

CINDERS

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 1954

FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Due to certain circumstances which were unavoidable, the chapter hasn't been able to publish CINDERS for some time. Therefore we are summarizing some of the principal railfan events of the past several months.

The most important NRHS event was, of course, the 1953 convention held in St. Louis on Labor Day weekend. There isn't much we can add to Philadelphia Chapter member Joe Mannix's article about the convention in the NRHS Bulletin except to repeat that everybody there had a wonderful time.

Of local interest, there were a number of happenings. Lehigh Valley Transit, in the Allentown-Bethlehem area, became an all-bus operation. The Pennsy discontinued passenger service between Norristown and Reading, and sharp cuts in service to Manayunk and Norristown were partially restored because of the complaints of commuter groups in the area. B&O Trains 35 and 36 acquired diesel power, and the railroad announced that all operations east of Cumberland, Md. have been dieselized.

Finally, a news item from Richmond, Va. It seems a man there had occasion to move his electrical appliance business to another location four blocks away. He found that the most satisfactory way to move his stock was -- by rail, of course.

MEETING NOTES

The December meeting featured "Variety Night" with enjoyable movies and color slides taken by a number of members.

January 21 we have scheduled a program of English movies taken by Walt Zackon on his recent European tour. Walt's movies are always among the highlights of the year, and anyone who has seen his pictures before won't need urging to see more of them. We assure one and all these movies are worth a trip through rain and snow to see. The movies Walt took on the European continent will be shown at a later meeting.

February 18 will be "Wabash Night" featuring a speaker from the Wabash Railroad.

Don't forget, incidentally, that we hold our informal meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. All are invited.

TRIP NEWS

The chapter's PTC trip on December 13 was enjoyed by all, in spite of the accident to our leader's pole.

Over the New Year's weekend several chapter members took an informal trip over the Chesapeake & Ohio's Greenbrier Division and Western Maryland's Elkins Division. We had to get out of bed at 5:45 a.m. but the scenery was worth it. Incidentally, the members observed considerable steam power at Martinsburg, W. Va., on the B&O, but none east of there.

Future trips will be announced in this space.

LIBRARY

The library has recently acquired "Pictorial History of the B&O" by NRHS member Larry Sagle; "Trains Rolling" by H. A. McBride; "History of Transportation", issued by Popular Mechanics; and a new Railway Equipment Register, the last thru the courtesy of member Stan Praster. For further information see Willard Hart, librarian. The chapter library is yours -- use it.

NEWS FROM HERE & THERE

Two operational changes went into effect on PTC on January 10. Route 79 will not operate to the Navy Yard during off-peak periods, but will operate on Snyder Avenue between 29th St. and Swanson St. Rush-hour cars will continue to operate between 29th St. and the Navy Yard. The Locust St. subway discontinued Sunday operation because of light patronage, and will operate as a shuttle between 8th and Market and 16th and Locust except during weekday rush periods.

Some time this year, B&O mainline tracks in Chester, Pa. will be relocated, eliminating several bad grade crossings. PRR will soon start a similar project on the Conemaugh Division at Sharpsburg, Pa., near Pittsburgh.

Public Service has received all its PCC's from Minneapolis, for the Newark subway. Some are already in operation, and the system will be all-PCC within the next few weeks.

Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain has been authorized to abandon January 20 if nobody will buy the line.