

CINDERS

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1954 - Alan G. Hunn, editor

TRIP NEWS

The Philadelphia Chapter will operate a fan trip on May 2 to Lewisburg, Pa., on the Reading, going via Catawissa and returning via the Frackville Grade. Time of the trip from Reading Terminal will be about 13 hours. Distance is 338 miles. Fare has not yet been set.

MEETING NOTES

The January meeting featured films made by Walt Zackon in Great Britain, and was heartily enjoyed by all who attended.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

The Borough of Clifton Heights complained to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission that PRR switching operations at night constitute a public nuisance. The Commission dismissed the complaint on the grounds that the matter is one for the courts.

The Pennsy's 1954 calendar, showing a view of Pittsburgh from the Panhandle Division tracks, is out-of-date. A number of buildings have been built in the area pictured. It wasn't the railroad's fault, though; the picture had to be prepared for the printer several months ago, and it was accurate then.

Pennsy has discontinued rail passenger service between Lancaster and York.

The Lackawanna has asked ICC permission to discontinue its ferry to Christopher Street, New York City. This is the least busy of the road's ferry routes.

Getting back to the Pennsy: they have received permission to drop the one passenger train between Elrama and Brownsville, Pa.

Our spy behind the Iron Curtain reports that a number of air-conditioned cars are now being built in Hungary. We believe (although we may be wrong) that these are the first ever built in Europe. They are for "export", presumably bound for Moscow. Our spy also tells us that a semi-weekly through passenger train has been established between Moscow and Peking, capital of Communist China.

Baltimore Transit Co. Route 13 (North Avenue) has been bussed, and Route 35 (Loiraine), next to the last double-ended line in town, quits February 20.

NEWS FROM HERE & THERE

PTC's new fare schedules went into effect January 30. New fares: cash, 18 cents; tokens, 2 for 35 cents; commutation tickets, good Saturday thru Friday, 10 for \$1.50. Exchanges, any above fare plus 2 cents, special exchanges free. Commutation tickets for the first two weeks were numbered T3 and U7 respectively; thereafter the tickets will bear the expiration date. The T3 and U7 tickets were printed in advance, before the date of the fare change was known; this is the reason for the symbols.

At the same time, Mayor Clark recommended two major items, (1) purchase of 600 new busses over the next two years and (2) a 10-cent fare for local rides in the downtown area. The latter idea is currently being tried in St. Louis and Seattle on local transit lines.

PTC has been laying rail on various spots along East Allegheny Avenue. Also new curves have been laid around City Hall.

For the first time, printed schedules are available for some PTC rail lines -- Routes 41, 63, 79, and 81, all of them lines with long headways during off-peak periods.

While on the subject of fare rises, Pittsburgh Railways put theirs into effect on December 27.

On January 24, Cleveland Transit System went out of the rail passenger business when the last surface line, Madison Street, was bussed. However, the system's rapid transit line will open later this year.

The Toronto subway is scheduled to open March 30.

Canadian National Railways have ordered an RDC. It will operate (in fact, it may be in operation as you read this) between Fredericton and Newcastle, New Brunswick.

Potomac Edison Company (formerly Hagerstown & Frederick) quits passenger business February 20. The last scheduled run will leave Frederick at 6:00 p.m. on that date, and will probably return immediately to the car barn there.

Atlantic City Transportation Co. has reached agreements with the four cities through which it runs concerning rail removal and street repaving. Best guess is that, if the system is abandoned, its Brillinero, lettered "The Miss America Fleet", will go to Mexico City.