

Official Newsletter
of



NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1361
Altoona, PA 16603-1361
www.hscnrhs.org

Winter 2024-2025

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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 WINTER 2024-2025 ISSUE OF THE COAL BUCKET

- Chapter member authors a new pamphlet - Coal Bucket Editor Leonard Alwine, recently wrote a new article which was published by the Blair County Historical Society and released November 1, 2024 about the Altoona Works PRR Fire Department.

- Finally, the funicular at the Horseshoe Curve was open to service again on November 9, 2024 and the Editor was there to take a ride after a four year shutdown.

- Old Habits are Hard to Break, is an article about Secretary Joe Harella still helping with Santa Trains in December 2024.

- A Model of Alto Tower is an article in response to Dean McKnight stating at a Chapter meeting in October 2024 that something should be done with the Alto Tower. Len Alwine shows a few photos of a model of it that he built in 2006-2007.

- Under the Wire contains an article on PCC cars celebrating 70 years of service overseas as gleaned from a Trains Magazine announcing this celebration to take place in 2025-2026.

- Local Yard News and Chapter minutes are included by Joe Harella to keep all informed of upcoming events.

- A tribute to the "Train Lady" Carol Lee Paterson, by Editor Len Alwine about her operating the seasonal trains at the Logan Valley Mall for 38 years.

- A Look Back has a listing of events compiled by the Editor that took place in Altoona during the past several years.

- In Memory is a memorial to former Coal Bucket Editor, Mike Albanese, who passed away January 13, 2025. He served as Editor from 1991-1997. Longtime member, Mike Walls, has also passed.

- It is the hope of the Coal Bucket Staff that all members will enjoy this newsletter. Please let us know! As always we are looking for articles written by our Chapter members and photos taken by them for future newsletters. To submit articles, please mail them to the Editor at the address on the cover.

- The Coal Bucket Staff

CHAPTER MEMBER AUTHORS NEW PUBLICATION

by Leonard Alwine

The Blair County Historical Society recently (November 1, 2024) released a new pamphlet that was written by the Chapter Coal Bucket Editor, Leonard Alwine.

The title of the pamphlet is The History of the Altoona Works of the Pennsylvania Railroad Fire Department 1859-1995. It details the PRR and its fire fighting protection they provided for Altoona almost from the beginning of the town.

The PRR allowed the first volunteer fire company (Goodwill) to use a building at 12th Street and 9th Avenue inside the shop complex. A few years later the PRR purchased a horse drawn steam fire engine and placed it in the same building as the Goodwill company moved out. This fire engine was manned by the PRR machine shop employees as was future purchases of fire apparatus purchased by the PRR.

The PRR eventually built a brick fire station across 12th Street from the original one and a short time later another brick station along Chestnut Avenue at 1st Street inside the car shop complex.

In 1895, the City of Altoona created a paid fire department and purchased all the volunteer stations and equipment (most of it provided by the City). The two PRR companies became #7 and #8 on the AFD rosters but were still manned by PRR employees and paid by the PRR Railroad Company. That lasted until 1985 when the last PRR (now Conrail) fire engine was retired.

This publication details the progress of this fire company from the hand drawn and horse drawn units of the 1850's through the first gasoline powered truck in the early 1900's to the end in 1985.

It was written by Leonard Alwine, using many photos, articles and books from conventions in the early days that he has collected over the years of Altoona and Blair County Fire Departments. He himself, has been a volunteer fireman with Logan Township since 1968.

The pamphlet condenses the PRR history into an eight page publication with 35 photos, about half that he has collected over the years and the rest are ones he has taken himself.

It is available at the gift shop at Baker's Mansion - Blair County Historical Society, 3419 Oak Lane, Altoona, PA 16602 - at the very reasonable price of \$5.00. It is a must for any PRR or fire fighting enthusiast.

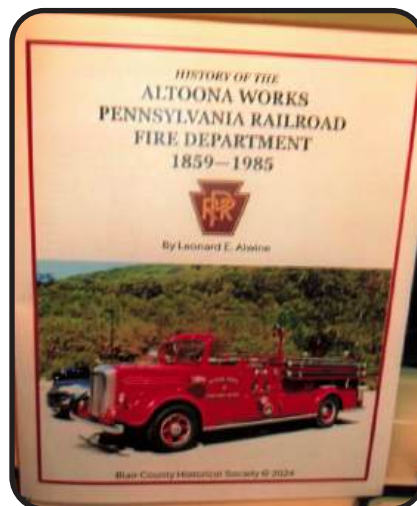


Photo of the cover of the book showing the PRR engine from 1941 at the Horseshoe Curve (9-14-24)

FINALLY!!
by Leonard Alwine

On Saturday, November 9, 2024, the funicular at the Horseshoe Curve was “officially” placed back into service. It was welcomed by a large crowd of people waiting to ride to the top of the Curve once again. It is better for those who cannot walk up the 198 steps to get to the top and the lookout to see the trains.

The funicular had actually passed all the tests a week before and had a “soft” opening for a couple days before the official opening on November 9th.

It will be operating for the rest of the season, Friday - Sunday from 9:00 am til 4:00 pm until the Curve closes in December for the winter. That will be a good test run and hopefully barring any other problems, it will be ready in the Spring for the 2025 tourist season.

There are some limits for now though. It only runs every half hour and is only allowed to carry 12 passengers each time per car. A schedule is posted at the entrance gate.

It did feel good though, getting to ride to the top once again after a four year shutdown. A special t-shirt is available in the gift shop for \$21.99, produced to mark the occasion.



Looking from the top on 11-9-2024
Two cars passing each other half way up the incline.
The first time in four years.

Special tshirt made for the re-opening
“I came for the trains, but stayed for the Funicular”
Available in the gift shop at the
bottom entrance for \$21.99.



OLD HABITS ARE HARD TO BREAK

by Leonard Alwine

For many years, the Chapter sponsored Santa Train trips using the chapter cars and the tracks and motive power of the Everett Railroad. It was great income for the chapter and was made possible by the dedicated members who took part in the event - selling tickets, stuffing treat bags, and manning the cars on the day of the trips.

One of these members who volunteered is Joe Harrella, who enjoyed being a conductor on the trains during the trips.

After many years, and a declining number of “young” volunteers, the Santa Train idea along with the cars were sold to the Everett Railroad, who still runs the special train today.

Chapter Secretary, Joe Harella, still serves as conductor for these trains today. His many years of service prove that old habits are hard to break!



Joe inside the train car for
the Santa trip in December 2024

A MODEL OF ALTO TOWER

by Leonard Alwine

There has been discussion lately about the Alto Tower and the need to keep it fixed up and painted before it is too late. At the October chapter meeting it was stated by Dean McKnight that maybe a model of the tower could be built and displayed at the museum.

That got me thinking about a model of it that I built back in 2006-2007. That was in the days when my fingers still worked and I could see better and handle small parts.

The model I built was laser cut wood by Railway Heritage Models. My late wife, Diane, helped me to purchase it for our anniversary in June of 2006. We ordered it and it arrived July 10, 2006. It cost \$89.95 plus shipping. I am sure that I spent another \$25.00 on glue and paint. I built it and painted it to resemble the original colors as shown on the box. It is an H-O scale model.

Even back then I could only work on it for a short time until my fingers would cramp up and I had to stop for a day or two. I finally finished it January 25, 2007. It turned out pretty good but I am sure that I could not build it today due to arthritis. Following are some photos of the finished model which I took in November 2024.



Photo of box cover showing the original colors



Photo of finished model from 10th Avenue side.



Photo of finished model from the railroad side.



End of tower looking towards the Horseshoe Curve.



End of tower looking towards the Juniata yard.

UNDER THE WIRE

by Leonard Alwine

Back in the early 1930's, the North American Tractor Operators and Manufacturers banded together to produce a "modern" trolley car. The group became known as the Electric Railway Presidents Conference Committee. Some five years later, the effort produced the first new street car that debuted in New York City on October 1, 1936. It was named a PCC car after the committee's name.

Over the next few years, more than 5,000 of these new "cars" were made for United States and Canada traction companies.

The closest they ever came to Altoona was in Johnstown, which purchased 17 of these cars (#401-417) in 1947. When retired in 1960, the electrical gear and trucks were sold to Brussels, overseas.

But the PCC cars would soon cross over the Atlantic for European countries. In an article by Quintus Vosman in the December issue of Trains Magazine, he details the PCC cars and transit companies that used them including some photos which I have gleaned to write this article on these long running trolley cars.

The first one went to Belgium along with two kits of parts to build more cars in 1949. The regular PCC car was a little too big for the narrow streets so the two kits were built and assembled in Belgium by La Buserise at Nicais & Delcuve who became the overseas builder of PCC cars for the Hague of the Netherlands and were made a little narrower and shorter. Brussels ordered cars from them in the early 1950's. Riders did not like the stained windows so many were built without them. The Hague eventually had 234 "American" looking PCCs on the roster. Other operators in Czechoslovakia and Eastern Block countries used over 14,000 of these cars, with many still in service today. That is three times as many built overseas as were built in the USA.

The Hague is celebrating 75 years of PCC use overseas in 2025. They will operate a 41.6 mile line along the Belgium coast followed by another celebration in Brussels using some of the 20 plus cars preserved in the Hague Transit Heritage fleet in 2026. That is quite an example of a 90 year old American trolley design still in use daily overseas.

One of Hague cars did return to American turf when retired and is on display at the National Capital Trolley Museum in Cloesville near Washington, D.C.. That is car #3129 (perhaps a future bus tour for Dick?).



Car #1302 rebuilt as the "Party Tram" which can be chartered for trips over the Hague system.



Hague cars small PCC #1304 and regular car #1022 at Schevening Haven terminal. Photo showing two different body styles.

LOCAL YARD NEWS & CHAPTER MINUTES

by Joe Harella

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

OCTOBER 22, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on October 22, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Frank Givler at 6:50 P.M. The meeting was held at Perkins Family Restaurant.

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

There was no financial report given due to the absence of the Treasurer.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Correction made in regards to the dues increase to begin in January. The \$5.00 per month increase will help to offset our expenses, however it will not cover the full amount.
2. Potomac Eagle Bus and Train Trip-Dick Charlesworth gave a report on the trip. After all expenses were paid, we netted a profit of \$2,173.81. Dick said that this could possibly be the best trip that he ever ran. An article explaining all about the trip will appear in the Coal Bucket and all of those who went on the trip will receive a copy as well. Everyone had a great time and thank you goes out to Dick for organizing the trip. A thank you also goes out to Ron Givler for taking care of the folks on the bus. Just to let everyone know Dick [THIS IS MY LAST TRIP] Charlesworth is already working on a trip with the East Broad Top for next year.
3. November Meeting- The November meeting which was changed to the 19th instead of the 26TH now has been changed to the 18TH . The 19TH was already booked at Perkins.

4. Alto Tower- Dean McKnight reminded everyone of the historic significance of the tower and that we must do everything to preserve it. He said that possibly a model of the tower could be placed inside of the museum. When asked who actually owns the tower, Pres. Givler said that he believes that the museum owns it.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Chapter Room In The Museum-Karin Givler suggested that we begin to get the room ready for us to move in, possibly in the spring. The room is located in the basement. A number of strong backs will be needed on moving day. Also, since we are not having a Christmas dinner this year, Karin handed out hand made pot holders to all of the ladies in the group. The pot holders are very nice, very colorful and will be very handy in the kitchen. Thank you Karin !

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Possible Pizza Party- Ron Givler made a suggestion that instead of our usual Christmas dinner, we could hold a pizza party sometime in February. He said that we could hold it either at the museum or possibly at the Geeseytown Firehall. Denny will have to check to see when the firehall is available.
2. Theater Dedication- Frank is not sure exactly when the dedication will take place. He will have to talk to Joe Defrancesco. The new seats have arrived but we are not sure if they have been installed yet. We believe that they are still working on the project
3. New Chapter Member- The Horseshoe Curve Chapter would like to welcome Patrick Kelley as our newest member. Welcome Patrick !

Ron Givler then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Don Goebel second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.- 11 members present

Attendance- Nancy McKnight, Dean McKnight, Ron Givler, Karin Givler, Frank Givler, Dee Hartman, Don Goebel, Chris Behe, Dick Charlesworth, Patrick Kelley, Joe Harella

JOSEPH HARELLA

RECORDING SECRETARY

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 18, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on November 18TH, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Frank Givler at 7:29 P.M.. The meeting was held at Perkins Family Restaurant.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Corrections made in the October minutes. Along with the pot holders that Karin Givler handed out ,she also included some very nice Christmas decorations. The October minutes also stated that the \$5.00 dues increase would be collected monthly. It will be in fact included in our annual dues , just once a year.
2. Museum Theater- Frank said that he will talk to Joe Defrancesco about the chapter's "lead in "film which would be shown right before the regular film " Altoona At Work ". The film would explain the chapter's involvement in the museum's early stages. He said the film could be made in house. He also informed everyone that the new seats have been installed and now the carpet will be cleaned.
3. Possible Bus Trip in the Spring- Once again Dick Charlesworth is working on a trip this time with the East Broad Top Railroad. The trip would include a number of interesting stops including the Swigart Museum . More on this trip later.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Penn State Account- The Penn State account for our chapter scholarships right now stands at \$4000. We had two recipients this year receiving our scholarships of \$500.00 each. The year runs from July 1 to July 30TH. The Penn State Rail Transportation and Engineering course currently has about 40 students enrolled.
2. Len Alwine is promoting a new fire book in conjunction with the Blair County Historical Society. The book mainly deals with the fire houses owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad. Len also informed everyone that the funicular at the Horseshoe Curve is now up and running. The museum is selling t-shirts to help to defray the cost of its' repair

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Pres. Givler reminded everyone that we do not hold a meeting in December. Since this is our last meeting for this year, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

2. It is once again time to elect new officers. However, Pres. Givler asked for a motion to retain the current slate of officers. Raph Simpson made a motion to keep the present officers , Gary Price second, the motion passed.

Ralph Simpson then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Don Goebel second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 P.M. - 21 members present.

Attendance- Dee Hartman, Don Goebel, Betsie Price, Gary Price, Nancy McKnight, Dean McKnight, Marge Simpson, Ralph Simpson, Karin Givler, Frank Givler, Patrick Kelley, Dick Charlesworth, Wil Teeter, Len Alwine, Larry McKee, John Fisher, Dewayne Miller, Jim Caum Mary Jane Walls, Denny Walls, Mystery Lady, Joe Harella

JOSEPH HARELLA
RECORDING SECRETARY
HORSESHOE CURVE NRHS

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

DECEMBER, 2024

Typically the Horseshoe Curve Chapter does not hold a meeting in December. We also decided to forgo the Christmas dinner this year as other commitments did not allow the time necessary for this function to take place.

We did however discuss the possibility of holding some type of celebration after the first of the year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

JOSEPH HARELLA
RECORDING SECRETARY
HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

A TRIBUTE TO THE “TRAIN LADY”

by Leonard Alwine

It seems only fitting that a special tribute be made in the Coal Bucket to Altoona’s longest active train operator, affectionately nicknamed “The Train Lady”.

Carol Lee Patterson (October 13, 1938 - January 8, 2025), was not a member of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter N.R.H.S, although her son did marry one of Les Shafer’s daughters and remembers riding on Les’s little steam engine. But Carol did operate Santa Express and Easter Bunny trains for 38 years at the Logan Valley Mall. That long term service earned her that special nickname from the many families who brought their kids to ride on those trains during the shopping seasons. Later in years those same kids returned with their kids to ride the train.

Carol loved children and truly enjoyed this seasonal job operating the train for it’s owner, Frank Marucci of Marucci Brothers, Inc., from Wilnerding near Monroeville.

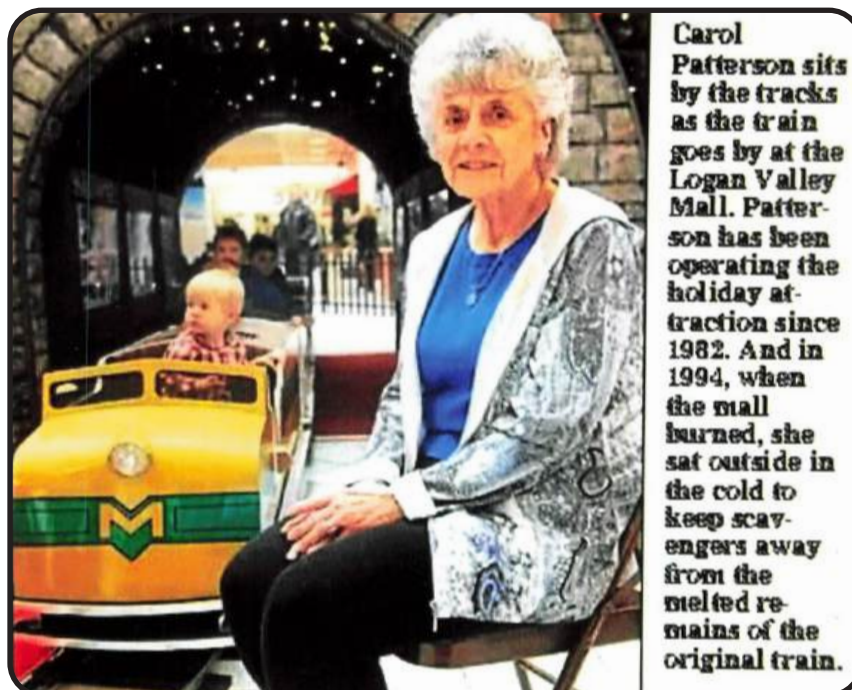
Carol was very saddened when the Mall burned down in December 1994 shortly before Christmas destroying her train. When the melted train was removed from the mall and piled outside, she heard that scavengers were trying to take it for scrap. She drove to the mall and sat near her train until Frank and his crew could arrive and load it into his van and take it back to his shop.

A new train was acquired and she continued to operate it during the special seasons at the mall, totaling 38 years of service. A record that may never be broken by anyone else operating trains in Altoona.

For Carol, her last train has left the station, but the memories of those 1,000’s of children and adults who rode those trains will live on in their minds. Kids and adults who were made happy enjoying a simple train ride while shopping.

You may not be at the control any longer, but you will forever be “The Train Lady”.

May you rest in peace, Carol.



Carol Patterson sits by the tracks as the train goes by at the Logan Valley Mall. Patterson has been operating the holiday attraction since 1982. And in 1994, when the mall burned, she sat outside in the cold to keep scavengers away from the melted remains of the original train.

Carol Lee Patterson

Oct. 13, 1938 – Jan. 8, 2025

Carol Lee Patterson, 86, Altoona, passed away peacefully on Wednesday at Maybrook Hills Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, Altoona.

She was born in Altoona, daughter of the late William G. and Lilith Faye (Dedea) Hutchison.



Patterson

In 1958, she married James “Dan” Patterson. They parted in 1980.

She is survived by a son, David Patterson (Linda); a daughter, Carol Patterson Fedeli (Ray); a grandson, Luke Patterson; a sister, Donna Beatty; and a nephew, W. Scott Beatty, all of Altoona. She is also survived by several stepgrandchildren and great-grandchildren; special friend, Jack Fulton; and best friend, Elizabeth Weaver.

Carol was a 1956 graduate of Altoona High School.

She retired in 2019 after 51 years of service with the Gingrich Insurance Agency where she worked as an insurance manager.

She operated the kids train ride at Logan Valley Mall during holiday seasons for 38 years. She loved children and truly enjoyed being known as the “Train Lady” to multiple generations. Carol also enjoyed babysitting for close family friends for many years. Above all, she loved her family and friends.

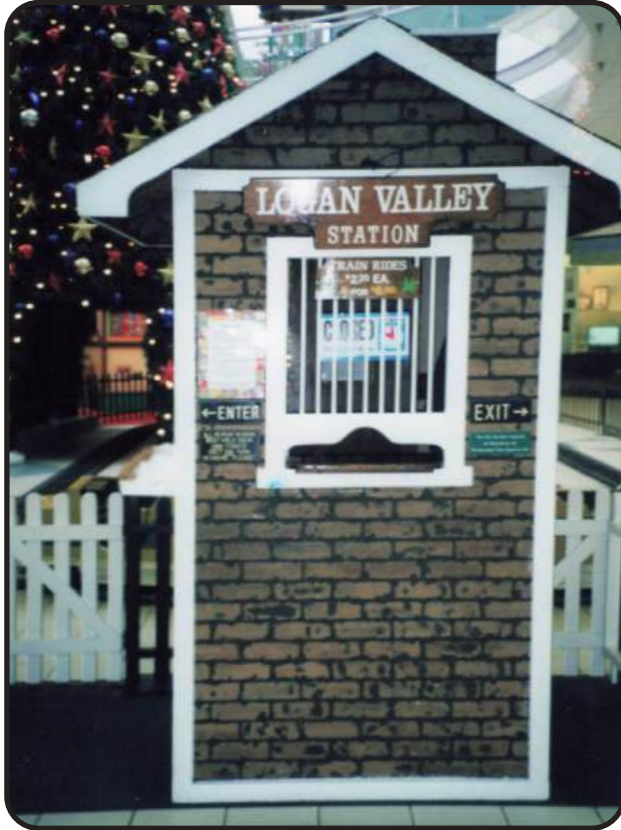
Friends will be received from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, at **Mauk & Yates Funeral Home Inc.**, 719 N. Fourth Ave., Altoona, where a funeral service will immediately follow at 1 p.m., with Pastor Jason Mauk officiating. Interment will be made at Logan Valley Cemetery, Bellwood.

Carol was a large supporter of community arts and theatre; in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Historic Mishler Theatre/Blair County Arts Foundation, 1208 12th Ave., #206, Altoona, PA 16601; or to Altoona Community Theatre, 1213 12th St., Altoona, PA 16601.

maukandyates.com



The second train used at the mall with a diesel engine and three passenger cars



The Logan Valley Station where tickets were purchased to ride the train.



Tunnel built through the two story Christmas tree so the train could get by.

Photos of this new train were taken December 27, 2009 by Editor Leonard Alwine.

A LOOK BACK **by Leonard Alwine**

October 1, 1936

The first production PCC car entered service on the Brooklyn & Queens transit Corp. and Mayor Fiorella LaGuardia took part in the ribbon cutting service. He refused a coin from the President of the railroad using his own 5 cent coin to drop into the fare box becoming the first paying customer to ride in the new PCC car.

50 years ago

PA Secretary of Transportation, Jacob Kassab, helped to cut the ribbon on the new 7.5 million dollar 10th Avenue Expressway, completed 500 days ahead of schedule.

Patricia Connell, Altoona Public Library Director, announced the opening of a multi-media center in the former coffee shop of the Penn Alto Hotel with records, film strips, posters and audio/visual equipment available to loan out. Today these items are loaned out at the library at 17th Street along with home improvement tools.



The media center along 13th Avenue.

30 years ago

The Logan Valley Mall burned down shortly before Christmas during the heart of the shopping season.

25 years ago

Tim Longwill Sesquicentennial Commission Vice Chairman announced the Altoona 150th Anniversary Parade would be held May 22 with 41 floats and 167 marching units.

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Did Columbus maybe come to America aboard a train?



IN MEMORY
by Leonard Alwine

The Coal Bucket announces the passing of Michael J. Albanese, August 17, 1952 - January 13, 2025.

Mike was a lifelong friend of the Coal Bucket Editor, Leonard Alwine. We went to school together through junior and senior high and we shared many of the same interests. We both played the clarinet in the school bands and shared an interest in local Altoona history, especially the PRR. We both collected HO scale model trains and layouts.

As a member of the NRHS and the local Chapter, Mike served as Editor of the Coal Bucket from 1991 through 1997.

He will be missed by all who knew him well. May you rest in peace, Mike.



Leonard Alwine (L) and Mike Albanese (R)
enjoy a snack aboard a Blue & White Bus
enroute to the Tulip Festival Parade in
Holland, MI
as members of the A.A.H.S.
marching band in 1968.

Michael J. Albanese

Aug. 17, 1952 – Jan. 13, 2025

Michael J. Albanese, 72, Altoona, passed away late Monday evening at his residence. He was born in Altoona, son of the late Pasquale M. and Mary T. (Jones) Albanese.

Michael is survived by his brother, James H. Albanese, with whom he resided; his cousins, Ruby Becker of Altoona and Dara Lynn Albanese in New York; and his Aunt Amy Howard of Shadyside, Ohio.

He was a 1970 graduate of Altoona Area High School and had attended Penn State University.

Michael retired from the computer industry.

He was a member of St. Mark's Catholic Church.

Michael belonged to the Gardner Guards Drum and Bugle Corp, where he played drums. He also enjoyed playing the clarinet and the accordion. Michael enjoyed history, especially of the railroad. He also liked feeding and watching the birds and squirrels.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, at St. Mark's Catholic Church, 416 Sixth Ave., Altoona. Committal will be held at Calvary Cemetery.

Arrangements are by **The Stevens Mortuary Inc.**, 1421 Eighth Ave., Altoona.

The family asks that contributions be made in Michael's memory to American Heart Association, 501 Howard Ave., Suite D101, Altoona, PA 16601. (www2.heart.org).

Condolences may be made at www.stevensfamilyfuneralhomes.com or on the Stevens Family Funeral Homes Facebook page.

IN MEMORY
by Leonard Alwine

The Coal Bucket announces the passing of Claude M. Walls, February 24, 1937 - December 17, 2024, better known to the membership as Mike.

Mike was a long time member of the NRHS Horseshoe Curve Chapter and until recently attended almost every meeting. His son, Denny Walls, serves as Chapter Treasurer.

Mike worked for the PRR, Penn Central and Conrail railroads. He also was a member of the Geeseytown Fire Company from 1962 and for many of those years in between served as the Fire Chief.

He will be missed at the Chapter meetings. May you rest in peace, Mike.

Claude M. Walls
Feb. 24, 1937 – Dec. 17, 2024

Claude M. Walls, 87, of Hollidaysburg, passed away Tuesday at The Village at Morrisons Cove.

He was born in Altoona, son of the late Claude M. and Pearl (Shaffer) Walls.

He was united in marriage to the former Mary Jean (Fasick) Walls on Sept. 22, 1962.

Along with his wife, he is survived by children: Denny Walls of Hollidaysburg, Brian M. Walls, married to Diana (Bossler) Walls of Hollidaysburg, and C. Patrick Walls, married to Eric Bah of Monrovia, Md.; grandson, Trevor Michael Walls; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers, Ross Campbell and Craig Walls.

Claude was a graduate of Altoona High School, Class of 1954. After high school, he attended Penn State Altoona and eventually went on to join the United States Navy.

Claude served in the Navy from 1955-59, where he served as an aviation electrician and with The Hurricane Hunters at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla. After his service, he went on to work at the Pennsylvania Railroad, Penn Central and Conrail in the Communication and Signals Department until his retirement in 1997.

Claude was a member of Geeseytown Fire Company starting back in 1962.

Over the years at Geeseytown, he held various positions and offices but was most commonly remembered as chief.

He was also a member of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society, Keystone Corvair Club and Southern Cove Power Reunion.

He loved to tinker with antique machinery with his son, Denny; fishing with his son, Brian, and grandson, Trevor; attending his son, Patrick's, concerts with Mary Jean; amateur radios; beekeeping; and spending time working on cars and firetrucks.

He was of the Protestant faith.

The family would like to sincerely thank the Presbyterian Home of Hollidaysburg, The Village at Morrison Cove and Grane Hospice for the care they provided to him.


All services were held privately at the convenience of the family.

A celebration of Claude's life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements by **The Good Funeral Home Inc.**, 108 Alto-Reste Park, Altoona.

If friends so desire, memorial contributions may be made in memory of Claude to the Geeseytown Community Fire Company, 215 Mary St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

thegoodfuneralhomeinc.com



Walls