



# The Second Section



Minutes of the November 19, 2009 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, Pa.

Before the meeting began, Dennis Mead was photographed with a display of various scales of Erie Railroad boxcars. The display was built by Tom Collard.

Also two members donated artifacts to the Society. John Snyder donated an 11 x 14 inch color photo of the Meadville depot, along with two black and white photos of Erie Railroad shop crews in Meadville. Tom Collard donated two laminated Erie Railroad timetables.

Attending the meeting were Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Jack Sheets, Bill McComas and his guest Bill McDavid, Tom Collard, Dan Higham, Gene Vilkie, Al Reibel, John Snyder, and Wayne Brown.

### *Treasurer's Report*

Treasurer Ed Cronin disclosed the current balance and noted that two projects have funds earmarked that were included in the balance. Also disclosed were the earnings from the Erie train show on the first of November, and the donations

received in memory of Bob Bingham.

Ed then reported that the Society has four new members. Brandon Simonette, Gregor Olsavsky, and Wayne Brown - welcome to the FCVRRHS!

### *Committee Reports* **Historical/Archives**

The FCVRRHS received the aforementioned artifacts noted in the introduction of this report.

Several committee members are still working to identify the date of an Erie Railroad train wreck that occurred in Meadville in the early to mid part of the twentieth century. A 1937 Plymouth has been identified in the photo.

### **Museum**

Ed Cronin discussed the current progress of the planned museum. Plans are to incorporate the railroad and tooling industries, as well as the Johnson-Shaw collection.

### **Property/Equipment**

**#518** - The hood and doors of the #518 has been sent to be sandblasted and painted. Handrails are removed, but the steps are still on to accommodate the crews of the AC&J Railroad while they prep the locomotive to remove the prime mover,

generator, radiator, and other parts.

Ed Cronin inquired with Silk Road Transport about moving the frame and cab to be sandblasted and painted then shipped to Meadville. Quotes of various situations were requested.

The Society was fortunate enough not to be charged by the company that lifted the hood of the #518 onto a trailer. That donation was very much appreciated.

**Caboose** - A trench was dug, and the conduit and wire was laid and buried at the display site. The FCVRRHS crew included Jack Sheets, Bernie Hanmore, Bill McComas, and Dennis Mead.

Jack Sheets commended Rick Williams from the Meadville city hall for his help. Jack said the inspector doesn't see any problems so far. The meter box and an outside receptacle will need to be inspected. A ground from the caboose and engine frames will need to be run to a designated spot in the ground.

Ed Cronin will write a thank-you letter to Brian Lloyd of Lloyd's Rentals for the use of their ditch digger.

**Trolley Station** - Dan Higham reports the Crawford County Historical Society received a clean bill of health from the DEP with regards to the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station. Nine fuel

tanks were found and removed, along with cleaning up the surrounding site. There is much work to do before opening the station to the public. The station is in sound shape. The Christmas at the Station event, as well as the Santa Claus train is on hold until 2010.

### **Special Events/Programs**

**Annual dinner** - Plans for the Society's annual dinner and business meeting are incomplete while the board contemplates whether the dinner should be held at a different venue.

**Techfest** - The National Tooling & Machinists Association will be having their TechFest at PMI on Bessemer St., in Meadville, on March 12, 2010.

Hands-on demonstrations of various tooling techniques will be experienced by the public. It is hoped that the WNYF Railroad could supply a locomotive and maintenance car to be stationed nearby the event.

**LSRHS** - The Lake Shore Railway Historical Society of North East, PA will hold its *Christmas at the Station* event November 28 and 29, and December 5 and 6.

### **Public Relations/Education**

**Layout** - Members were to meet at the Hobby Headquarters to help the owners move shelving to make room for the layout. The Meadville Mall has filled

all of its stores, so Rod and Lorraine Armstrong were nice enough to allow the Society to display the layout in their store.

Members were to meet at Ed Cronin's residence to help unload his trailer in order to move the layout. The crew then met at the U.S. Bronze to load the trailer and other vehicles with the layout and its accessories and hauled it to the Park Avenue Plaza.

A trainset raffle will benefit the Toys for Tots campaign again this year. Tickets are available at the layout display for \$1.00 each.

Gene Vilkie of Cool 101.7 FM says the radio station will conduct a live broadcast from Hobby Headquarters on December 12 from 1 to 3 p.m.

The layout will operate November 27 through December 19, from 1 p.m. to store closing hours.

Anyone interested in manning the layout during the display are encouraged to contact Carl Timko, Jack Sheets, or Dennis Mead to set up your time.

**Newsletter** - Bill McComas says completion of "*The Valley Express*" is near. It was suggested to include an advertisement for Weber Electric Supply in this issue. Weber Electric donated most of the materials needed to bring electric to the caboos display site.

**Calendar** - The FCVRRHS is making plans for a 2011

calendar. Costs and profits were discussed. Dennis Mead suggested Mike Vickey of Vickey's Graphics is quite capable of producing a very nice calendar.

Suggestions to the board included using black and white photos for steam images and using the late Stuart Ladner's photos.

**Bus Trip** - Plans were discussed for a bus trip to hobby shops in metropolitan areas of Buffalo, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh. No trips will be made until at least Spring of 2010. Dennis Mead discussed his recent trip to Youngstown and North Lima, Ohio and New Castle, PA. hobby shops.

For those interested in a bus trip, a sign-up sheet is provided at the layout display in Hobby Headquarters. This is to gauge whether to charter a bus or use carpooling. If there is a strong interest, all those that signed will be contacted.

### **Model Railroad**

**Clinic** - Suggestions were requested for another model railroad clinic. One suggestion is a presentation on how to build bridges

**Clarion show** - The Clarion Model Railroad Club will be displaying its layout in the Clarion Mall, in the old Fashion Bug store. The display will be in operation November 27, 28, December 2nd through the 4th, 9th through the 12th, and 16th through the 19th. The

display hours are Saturdays , 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and weekdays 6 p.m. to 9p.m. The first day , Friday Nov. 27, the display opens at 10 a.m.

**Hobby Headquarters** - As has been reported in the *Meadville Tribune*, the *Second Section*, and emails, the Hobby Headquarters will be closing its doors for good on Saturday December 19. The economic crisis is the culprit in the Armstrong's decision to close. The FCVRRHS wishes to express it thanks and appreciation for the time the Hobby Headquarters has been of service to the many model railroaders, R/C enthusiasts, and general hobbyists that had visited their shop.

**New train shop** - A new model railroad shop has opened at 940 Park Avenue, in Meadville. Board member Tom Collard has opened *Tom's Train Terminal* in the @ the Bank mini-mall.

### **Membership**

The next meeting of the FCVRRHS board and general membership meeting will be Thursday , December 17, at 6:00 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

Since it is unlikely, the December issue of *The Second Section* will be ready before Christmas, it is hoped all the FCVRRHS members

and their families are blessed with peace and joy during this holiday season, as well as safe travel.



