

CINDERS

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
DECEMBER 1946

VOL. 46

NO. 2

Published monthly by and for the
members of Phila. Chapter, N.R.H.S.

BIMONTHLY MEETINGS BEGIN THIS MONTH

Meetings hereafter will be held on the First Tuesday and Third Thursday of each month. With the inauguration of the Tuesday meetings, we will again resume our informal get-to-together, and continue with Thursday as the regular monthly business meeting. Remember, **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd.** All meetings are held in Assembly Room of the B & O Station at 8:00 P. M.

NEWS OF LOCAL INTEREST

The PTC is again using the old Strawberry Mansion Car barn located at 32nd & Dauphin Sts., for many years the site of dead-storage cars, but for trolleys. Instead, the Route 61 trolley-coaches have been moved to this location.....On Nov. 24th, the PTC Route 37 officially cut its Chester Short Line at Westinghouse Loop. The 3 stranded cars at Baldwin's were removed on Nov. 5th. Cars continue to carry Chester Pa. destination signs. New open track on Island Rd, dividing the lanes of highway traffic, is nearly completed. This line will probably get near-side cars in 1947.....The Bethlehem Pike Loop, northern terminal of Route 23 is undergoing improvements which will include a passenger waiting room. We'll be watching for the arrival of this lines new PCC cars early next year.Because of inability to obtain trolley-coaches, Route 75's conversion will definitely not be made before next summer.....The 25% cut in steam train operation resulting from the coal strike has inconvenienced many rail patrons. The Reading experienced great difficulty because it did not restore all the trains discontinued during the last strike, and had to annul the mid-day trip of the "Crusader". The Pennsy, ironically enough, withdrew its "Steel King" between N. Y. & Pittsburgh. Maybe the Pennsy foresaw the early closing of the steel mills account the strike.....At the Army & Navy game street car service was supplied only from Southern & Luzerne Depots, in contrast with former years, when nearly all depots provided cars. as a result there was a shortage of cars to carry the people away from the stadium.

SUBWAY-ELEVATED INSPECTION TOUR GREAT SUCCESS

On Sunday, November 24th forty members of the Chapter enjoyed a most successful and highly informative inspection tour of the subway and elevated shops. The party was met at Frankford Elevated shops by Mr. H. Turner and escorted through the buildings and storage yard. Following lunch the group traveled by special trolley (modernized 8000 series) to the Way Dept. Shop and Trainee Track at 2nd & Wyoming Aves. Upon arrival they were greeted by Mr. Poisel, Instruction Dept. who gave a demonstration of the operation of the Trainee Track used for testing street-car operators. Even Oscar jumped out to welcome us. The group also inspected the Way Dept. shops at this site, observing the equipment for fabricating special rail work.

Next stop was Fern Rock shops of the Broad Street Subway lines where Mr. Turner again showed the visitors through the vast plant. Among the high-lights were the newly reconditioned Delaware River Bridge Line cars attractively painted in silver and blue. To conclude the visit, an opportunity was given to see the Tower and attend a first-hand demonstration of the operation of the subway signal system, presented by Mr. Goshorn, Broad Street Towerman.

FUTURE EVENTS

Plans are going forward for our Annual Christmas Party to held Sunday, Dec. 22nd. Keep this date open-details will be announced soon.

On Saturday, January 18th an Inspection Tour of the E. G. Budd Company's "Red Lion" stainless steel car plant has been arranged. The size of the party will be limited, and will meet at Reading Terminal for the 1:40 PM train.

A Birney trip is on the planning board for the spring before all of this type are scrapped.

A Pennsy "Off the Beaten Track" trip is also being arranged in April to resume this popular type steam trip. Suggestions for steam trips are solicited by the Trip Committee.

The next regular monthly business meeting of the Chapter will be held on Thurs. Dec. 19th. The principal speaker will be Mr. Thomas H. Bateman.