

The Liggie

Published by the Ligonier Valley Rail Road Association for the Friends of the LVRR.

December 2005

Volume 1 - Issue 3

Friends of the LVRR

Will this be the last *Liggie* you receive in the mail? To be sure you continue to receive our newsletter, join the Friends of the LVRR. As we state in the masthead, the *Liggie* is a newsletter for the Friends of the LVRR. More than 100 friends have joined the ranks and thereby stated that they support our primary purpose of preserving the legacy of the Ligonier Valley Rail Road. Enclosed is an application to become a Friend. If you already belong, tell a friend about our mission and give them the application. Your dues help us to acquire LVRR artifacts, memorabilia and photos.

LVRR Board of Directors

Bill McCullough - President
724-238-5859

Bill Potthoff - Vice-president
724-532-5564

Bob Stutzman - Secretary/Treasurer
724-537-2647

Al Pilz - Director

Janet Hudson - Director

Bill Stablein - Director

Lisa Hays - Director

Fort Days 2005

The LVRR Booth generated considerable interest and \$1200 in gross receipts. Fifteen Friends helped to staff the booth during the three day celebration. Our window display at Zimmerman's won the second-place-red ribbon and a \$50 cash prize. Due to the courtesy of Bob Kauffman of Ruffsdale and his mule wagon, we were able to participate in this year's parade. We were warmly greeted by the parade watchers the entire length of the parade.

Mini-Museum/Library

We are open! The "office" is located in the professional building at 106 North St. Clair Street in Ligonier. Come, visit and share knowledge and memories of the LVRR. Regular hours are 9 AM to noon on Saturdays, and as staff becomes available, we will expand our hours. It is always available by appointment if you call Bob Stutzman (724-537-2647), Bill McCullough (724-238-5859) or Bill Potthoff (724-532-5564). In the meanwhile, we continue to utilize the office to sort and catalogue memorabilia and photographs and to market our model trains and apparel.

Committees

Where do you belong? Your choices are: Museum; Development; Special Events; Public Relations; Property and Grounds. Committee preference forms have been mailed to all Friends. Where would you like to help? Preserving the 75-year legacy of a railroad that touched so many lives will require the dedication and desire of many individuals working toward a common goal. The seven members of the LVRR and a few Friends have carried the ball thus far. It is time to take our vision to the next level, and we need your help. If you have not already returned your committee form, please do so and return it to us. Many hands make each task lighter and easier to accomplish.

Model Railroad Update

As of press time, there are five models of **Engine #19** still available. Contact Bob at 724-537-2647 if you are interested. The engines have Ligonier-specific dialogue and cost \$350.

LVRR 1917, a box car with a photo of the Ligonier Station, is available for your holiday gifting.



The price is \$50 and is available at the Chamber of Commerce and Zimmerman's in Ligonier and at PostNet in the Latrobe 30 Shopping Center. It is also available Saturday mornings at the St. Clair St. office.

Even though the supply is dwindling, **LVRR 1915**, a caboose, and **LVRR 1916**, a tank car, are both still available at the same outlets.

Darlington Station

We can feel it in our bones; so much so, we believe it is going to happen. We are close to making a deal with Idlewild enabling us to assume ownership of the building. At least two foundations have expressed interest in supporting us to save and preserve the station. If we succeed in acquiring the station, there will be ample opportunities to volunteer your time, talent and tools to help restore it. The station, itself, would be a great addition to our collection of LVRR artifacts. We would also have a permanent home for our existing collection of artifacts, memorabilia and photographs. Hopefully, it will become a railroad resource center for southwest Pennsylvania.

Tour the LVRR

Have you ever wondered exactly where the Ligonier Valley Rail Road ran? Do you know where there is an eight-foot high railroad-related cut-stone wall? If you enter Idlewild Park from Route 259, did you know you cross a LVRR bridge? Would you like to learn the answers to these questions? If so, reserve April 1, 2006 to participate in a tour sponsored by the LVRRA. Bob Stutzman and Bill McCullough will lead this tour which will begin 9 AM at the Ligonier Station. The tour will follow the roadbed to Latrobe where you can still see numerous vestiges including bridge piers in the Loyalhanna and the "cut and fill" along the Kingston-Latrobe road. After viewing the tidbits of LVRR history on the return run to Ligonier, we will head north on the Hanna's Run branch to Marietta, Wilpen and Fort Palmer. You may be surprised at the number of vestiges still remaining from this railroad that closed down 53 years ago. Call 724-537-2647 to make your reservation.

Feedback on the PW&S Tour

On a recent cold and clear November Saturday, John Vucina led twenty-one hale and hardy Friends on a tour of the Pittsburgh, Westmoreland and Somerset roadbed. A caravan of six cars departed from the Ligonier Station and retraced the line to the top of Laurel Mountain into Somerset County where it converged with the never-completed South Penn Railroad. By utilizing CB radios, the organizers were able to point out features while on the run. Even though the PW&S has been out of business for 90 years, the roadbed is readily apparent in many areas, and numerous bridge abutments are still in place.

Did you Know?

Nine million passengers rode the rails of the LVRR. Many of them were Pittsburghers riding picnic trains to Idlewild Park.

The Doodlebugs

A perspective by Bill McCullough

The Ligonier Valley Rail Road had four "Doodlebugs", self-propelled rail cars to haul passengers and small amounts of freight. They were the M10, M21, 1150 and 1152.

Because of light passenger and freight loads, many railroads used them as a substitute for a full train with an engine and coaches. From conversations I have had with former employees, pictures and articles in the local newspapers and many dated photographs it appears that the M21 was the workhorse of the group.

It was built by the J.G. Brill Company as a Brill Model 55 Rail Car in 1929, purchased used by the Ligonier Valley Rail Road in 1937 from the St Louis Southwestern Railway Company. Its first day of revenue service on the Ligonier Valley was July 30, 1937.

The M21 had a capacity of 46 passengers plus baggage. The engine, a Hall-Scott 155-7 had 75 horsepower and ran on gasoline. The gas tank could hold 65 gallon gas tank, and the M21 weighed approximately 50,000 lbs. On the last regular passenger revenue run, Saturday evening, August 30, 1952, the M21 was the Doodlebug of choice. On a sad note it was scrapped in the fall of 1952.

The Model 55 Doodlebugs are still being built today by the Edwards Motor Car Company, of Mount Dora, Florida. It a dream of mine for the LVRRA to someday have a reproduction of Ligonier Valley Rail Road's M21 Doodlebug running on rails again somewhere in the Ligonier Valley.

www.lvrro.org

Check it out. Even though our site is still under construction, you will find useful information and old copies of the *Liggie*.

Recent contributions

We would like to recognize those individuals who have donated material items to the LVRRA. It is with sincere gratitude that we accept these gifts, and we promise to be good and faithful stewards of the following items.

Alan McCullough - PRR shovel, PRR stainless steel water bucket, PRR employee timetables, PRR hat badge, PRR silverware, a conductor's punch and other valuable memorabilia.

Ray Kinsey - Photo of PW&S Engine #76 and log train, an original Ligonier Echo special issue about the LVRRA abandonment, and a copy of the July 10, 1912 Ligonier Echo front page regarding the Wilpen wreck.

John Horrell - PRR trip pass, print of a PRR passenger train, and a Railway Accounting and Statistics manual.

Sandy Jackson - Her own artwork, a mixed-media painting of the Darlington Station.

Tom Weimer - File folder of original documents, correspondence, ledger and newspapers pertaining to the Wilpen Wreck.

Following is a list of the Friends of the LVR. Since these members have enlisted in 2005, they will forever be known as charter members.

Jim Aldridge
Jan Barone
Tom Beehner
Thomas Bitner
Harry Bortz
John Brady
John Brallier
Roger Brown
Pam Brown
David Byers
Marjorie Byers
Kerry Byers
Dean Caldwell
Ruth Campbell
Mary Ruthe Carnahan
Paul Carns
William Casey
Ed Clark
Richard Craig
Chuck Denman
Guy DiSalvo
Bruce Dobson
William Downs
Paul & Lana Dudash
John Emery
James Fleming
Paul Frederick
Ronald Fritz
Paul Fry
Eileen Gerneth
Richard Gombita
John "Pete" Goodwin
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Gosser
Don & Doris Graff
Ed Gross
Jerry Gumbita
David Haines, Jr.
Lisa Hays
Dave Herrholtz
Bill & Ardyth Hill
William Hillier
William Holmberg
Ross Howard
Janet Hudson
Paulette Irwin
Sandy Jackson
Robert Johnston
Wayne King
Ray Kinsey
Jack Kinsey
Ed Kuhn, Jr.

Thank all of you for your support. There are still a couple weeks in 2005 to sign up as a charter member.

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Kuhnemund
Kuzemchak Family
Bill Landis
Gladys Light
Russel Lowden
Robert Lowden
Mary Lundquist
Chuck Lynch
Carl Mattioli
Doug & Tina McAfee
Bill McCullough
Russ McKlveen
Daniel McLean
Gary & Linda Miller
Duane Miller
Thomas Miller
E. Kay Myers
Staci Peipock
Al Pilz
Bill Potthoff
Thomas Potthoff
John Prizzi
Nancy & Dale Richards
Paul Richards
Ray Robb
Roger Ross
Ralph Scalise
Claudia & Larry Shabin
Richard Sheats
Gerald & Peggy Shepler
Sally & Bruce Shirey
Betty Shirey
Paul Smetak
David Somerville
Janet Spencer
Mark & Lisa Spitzer
Lewis & Betty Jean Springer
Bill Stablein
Howard & Barbara Stahl
William Stouffer
Bob Stump
Bob Stutzman
Carl Tantlinger
Joel Thomas
Deb Tomesko
Paul Trimeloni
John Vucina
Lloyd Waltz
Michael Watson
Tom Weimer
Gary Whipkey