



The Liggie

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THE PASSING OF TWO LONG-TIME FRIENDS

*(The "Liggie" Editor is grateful to Bob Stutzman
for this article. Thanks Bob!)*

Two long-time friends of the LVRRRA recently passed away. These men, Harry Frye and Jim Aldridge, were remarkable supporters of the LVRRRA, each in his own way.

Although a nonagenarian and a veteran of film photography, Latrobe's Harry Frye embraced digital photography and photo editing. He readily shared his knowledge and talents with local historical societies including the LVRRRA. In one instance, the LVRRRA had a photograph of its caboose taken some 80 years ago when it was still being used by the Pennsylvania Railroad. One of the corners of the photo had been torn and was missing. Frye, using Photoshop techniques, was able to regenerate the missing portion of the picture.

Frye and his brother, Bob, formed a business (Fantastic Fotographica) to sell copies of the historic photos in his collection. The brothers set up their booth at country markets, arts and crafts festivals, and train shows. They had notebooks full of photographs for sale which were organized by location or theme. When a customer found a photograph to purchase, the brothers would locate a copy in stock bins of the photographs filed in numerical sequence.

From the remaining stock bins of photographs, Bob donated "All Things Trains" to the LVRRRA. Once the LVRRRA has the photos catalogued, they will be offered for sale at the gift shop in the Darlington Station Museum. The photos include many locomotives, scenes from the Ligonier Valley Rail Road and other

railroads across the United States. The LVRRRA truly appreciates this donation of historic photographs. Thank you Harry and Bob!

Jim Aldridge, a resident of New Alexandria and a railroad historian, focused on the railroads in the local area. Self-taught, Aldridge consistently documented the sources of his research. For example, he maintained the sources and dates of publication for the hundreds of articles he gleaned from newspaper archives. Before computers Aldridge read newspaper articles into a recorder and would later transcribe them. He searched hard copy files, microfilmed files, and eventually digitized files. When newspapers began to digitize their files, Aldridge was able to expand his quest for articles.

In addition to local newspapers, he could search New York and Philadelphia papers as well as Harrisburg, Altoona, and Pittsburgh. Anywhere he found an article related to the Ligonier Valley Rail Road or the Pittsburgh, Westmoreland, and Somerset Railroad, he would copy it and format it into a Word Document to have it posted to the LVRRRA website.

He enjoyed the pursuit and verification of information regarding these railroads. Most of the "History" tab on the LVRRRA.Org website was compiled and/or written by Aldridge.

Before he died, he gave specific instructions to his family and friends regarding his research files and extensive library. Fortunately, the Museum at Darlington is one of the recipients of his years of research, and it will be on file at the Rail Road Museum in Darlington for years to come. It will also serve as the standard as to how research should be documented. Thank you Jim!

R & R
(Renewal and Restoration)

Barry Hood, General Contractor, is currently doing restoration work on the Darlington Station exterior. He has already repointed the stone pillars that support the side porch, and will be replacing all exterior wood as necessary especially under the station platform roof.

When Hood's work is completed, J. J. Brown Company will repaint the entire building beginning with the tin roof and then the rest of the exterior. Look for a brighter station in the near future!

LVRRA Museum
at the restored Darlington Station
3032 Idlewild Hill Rd
PO Box 21
Ligonier, PA 15658

Museum Hours of Operation
Saturdays, year round, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Contact Information
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The Mission of the Ligonier Valley
Rail Road Association
Organized in 2004

To preserve the legacy of the LVRR
To conserve vestiges of the LVRR
To collect memorabilia of the LVRR
To educate the public about
railroading in Ligonier Valley

Save the Dates!

Fort Ligonier Days
October 11, 12, and 13, 2019

Second Annual Creepy Caboose
Saturday – October 19, 2019

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The LVRR Association is seeking volunteers to help maintain the gardens, serve as docents, assist with building projects, and to otherwise lend hands where needed.

Doug Kurtz and Bob McKie will welcome candidates to “shadow” them as they do their “docent thing” for our visitors.

If you would like to volunteer, please call the museum at 724-238-7819 or drop a note to LVRRA Museum, 3032 Idlewild Hill, PO Box 21, Ligonier, PA 15658.

GET CONNECTED!

The website, LVRRA.org, has been updated with a fresher appearance and is easier to navigate. You are also welcome to like us on Facebook.

COME ALONG AND RIDE THE LIGONIER VALLEY RAIL ROAD

Would your organization enjoy a virtual tour on the Ligonier Valley Rail Road? The LVRRA offers a narrated PowerPoint presentation of photographs from the archives of the LVRRA. Although it was a single track system, did you know this short-line railroad had three sources of revenue? It served commuters, tourists, and industry.

Since the first presentation, more than 3,000 "passengers" have experienced a tour of the LVRR. The program is approximately 35 minutes, about the same amount of time the doodlebug used to travel between Ligonier and Latrobe.

If interested, please call the museum at 724-238-7819 or send an e-mail to info@lvrra.org. The program is continually updated with new photographs.

MODEL RAILROAD HOME TOUR

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, the LVRRA hosted the Tenth Annual Model Railroad Home Tour. The self-guided tour included multiple-gauge layouts at Huber Hall, the Penn-Ligonier Railroad Club, and the homes of Bob Stutzman, Bret Pohland, Dave McNichol, Ralph and Joanna Shearer, and Scott Graham.

Many thanks to all who opened their homes and to all of the LVRRA volunteers who greeted visitors at the various locations!!!



At Huber Hall, Esther's Hobby Shop displayed its Z-scale layout in a suitcase.



Ohio Valley Lines, T-Track sub-division participated in the tour at Huber Hall.



This Pittsburgh Hi-Railers module at Huber Hall featured automobiles of TV and film fame.



The Richards family Geo Trax layout at Huber Hall featured much action.



The circus modelers displayed their collection of memorabilia and trains at Huber Hall.



Nostalgia reigns at Penn-Ligonier's layout.



Dave McNichol's train yard included Ligonier Valley models.



Ralph and Joanna Shearer include this indoor G-scale layout in their train room.



Penn-Ligonier's scenery is superb.



The trains on Bret Pohland's layout are running on many levels from the floor to the ceiling.



A city-scape is featured in Bob Stutzman's layout.



Scott Graham's layout is full of details including a flying saucer in the background.