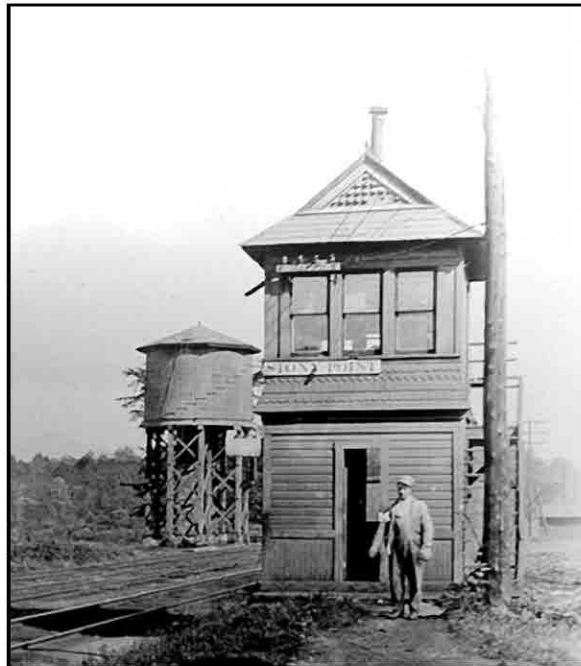


VALLEY EXPRESS

The History of Stony Point - Part One

The history of the Stony Point area begins in 1829 with the creation of Fallowfield Township, located in the southwestern corner of Crawford County. The township name comes from Lancelot Fallowfield who was one of the first individuals to purchase land from William Penn. In 1841 the township was divided into West and East, resulting with East Fellowship Township 28 square miles in area. Communities of the township included Minnis Corner, Atlantic, as well as Stony Point. Known for being hilly profile, the land was mostly farm acreage. In the early 1860's the Atlantic & Great Western Railroad on its way to Ohio bisected the township in a southerly direction.

When the railroad builders arrived in the area, they discovered a large hill made up of an excellent quality gravel. Located about one mile south of Stony Point the railroad built a shanty town on the site for about 500 workers that had arrived from Southern Ireland to work on the railroad's construction. A siding was placed at the quarry in order to load and transport gravel by the trainloads to worksites along the entire route from Salamanca, NY to Kent, Ohio.



The first Erie RR tower at Stony Point
photo from the Richard Feidler collection

The A&GW built a station originally at Stony Point, but when the first train arrived the location sign was lettered **EVANSBURG STATION**. The actual town of Evansburg, later named Conneaut Lake, was located 2 miles away at the nearby resort area, but was bypassed by the railroad during construction. A gentleman by the name of Thomas McQueen left his farm and chose to build a general store at the station. The store thrived on business serving the Shanty Town Irish. Thomas was the first postmaster of the community, and found himself responsible for naming the new Post Office. He discussed this with a few counselors, and after recalling that the depot had been built right in the middle of combination stone pile and brush heap, chose the name **STONY POINT**.

(continued on page 5)

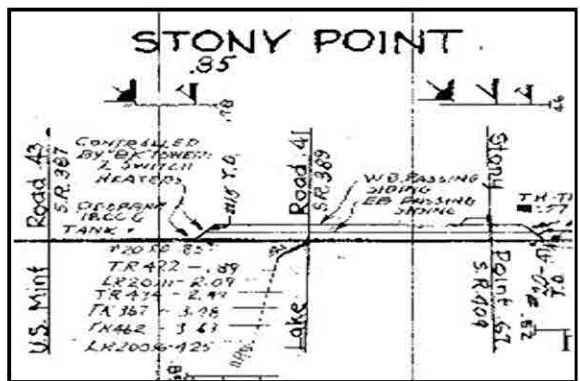
Local Rail Activity

New Track Construction

The Economic Progress Alliance will have a 7000 foot loop track constructed, as well as a 400 foot industrial track siding for a new tenant at the Keystone Industrial Park in Crawford County. The track will receive unit trains of railroad cars via the Norfolk Southern.

Lake Shore Railway Historical Society Awarded an ECGRA Grant

On Thursday, September 25, the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society of North East, PA was awarded a \$9000 grant from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority. The grant will go towards funding projects at the museum, including restoring the GE 23 ton boxcab locomotive. Ray Grabowski was present to receive the award. Congratulations to everyone at LSRHS!

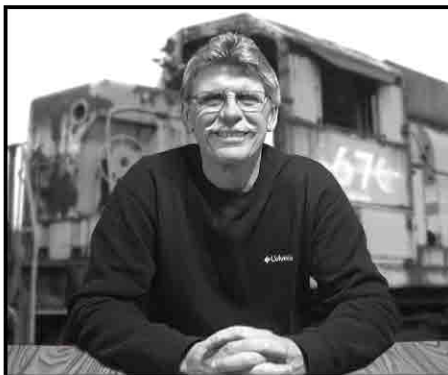


Used with permission of George Elwood - www.rr-fallenflags.com



From the Stationmaster's Office

This has been a tough winter for all of us; tougher than most. Since the last issue of the *Valley Express*, we have lost friends, a hobby store, and our model railroad club; all of which you can read in this issue. The good news is Spring is only a couple of weeks away as of this writing. Work on the #518 and the display site will commence once the weather cooperates. The #518 will have its lettering and Erie logo applied. The new track panel will be installed, thanks to the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad. The Bessemer & Lake Erie boxcar will arrive shortly after the display site is completed. And, although we have lost a couple of members, we welcome James Saulsbery of Adamsville. We have high hopes for more new members as our model railroad layout did very well over the holiday season, in helping us sell merchandise, attract potential new members, and bring in needed donations. We encourage our members to attend our meetings, held on the third Thursday of the month. There will be a lot to discuss, including the display site, ordering new shirts, getting our 2016 calendar ready, and possibly having a book or two published, to name just a few. Every effort depends upon our members volunteering to get the projects done. This will be a big year for the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society. Let's hope everyone that can, will help get these projects completed, so we can open up the display site to the public once again.



Bernie Hanmore

CONTRIBUTIONS & GIFTS

- Weber Electrical Supply
- Staples Copy & Print
- Lloyd's Rental & Sales
- Crawford County Historical Society
- Tom's Train Terminal
- Western New York & PA RR
- Susi Building Supplies
- US Bronze Foundry & Machine
- AC & J Railroad, Jefferson, OH
- LakeShore Railway Historical Society
- Mr. & Mrs. David P. Miller
- Industrial Truck & Crane
- Specialty Fabrications & Powder Coating
- Bob Bingham family
- Bill McComas Family
- Scott Royer
- Ed Fine
- Carl Timko Family
- Jan Grayson / Perfect Coat
- Tom Collard Family
- Ed Cronin Family
- Seco/Warwick (Sheet Metal)
- Jack Sheetz Family
- Anderson Enterprises
- D & M Tool
- Hafer Trucking

There's lots more information as well as interesting photos and stories on our website! Check it out at www.fcrrhs.org



French Creek Valley Express

A Publication of the
French Creek Valley Railroad
Historical Society

Officers

Bernie Hanmore - President
Dennis Mead - Vice President
Carl Timko - Secretary
Ed Cronin - Treasurer

Directors

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French Creek Valley Express is published Spring and Fall. Those wishing to submit material must do so no later than 30 days prior to publication, i.e. by April 1st or October 1st. All submissions are subject to editing for length and clarity. Queries must include full name, address, and daytime phone number or e-mail address. Individual membership dues are \$20.00/year, family membership dues are \$35.00/year (\$1.00 for juniors to 18 years) for the period July 1- Jun 30. New member dues received after January 1 are good through the following full year period. Support from local businesses is welcomed: Gold, Silver and Bronze levels at \$500.00, \$250.00, and \$100.00, respectively, are available.

Tom's Train Terminal Closing February 19, 2015

Tom Collard has announced he will be closing his model train shop, Tom's Train Terminal. He is offering FCVRRHS members 25% off everything in the store, except consigned items. He is classifying his own personal collection as consigned items. Also, Tom is offering 30% off on all Laser Art kits. Tom and his wife Sindi are selling their house in Meadville and will be moving to Las Cruces, NM. Tom said he will offer the public sale prices later, after the FCVRRHS members have been given the first chance. He also said he would sell the entire business to anyone who would be willing to buy his inventory for what he paid for it. It is very sad for the FCVRRHS members and general public who frequented Tom's Train Terminal. Until another hobby shop opens in Meadville, the closest train or hobby shops are in Mercer (Mercer Jct.), Jamestown, N.Y. (Craft World), and three in the Boardman, OH area.

Tom has been a director for the FCVRRHS, an executive for the WNYP, and the Southern Railway of New Jersey. He has been active in community affairs in



Tom Collard

Meadville. It was because of Tom that the FCVRRHS was able to display and operate its large HO layout at the @ the Bank shopping Complex. Tom has in several instances negotiated with the WNYP Railroad for services that they could better provide, such as installing the track panel this spring. Tom also negotiated a discount for the FCVRRHS members, with the now defunct Hobby Headquarters, then offered the same discount when he opened Tom's Train Terminal. The discounts were a nice perk for being a member. And who can forget Tom's wit at all the membership meetings? His jokes sometimes had us roaring with laughter. Sorry to see you go, Tom. You will be missed.

-Carl Timko and Tom Collard

Committee Reports to the Members

Property & Equipment

Industrial Truck and Crane will be hauling the Bessemer and Lake Erie boxcar from the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society in North East, PA to the display site in Meadville, shortly after the track panel is installed by the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad and volunteers. The track laying will commence as soon as the weather allows.

The #518 will receive its yellow trim, lettering and logo also in the spring. Once the boxcar has been placed on the display site, the caboose, boxcar and the S2 will be coupled up, and the steps put back in place or rebuilt to allow the site to be open to the public for the first time in two years.

The next project may be deciding on where to put the tool car. An exact site hasn't been determined yet, although it seems likely that it will end up at Pomona Park.

History & Archives

Research is underway for several projects. Dennis Mead, Carl Timko, Tom Stewart, and Tom Barratt have met with Beth Rekas of the Crawford County Historical Society to dig for photos and information toward articles for the *Valley Express*, the 2016 calendar, and possibly a book. Nate Clark, Sandy Porter and Richard Feidler have assisted with the research.

Public Relations & Education

The large HO layout that usually is on display during the Christmas season, did very well for us in 2014. Advertising and publicity were major reasons for the number of sales and donations that were made while the layout was up and running.

The biggest crowds were the day after a story or photo was run in the Meadville Tribune or on the news.

The website, www.fcvrrhs.org, is undergoing a total makeover. Our webmaster, Dianne Jones, has new software that will spruce up the website. It will take some time to

make the changes, though.

Santa Train is a Success



The Santa Train that rolled in on WNYP Railroad rails was due to the cooperation between the WNYP, the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society, and the media. At least 70 people crowded around the decorated WNYP caboose to watch Santa get off and greet the children. WNYP supplied the train equipment, and crews, the FCVRRHS supplied candy and took care of securing the advertising for the train. The Meadville Tribune, WJET-TV, and Cool 101.7 (WMVL) were significant in spreading the word about the special train that ran on December 20, 2014. Positive comments were heard from WNYP officials and the public that attended. WNYP Trainmaster Brent Hornstrom said he hopes this will be an annual event.

-Carl and Vanessa Timko

Special Events & Programs

The Erie Lackawanna Historical Society is having its 2015 Western Fall meeting at Cambridge Springs, PA. Events will be held at the Riverside Inn and the trolley station. The event will be September 18 and 19. Several speakers have agreed to make their presentations during the event. A full schedule will be available soon.



Our Museum

- Last fall, all of the beneficiaries of the Melvin Townley Estate agreed to gift us the remainder of the cash in the estate to use for the restoration and operations of the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station Museum.

- We have completed construction for the first seven movable exhibit cabinets. Currently Acutec and Starn Tool are completing exhibits to go with the Keystone View exhibit which is currently in the Cochran Jr. - Sr. High School Library.

- FCVRRHS has at least one exhibit that needs to be constructed. If you would like to help, please contact me at edsuecronin@windstream.net.

- On January 2, 2015 the Heritage Center signed a six month contract with RAYN Business Development, Erie, PA. Terry O’Laughlin is the consultant working with the museum Development Committee as our Professional Fundraising Council.

- Maryann Martin recently completed a grant application to the Crawford Heritage Community Foundation for help with expenses related to the exterior renovation of the Trolley Station. We were awarded \$1,000 for our project. Well done Maryann!

- The Development Committee continues to work to acquire the property at 789 Bessemer St. We are convinced it is the best possible location for the museum and with French Creek adjacent to the property, it offers more possibilities that we first imagined.

- The Heritage Center Annual Meeting this year is planned for Monday, June 8. It will be held at the C.S. Trolley Station Museum. More details to follow.

-Ed Cronin

French Creek Model Railroaders

Feb. 20, 2014

FCVMR Club Ceasing Operations

One day after Tom Collard announced the eventual closing of his train shop, Scott Wilson announced that the French Creek Valley Model Railroad Club is being

shut down. He states that lack of interest in the club along with the amount of time available to spend on the layouts in Meadville, plus the distance he has to drive and the health of he and his wife, Kim, were determining factors. Scott has also been elected to take over as president of the Clarion Model Railroad Club. Scott stated the model railroads will be torn down. This subject will be discussed at the next membership meeting, March 19.

-Scott Wilson



FCVRRHS

Local Couple Writes Check to FCVRRHS

Area businessman David Miller and his wife presented a check to the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society on Wednesday, December 24, 2014, to help bring in the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad wooden boxcar that has been on display at the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society in North East, PA. The funds will be used to hire a trucking firm and a crane to haul and place the boxcar on the display track between the organization's Erie Railroad ALCO S2 #518 and the Erie Lackawanna caboose #C356, on load from the Erie Lackawanna Historical Society. Plans are to install a track panel in the spring of 2015 as soon as the weather allows.



FCVRRHS Contacts - Email Addresses

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Tom Collard.....tcollard@ymail.com
Dennis Mead.....dennismead@verizon.net

Meet the MEMBERS

Jack Sheets



Jack Sheets, ("Bulldog" as he is affectionately known at the meetings for his tenacity), has been a member of the FCVRRHS since 2007, and a director since June 30, 2008. Jack's "silver tongue" as a salesman with various companies during his career, has benefited the FCVRRHS in countless ways. He has procured numerous donations of artifacts, labor and money to enable the organization to progress in its quest to preserve area railroad history.

He enjoys learning about the history of the area railroads and the camaraderie of all the members in the FCVRRHS. He is currently employed at Meadville Tool Grinding, delivering and picking up tools to be sharpened.

If you haven't met Jack yet, come on out to our meetings.





**Clarion Model Railroad Club
Founder Rich Steiner Dies**



Rich Steiner, founder of the Clarion Model Railroad Club, passed away on December 26, 2014, of a heart attack. Rich's final act was

tearing down the layouts and hobby store at the Cranberry Mall, where the CMRC was showing its members' talents. Rich, age 63, leaves behind his wife, Marleen, a son, a daughter, and three siblings. Services were at the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Clarion, with burial at the Miola Cemetery. So long, Rich. Clear track ahead.

-Scott Wilson

Harry Loyd Mitchell

FCVRRHS member Harry Loyd Mitchell passed away on November 10, 2014, at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife Joann and several children and grandchildren. He was known by both names, Harry and Loyd, as well as "Mitch". Loyd was a veteran of WWII, a member of the Vernon Central Fire Dept., Italian Civic Club, and VFW post 2006. Loyd was employed by the Erie Lackawanna and retired with Conrail in 1990. He also was employed delivering airplanes, and later was a flying instructor at Meadville Airport, from which he retired in 2004. Loyd's main interest was flying. Services were to be at St. Mary of Grace Roman Catholic Church in Meadville on Friday, November 14.



-Meadville Tribune

November News Item

Nov. 21, 2014

Tonight NS 316 will go east to Conneaut, make a set off, and run around their train. Then they will go west to Ashtabula, where the yard job will come up to NP and shove the train up the hill. Then the train will go south and head east onto the Meadville line. The plan now is to head all the way east over the WNYP and from there it is uncertain where it will go. It's been a long time since an NS train ran over the WNYP east out of Meadville, and even better a mixed freight.

*-Jacob Trenn,
Northeast Ohio and Pennsylvania
Group on Facebook.*

(editor's note: It was posted the next day that the train would head south on the Youngstown Line then east on the Meadville Line).

**Lake Shore Railway
Museum Receives Control
Stand from GE**

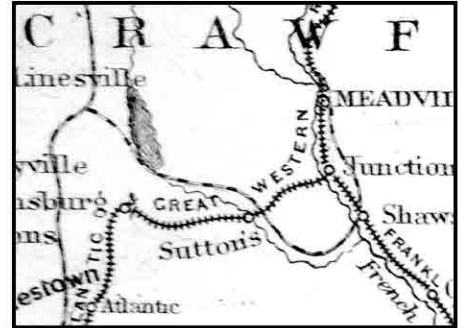
February 24, 2015

The General Electric Transportation Company of Erie, PA, has donated a locomotive control stand to the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society of North East, PA for display at their museum. The control stand came from one of the test bed locomotives, which were used for testing various components before installing the components on production locomotives. The control stand is similar to those that were installed on GE Dash 8 locomotives.

-Dennis Mead & Ray Grabowski

(continued from page 1)

Following the construction phase of the railroad, many of the Irish laborers, along with about 300 to 400 Swedes, built a community of about 1000 inhabitants. Soon homes and a church stood in the area. Wells Fargo Express service

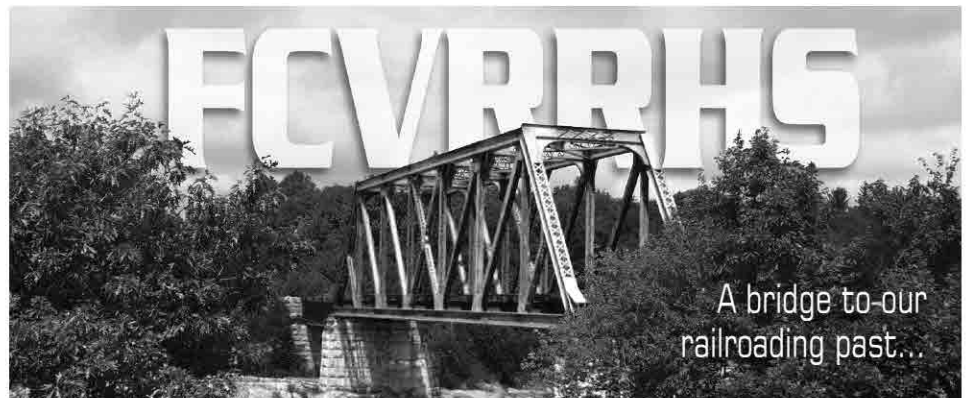


Map courtesy of Richard Feidler

was available at the station, and telegraph lines strung during the construction of the railroad gave connections to the outside world. In the beginning, two New York to Chicago passenger trains, along with one westbound Meadville to Cleveland, served the station stop daily. As time went by, the service was reduced to one long distance train each way daily, and by 1911 only the westbound No. 7 Pacific Express made its daily stop. You could catch an eastbound train out of Meadville, but it would require going to Conneaut Lake and catching a Bessemer passenger train to Meadville, or use the trolley service at Conneaut Lake Park to reach the same destination.

-Dennis Mead

(Part Two will be in the Fall 2015 issue of the "Valley Express")





French Creek Valley
Railroad Historical Society
P.O. Box 632
Meadville, PA 16335



**French Creek Valley Railroad
Historical Society
Program & Events Schedule
Spring - Summer 2015**

Pittsburgh Model Railroad Jamboree
April 25
Sewell Center,
Robert Morris College

Jamestown National Train Day
May 9
Gateway Train Station
211 West 2nd St., Jamestown, NY

DuBois Mall Model Railroad Day
May 9
Rte 255, I-80 exit 10, DuBois, PA
free admission

Greensberg's Train and Toy Show
July 14,15
Monroeville, PA
Convention Center

Erie Lackawanna Historical Society
Western Fall Meeting
Sept. 18, 19
Riverside Inn, Cambridge Springs, PA
visit www.fcvrrhs.org for more information



Santa Claus greeting the kids at Meadville
Photo by Vanessa Timko

**TOM'S
TRAIN TERMINAL**

Model Railroad Headquarters
O, HO, TT, N and Z Scales
Lionel Value Added Dealer

Shops@thebank
940 Park Avenue, Meadville, PA

(814) 853-2942

HOURS: Wed. - Fri. 10:00am - 4:30pm
Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm

(Meter Feeder Participant)