

Official Newsletter
of



NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1361
Altoona, PA 16603-1361
www.hscnrhs.org

Winter 2021

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Francis X. Givler, Jr., 114 Scott Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602

NOTE: **time-sensitive correspondence should be sent to this address**
ottodocfacs@atlanticbb.net

VICE-PRESIDENT, CHAPTER DELEGATE TO NRHS & WEBMASTER: Joseph A. DeFrancesco
1266 Lincoln Avenue, Tyrone, PA 16686
jdefrancesco5@verizon.net

SECRETARY: Joseph P. Harella, 3806 5th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602
jkharella@gmail.com

TREASURER: Denny Walls, 123 Sandcastle Lane, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
d63w@aol.com

CHAPTER HISTORIAN/EDITOR: Leonard E. Alwine, 212 N. 11th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601

NOTE: Horseshoe Curve Chapter, National Railway Historical Society was granted a charter by the NRHS on May 11, 1968 (3 months and 10 days after the PRR-NYC merger), evolving from the Altoona Railway Museum Club (1965-1968). We meet on the **FOURTH** Tuesday of each month except December, at the Railroaders Memorial Museum, Altoona, PA, at 7:30 PM. Occasional exceptions are announced to the membership.

90 (+) % of all communications and notices are handled by e-mail. Please keep your e-mail address current with the officers, especially the President and the Chapter Historian/Editor.

Meetings are open to those interested in railroad history and membership inquiries are invited. Chapter-only membership is available but national membership dues are separate. For more information visit www.nrhs.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of the Coal Bucket may not seem up to standards in comparison to past issues because it was “put together” under extremely bad circumstances.

The last issue was sent to Tracey for typesetting the day before I was taken to the hospital for Covid. I was told that I may not make it around Labor Day. But after 21 days in the ICU I was sent home to recover on September 9th.

I still could not walk very far or do steps. My wife, Diane, took good care of me and provided the encouragement to get me back to about 80% by mid to late October. I then began to work on the Winter Issue of the Coal Bucket.

Then on November 9th she had one of her breathing panic attacks, only this time I could not get her to come to. I began CPR until paramedics arrived but her brain was without oxygen too long and she passed away November 10th.

It has been a real challenge for me to get this issue done because I really didn't feel like doing it. I know it is not real great. Perhaps the Spring issue will be better after I am finished grieving a little.

- Leonard Alwine, Editor

IN THIS ISSUE

First, is an update on our hospitalized Coal Bucket staff. Dave Seidel, who fell and broke his pelvis in July, returned home October 29th after many months at Garvey Manor. He is glad to be home but still has some adjusting to do.

Len Alwine returned home September 9th after 21 days in the ICU for Covid 19 Delta Variant. The last thing he did before AMED took him to the hospital was mail the last edition of the Coal Bucket to Tracey for printing. He is still in recovery mode at home doing therapy to build up his lungs and leg muscles but is glad that he is still here to do this issue of the Coal Bucket.

The feature story in this issue written by Len is one about Christmas movie memories. As you read it try to remember how many you have watched with your family in the years past.

In the “Under the Wire” column, Len writes a story about a model (promo/bank) he has in his collection given out years ago by the H.J. Heinz Company which he refers to as the “Pickle Promo”.

Next, as the holidays are upon us, many want a day off but do we really deserve it? Read this anonymous article and decide for yourself.

Again, Joe Harella keeps us informed about Local Yard News and also the chapter meeting minutes.

After receiving some old photos from his dad, Len Alwine put them together with an old yellowed newspaper clipping he found while cleaning up his den and came up with the article “The Only Way to Travel” glean-ing some information from the old article originally written by Gary Barance in 1985 for the Altoona Mirror.

Included in the memory section are articles about Sarah Swenson, member Charles Swenson's wife who passed away October 17, 2021. Also an article about Diane Alwine who passed away November 10, 2021. She was a member of the chapter along with her husband, Leonard Alwine, who is also the editor of the Coal Bucket.

In closing, the staff of the Coal Bucket hopes everyone will enjoy this issue and want to wish all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Santa Trolley at
Rockhill Trolley Museum



OLD CHRISTMAS MOVIE MEMORIES

by Leonard Alwine

With this issue being the “Christmas” issue, it seems only right that we include an article about Christmas memories.

We all have them, from toy train layouts that only appeared for a few weeks each December to those special tree ornaments given to children, parents, and others that again show up for a placement on this years Christmas tree that bring back memories of happy times of years past.

Then there are all those old Christmas movies that we used to watch in our younger days that again brought happy thoughts to us as we watched them with our families.

Perhaps the ones we remember most are those old cartoons. Sometimes they were just short films in between other television shows. Then some were half hour cartoons and some full length movies in cartoon format.

Films like “Here Comes Suzy Snowflake”, “Frosty the Snowman”, and “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” all bring back childhood memories.

Perhaps the most remembered film from the past is “A Charlie Brown Christmas” which today has to be a classic. It debuted December 9, 1965 on CBS.



A model tree and popcorn can
from that movie

Other cartoon movies which most likely will some time become classics are “The Polar Express” which has very detailed train cars traveling on a not so real train track to the North Pole. Others are “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” and the “Abominable Snowman” and “The Island of Misfit Toys”. There are most likely many others which I cannot remember right now but maybe you can from your past childhood.

And of course there are real people movies which have become classic show almost every year, “A Miracle on 34th Street”, “It’s A Wonderful Life” and “A Christmas Carol” to name a few.

So as we celebrate Christmas this year, check your television listings or go rent a few of these classic cartoons and movies and reminisce a little about times past, a time that seemed so much simpler and happier.

UNDER THE WIRE by Leonard Alwine

The Pickle Promo

As I was clearing up my den after many years of just placing stuff all together on shelving (books, toys, trains, collectibles, and newspaper clippings), I came across an item which seemed to be screaming “use me in the Under the Wire column”.



Front of car showing the destination sign

The item was a promo/bank trolley car from the H.J. Heinz Company. It is a very detailed plastic model of a double trucked trolley resembling a Brill car of the early 1900's.

It is 11 inches long, 5 inches high to the top of the trolley pole and 3 inches wide. I am not sure what scale that would be. It has simulated wood boards on the floor and roof of the vestibules. Each end also has a controller and a hand brake wheel inside. The car interior is left blank (empty) due to it being a bank. It has a slot in the roof and under the car is a keyed box in the area that the resistors would be on a real car so that money can be placed in the car (bank) and later retrieved.

The bottom of the car simply says “1988 H.J. Heinz Co. Made in China”. There is nothing on the box to indicate who made the product.

Both sides of the car have a sign applied which promotes Heinz' Keystone Brand Tomato Ketchup. Of course, the sign also has the Heinz pickle and the 57 varieties symbol displayed. Each end of the car has the number 57 on both sides and in the middle letter board the destination sign “H.J. Heinz Co. North Side”.

It came in a nice presentation box with a copy of a painted version of a car printed on the lid. Inside the car is protected with foam rubber to keep it safe in shipping.



Cover of the box showing painted picture



Inside of box showing the foam packing



The side view of the model trolley car



Advertising sign on sides of car

According to a receipt still in the box, I purchased it September 23, 2007 at the Antique Depot for \$28.00, \$29.68 with tax. That was in the days that Diane and I both still worked and she still gave me an allowance for things like this.

After looking at this model again real close, I still believe that it was worth the price paid and even today, 33 years after it was made, it was a good buy.

WANTING A DAY OFF

by Anonymous

So you want a day off!

Let's take a moment to look at what you are asking for.

There are 365 days available for work per year.

There are 52 weeks per year of which you already have 2 days off each weekend, leaving 261 days left available for work.

Since you spend 16 hours each day away from work that accounts for 170 days leaving 91 days available for work.

You spend 30 minutes each day on break and that accounts for 23 days each year leaving 68 days available for work.

You spend 1 hour a day for lunch that accounts for another 46 days per year leaving 22 days for work.

You spend 2 days per year on sick leave only leaving 20 days for work.

You take 9 holidays per year leaving 11 days available for work.

You take 10 days vacation each year leaving only 1 day available for work.

And NO WAY are you going to take that day off!!!

LOCAL YARD NEWS

by Joe Harella

The chapter will not be having a Christmas party this year. Also we will not be holding a meeting in December.

The officers for 2022 were elected. All will remain the same as last year with the exception of Ron Givler becoming the new Vice President.

The chapter decided to renew the Penn State Scholarship program for another five years. The original contract for five years was about to expire.

With the Christmas season upon us, the local model train layouts have set up the following open houses:

Altoona Association of Model Railroaders, 2930 S. 10th Street, Altoona

Friday, December 3rd and 10th - 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm

Saturday, December 4th and 11th - 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Alto Model Train Museum Association, 1117 9th Avenue, Altoona

Saturday - Sunday, December 4th to December 31st - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Also a winter display layout at Lakemont Park "Lights on the Lake" will be open nightly beginning at 6:00 pm until January 9th, 2022.

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

AUGUST 24, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS scheduled for August 24TH was canceled due to the chapter picnic which was held on August 21ST.

The picnic was held at the Deer Hollow Bed & Breakfast operated by Rachel and Dink Gensimore in Tyrone, Pa. The Gensimores are grandparents to Joe DeFrancesco.

The menu consisted of a large variety of picnic foods, including dessert, as each member was asked to bring something to share.

The grill once again was manned by President Frank Givler who did an excellent job.

Upon the conclusion of our meal, some members and guests drifted over to enjoy the bonfire. Everyone had an enjoyable time.

Thank you goes out to Rachel and Dink for hosting the party.

JOSEPH HARELLA

RECORDING SECRETARY

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on September 28TH, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Frank Givler at 7:00 P.M.. The meeting was held here at Kings Family Restaurant.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by Dick Charlesworth, second by Ralph Simpson. The motion passed.

The financial statements were read by Treasurer Denny Walls. Paul Campbell made a motion to accept the financial report, Mark Yingling second. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Pennsy Calendars- Denny Walls informed everyone that he will be ordering Pennsy calendars soon, but not as many this year. Last year only about half of the 25 calendars were sold. He said that he will order 15 this year. He also inquired as to how many of the post card books do we have? Joe DeFrancesco said the museum gift shop could use some.
2. Bus Trip To Cumberland- Dick Charlesworth said that he sent a text to the Western Maryland, but they never got back to him. Dick had already stipulated that if the 1309 is not up and running, which it is not, we would postpone the trip.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Alto Model Train Museum Train Show- The train show will be held at the Blair County Convention Center on Sunday November 7TH.
2. Storage Space for the Chapter- A discussion was held on finding some place in the museum for the Chapter to store and possibly display some railroad items. Executive Director Joe DeFrancesco said that he is sure that we could find space for the chapter to use.
3. Museum Update- Museum Executive Director Joe DeFrancesco gave an update on the progress being made at the museum by reporting the following: The K4 restoration project is moving ahead, the museum will be receiving a new roof thanks to the North American Foundation, the new staff is doing a great job, architects are working on a new look for the museum yard, the museum will be open 3 days per week during the winter season, the funicular has been repaired and is now working, new apparel and merchandise has been ordered for the gift shop, the GP-9 up at the curve is being repainted, the museum is now in very good financial condition, the scanner at the curve is not working due to faulty wiring, a membership campaign will begin soon, we are teaming up with local politicians to help with financial grants, we are attempting to develop a long term partnership with Penn State, volunteers are needed as there are many jobs that need to be done. Anyone that would like to volunteer, just stop into the museum and see if there is something that you might like to do.
4. Dick Charlesworth has been visiting the Horseshoe Curve on the weekends in order to increase attendance for the Alto Model Train Association as well as the museum. He said that attendance at the curve seemed pretty good.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Denny Walls inquired as to whether the museum would accept any more railroad cars? Joe DeFrancesco said that it would depend on what the cars are and their condition.
2. Pres. Givler informed everyone that Len Alwine was in the hospital with Covid but he assumes that he is back home by now. He was not on a ventilator.
3. Mark Yingling reported that Dave Seidel continues to improve and that he may be sent home soon.

Ralph Simpson then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Joe DeFrancesco second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50P.M.-16 Members Present.

ATTENDANCE- Mark Yingling, Denny Walls, Mike Walls, Dennis Haire, Paul Campbell, Marge Simpson, Ralph Simpson, Dan Summers, George Stanley, Karen Givler, Frank Givler, Jean Noonon, Zach Noonon, Dick Charlesworth, Joe Defrancesco, Joe Harella

JOSEPH HARELLA

RECORDING SECRETARY

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

OCTOBER 26, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on October 26, 2021. The meeting was called to order by President Frank Givler at 7:24 P.M..The meeting was held here at Kings Family Restaurant.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by Ron Givler, second by Gary Price, the motion passed.

The financial statements were read by Treasurer Denny Walls. Ron Givler made a motion to accept the financial report, Mark Yingling second, the motion passed.

Denny also reported that the Pennsy calendars are in. They sent us 50 this year, so 25 will go into the museum gift shop. He also wrote out a check for the Walter's garage rental.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Dave Seidel Update**- Pres. Givler informed everyone that Dave is on the mend and he might be sent home by the end of this week. He is currently using a cane and walker to get around. He still has some difficulty when eating and all liquids must be thickened with honey. His pelvis is all healed up, and his doctor is very pleased with his progress.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Museum Update**-Executive Director Joe Defrancesco gave us an update on what's happening at the museum; All repairs have been made to the funicular , it has been tested and we are just waiting for the State's approval to put it back into service. Penn State students have been stripping the interior of the caboose and Curry Rail has offered to supply the paint. The K-4, the old fire box has been removed to make way for the new one. The project continues to move forward. The museum will be open for three days each week during the winter, and new Christmas decorations have been purchased for the holiday season.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. **N-10 Cabin Car**- Museum Executive Director Joe Defrancesco informed everyone that the museum is in the process of restoring this caboose. It was built in 1969 and is 1 of 50 . The interior as well as the exterior of the car will be restored. Students from Penn State have volunteered to help with the project. The caboose will be painted in Penn Central green. However, before painting, the caboose will have to be sand blasted. This phase of the project will cost about \$7000, and Joe is asking the chapter for help. The members then held a discussion regarding the merits of the project. Dick Charlesworth also offered his thoughts as to why this would be a worthwhile project. Dick then made a motion to donate \$7000 to the project, Ron Givler second as long as the work on the car moves forward, the motion passed. Joe was very grateful and he thanked the chapter for the donation.
2. **Sarah Swenson**- The chapter would like to extend our sincere sympathies and condolences to Chuck Swenson and his family on the passing of his wife Sarah.

Joe Defrancesco then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jeff Holland second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 P.M.-19 Members Present.

Attendance- Mark Yingling, Ron Givler, Mary Ann Stanley, George Stanley, Dennis Haire, Betsie Price, Gary Price, Bernie Linkhaver, Larry Lear, Chuck Swenson, Frank Givler, Karen Givler, Dick Charlesworth, Joe Defrancesco, Jeff Holland, Denny Walls, Larry McKee, John Fisher, Joe Harella

JOSEPH HARELLA
RECORDING SECRETARY
HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

NOVEMBER 23, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS was held on November 23, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Frank Givler at 7:24 P.M.. The meeting was held here at King's Family Restaurant.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved by Ron Givler, second by Gary Price. The motion passed.

The financial statements were read by Treasurer Denny Walls. Ralph Simpson made a motion to accept the financial report, Mark Yingling second. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Pennsy Calendars- Denny Walls reported that for the first time in a while , all 25 calendars have been sold.
2. Dave Seidel Update- Mark Yingling reported that Dave is doing very well. He has therapy every day. The stair lift that they ordered has been delayed due to the installers becoming ill.
3. The N-10 Cabin- The sandblasting of the car has been completed. There are about 20 to 25 Penn State students who show up one Saturday each month to work on the car. The project is steadily moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Penn State Scholarship- The original program was set up for a period of five years, which is about to expire. A discussion was held on whether or not we want to continue the program. Dick Charlesworth asked if Nick Martino could possibly receive one of our scholarships, since he is a member of our chapter? Pres. Givler said that the program is not set up to work that way, however, he would see what he could do. Ron Givler encouraged Nick to put on his scholarship application that he is a member of this organization. Ron Givler then made a motion to renew the scholarship program for another five years, Gary Price second, the motion passed. Dick Charlesworth then suggested if possible that future contracts include wording that would allow any chapter member to receive a scholarship.
2. Election of Officers- The members held a discussion regarding the election of officers. Paul Campbell then made a motion to keep the present officers, Ralph Simpson second, but after more discussion Paul rescinded his motion. Dick Charlesworth then nominated

Ron Givler for Vice pres. , Gary Price second, the motion passed. Paul Campbell then made a motion that all officers remain the same with Ron Givler serving as the Vice-pres, Ralph Simpson second, the motion passed. Ron is now the new Vice-pres. , all other officers will remain the same.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- 1. Christmas Dinner-** Pres. Givler informed everyone that we will not have a Christmas dinner this year.
- 2. Diane Alwine-** The chapter would like to extend our sincere sympathies and condolences to Len Alwine on the passing of his wife Diane.
- 3. Pres Givler** informed everyone that we will not hold a meeting in December.

Ralph Simpson then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mark Yingling second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50P.M.-17 Members Present.

Attendance- Gary Price, Mark Yingling, Marge Simpson, Ralph Simpson, Denny Walls, Mike Walls, Paul Campbell, Don Goebel, Ron Givler, George Stanley, Larry Lear, Wil Teeter, Nick Martino, Dick Charlesworth, Karin Givler, Frank Givler, Joe Harella

JOSEPH HARELLA

RECORDING SECRETARY

HORSESHOE CURVE CHAPTER NRHS

THE ONLY WAY TO TRAVEL **by Leonard Alwine**

On August 30, 1985, a train buff and his private car traveled through Altoona. The man was Dante Stephenson and his car was called "The Survivor". They were in Altoona arriving on the end of a special Amtrak dozen car train chartered by the Lancaster NRHS as part of a convention hosted by them over the weekend. They came to Altoona to take a trip around the Horseshoe Curve and back.



The special train arrives at the Altoona temporary Station August 30, 1985



Dante Stephenson poses by his private car "The Survivor"

Dante became involved with trains at the young age of 7 when he had a job delivering newspapers and one of his stops was the President of the Chicago North Western Railroad. By the time he was in high school he managed to talk the man into a job at the railroad. He eventually worked as a gandy dancer, a fireman, switch station guard and a brakeman.

He later joined the Navy and became an underwater demolition SEAL unit member. During that stint he helped recover space capsules for NASA insuring that the astronauts were safely removed after a splash down in the ocean.

After six years doing this he returned to Atlanta and opened a restaurant there. It was in that position that a man approached him to cater several dinners aboard his private railroad cars. This resulted in them becoming close friends.

In 1982, this man told him about a private car that had been sitting neglected outside Nashville, Tennessee for ten years. Dante purchased the car for next to nothing to be used as a place to house his railroad artifact collection.

Inside of his car showing some of his collection of railroad artifacts.



The car he purchased was built in 1926 by the American Car Foundry for the F.W. Woolworth family. It is 82 feet long, 10 feet wide, and has 10 foot ceilings. It weighs about 103 tons.

The car was used by the Woolworth family for about the next 20 years until family fortunes ran out. It was then passed around several railroads until it ended up on an abandoned railroad near Nashville in the early 1970's.

Dante decided to restore the car to be used as his personal home while traveling. It has a full kitchen, dining room, two bedrooms, a bathroom and the rear observation room/bar. When he travels he also has a maid along to keep things tidy and serve meals.



The maid preparing a meal aboard the car while in Altoona.

It was a beautiful sight back in 1985. I wonder today if it is still around and what it looks like 35 years later.

A LOOK BACK **by Leonard Alwine**

In this issue of the Coal Bucket, we will take a different look back as we look at things that took place during the years that most of us have lived. Hope everyone likes the change.

- 1963 Retired PRR employees restored the caboose displayed at the Horseshoe Curve National Park. It was later destroyed by vandals.
- 1964 The 50,000 piece handcarved miniature circus was on display at the William F. Gable “Toyland” for the Christmas season.
- 1965 March 8th the first troops from America landed in Vietnam. By Christmas over 180,000 would be stationed there.
- 1970 Bill Book Chevy sponsored the World’s Gravity Grand Prix (soap box derby) on Red Hill, Altoona. Larry Clapper took 1st place.
- 1971 The Horseshoe Curve Festival Parade was held in Altoona with the Alto Cadets band and the Gardner Guards Drum and Bugle Corps marching as the sponsoring units.

The Gardner Guards had just recently sponsored the Brass Impact Senior Drum and Bugle Corps competition at Mansion Park with help from WVAM Radio. It was won by the Connecticut Hurricanes.

The Penn Central Railroad shops along 9th Avenue from 12th to 17th Streets were razed for the Altoona Redevelopment Project. Shops included were the PRR Powerhouse, Locomotive Test Plant, Erecting Shop, Stress Test Building, X-ray Laboratory, and the Electric SubStation.

- 1996 Homeowners Rob and Debbie Biddle found rare PRR locomotive blue prints while remodeling their home at 1127 3rd Avenue. They gave them to the Railroaders Museum in Altoona.

The Central Blair Recreation Commission received a profit of \$24,435.00 from concession sales from the Rail Kings Baseball club for events held at Veterans Field.

- 2002 A 1941 PRR caboose was being restored at the Tyrone Railroad Station. It had formally been at the Railroader’s Memorial Museum in Altoona.
- 2004 Horseshoe Curve celebrated it’s 150th birthday and received a plaque from the American Society of Civil Engineers.
- 2018 Amtran retired the last GMC New Look buses. Altoona was the last city in America to still use this 1959 style bus in regular daily service.



IN MEMORY

SARAH ELIZABETH SWENSON

February 18, 1947 - October 17, 2021

Sarah (Sallie) Swenson was the wife of member Charles Swenson whom she married June 19, 1971. She graduated from Kiski High School in 1965 and then attended Pittsburgh Business School. Following that she worked at Tyrone High School as a Guidance Secretary until retirement.

After retirement she became a Lay Minister for the United Methodist Conference. She was currently serving both Mardorf and Fairview United Methodist Churches in Altoona. It was at Mardorf Church she helped her husband set up a model train show a few years ago.

Surviving are two children, Mary Ann and Matthew, one grandchild and several nephews.

She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star Chapter in Tyrone and also in Altoona. She was a two time District Deputy of Eastern Star District 9A. She was also a member of the Kiwanis Club and the business and Professional Women's Foundation.

May you rest in peace Sallie.

DIANE JEAN ALWINE

October 30, 1951 - November 10, 2021

Diane Alwine passed away unexpectedly November 10, 2021. She was a member of the Horseshoe Curve Chapter NRHS along with her husband, Editor Leonard Alwine, whom she married June 9, 1979. She had helped as a car host for RailFest for many years.

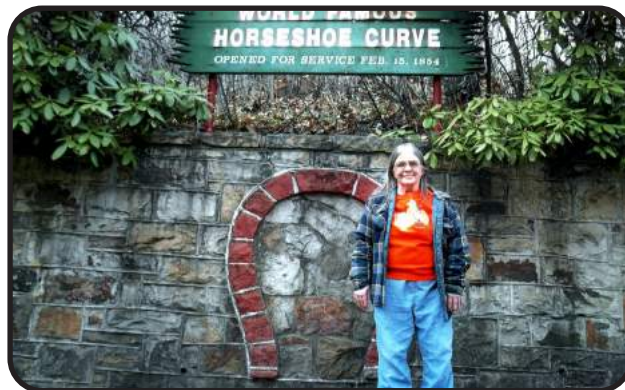
Diane graduated from Altoona High School in 1970 and the Altoona School of Commerce in 1972. She then worked at Gables Department Store, Tritex Sportswear for 19 and a half years and Skills of Altoona for 20 years, retiring February 1, 2020.

Diane spent a lot of time with the volunteer fire service doing fire prevention programs and pre and grade schools around Blair County. She received awards for this service from Grandview Fire Company in 1992, Blair County Allied Firemens Association in 2002 and the Central District Firemans Association in 1996.

Diane also loved animals especially her three cats and pug dog. She also belonged to ASPCA, Humane Society of the United States, Alley Cat Rescue and PETA.

She had no children of her own but worked with Bible School and other youth programs for children at East End United Methodist Church.

May you rest in peace Diane.



Diane at the Horseshoe Curve
March 27, 2021