



**MARCH 2003**

The February meeting of the MDTC afforded members to meet Scott Cessna, newly appointed Executive Director of Railroader's Memorial Museum, Altoona, PA. Scott outlined the new directions and long-range development plans for the museum under Westsylvania Heritage Corporations leadership beginning in 2003. This meeting afforded members of the MDTC the opportunity to share their views and hopes for this committee's oral history project with Scott Cessna also.

There were no formal minutes and Secretary D W Seidel was absent on vacation.

**RAILROADER'S MEMORIAL MUSEUM** will re-open for the 2003 season on March 28, 2003 under Westsylvania Heritage Corp management.

As reported recently in the Altoona Mirror, the museum, subsequent to the February meeting which Mr. Cessna attended, has received two multi-million \$\$ grants which will ensure completion of the new quarter roundhouse and the rehabilitation of the ex-PRR Class K-4s steam locomotive No. 1361, which is great news for the Altoona-Blair County community and, also a positive indication of new a positive progress for Railroader's Memorial Museum. A 100-ft turntable has been procured for the new roundhouse and should be installed during 2003. Purchase of the turntable is a gift of Blair Medical Associates, Altoona.

**FROM THE FILES OF THE ALTOONA MIRROR, MARCH 19, 1936**

As some of you may remember, St. Patrick's Day 1936 was known for the massive floods

which hit Pennsylvania in general and the PRR in particular.

**TYRONE REFUGEES QUARTERED IN SCHOOL**

**P.R.R. ATTEMPTING TO MOVE TRAFFIC** Company's Objective Is to Get Foodstuff and Provisions Moving Over Line into Stricken Areas.

**SPECIAL TRAIN TO TAKE LOCAL MAILS**

**PRR TRAIN CREWS REPORTED SAFE**  
Text: Pennsylvania railroad engine and train crews, caught by the rain and flood waters away from their home terminals on the Middle and Pittsburgh divisions, are all safe. This was announced this morning by the company officials here in an effort to allay the fears and apprehensions of their families as to their safety. A number of Altoona crews are marooned at the eastern end of the Middle division at Enola. They are all safe and being properly fed and bedded at that place. Pittsburgh and Harrisburg crews, some of them here for the past forty-eight hours or longer, are all safe. They, too, are being looked after by the company.

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**JOHNSTOWN DAM BELIEVED TO BE SAFE**

National Guard Moves In to End Looting and Calm 66,000 Citizens Fearful Huge Quemahoning, Which Is Leaking, May Let Go-Fear is Groundless.

**Red Cross Says 8,000 Homes Uninhabitable**

Hooligans Raid Telephone Building – Waters Are Subsiding – Disease Feared More Than Flood – Homeless Mostly Safe in Hill District.

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**PITTSBURGH: ONLY FLAMES NOW LIGHT PITTSBURGH**

**SUBWAYS AT CRESSON CLEARED OF DEBRIS**

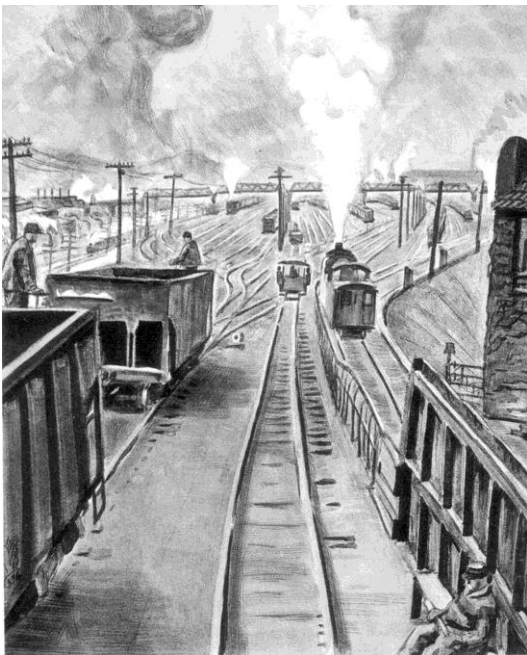
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**AT THE MISHLER THEATRE:**  
Greenwich Village Follies” – On Stage  
With the Beautify “Gibson Girls”.

**AT THE PENN THEATRE:**  
“The Calling of Dan Mathews” and “She”

**SOUTHERN ALLEGHENIES MUSEUM  
OF ART – ALTOONA**

Exhibits from the permanent collection on display from January 31 to April 30, 2003 include the original 1936 watercolor by Charles Burchfield entitled: *HUMP OPERATIONS-ALTOONA*. This work is a very familiar scene to many Middle Division railroaders from the PRR as it depicts train classification operations at WJ Tower in East Altoona:



Avail yourself to visit SAMA prior to April 30<sup>th</sup> to view the original of this superb art of a period in Altoona's PRR history long-gone, but not forgotten.

A new exhibit of photographs by noted PRR photographer William Rau will be hung shortly. SAMA includes two RAU exhibitions annually. The RAU albumen prints are regarded a superior photographic record depicting the PRR's infrastructure in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. William Rau invented his own panoramic camera credited with taking the superb panoramic view of the Horseshoe Curve, which has graced many PRR publications.

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2004 will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Horseshoe Curve. As all Middle Transportation Committee members know, Altoona's Horseshoe Curve was not the only such curve constructed. However, it

wasthe first, and has not had a day off since it's design and inception; it is an engineering landmark recognized world-wide.

*Anticipate many events in 2004 to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.*

**ALTOONA MIRROR June 2, 1950:  
22 Cars Jump Broken Track near Seward  
Derailment Completely Blocks Pennsy  
Mainline – 4 Wreck Crews At Work**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**4-30-1900:** Disastrous wreck on the Illinois Central involving John Luther Jones – Casey Jones.

**1-2-1939:** EMD introduced the FT Class of diesel locomotives at 1350 H.P.

**7-1-1945:** EMD introduced the F3 Class of diesel locomotives at 1500 H.P.

**11-1-1948:** EMD introduced the F7 Class of diesel locomotives at 1500 H.P.

**1-6-1945:** ALCO introduced the FA-1 diesel locomotive class.

**9-2-1946:** ALCO introduced the PA-1 diesel locomotive class – regarded as the best physical-design (appearance) although not mechanically superior.

**11-4-1957:** Last revenue run by steam on the New York & Long Branch by PRR K-4 No. 612 - northbound.

**4-26-1925:** Steam power supported with gas-electric motors on the Petersburg Branch.

**4-30-1933:** Passenger service discontinued on Petersburg Branch.

**7-14-1929:** First Run of PRR "SENATOR", between New York and Washington DC.

