



The Second Section



Minutes from the September membership meeting

President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order at 6:29 p.m. Thursday, September 17, 2015. in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

Before any business was conducted President Hanmore asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Larry Johnson, who passed away on Saturday, September 12.

The attendance included Bernie Hanmore, Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, Tom Collard, Pete Gifford, Al Reibel, Jim Saulsbery, John Nagurney and guest Nick Ozorak.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin's report included current balances, income, expenses, and that two new members were welcomed into the organization. Income was from a donation and dues. Expenses were for Vickey Graphics for the Erie Railroad books, Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations, and postage.

Committee Reports Historical / Archives

Members of the committee met with Scott Ladner to select photographs from Scott's

albums of the Erie Railroad. Thirty photos were selected, but only 28 will be used to produce calendars for 2016 and 2017 calendars. Dennis Mead will write the captions for the photos. Mike Vickey is processing the photos and will put together the best balance for the sample to be approved at the October membership meeting. If the board approves, the calendars could be available to sell at the Erie Train Show in November. John Nagurney noted that he has a photograph of three switchers coming under Smock Bridge in Meadville, which may be used in a future calendar. Chris Myers has his grandfather's photos which also may be used in future calendars.

The book, "*Erie Railroad - Historical Photographs from the Stuart Ladner Collection*" has been released and is for sale for \$14.95, plus tax. The total would be \$15.85. If ordering for shipment by mail, Priority Mail shipping charges will be added. The books have been selling very well.

Dennis Mead's lecture on the history of Stony Point at the Conneaut Lake Area Historical Society meeting in August, was very well received. It was estimated that the attendance count was at 100. Denny also gave this lecture at the Maennerchor Club in Erie and at the ELHS convention at

Cambridge Springs recently. Denny told the audience how the tiny community was instrumental in the building of the railroad using stone mined from area quarries for ballast and employed immigrant workers..

Sandy Porter's lecture about the Keystone Ordnance Works was heard at the ELHS convention. Sandy was one of seven speakers scheduled on Saturday, September 19th. Sandy's next lecture is at the Meadville Masonic Lodge on Route 27, east of Meadville, on Thursday, October 22 at 6:00 p.m. The lodge is also serving a fish dinner for \$10, and is open to the public.

Property / Equipment

Another delay by ITC to lift and haul the B&LE boxcar is causing the committee to look elsewhere for a trucking firm. Jack Sheets has contacted Daily Express, who hauled the #518 three years ago, and was given a quote. A crane is still needed at both North East and Meadville. ITC may still be the contractor for that job. John Nagurney made a motion for Jack Sheets to proceed at his discretion and within the set budget. Dennis Mead seconded the motion and the motion was carried unanimously.

John Nagurney said the tax claim bureau was given a

description of the Smock property. Now, the organization must wait for the deed. The property went through a tax sale, which will clean up any title issues. He said to expect court costs, but noted he is waiving his fee for the FCVRRHS.

Public Relations/Education

"Valley Express" editor Carl Timko asked for all submissions to be included in the fall issue of the newsletter, be sent to him as soon as possible. Carl would like to have the newsletter ready to be sent to Kevin Pipp by October.

Guest Nick Ozorak spoke on his group's attempt to secure an excursion train to run between Meadville and Corry. WNYP Railroad president Carl Belke informed him that suitable liability insurance will be needed as well as at least two passenger cars. Nick's proposal is to contact Allegheny College or other local corporations to cover the insurance needs. He also explained the difficulty in finding road-worthy passenger cars, and the cost of operating an excursion train. He believes it can be done with a lot of work and cooperation.

Budget / Finance

Shirt sales slowed, but are expected to pick up at the ELHS convention and the Erie Train Show.

Two more books were sold using the FCVRRHS website (www.fcvrrhs.org). Sales of the

book are expected to rise as well at the same shows.

If all goes well, the 2016 calendars should be available at the FCVRRHS's table at Erie on November 1.

Special Events / Programs

The ELHS convention was held at the Riverside Inn starting Friday, September 18 and continuing through Sunday September 20. Registration was on Friday, with slide shows at 6:30 p.m. Saturday's events commenced at 9:45 a.m., with opening remarks by Michael Connor and Dennis Mead. Six lectures followed at 10 a.m. through 5 p.m., with the exception of an hour lunch break at noon. Pete Gifford started off with his topic of the Atlantic & Great Western, followed by Dale Docter talking about Cambridge Springs and how their hotels and tourism played a role in the Erie Railroad's development. At 1 p.m., Bill Burt talked on the beginnings of the WNYP Railroad. Steve Timko followed with his subject being the Oil City branch. Dennis Mead began his lecture at 3 p.m. on the history of Stony Point and its relationship with the Erie Railroad. And lastly, Sandy Porter talked about the Keystone Ordnance Works. After dinner, guest speaker Carl Belke began his speech about the WNYP Railroad's current status and future. He noted the track work planned and status of the locomotive fleet. Slide

shows followed Mr. Belke's speech.

The trolley station was open on Saturday, September 19, with trolley and railroad book author Ken Springirth appearing. Ken was selling and autographing his books for those that purchased a book.

The caboose was open Sunday, September 20, to accommodate the ELHS members. Six visitors stopped and looked over the display site, one of whom signed on as a new member.

Several train shows are nearby within the next five weeks. The Great Berea Train Show is being held at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea, Ohio, on Saturday, October 3 and Sunday, October 4. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., respectively. The Painesville Railroad Museum's last Railfanning Day is Saturday, October 17, between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, Ohio will play host to the Cleveland 2 Rail O scale train show and a clinic on how to build a model railroad. And on Sunday, November 1, the Erie Train Show will be held at Rainbow Gardens in Waldameer Park, Erie, PA, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The FCVRRHS will have a table, so come up and see us.

Membership

The FCVRRHS welcomes three new members. Welcome aboard, Chris Myers, Bob Moyers, and Ted Trewer!



Larry Johnson

Sadly, we must say goodbye to one of our directors, Larry Johnson. Larry passed away on Saturday, September 12, at the age of 75. Larry worked for 36 years for the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad as trainman, conductor, train dispatcher, and chief dispatcher. He also was a docent at the Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum in Meadville. Larry will be remembered for his humor, his railroad stories, and his friendship. He leaves behind his wife, Rosalee, and his son and daughter, many other family members, and so many friends.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting will be Thursday, October 15, at 6:30 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

