

CINDERS

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 1954 - ALAN G. HUNN, Editor

ELECTIONS

The time for the annual election of chapter officers has come around again. Nominations will be presented at the meeting of March 18, and mail ballots will go out shortly afterward. The result of the balloting will be announced at the April 15 meeting. We urge all members to vote. Remember that it's your chapter.

TRIP NEWS

The first major trip of the year will be on the Reading's Catawissa branch to Lewisburg, returning via Frackville. Date, May 2. Fare, \$6.85. Details will be on trip fliers, which will be distributed shortly.

Plans have also been made for a number of one-day trips, using regular trains. The first will be on Saturday, March 20, on the Maryland & Pennsylvania (The Famous Ma & Pa). No reservations needed -- just be at North Philadelphia by 9:35 a.m. with a ticket to Lancaster in your hand. Approximate cost, \$10. Trips later in the year will include the Reading's Perkiomen Branch mixed train, and the New York & Long Branch Railroad. The latter will include an opportunity to photograph the lineup of engines at Bay Head Junction, N. J.

MEETING NEWS

The February meeting featured an open forum discussion on Philadelphia's urban transportation problems, and a number of worthwhile opinions on the subject were exchanged.

The March 18 meeting is scheduled to feature railfan movies taken by Walt Zackon on the European continent. The editor has seen one reel of it, and can unhesitatingly say that this is Walt's best yet -- and nobody could say anything better about a railfan movie.

LIBRARY

The library has acquired "World Railways", which contains data on railroads throughout the world. Books may be borrowed for one month for only 25 cents. See Willard Hart for further details.

1954 NRHS CONVENTION - WASHINGTON, D. C.

MORE ON TRIPS

We have heard comments made on the fact that the chapter hasn't run any recent trips on the Pennsylvania Railroad. We asked the Trip Committee, and this is what they said:

First, the Pennsy has never refused to operate a trip (except on a few branches which present unusual operating problems, and ordinarily any road would turn down a trip to such places).

However, the principal problem is one of price. Both the Reading and the B&O require a minimum guarantee of 300 full fares on special movements, and charge (including tax) approximately two cents per mile. The Pennsy requires a minimum guarantee of 350 full fares, and the rate works out to slightly under 3 cents per mile (again including tax). Or, with a 450 guarantee, the Pennsy will charge a lower rate which would bring the total revenue to the same point. So, a trip comparable to the Catawissa trip of May 2 would necessitate a fare of about \$9.50. For the record, the following are the fares on recent trips (counting two half-fares as a full fare):

Baltimore 1953 (B&O) - 443
Gettysburg 1953 (Reading) - 382
Hershey 1952 (Reading) - 397
Gordon 1949 (Reading) - 513
Port Reading 1948 (Reading) - 413
Rutherford 1948 (Pennsy) - 481

Comments are invited.

BANQUET

The 1954 annual banquet will be held at the University Room of the Penn-Sherwood on April 3. Cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7, with entertainment afterwards. Price, \$5 per plate. The main meal will be roast turkey. See Bill Hooker for details.

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Philadelphia Suburban Transportation Co. has asked permission to put busses on the West Chester line. Rail service is to continue to Westgate Hills during rush hours only. A hearing will be held before a PUC examiner on March 29.

Recommended: "There Will Always Be a Trolley" by Theodore Pratt in the April Holiday magazine.