

CINDERS

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 1954 - Alan G. Hunn, Editor

TRIP NEWS

With this edition of CINDERS we are enclosing fliers on two forthcoming trips -- on Red Arrow Lines April 25, and on the Reading May 2. Detailed information will be found on the fliers or may be secured from the Trip Committee.

Members of the Philadelphia Chapter enjoyed a trip on the regular passenger train of the Ma & Pa on March 20. 17 members rode from York to Baltimore, and one more entrained at Towson.

The next one-day trip is tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 11, on the Reading's Perkiomen Branch,

MEETING NEWS

The chapter's March meeting featured movies taken by Walt Zackon in Europe, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The April meeting will be on the fourth instead of the third Thursday -- on Thursday, April 22. The principal business of the meeting will consist of installation of chapter officers for the coming year. The ceremony will be followed by a program of movies. Through the courtesy of chapter member Bill Elakslee we have secured "Time Freight to Tidewater" which features Norfolk & Western steam power; also some movies of Walt Zackon which we believe many members have not previously seen.

BANQUET

The chapter's annual banquet was held May 2 at the Penn-Sherwood Hotel. Following an excellent dinner, a reel of movies by Milt Pricskett was shown, then several reels by Tom Bateman, which consisted primarily of films taken in the 1930's, when steam power was everywhere. CINDERS, on behalf of all present, wishes to thank Mr. Bateman for a most enjoyable evening.

NEWS FROM THE WEST CHESTER FRONT

The hearing before a PUC examiner on Red Arrow Lines' request to abandon the West Chester line beyond Westgate Hills was held March 29, and informed observers believe the request will be granted, probably by the end of April. At least some of the replacement busses have already arrived. The future looks black.

THE 1954 CONVENTION

The 1954 NRHS convention is scheduled for Washington, D. C. on Labor Day weekend. Present plans call for:

Saturday morning: trip on the Senate subway.

Saturday afternoon: Electric trip on Capital Transit Co. trolley lines.

Saturday night: Annual banquet.

Sunday: Steam trip to inspect N&W facilities at Shenandoah, Va.

Monday: RDC trip on the B&O.

We would like to see a large delegation from Philadelphia. Start putting money in your piggy bank now.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Passenger service abandonments continue. On March 31, New York Central ran its last passenger train on the Catskill Mountain Branch, to Oneonta, N. Y, amid celebrations (?) by local civic groups. And Erie wants to abandon passenger service between Forest Hill and West Orange, N. J.

RDC orders continue to trickle in to Budd's. Jersey Central has ordered four; Northern Pacific and Southern Pacific, one each.

Another interurban may soon bite the dust. A diesel has been delivered to Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern, out in Iowa, and there is talk of de-electrification.

Steam is not yet altogether dead, at least in some parts of the world. India has ordered 120 Pacifics from Canadian Locomotive Co. That's right, 120.

PTC has been laying new rail on Elmwood Avenue (Route 36).

The city has called for bids for equipment and vehicles for converting Route 66 to trackless trolley operation. Each vehicle will seat 49 passengers. Extensive rebuilding at Bridge Street terminal will be necessary; all loading and unloading arrangements will have to be changed.

Up in Buffalo, N. Y., a 12-year-old boy noticed a "clunk" sound as train wheels passed over a certain rail section. He inspected the rail section, and found part of it split. His father notified the New York Central, who replaced the rail and stated a serious accident had undoubtedly been averted.

Great Northern has ordered 22 dome cars from Budd; delivery by June 1955.