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November 2020

A bi-monthly electronic official newsletter of the PRRT&HS published for the purpose of disseminating information on current issues and events pertaining to the Society's and Chapter's operations and administration as well as other information of interest about the PRR.

Editor – Pauletta Ader

Please send comments and corrections to the Editor at: pauletta.ader@yahoo.com

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Not for sale.

If you have a submission for the January E-news PLEASE forward it to me by December 30 15th. Thank you. Pauletta Ader Editor of the E-news. pauletta.ader@yahoo.com

NEW WEB SITE AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL STARTS SOON – SEE BELOW

If you would like the PRRT&HS E-news to come via your email. Please sign up according to the instructions in the box above. Any questions please contact me, pauletta.ader@yahoo.com

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MEMBERSHIP

As of Nov. 13, 2020, the PRRT&HS membership for 2020 is as follows:

Regular	2023
Sustaining	314
Contributing	88
International	28
Keystone	147
Total	2600

Non-renewals 210 Renewal Rate $2,426/2,636=92.0\%$
Keystone mailings include 10 gratis copies (museums, libraries, etc.)

The number of new members for 2020 is 174.

Submitted by Andy Hart

STATION AND ARCHIVE

Station:

Amtrak ridership to and from Lewistown has dropped considerably due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The members who work the Amtrak room maintain a daily record of the numbers of passengers getting on and off and the status of the train itself-whether on time or late. Over the last 90 days there have been 63 on and 47 off. Most of the ridership has been from the Amish community travelling west to either weddings or funerals. According to Rick Garis, volunteer coordinator, few if any passengers come into the station to ask the status of the trains

Archives:

Official Archiving sessions have resumed on a strictly individual voluntary basis with precautions. Sessions are held monthly beginning on the second Sunday and running through whenever, usually Thursday. In the absence of Charlie Woodward, scheduling duties have been handled by Charlie Horan. On September 20, we had a researcher from Winchester, VA come and spend the day looking ip information on passenger cars.

Submitted by Rich Ader, Director and Station Manager

NEW WEB SITE AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL STARTING IN EARLY DECEMBER

In the September e-News we described the process we have been working to upgrade to a new web site. The central feature to creating a much more useful web site is to include member accounts with a password protected sign-in process. That capability is expected to go live the week after Thanksgiving.

Note the **new web address** for this new system: **www.prrths.org**

What that means for our members:

- There will be two ways the society will contact you for your 2021 renewal:
 - The traditional paper process, starting with the annual renewal letter that should arrive in the mailbox of all active members the week of December 7th.
 - For members where we have your correct e-mail address, you should get an e-mail inviting you to renew on-line. Those e-mails could arrive as early as December 1st, the exact date will depend on the last few conversion steps. The e-mail will come from the prrths.org domain – hopefully spam filters will not block it, although some members may need to “whitelist” e-mails from prrths.org
- There will be three ways to renew:
 - **ONLINE BY CREDIT CARD:** You can renew on our new web site by first activating the online account that will already have been created for you, and then renewing on the site using your credit card.
 - **ONLINE WITH A CHECK:** You can renew on our new web site by first activating the online account that will already have been created for you, and renewing on-line using the renewal system to generate an invoice you can print and mail to Shuman publishing with your check or money order.
 - **ON PAPER:** Complete the paper renewal form and include payment by check or Money Order. Please note that the credit card companies are tightening their security requirements, and we are no longer able to accept renewal payment by writing your credit card information on a paper form, or by telephone.
- How to activate your member account on our new web site:
 - As a member, you already have an account on the new website. To activate it, all you will need to do will be to log in with the temporary username and password we will send you via e-mail on or after December 1st.
 - If you do not receive a renewal e-mail by December 4th, you can contact the society at membership@prrths.org in order to have your credentials sent to you via e-mail.

The company hosting our capability, ClubExpress, does offer a toll-free help line within the US for assistance when logging in and renewing your membership. (But their scope of support does not include providing information about the PRR 😊)

This process will be updated on our new web site at PRRTHS.ORG, and a link will be provided from our legacy web site (prrths.com).

Please note that memberships are no longer available for sale from the e-store on the old website.

What will not change:

- You can still renew by mail as you have in the past both for 2021 and in the future.
- But if you are comfortable with using the Internet, we would greatly appreciate it if you would activate and use your on-line account at our new web site, as on-line renewals will save the society money and considerably reduce volunteer effort in the future.
- The society will continue to use groups.io for public discussion of the PRR, and PRR modeling.

A word about on-line security:

We realized early in this process that we could not build on our own a web site that includes member accounts. The security, privacy and management requirements would be overwhelming. As a result, our new web site is hosted by a company called ClubExpress, where the member data is stored. ClubExpress specializes in providing membership management capabilities integrated with the organization's web site, especially for non-profit organizations. They have an extensive and satisfied customer base.

ClubExpress complies with industry standard security and privacy requirements (to include the more challenging European Union privacy requirements), and we have seen no evidence of any security problems relative to your personal information, nor storing your credit card, which you can utilize for automatic renewals in the future.

To ensure security, ClubExpress hosts our web site and requires use of the "https" protocol. As a result, some old computers and web browsers may not work properly with our new web site. Unfortunately, we cannot change that, although we will be looking to member expertise to assist if you encounter a problem. In general, if your computer works with many current e-commerce web sites, your computer and browser are likely compatible with our new web site. We will post information about this on both our new, and old, web sites. More details will be provided on our new web site.

What is coming:

The new web site will have limited content to start, so we will leave the old web site up for the next six months or so until we have ported all content over to the new site (which includes updating some of our out-of-date content on the old web site.) The new site should work well on tablets and cell phones from the start, not just on computer “desktop” interfaces.

We also hope to have the new e-store on-line on January 1, 2021. (In the new system, the renewal process happens within your member account, not in the e-store.) Over the next six months we hope to enable many new capabilities on the new web site:

- Social media integration,
- Electronic newsletters,
- On-line calendar,
- Annual meeting registration,
- News feeds,
- Access to the members-only areas of our website,
- Family memberships,
- Member e-Store discounts, and even e-Store items that are available only to members,
- Possibly digital delivery of electronic documents (such as Val Map collections),
- You will also have the option to opt-in, or opt-out, of various e-mail distributions and other event notifications.

So, watch for the traditional renewal letter the week of December 7th, and the renewal e-mail with your temporary member credentials if we currently have a valid e-mail address for you in our database.

VIRTUAL PRR DAY

On Saturday, November 7, the PRR T&HS had a Virtual PRR Day featuring eight PRR-related presentations via zoom. Presentations ran for 40 minutes, followed by 10 minutes for questions and a 10-minute break. To avoid “zoom fatigue,” the schedule included

- Three presentations in the morning
- A two-hour lunch break
- Three presentations in the afternoon
- A two-hour supper break
- Two presentations in the evening.

Thanks to Auburn University providing us zoom access, there was *no registration fee*. Over 240 members registered. This was an exciting first for the PRR T&HS!

Albert Churella presented “From PRR to SEPTA: How to Operate a Commuter Service and Get Someone Else to Pay for It.” He covered the history of governments local to the Philadelphia area providing financing to PRR (and Reading) for commuter operations in the 60s and beyond.

Rob Bennett presented “Transporting Transformers-Westinghouse Sharon Plant” with many photos of the Sharon, PA plant, flat cars with transformer loads, switch engines, and images of models re-creating those days.

George Chiasson, Jr. presented “The Pennsylvania Station, New York: Past, Present and Future” with vintage pictures from the early days of Penn Station, NY and similar images taken in Amtrak’s Penn Station.

John Frantz presented “Modeling the PRR prewar Hopper Fleet” with vintage images of PRR hopper cars, a guide to models of them in HO, N, and O gauge, and statistics on the number of each class of hopper through the decades.

Doug Nelson presented “The PRR in 1946 and 1947 - Photographs of Wayne Brumbaugh” showing images of operations on the mainline roughly from Gallitzen to Huntingdon.

Claus Schlund presented “Altoona Station, Logan House, and FG Tower” with photographs dating from the middle of the 19th century to the 1960s.

Angela Sutton presented “Plan Big, Build Small(er): Prototypical Layout Planning for Flexibility” which included vintage photographs of the Pennsy from the west side of the Ohio and Monongahela Rivers in the Pittsburgh area. She models the PRR in N scale in that region.

Dave Wilson presented “Modeling the Pennsy in the Monongahela Valley: 2020 Update” with a live layout tour of his HO gauge layout.

The following Directors made up the organizing committee: Joe Acri, John Frantz, Tim Garner, Bruce Smith, and Ralph Weischedel.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Each year, the Railways and Locomotive Historical Society (R&LHS) awards the George W. and Constance M. Hilton Book Award. The award is for an outstanding work, published in the previous three-year period, of lasting value to the interpretation of North America's railroading history. Two PRR-related books were among the three finalists for this award in 2019. These were *Branch Line Empires: The Pennsylvania and the New York Central Railroads* by Mike Bezilla and Luther Gette and *Pennsylvania Railroad: Shamokin Branch* by Blake and Dan Marnell. The 2019 award went to *The Iron Road in the Prairie State* by Simon Cordery.

Submitted by Bruce Smith, Director

FEATURE CHAPTER

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FEATURE YOUR CHAPTER IN A FUTURE EDITION
PLEASE CONTACT pauletta.ader@yahoo.com editor of the E-news**

TRIVIA

September Trivia Question Answer

What are these?



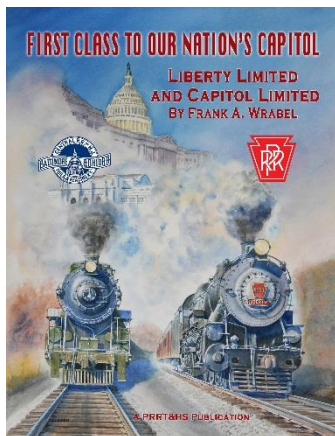
These stamps were donated to the PRRT&HS Archive by Carolyn Stevenson, the former Carolyn Schenke. She worked as Executive Secretary in Passenger Sales and Public Relations Office, Coal & Ore Traffic Sales and Freight Sales Office, Cleveland, OH. She worked for the PRR June 1961 to June 1968. These stamps were from paying union dues to The Brotherhood of Railway & Steamship Clerks-Freight Handlers, Express & Station Employees, Cincinnati, OH. Photo submitted by Pauletta Ader

RECENT PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE PRRT&HS

These books can be purchased online from the e-Store located on the PRRT&HS website at www.prrths.com

FIRST CLASS TO OUR NATION'S CAPITOL - LIBERTY LIMITED and CAPITOL LIMITED

by Frank A. Wrabel



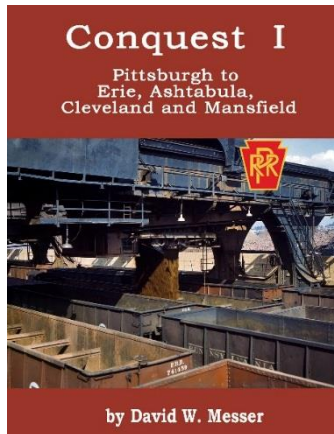
Beginning in 1925, PRR and B&O stepped up their train amenities to capture luxury service patrons travelling between Washington and Chicago. Their competition soon became a war that lasted 32 years, through the Depression, WWII, and the heady Postwar period. This book captures this story of the two railroads' optimism and final resignation to changing market demographics. Author Frank Wrabel tells the story of this glorious fight. *First Class to Our Nation's Capitol* is a 186-page hardbound book containing approximately 375 illustrations, many in color.

Member price is **\$50.00** each, + shipping and tax (where applicable).

Non-Member price is **\$75.00** each, + shipping and tax (where applicable).

CONQUEST 1 - PITTSBURGH TO ERIE, ASHTABULA, CLEVELAND & MANSFIELD

by David W. Messer



Continuing the rich tradition of his Triumph series books, celebrated author David W. Messer has teamed with the PRRT&HS to offer Conquest 1, documenting the history of the Pennsylvania Railroad's Lake Division physical plant. This includes the network of PRR lines radiating from Pittsburgh northwest to Erie, Ashtabula, Cleveland and Mansfield from 1848 to the present day.

Conquest 1, a 240-page hardbound book contains 500 illustrations, many in color, and includes 12 large maps located in a rear pocket. Member price is **\$65.00** each, + shipping and tax (where applicable).

Non-Member price is **\$80.00** each, + shipping and tax (where applicable).

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Support your local chapter - become a member.

Please contact Editor if any of the following information is incorrect.

ARIZONA CHAPTER

Contact: Sec/Treas. Phil Anderson 480-756-4359 ma393@aol.com

LINES WEST – BUCKEYE REGION CHAPTER

Contact: Al Doddroe at: adoddroe@earthlink.net

CHICAGO TERMINAL CHAPTER

Contact: President Marv Cadwell at: ld_mlc43@comcast.net

GRAND RAPIDS & INDIANA

Contact Jim Winslow at: G5s472@aol.com 1872 Lakeview Drive, Zeeland, MI 49464

LONG ISLAND

P.O. Box 5827 Bay Shore, NY 11706

See <https://www.facebook.com/licprrths/> for meeting information and other updates.

Secretary: Kelly Cotter

Meetings held at the Oyster Bay Museum

Contact: PRRTHSLIC@gmail.com

NEW ENGLAND

Contact, Tim Garner at: t.a.garner@verizon.net or write to New England Chapter PRRT&HS, c/o Tim Garner, Secretary, PO Box 624, Marlborough, MA 01752-0624.

Website: <http://prrths-ne.org/>

NORTHERN CENTRAL CHAPTER

President: Joe Ioele

Chapter web site: <https://www.facebook.com/northerncentralchapterprrths/>

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Contact President Jim Trunzo at: jetrunzo@gmail.com

PENN-TEXAS CHAPTER

Contact Brady McGuire at: bradyprmla@cableone.net

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

Contact: President Gus Minardi, at augustominardi@cs.com

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WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

Contact: Paul Schulz at: paulschulz@verizon.net

PLEASE CONTACT CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE FOR MEETING DATES AND TIMES

WEBSITE www.prrths.com



SOCIETY SERVICES

See our website http://www.prrths.com/newpr_files/newPRRSocietyServices.htm

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