ORHS Coaches Undergoing Repairs
By Eric Schlentner

Over the summer, five Orrville Railroad Heritage Society (ORHS) coaches were involved in a derailment during a switching move in Bellevue, Ohio. The cars were in transit and unoccupied. There were no injuries. The extent of the damages varies from car to car. Having the various inspections and repairs completed on as many cars possible in the time frame we have before our fall excursion has been a huge undertaking for our organization. Repairs to the cars are taking longer than originally anticipated as finding and quickly reconditioning parts for cars that average 70 years old has been a challenge.

It has been difficult to determine which cars will be available for our fall excursion. At this time, we expect that coaches 101 and 102 will be available for the trip. The status of coach 103 is still undetermined. Coaches 104 and 106 will not be a part of the consist. Our first class cars, 3125 and 3850 and our concession car 105 were not involved and they should be ready to go prior to the trip.

Orrville Autumn Express Postponed
By Eric Schlentner

The Orrville Autumn Express scheduled to run on October 11 has been rescheduled for November 15. Departure and arrival times have also been adjusted to 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM respectively.

We are currently contacting all current ticket holders and those on the waiting list concerning the rescheduling. Ticket holders that can't make the trip will be offered refunds. We do truly regret any inconvenience we've caused and hope that everyone will still ride with us on what may be our last mainline excursion for the foreseeable future.

You can check for any change in status by visiting our web site, Facebook page or calling the Depot.

The End of an Era, a New Beginning
By Eric Schlentner

In the back of our minds, we all knew it would eventually come. Due to increasing traffic levels, our usual host railroad, the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway, has embargoed all passenger train movements for the time being. Running passenger trains safely takes up an inordinate amount of track space and time, a luxury that is no longer possible.

We may be down for a while but don’t count us out. We are looking into other alternatives to generate income using our facilities and equipment. We’re hopeful that this is only a temporary situation. Number one on our list in this change in direction is to repair our interchange with Norfolk Southern. This will provide us another link to the outside railroad world.

We’ll keep you posted...

Upcoming Events

- Orrville Autumn Express: November 15
- Holidays at the Depot: November 28 & 29
- Riding with Santa: November 29
- Membership Dinner: December 2

For more information, see page 6 or call (330) 683-2426 or check our web site Schedule and Calendar pages at www.orvillerrailroad.com
Huge Turnout for Jumpin’ Pumpkin
By Richard Jacobs

Saturday’s weather was perfect for riding a track car on the Orrville railroad line. ORHS had 13 of them carrying excited passengers from McGill Street to Orrville Junction on the Wheeling & Lake Erie’s Orrville branch line.

Two boarding locations were set up, one each on either side of the McGill Street crossing. The crossing was closed to vehicle traffic for the day. A ticket and information tent was trackside near the crossing.

ORHS diesel locomotive 471 was open for visits so engineers young and old could come onboard to see how the locomotive was operated. Some even got to blow the horn!

The ORHS parlor car #3850 was trackside so visitors could see the inside furnishings and imagine what it would be like to ride along a railroad line. It is a regular on the ORHS passenger excursions.

Also open was the ORHS #105 concession car serving snacks, soda pop, coffee and providing railroad gifts and souvenirs for the visitors. Both cars were trackside at McGill Street on a railroad siding.

The Orrville 1868 former Pennsylvania Railroad depot on Depot Street, now the home of the ORHS, was open for visitation. Visitors could view the railroad displays inside and visit the ORHS gift shop. Information about upcoming events and trips was provided by staff members.

The Orrville Historical Society in the former Pennsylvania Railroad crew hotel and Manhattan Restaurant building next to the depot was also open for visits.

The ORHS thanks its volunteer members and friends for providing the Jumpin’ Pumpkin Jamboree 2014 in Orrville.

Orrville Railroad Day
By Richard Jacobs

The Orrville Railroad Heritage Society held its annual Railroad Days on Friday evening August 15 and Saturday afternoon August 16. The activities took place along with the Orrville Music and Rib Fest sponsored by the Orrville Lions Club.
The Orrville 1868 Depot Museum was open for visitors both days. Railroad historical displays and operating model trains were provided. The depot Gift Shop was open providing railroad shirts and caps along with toy trains and other items.

Track car rides were held on the railroad line at 245 McGill Street. Ride tickets were sold trackside. Hot dogs and soda pop were available for the visitors. The ORHS locomotive was open for visits allowing kids of all ages to see the operating controls within the cab.

Twenty track cars of many types with various railroad motifs provided a fun ride for the round trip on the Wheeling & Lake Erie’s Orrville track. The track cars ran in sets of 10 providing time for loading. Two old-time hand pump cars added to the enjoyment of the visitors.

A fun time was had by all!

Passenger Rail Update
By Bill Engel

Amtrak has begun field testing of new baggage cars on the Northeast Corridor and elsewhere. They are the first of a large batch of new cars for long distance trains operating from Pennsylvania Station in New York City which will include dining cars and sleeping cars as well. The single level diners are sorely needed as there have not been any new ones since Amtrak was formed over forty years ago! The baggage cars will have bicycle racks.

In Northeast Ohio, the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic has repaired a serious washout of their right-of-way which happened in early May.

Riding with Santa Revamped
By Eric Schlientner

This year’s "Riding with Santa", held in conjunction with our "Holidays at the Depot" event will have a change in schedule and operation. The revised event will be held on Saturday, November 29. The longer "Santa" trips of previous years will be replaced by shorter and more frequent runs from McGill Street to Orrville Junction and back.

Come have a visit with Santa aboard The Orrville Railroad Heritage Society’s vintage passenger cars decorated for the Christmas season. During this round trip from McGill Street to Orrville Junction, Santa will move through the train to visit with each child and collect their Christmas list. A Christmas Story will be read and holiday music performed by Harry Arble will be provided.

Tickets to see Santa are $5.00 per passenger.

Tickets will be available at the Depot on Friday, November 28 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM during our Holidays at the Depot event and at the McGill Street boarding area the following day prior to departure. A mail order form is also available on our website.

Ohio Rail Tourism News
By Bill Engel

The Ohio Rail Tourism Association (ORTA) held their 2014 Annual Meeting in Orrville on April 5. After the Annual Meeting at the Depot, a luncheon was held at Das Dutch Kitchen in Dalton.

The 2015 ORTA Annual meeting is tentatively planned to be hosted by the Fostoria Rail Preservation Society in Fostoria, OH in April, 2015. Watch this newsletter for more details.
Treasurer's Report
By Bill Engel

This report has almost entirely bad news. On July 1 all five of our passenger coaches were derailed during a switching move while en-route home from being leased to the Steam Railroad-ing Institute in Michigan. While the cars have been re-railed and are at a secure site in Bellevue, OH, we will probably have only two of them repaired in time for the November 15 trip.

The next piece of bad news is that the Wheeling will discon-continue shipment of passenger cars. So we cannot lease outside cars to replace our damaged cars. They will run our November 15 excursion and bring our repaired cars from Bellevue. But they will not operate our Riding with Santa trains this year. Further, they will not operate any excursions for us in 2015.

This raises the issue of how will we finance the ORHS in the future. In 2013, excursion ticket sales revenue through September 15 represented 83 percent of our total income. Only revenue from the day long excursions and Riding with Santa is included in that number. Without excursions Food Service and Gift Shop revenue will also decrease.

While expenses will go down without excursions, an initial check with our insurance broker indicates our insurance cost will not reduce by a great deal. At present we have enough cash in the bank and our reserve to pay insurance premiums (which will be due in May of 2015) through May 2016. Beyond that is a big unknown at this time.

Now we can talk about some good news. Repairs of the damage to the Depot caused by an automobile striking it in May have been completed. This cost was covered by the driver’s insurance company.

If any one has questions about our finances please feel free to speak to me after a meeting or give me a call. There is also a file of the reports I give each month to the Executive Committee available in the Depot office. This would be a good place to remind everyone that the ORHS is an IRS 501 (C)(3) organization and contributions (tax deductible to the extent allowed by law) are welcome.

Operation Lifesaver News
By Bill Engel

In mid-August Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Division Superintendent Jim Hill advised Sandy that the Wheeling has decided to discon-continue Operation Lifesaver student safety trains. They will continue to assist with classroom presentations. The railroad is extremely busy with freight so scheduling the stu-dent trains and having crewmen available to operate them was a major problem. 2014 was the seventeenth year of ORHS participation with the Wheeling to operate the student safety trains. It was a good run but it is now time to move on.

Sandy and I greatly appreciate the support of the many ORHS members who so faithfully helped out over the years with these trains as Car Hosts, Video Technicians, and Mechanics.

In other Operation Lifesaver news Roy Carmony ran another Safety Poster Contest for 4H clubs in our area. Winning posters were displayed at the Wayne County Fair. The ORHS provided $215 in Wal-Mart gift cards to the nine lucky winners.

Please remember to always “Look, Listen, and Live” when you come to the railroad grade crossings.

Membership Dinner on December 2
By Kathy Green

Isn’t it hard to believe that December is just around the corner? Holiday decorations are slowly beginning to peak out in the local stores. Guess that means that we also begin to think about our December Membership dinner.

Plan to spend some time with us on December 2, at Maibach Ford’s Community Room. The gathering will begin at 6:30 pm with some time to share some appetizers and stories with friends.

Dinner will be served promptly at 7 pm. You need to bring nothing but your appetite. We will be serving a catered buffet dinner and desert. After dinner we will hold our December membership meeting which will include a review of 2014 in pictures and the traditional election of officers for the year 2015.

Reservations will be accepted beginning November 4th. Cost will be $11.00 per person attending.

Deadline for reservations will be November 22.
More Bricks at the Depot 
by Lynn Butts

Boy Scouts of Sippo 377, Order of the Arrow from the Buckeye Council, finished the placing of bricks around the signal display at the Orrville Union Depot. Installation of the electrical systems is all that remains to make the installation complete and functional.

Previously, the Scouts had completed placing bricks in the southwest corner of the Depot property.

Many thanks go to the Scouts!

Safety Express & Car Host Corner
By Ed Hershey

At some point in time in my childhood, I remember reading an article outlining a discussion between the Presidents of the Pennsylvania (PRR) and Maryland & Pennsylvania (MA & PA) Railroads. During the course of their discussion, the President of the PRR shared how far west the rails of the “Standard Railroad of the World” stretched. The President of the “MA and PA” (a short-line railroad) responded “Your rails may go further, but mine are just as wide”.

The same holds true for the siding/trackage leased by the ORHS. Although adjacent to both Norfolk Southern and Wheeling & Lake Erie trackage, our rails are just as wide and hold the same potential for accidents or injury if our rules of operation and safety are not followed.

As part of the performance of assigned duties when performing work at the siding or during actual events, all crew members must take a few minutes to review the operating and safety rules of ORHS. If you do not have a copy of the ORHS Book of Rules, be sure to let me or an ORHS Board member know; copies will be provided as needed.

If there is one thing we have learned during the 2014 Excursion season, it’s to “expect the unexpected”.

To better prepare ourselves for the unexpected, ORHS crew members again viewed a CPR demonstration video during the general membership and safety meeting on October 7 at the ORHS Depot. As we wrap up the 2014 ORHS Excursion Season, the Safety Committee will continue to strive for:

1. Better training to provide our car hosts and members with the tools needed to do their jobs in the best way possible.
2. Greater input from car hosts and other ORHS members as well as board members
3. Offer increased training opportunities to equip our members with the tools needed to perform their chosen tasks specific to their jobs.

Until next time, “Stay Safe”.

ORHS Honors Denny Deeser
By Eric Schlentner

Our car storage yard, which has been unceremoniously referred to as “the siding”, “the yard” or “the hole”, now has an official title: Deeser Siding. ORHS has honored longtime member Denny Deeser who has toiled countless hours at the siding over many years keeping our rolling stock in serviceable condition.

Denny has decided to step back a bit from his “second job” to devote more time to his family and other personal pursuits.
**Depot Repairs Completed**

by Eric Schlentner

Repairs to the west wall of the Depot due to an automobile accident last May have been completed. The exterior received new brick and mortar in the damaged area. Once weathered, it will be hard to tell where the damage was located.

The interior repairs have also been completed. Custom knives had to be fabricated to mill the new wooden trim to match the existing millwork. With everything painted to match, it’s as if accident never occurred.

**Departures**

By Roger Scott

The following ORHS members have passed away since our last newsletter.

Longtime member, Thomas Monroe of Mantua Ohio passed away on March 29.

Frank Kellogg passed away on September 26. Frank was a member of ORHS and the Akron Railroad Club.

Former member and Chairman of the Lodi Railroad Museum Mike Trout passed away on October 10.

Allister Phillimore Jr., 72, of Smithville died October 20, 2014 after a long battle with cancer. Al and his wife Carol served as Car Hosts in previous years.

**Recent Donations**

by Roger Scott

Founding member, Howard E. Wade has donated three framed locomotive photos. One photo, taken in the 1940s, of a steam engine on the PRR main west of Orrville near the W&LE truss bridge. The other two photos are fan photos.

Anna Mae Bixler has donated a large tote bin of VHS video tapes and some still photos of our events in the 1980s. The tapes are mostly fan commercial tapes, not homemade. Anna Mae said that at one time Bob had seven big tote bins full of videos, both purchased and some he had made himself. Bob was good at both taping and editing, he used good video equipment.

Becky Falb of Shreve has donated a carton of her late fathers collector railroad items along with three hard back rail fan books and some photos of Erie Railroad operations in the Akron area. She said her father, Robert McCrok, retired with 43 years service with the Erie Railroad and Conrail. As you will recall, the Erie was absorbed into the Conrail system during the take over of the bankrupt Penn Central Railroad. Sadly, the Erie had a lot of parallel lines with Penn Central and some were not in great shape so they were the first to go. The Rails to Trails from Rittman to Creston is on the old Erie right of way.

Mrs. Robert Davidson of Wooster has donated some tote bins of “O” gauge model train magazines, and promotional sales catalogs, thanks to Bob Cutting for picking up this donation. We try to sell magazines for 50 cents a piece. We probably have a pickup truck load to sell.

Donna Shaffer has donated her late husband Ralph’s collectables and 6 or 7 cartons of model railroad magazines along with some interesting photos of some of our early trips and rail events. Sadly she was storing the 103 Christmas decor at her house and brought that also, we won’t be using those since car 103 was damaged at Bellevue in the accident, and may not get back to Orrville in time for our Santa rides.

*Thank You Everyone For Your Donations!*

**Fun Facts**

The Pennsylvania Railroad, also known as the PRR or the Pennsy, was not only the largest railroad in the United States for much of its existence, it was also the largest corporation in the world.

Door Slammer: What freight trainmen called a passenger trainmen.

Piglet: A locomotive engineer trainee.

**Coming Events**

**Orrville Autumn Express.** Saturday, November 15, 2014, 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM. This excursion will depart from Orrville in Wayne County, stop in Medina for lunch, and return to Orrville.

**Holidays at the Depot.** Friday, November 28, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM and Saturday, November 29, 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Depot will be open and decorated for the holidays. There will be refreshments, depot displays, raffle items, and a working train layout. The Depot Gift Shop will be open. Tickets for Riding with Santa will be available.

**Riding with Santa.** Saturday, November 29. During this short round trip from McGill Street to Orrville Junction, Santa will move through the train to visit with each child and collect their Christmas list. A Christmas story will be read and holiday music by Harry Arble will be provided.

**Annual Membership Dinner.** Tuesday, December 2, 6:30 PM. White’s Maibach Ford Community Room.
Volunteers, Anyone?

ORHS is always looking for member volunteers to help us with all kinds of things such as:

- Depot, tower and caboose restoration
- Equipment maintenance
- Concessions
- Excursion hosts
- Fundraising
- Safety
- Special activities
- Marketing
- Education
- General office work

If you have some spare time, like to work with others and talk trains, this could be your ticket. Talk to us at a meeting, call the depot at (330) 683-2426, or send an email to: request@orrvillerailroad.com and let us know what your interests are.

Thank You for Your Support

*The functions and programs provided by ORHS are made possible by the generous support of our members and donors.*

New Members
David Antes, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Howard Howell, Beach City, OH
Elizabeth Salt Westerville, OH
Larry Smith, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Curtis Thorkelson, Akron, OH
Louis Tower, Warsaw, OH
Harry Wright, Walnut Creek, OH

*Welcome aboard!*

### Orrville Railroad Heritage Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 11
145 Depot Street
Orrville, Ohio 44667-0011
Phone: 330.683.2426
Email: questions@orrvillerailroad.com
Web: www.orrvillerailroad.com
Find us on Facebook

#### 2014 Executive Committee

- **Chairman**
  - Lee Fitzsimmons
- **President**
  - John Harding
- **Vice President**
  - Anna Davidson
- **Secretary**
  - Sandy Engel
- **Treasurer**
  - Bill Engel
- **Chairman Emeritus**
  - Howard Wade

#### Board Members
Glenn Bowman, Lynn Butts, Bob Cutting, Sandy Engel, Adrian Eskew, Lee Fitzsimmons, Ed Hershey, Tom Jaite, Eric Schlentner, Roger Scott

MEMBERSHIP FORM

- □ Regular: $15
- □ Family: $25
- □ Senior: $10
- □ Student: $7.50

Date: ___________________________ Name: ___________________________

Address: ___________________________

City: ___________________________ State: ____________ Zip: __________

Phone: ___________________________ Email Address: ___________________________

Cut out and bring this form to the next ORHS meeting or mail with a check or money order to:
ORHS Membership, P.O. Box 11, Orrville, OH 44667-0011
Make checks payable to ORHS. Do not mail cash.
Looking railroad west through the W&LE bridge over the former PFW&C and CA&C, both now NS. The original main (1882), then Massillon branch, now the Orrville branch is on the right and the current main (1904) is on the left.

(Eric Schlentner)