

# CINDERS

## PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

### NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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JULY 1954 - Alan G. Hurn, Editor

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#### THE CONVENTION

The national NRHS convention this year will be in Washington, D. C., so no Philadelphia chapter members will, as far as we know, have to fly there.

The program will offer a balanced electric, steam, and diesel program, including a ride into the beautiful Shenandoah valley.

If you by some oversight have not received convention literature, we suggest you contact the convention chairman, Mr. G. Ross Popkins, 7408 14th St. N. W., Washington 12, D. C.

#### PICNIC

The annual Philadelphia Chapter picnic will take place on Saturday, July 17. This will take the place of the formal July meeting. A chartered PTC car will leave Callowhill Depot at 2 p.m. and proceed to Willow Grove park by a very devious route, picking up passengers at various points. The Trip Committee announcement is either in the mail now or will be shortly.

#### TRIP NEWS

The projected informal trip on the New York & Long Branch in August has had to be cancelled, because the Trenton-Red Bank gas car now operates Mondays through Fridays only. In its place, tentative plans have been made for a trip to various points of interest in New Jersey by privately owned automobiles on a Saturday or Sunday early in August. Details on this will be announced by the Trip Committee shortly.

Also in the works is a fall trip on the Reading and Jersey Central in October.

#### THE LAST CAMELBACK

Jersey Central's last camelback, ten-wheeler 774, was used on a fan trip operated by the North Jersey chapter on July 11. About half a dozen Philadelphia chapter members were present. The road's operations will, it appears, be strictly diesel from now on.

The weather was perfect, the 774 was brightly polished for the occasion, and many fans are wondering when they will be able to get cinders in the eye again.

#### DO NOT TO WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE

Within a week of bus substitution on the West Chester line, Philadelphia Suburban Transportation Company asked for a fare increase to 15 cents cash, 3 tokens for 4 cents. The Pennsylvania PUC has approved, and the rate will go into effect July 16. CINDERS' political editor believes that the nearness of the two events will considerably strengthen public opposition to any future bus substitutions.

Meanwhile, PTC is having its own troubles. The directors declared a dividend of approximately 3%, to be paid at the end of this month. Some stockholders protested that the dividend should have been larger, while the city opposes any dividend, claiming the money should be spent for new equipment. The dividend, the mayor stated, could be used for a down payment on 128 busses. The city is threatening court action, and has asked for a PUC investigation. CINDERS' financial editor advises any readers who are interested in buying securities yielding a dividend that can be paid without protest not to buy PTC common. An unknown purchaser, however, is buying large pieces of it; newspaper speculation is that the buyer is National City Lines.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

PRSL has inaugurated one-day Sunday excursions to Atlantic City for \$2.95; last Sunday, the first day of operation, over 850 cash customers took advantage of the low round-trip rate.

Clinchfield and Missouri-Illinois have given up passenger service.

Raritan River has ordered diesels; the road will be probably become an ex-steam road about October.

The largest RDC order yet -- 55 -- has been given to Budd's by Boston & Maine. This will be the end of steam operation and the end of the road's open platform coaches.

The ICC order restricting piggyback operations has been rescinded, and the Eastern trunk lines are jumping in with both feet. However, there will be no intrastate piggyback operations in Pennsylvania until the PUC approves.