

# CINDERS

## PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

### NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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AUGUST 1955

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#### MEETING NEWS

The regular August business meeting, Thursday, August 18, will feature a tour of the Railway Express Agency facilities in Philadelphia. This meeting will begin at 8 p.m. promptly, since the chapter has much formal business to cover, and the tour will be fairly long. All members are therefore urged to arrive early.

The September 15 meeting will be I&N night, an excellent program which had to be postponed from a spring meeting.

All members are also reminded of the chapter's informal meetings, on the first Tuesday of each month.

#### THE CONVENTION

A reminder to all that the 1955 NRHS Convention is to be held in the Pfister Hotel, Milwaukee, Labor Day weekend, September 3-5. The Milwaukee chapter has planned a balanced railfan diet of electric, steam, and diesel interest.

Announcements from Milwaukee are in the mail now, and if you haven't yet received yours, you should get it in a few days. Please return your hotel and convention reservations immediately. Doing so will help the Milwaukee chapter in its planning, and mean a more enjoyable convention for all.

The officers of the Philadelphia Chapter urge all members who can to attend the convention.

#### ERRATUM

In last month's CINDERS we said that the chapter's forthcoming publication, "Rail Transit in Philadelphia", contains no pictures of busses. It seems we were wrong, and a bus did sneak in to a corner of one picture. Just the same, the book is well worth the \$1.50 price, and we strongly advise all members to purchase their copies in advance, to insure prompt receipt. Mail your remittance to Philadelphia Chapter, NRHS, 301 Kingsley St., Philadelphia 28, Pa. Customers with advance orders will get priority in distribution.

#### TRIP NEWS

The B&O RDC trip to Harpers Ferry was, unavoidably, postponed to Sunday, August 21. A few -- not many -- more tickets are available from the Trip Committee. If you haven't bought yours yet, buy them now.

Members will go down to Baltimore on B&O No. 35 in the morning, and will return on No. 8, the Shenandoah, in the evening.

#### LOCAL NEWS

The last rail car on Route 66 left Frankford Depot shortly after 4 a.m. on Sunday, July 31. Busses took over for the next trip. The line will eventually get trolleybusses, but motor vehicles will operate for a couple of months.

The PTC announced the schedule for the opening of the subway extension: September 12, eastbound subway-surface cars begin operation; September 19, elevated trains begin operating in the subway to 46th Street; October 3, westbound subway-surface cars begin operation. In the second changeover, shuttle busses will replace the elevated between 52nd and 15th Streets on Saturday and Sunday. We expect Route 38 will probably go bus on September 10, coincident with the opening of the new subway.

PTC has also asked permission to terminate Route 15 northbound at Allegheny Avenue, and extend Route 73 busses to that point. Reason: A new bridge on Richmond Street over the new bed of Frankford Creek.

Philadelphia & Western wants to end passenger service between Villanova and Strafford. The Commissioners of Radnor Township, through which the line runs, have expressed opposition to the idea.

On August 7 a fire destroyed a feed market in the 69th St. Terminal building. PTC and P&W service was not affected, but PST schedules were mangled by the interference of the necessary fire-fighting equipment.

PRSL, according to General Manager W. H. Mapp, has ordered enough diesels to end all steam operation by the end of 1955.