 30<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Ron Givler to approve the minutes, second by Jim Caum. The motion carried.

The financial statements were read by Treasurer Denny Walls. Dick Charlesworth made a motion to accept the financial report, Ralph Simpson second. The motion passed. Denny also reported that he has six calendars still available if anyone would like one.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Chapter Film-Pres. Givler informed everyone that he will be setting up a meeting with Museum Executive Director Joe DeFrancesco to discuss the chapter's "Lead In" film for the museum theatre. He also asked if Dick Charlesworth and Gary Price would like to join? Pres Givler said that he will get in touch with them once the time and date are confirmed. He also mentioned that he would like to check out the storage room that the chapter will be using at the museum.
2. Trip to the East Broad Top and Swigart Museum- Dick Charlesworth said that he has nothing new to report on the trip at this time. Ron Givler reminded Dick that through the summer the Swigart Museum hosts' a car show every Saturday morning and we would have to be sure that the museum would be available to us. More information to follow.
3. Chapter Get Together- It was suggested in November that we hold a get together since we did not have a Christmas party in December. Pres. Givler asked Denny about using the fire hall, but Denny stated that they are not booking any parties at this time. Pres. Givler said that he will check with Joe about using the museum for sometime in February.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. There was no new business to discuss so a motion to adjourn was made by Ron Givler, second by Ralph Simpson. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M. – 21 members present.

JOSEPH HARELLA

RECORDING SECRETARY

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

## **HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS**

### **REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on February 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2025. The meeting was held at the Railroader's Memorial Museum. Instead of our regular business meeting, the chapter held a social meeting. Since we had to forgo our Christmas dinner in December, everyone agreed to have a pizza party/meeting sometime in February. The chapter provided the pizza along with plates and silverware. Chapter members were asked to bring their own drink.

Executive Director Joe Defrancesco along with Matt Wolf gave an update on the museum as well as the Round House. Work on the Cabin Car and the K-4 both continue to move forward. Joe and Matt both explained to everyone all of the various events that are planned here at the museum this year. The evening was then opened up to a question and answer period. A lot of good information was discussed.

Joe also informed everyone that sometime this spring a formal dedication of the museum theater to Dave Seidel will be held. The chapter's "lead in" film will also provide visitors with the important significance that the chapter played in the beginning stages of the museum.

We had twenty five members and guests in attendance.

Attendance- Diane Haire, Denny Haire, Len Alwine, Nancy McKnight, Dean McKnight, Denny Walls, Dick Charlesworth, Diane Teeter, Wil Teeter, Joe Defrancesco, Jean Noonan, Zach Noonan, Pat Kelley, Curt Criss, Gerald Corbin, Karin Givler, Frank Givler, Jim Caum, Mary Ann Stanley, George Stanley, Don Goebel, Marge Simpson, Ralph Simpson, Matt Wolf, Joe Harella.

JOSEPH HARELLA

RECORDING SECRETARY

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS



HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MARCH 25, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on March 25, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Frank Givler at 7:00 P.M.. The meeting was held at Perkins Family Restaurant.

The minutes of the January and February meetings were read and approved by Denny Haire, second by Ralph Simpson. The motion passed.

Due to the absence of the Treasurer there was no financial report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Lead In Film- Pres. Givler and Dick Charlesworth met with Museum Executive Director Joe DeFrancesco and Director of Operations Matt Wolf. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the chapter's lead in film for the movie theater. The purpose of the film is to educate the public and future generations of museum patrons on the important role that the chapter played in the early development of the museum.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Gary Price- Karin Givler reported that after spending some time in the hospital Gary is now back home. He is now under the care of hospice. Gary's wife Betsie said that he would love to hear from friends and family. Betsie asks that if you would like to visit Gary to please call ahead to make sure it is a good time to see him. The phone number is 717 475 0212.

2. Penn State Visit- Pres. Givler and Dick Charlesworth paid a visit to Penn State Altoona. The purpose of the visit was to meet up with students who could potentially be recipients of the chapter's scholarship program.

3. Chapter Meeting Location-Now that the renovations to the theater are completed a discussion was held regarding where we would like to hold our meetings: either at Perkins or in the movie theater. It was decided to alternate the meetings between Perkins and the theater. Dean McKnight commented that he likes to hear the railroad related discussions. He is especially interested in the story behind Curry Rail.

4. Plaque for Deceased Members- Pres. Givler brought in the plaque which contains the names of all deceased members of the chapter. The plaque had been in storage for some time and now the list of names must be updated. The plaque will be hung in the movie theater.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Railroad Film on Channel 3- Member Len Alwine informed everyone that a short railroad film about Altoona and surrounding area will be shown on Friday March 21, 2025. The film will be broadcast on PBS, channel 3.

2. Railroad Memorabilis-Dick Charlesworth reported that while cleaning out his basement he ran across a report on restoring the GG1. It also included the busing of train passengers from Lancaster to the Horseshoe Curve. The trip was a fund raiser for the GG1. He also found a list of the various trains that passed through here every day. It was very interesting.

Denny Haire then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ralph Aimpson second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M. with 15 members present.

Attendance- Nancy McKnight, Dean McKnight, Marge Simpson, Ralph Simpson, Patrick Kelly, Karin Givler, Frank Givler, Wil Teeter, Diane Haire, Denny Haire, Len Alwine, Mary Ann Stanley, George Stanley, Dick Charlesworth, Joe Harella

JOE HARELLA  
RECORDING SECRETARY  
HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

## **THE WRECK OF "THE BROKER"**

**by Frank Givler**

The wreck of the PRR train "The Broker" is the deadliest wreck to happen in New Jersey. All totaled, 85 passengers were killed and 476 (incomplete list) people injured and treated at local hospitals.

The wreck happened February 6, 1951 in Woodbridge, NJ. On February 8, 2025 a lecture about the wreck was held at ARMM. The lecture was conducted by Gorden Bond and featured his book Man Failure, a 369 page historical look at the accident. He has spent years researching through many files and interviewing as many survivors as he could find still living. The book sells for \$30.

From his research he writes on that fatal night, PRR K-4s engine 2445 built in the Juniata Shops in 1917, pulled out of Jersey City with the eleven car "The Broker" in tow. It was so named because of the many passengers used this train to commute to work on Wall Street and their homes. This train was loaded heavily that night due to the New Jersey Central being on strike.

Engineer Joe Fritzsiman was at the controls and running estimated at 60 mph to make up time that the

addition of a few extra station stops would add to the route. At Woodbridge the train was supposed to be slowed to 25 mph to navigate the newly opened wooden trestle built beside the main line to carry the tracks over the New Jersey turnpike being constructed under the main tracks. The trestle was just opened earlier that day or the day before and only a few trains had used it as of yet that evening.

The engineer tried to slow the train down for the dog leg over the trestle but without speedometers in the engine he wasn't sure how fast he was traveling. Other workers on the train said that it felt more like 35 to 40 mph as the train turned right onto the trestle. The engine then turned left over the trestle and made it onto the straight track, but the tender with it's water sloshing back and forth jumped the tracks and pulled the coal auger and stoker out of the engine causing it to lay on it's side and slide down the bank onto Fulton Street trapping the engineer in the cab. When he came to, he dug his way out of the cab and saw the tender and the first six cars had also derailed and hung over the opening under the trestle and piled up going towards Fulton Street on the bank slope. The site became a massive recovery site for the local fire service.

An interesting note is that engine 2445 was hauled from the scene back to the PRR shops and rebuilt and still used on train until September 1953 when it was dropped from the roster and scrapped. By November 4, 1957, all K-4 engines were retired.

It was a good informative lecture and pretty well attended even though there was a blizzard like snow coming down outside ARMM keeping many people from attending and staying home.

If you want to learn about the complete history of The Broker, I encourage you to purchase a copy of the book and read it.

Following are a select few photos of the wreck site from the book:



Tender upside down with coal auger and stoker pulled out of engine at the bottom of slope along Fulton Street



Overall scene of the wreck along  
Fulton Street after the steam engine  
and last five passenger cars were  
removed

Derailed passenger cars and track  
torn up off the temporary trestle over  
Legion Place Road





RAILROADERS  
MEMORIAL  
MUSEUM

1200 9TH  
AVE,  
ALTOONA, PA  
16602



FREE  
ADMISSION

SNACKS &  
DRINKS  
AVAILABLE  
FOR  
PURCHASE

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# History After Hours 2025 Lecture Series

(3rd Floor Event Room)

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2/6

THURSDAY

SPEAKER: JOHN BANDZUH,  
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT  
MOUNT ALOYSUIS COLLEGE  
TOPIC: CULTURE IN THE PRR

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3/6

THURSDAY

SPEAKER: JOSH PENROD,  
HISTORIAN  
TOPIC: INDUSTRIAL NETWORK -  
THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE  
JOHNSTOWN AND ALTOONA  
INDUSTRIAL NETWORK

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4/10

THURSDAY

SPEAKER: BRAD ESPOSITO,  
DIRECTOR OF THE EAST BROAD  
TOP RAILROAD  
TOPIC: EAST BROAD TOP  
RAILROAD AND THE PRR

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5/8

THURSDAY

SPEAKER: AL CHURELLA,  
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT  
KENNESAW UNIVERSITY  
TOPIC: VOLUME III OF HIS 3-PIECE  
VOLUME ON PRR HISTORY

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[WWW.RAILROADCITY.ORG](http://WWW.RAILROADCITY.ORG)

6PM START / DOORS OPEN AT 5:30

## **IT'S SPRING!!**

**by Leonard Alwine**

If you look at the calendar, you will find that March 21st was the first full day of Spring! Even though it has been cold due to high winds. It won't be long until the tourist season is upon us and several local historic places will be open again.

The Horseshoe Curve will soon be de-iced and open to the top to see trains rounding the tracks and several special events starting in mid May. Also ARMM will soon be holding outside events and the yard and roundhouse will begin to warm up for viewing the rolling stock displayed there.

And the Blair County Historical Society will open their museum, Baker's Mansion, in May for programs held there. They have already began their lecture series, which are held at ARMM and will continue until November.

So get out and enjoy the upcoming Spring season and remember to take your camera with you so you can take photos you can submit to the Coal Bucket for future editions.

### **History Speaks: A BCHS Lecture Series**

Join us for another season of interesting and informative presentations on local history. These talks, normally held on the third Wednesday of the month, take place at the Railroaders Memorial Museum, 1300 Ninth Avenue, Altoona. We are grateful for the partnership of the Railroaders Memorial Museum in making these lectures possible. Presentations begin at 7 p.m. and are free and open to the public, although donations are gratefully accepted. Below is a schedule of this season's speakers and topics.

March 19: Kevin Stiver - "A Pictorial History of the World Famous Horseshoe Curve"

April 23: Mark Glenn - "Altoona Area Coal Mining and Famous Altoona Mining Engineers"

May 21: Jim Lowe - "80 Year Retrospective: Blair County and Victory in WWII"

June 18: Byron Smail - "Blair County's Limestone and Gannister Industries"

July 16: Dr. Michael Farrow - "The Story of Alleghany Furnace 1811-1884: Iron Making in Blair County at the Elias Baker Estate"

Aug. 20: Brandon Sliko - "The Gallitzin Tunnels"

Sept. 17: Amy Wilson - "The 62nd Flag: Stories of Antietam, Gettysburg, and the Battle to be Remembered"

Oct. 15: Michael Allison - "From Wise Women to Witches and Wicca"

Nov. 19: Harald Dertinger - "Altoona's German Heritage and History"

Schedule of BCHS lectures held at  
ARMM

## **KEYSTONE STORIES . . . RAILROADS**

**by Leonard Alwine**

A new railroad film production by WPSU aired on channel 3 on March 10, 2025. I only was able to view the last few minutes of the show as I came across it while tuning into Weather World. Wishing to view the whole program I then began to search out a way to do that. Of course since I have no computer or knowledge of how to use them this became an uphill battle.

My first stop was ARMM to see if they might have any copies for sale in their gift shop. They did not. My second stop was the Altoona Campus of Penn State to see if they might have a street mail address that I might write a letter to inquiring about the availability of this program.

There, I ran into, purely by luck, a fellow train enthusiast, David Pearlman, who was just leaving since it was Spring Break. He spent about the next 45 minutes with me on his computer while I looked at the floor to ceiling wallpaper in his office which was covered with steam engines. He had not seen or heard about this program himself so it became an interest to him. He was able to get me a phone number of the PSU Media sales office, which I called and left a message.

Later that day, Jeff Hughes, Program Director, called me back and I talked to him a long time explaining my request. His reply was that they do not have this for sale and since their equipment is outdated they cannot make any copies of that program. I assumed that I had reached a dead end. But late that night he called me back again and stated that he was able to put this program on the schedule for March 21, from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. by removing another more used program in that time slot. I thanked him for his help.

I then called Frank to let him "email" our members about this showing so all could watch this if they wanted to and were just watching tv at this time.

The program aired that day and it was quite interesting. It is called Keystone Stories -- Railroads, and is Season #2, Episode #1. It was hosted by Will Price.

The line up of covered places in a nutshell is as follows:

- #1 -- ARMM, Altoona History, Horseshoe Curve, and the rebuild of K-4 1361.
- #2 -- Cresson and the Station Inn and the lookout across the street.
- #3 -- Different railroad bridges of the Central PA area.
- #4 -- The Walter L. Main Circus Train Wreck in Vale and the Tyrone Train Museum.
- #5 -- Sounds of railroad trains in Huntingdon and Lewistown
- #6 -- The Lake Erie, Franklin & Clarion Railroad in Clarion, PA and the model train layout of that line located there open to the public on Wednesdays.
- #7 -- Trains in Houtzdale, PA and the silent film made by Labon Films of two steam trains crashing head on in front of a couple thousand people who purchased ticket and sat on bleachers constructed along the side tracks.

It was a good short 30 minute film which had a lot of local history built into it. If you missed this showing you can keep looking at the WPBS schedule and maybe find it being shown again. I am sure it will be. Good Luck!!