

# The LIGGIE

Published by the Ligonier Valley Railroad Association for the Friends of the LVRR

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Volume 9 - Issue 2

## From the Museum's Collection:

The Ligonier Valley Rail Road (LVRR) Museum is home to artifacts from the Ligonier Valley Rail Road, the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Pittsburgh, Westmoreland and Somerset railroads. This column will appear in subsequent issues of the Liggie and will explore some of the many artifacts we have at the Museum. Our collection policy sets guidelines for what we collect. In broad terms the policy states:



Figure 1 - Pennsylvania Railroad 8 1/4" plate with the Purple Laurel Pattern. This was manufactured by Scammell's of Trenton, NJ.

"We collect items for the Museum that were associated with a person, place or event pertaining to the Ligonier Valley Rail Road, or to a limited extent are typical or representative of objects related to railroading which are of a historical, cultural, or aesthetic nature; and which should fall in the period of operation of the LVRR. This can include items from the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Pittsburgh, Westmoreland and Somerset Railroad."



Figure 2 - B&O China Butter Pat, Centenary Pattern, Shenango, Capital Logo. We also have a butter pat for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

In this issue we will take a look at railroad china. One of the first dining cars was introduced in 1863 on the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad by converting a 50 foot day coach into a diner. By the 1890's all railroads had added diners to their long distance trains and although dining cars lost money, railroads had them to attract riders.

Along with the development of dining cars came the development of railroad china, often decorated with the railroad name or logo. Sumptuous meals and unique menus were a way to attract riders from competing lines. Railroad china, like many other collectibles, was held in little esteem until recent years when it became relatively scarce.



Figure 3 - PRR Coffee Carafe, Holloware International Silver Company



Figure 4 - PRR Coffee Carafe, Holloware International Silver Company



Figure 5 - B&O Tall Creamer, Centenary Pattern, made by Shenango

For some examples of the menus of different railroads see “Dining by Rail” by James D. Porterfield.

A sample of the menus listed in the book:

- Avocado Cocktail from the Southern Pacific
- New Corn Chowder, Southern Style, from the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe
- Roquefort Salad Dressing from the Great Northern
- Deviled Roast Beef with Mustard Sauce from the Pennsylvania
- Potatoes Romanoff from the Illinois Central
- Peas in Butter from the Pullman Company
- Hot Strawberry Sundae from the Fred Harvey Company



Figure 6 - PRR Egg Cup, Liberty Pattern

In the days before Air Force One, the President of the United States traveled by private rail car. On one such occasion in 1901, when President William McKinley and his party was en route to the Pacific Coast, the Pullman Company Dining Car Service prepared this menu for lunch on May 28:

L. C. Armfield, Pullman’s Commissary manager, perhaps understated it to the press when he said, “The

presidential party was well fed.”

(The above is an excerpt from Dining by Rail by James D. Porterfield)

In order to serve the meals a lot of items were required, such as silver, flatware, glassware, china, menus, menu holders, linens, sugar bowls, coffee carafes, glasses, cups and saucers, finger bowls and more. Railroad china was heavier than standard china since it had to be durable enough to withstand a lot of use which included washing, stacking, temperature extremes, and heavy use of utensils. It also had to stay in place on the table of a rocking dining car.

For the Pennsylvania Railroad our collection at the museum has examples of several different patterns including Keystone, Liberty, Purple Laurel, Allegheny and Broadway. For Pullman we have the Indian Tree pattern, and for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B&O) we have examples of the Centenary pattern. The B&O introduced the “Centenary” pattern of china for its dining cars in 1927 for the railroad’s 100th anniversary.



Figure 7 - PRR Finger Bowl Holder, Holloware, International 49

The Pennsylvania Railroad items have a PRR Keystone Logo printed on the bottoms of the tableware. In the cases of the Sugar Bowl, Menu Holder, and Coffee Carafe, which were in Sterling silver, the logo is a raised imprint on the item. These last are Holloware, which is tableware such as sugar bowls, creamers, coffee pots, teapots, soup tureens, hot food covers, water jugs, platters, butter pat plates and other metal items that went with the dishware on a table. It does not include flatware.

There were several firms that produced railroad china, among them were Buffalo, Scammell’s , Lamberton, Shenango, Interpace, Syracuse, and Sterling.

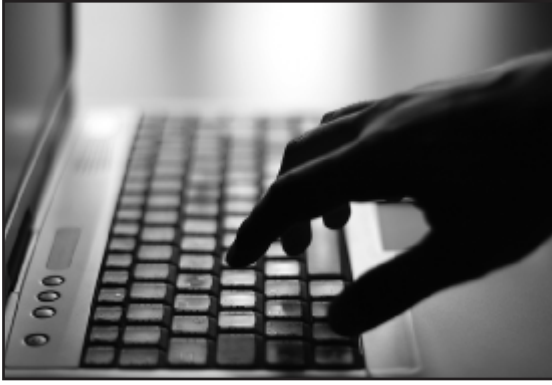
Sources:

“Dining on Rails” by Richard Luckin.

“Dining by Rail” by James D. Porterfield

[www.railroadiana.org](http://www.railroadiana.org)

Pennsylvania Railroad Museum “Milepost” April 2013



## E-VERSION OF THE LIGGIE

If you prefer to access the newsletter in electronic format rather than to receive a hard copy, please notify the office at 724-238-7819 or send an e-mail to [info@lvrra.org](mailto:info@lvrra.org).

### NEW MEMBERS since December 1, 2012

Ronald Nicely  
David Wingard



*The Liggie is published quarterly  
for Friends of the LVRRA.*  
Mimi Owens, Editor

# COMMUNITY DAY 2013



Community Day is an annual event held in Ligonier. This year the date was May 5th and for the day the Ligonier Valley Rail Road Museum worked with CMC Express to provide a trackless train for the children to ride.



On Community day, everyone is granted free admission to six local non-profits, namely, The Ligonier Valley Rail Road Museum, Fort Ligonier, Antiochean Heritage Museum, The Compass Inn Museum, The Lincoln Highway Experience and the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art. In past years we had from 100 to 150 visitors. This year we had over 350. The train started running at 10:00 am and continued throughout the day until 3:00 pm. The kids loved it!

# RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS

*Thanks to all contributors for the following items that have been donated to the LVRRA since the last Liggie publication.*

**BILL POTTHOFF**

25 Pages (copies) of Interstate Commerce Commission Bureau Of Valuation engineering Report February 8, 1923

**BERNADETTE RAMESDORFER**

Videotape title *World's Greatest Trains Rides Videos-India*

**MICHEAL STOVALL**

Vintage suitcase

**DIANE RICHARDS**

Ligonier Echo newspaper article Dated August 31, 1952

*"Last Run of the Ligonier Valley Rail Road"*

**BOB & CAROLYN STUTZMAN**

Kerosene torch used as a flashlight on the Ligonier Valley Rail Road.  
Ligonier Valley Rail Road box car seal.

**UNKNOWN**

Pennsylvania Railroad Company  
Rent payment request.

**RONALD KNUPP**

3 Railroad spikes PWS Railroad, Rolling Rock (Somerset Trail)

**RONALD KNUPP**

3 Railroad Spikes PWS Railroad, Rolling Rock (Somerset Trail)

**JOANN WATKINS**

PRR ticket for passage between Greensburg, Pa and Latrobe, Pa  
Date of sale November, 16, 1956

**JIM MURDOCK**

Copy of Pennsylvania Railroad Time Table, in effect September 24, 1933. Includes Ligonier Valley Railroad (spelling in time table) Schedule. Schedule in effect September 24, 1933.  
1894 Township Railroad Post Office Map of Westmoreland County.



# LOOK FOR THESE STORIES IN THE NEXT ISSUE

- *Caboose reopens after a year - long exterior restoration*
- *The installation of a ball signal*
- *The Penn-Ligonier Railroad Club, forerunner of the LVRRA*

## CALL FOR STORIES AND FEEDBACK

- If anyone has any photos, maps, stories or other information about the Ligonier Valley Rail Road, please give us a call at 724-238-7819 or send an email to [info@lvrra.org](mailto:info@lvrra.org). We would love to hear from you. Thank you.
- If you have a problem with the new version of the “Liggy” please let us know. As you know we changed the method of mailing starting with the last issue, so instead of mailing in an envelope it comes in this format with the address pre-printed. This reduces our costs for envelopes, stamps and time in stuffing about 500 copies.
- On May 15th we sent notifications to “Friends” whose memberships have expired. If you haven’t sent in a renewal by August 15th this will be the last issue of the “Liggy” that you will receive.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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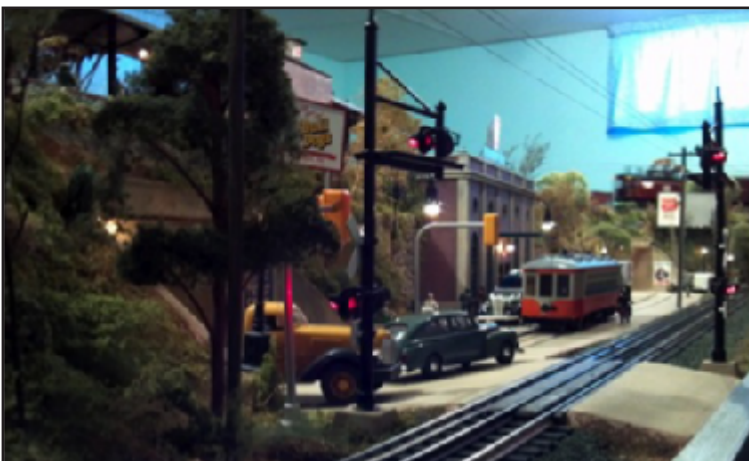
# 2013 MODEL RAILROAD HOME TOUR

*This year's Model Railroad Home Tour was a success. We would like to thank our hosts: John Weimer, Paul and Alycefaye Stewart, The Cox family, Ron Fordyce, Lanny Dixon and all those who joined us at Huber Hall: Three Rivers Model RR Association, Pgh. Independent Hi-Railers, Esther's Hobby Shop, Frye Photography, and the Ligonier Valley Rail Road Association.*

*Below are some highlights of this year's layouts.*



# 2013 MODEL RAILROAD HOME TOUR CONTINUED



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## MISSION OF THE LVRRA

*Ligonier Valley Railroad Association*

*Organized in 2004:*

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To Preserve *the legacy of the LVRR*

To Conserve *vestiges of the LVRR*

To Collect *memorabilia of the LVRR*

To Educate *the public about the history  
of railroading in Ligonier Valley*

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*Find us on the web  
at [www.lvrroa.org](http://www.lvrroa.org)*



## Hours of Operation

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesday through Saturday

*Please check website for any changes*

724-238-7819

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