

# CINDERS

## PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

### NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

- - - JUNE 1956 - - -

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#### WEEKEND IN JOHNSTOWN

Through the efforts of Trip Chairman, Bob Abrams, a most successful weekend trip was held on May 12-13 in Johnstown, Pa. by 27 fans. Immediately upon arrival on the Pennsy Aerotrains, the group checked into the Fort Stanwix Hotel; then were heading West aboard a regular PCC car to the Locomotive Shops of the Conemaugh & Black Lick RR. Having received a cordial advance invitation, the group was escorted thru their bright, immaculate facilities.

In the evening, the majority found their way to the Westmont Incline, but due to a sudden thunderstorm spent considerably more time at the Base Sta. than planned.

Sunday morning the entire surface rail system was covered using three types of old equipment, incl. the only double-truck Birney cars in operation in the U.S. We almost did not cover Oakhurst Shuttle line (no regular service except one car at 6 AM Mon. to Fri. only) due to heavy deposits of mud and cinders washed on the track the previous evening. However, with the help of several strong arm fans with brooms and switch-irons, the track was cleared and the trip proceeded on schedule.

Return from Johnstown was via Pennsy Aerotrains and everyone was in agreement that it was a successful affair.

#### TRANSIT NEWS

PTC operations returned to normal during month of May - no surface car abandonments....The new PTC loop at 35th & Allegheny Aves. opened May 15th, making it now possible to operate PCC equipment on Route 60. The change should occur after conversion of center city Route 42.... Atlantic City's famous "Miss America Fleet" have been sold for junk to North American Marine Salvage Co. and part of the fleet of Brilliners now rest at their Bordentown N.J. scrapyard....The 1.6 mile Warwick RR Co. near Providence, R.I. (a small remaining segment of Buttonwoods Div. of United Elec. Rwy's) has asked ICC approval to chop off 2,700 feet in line, retaining 5,800. The shortest railroad in the smallest state still operates with electric power....Montreal & Southern Counties Ry. discontinued local trolley service on June 2nd. Passenger and freight operations continue with dieselized Canadian National trains over Granby Branch....The New York City Transit Auth. will begin operations this month on the Rockaway Extension (over L.I. RR right-of-way). Through service in rush-hours only, othertimes shuttle service from Euclid Ave. (Brooklyn) on IND system to the coastal resort....It's the end on June 30th for trolley operations of Rochester Transit Corp. nine mile "subway" line - famous for left-hand operation and lack of passengers.

#### RAIL NOTES

The Pennsy Aerotrains will continue in daily operation between New York & Pittsburgh until June 30th....New York, Susquehanna & Western has asked for complete abandonment of all passenger service, including the run from Susquehanna Transfer to Paterson. If the line receives official O.K., this will mark first casualty for a road equipped with RDC equipment.... The Reading has leased several T-1 freight locomotives to the PRR for use on Middle Div., and the Sante Fe has leased an undisclosed number of 2-10-4 freight locomotives for use on the Sandusky (Ohio) Br. ....Reading Co. has announced that Black Rock Tunnel (West Manayunk) and Phoenixville Tunnel will be single-tracked. The Reading will also lower tracks of Port Richmond Br. at Wissahickon Ave. bridge to permit higher clearances....Could proposed lower Penna. Turnpike tolls for trucks have been influenced by the phenomenal rise in Pennsy piggy-back service? Solid trains of truck trailers (incl. double-deck cars for handling new automobiles) were recently observed on the PRR Pittsburgh Div.... Minneapolis & St. Louis RR has ordered two Budd-built RDC's. Line already has Budd stainless steel coaches, hauled by a conventional gas-car in service.

#### COMING EVENTS

- July - Trip of the Month using regular train over Rdg. Co. Newtown Br.  
Aug. - Special gondola trip over Strasburg RR in Lancaster County.  
Sept 1, 2 and 3 - National NRHS Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.  
Oct. 14 - Off the Beaten Track Trip to Maybrook, N.Y. over Reading RR, C RR of NJ, Lehigh & Hudson River and Lehigh & New England RRs.  
Date Unannounced (Probably in Sept.) - Farewell to the Brill-built cars of PTC, timed to coincide with the retirement of all old equipment.

#### WELCOME

The welcome mat is out this month to:  
Edmund D. Salter, Jr.  
1861 Markley Street  
Norristown, Pa.  
who has rejoined the Phila. Chapter after several year's absence from the rolls.

No edition of CINDERS on July 1st - the Editor will be in Colorado enjoying his annual vacation. Thanks to Walt Zackon, Bob Abrams, Willard Hart, Alan Hunn and others for their news during past year.