

PRRTHS

BUCKEYE CHAPTER

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IN THIS ISSUE: CHAPTER MEETING IN COLUMBUS WATCHING THE ICING CREWS

Our next meeting will be held Sunday, December, 13 from 1 to 5 pm in the old T&OC station in Columbus. The station is located at 379 West Broad Street. Parking is available in the lot on the west side of the station, and is free on Sundays. Also, on-street parking is available on Starling Street to the east side of the station. Al says there will be a slide show but who and what is still in formation. As always, bring models, maps and documents of interest. Also, this would be a good time to pay your dues for 2010.

I don't think it is necessary to give directions to Columbus or West Broad Street. If you want to see a picture of the station, go to west2k.com, click on "station database," then on "Franklin" and finally on "Ohio Central." The station was built in 1895, and the adjacent tracks were elevated in 1910. It was closed in 1929, as passenger service was moved to the Columbus Union Station. See you then.

ICING CREWS IN COLUMBUS, by Russ Thompson

As a child of a Pennsylvania RR locomotive fireman growing up in the 50's, I can still vividly recall our trips to the 20th Street yards in Columbus.

I was always amazed by the almost automation of the Icing Crews filling the refrigerated cars. If my dad would have let me, I would have stood for hours on that signal bridge watching them.

The men would fill their wheel barrow like cart with a large block of ice, then would walk it down the elevated ramp, turn over the dock plate, and dump their load into the open door on the top of the car.

I still recall jumping the first time I heard one of those large blocks of ice hit bottom in an empty car. I thought there had been a derailment! I may have jumped, but it never phased those "automated" crews from doing their jobs.

Russ Thompson
Former Conrail Signal Maintainer

Editor's note: I envy Russ. I never saw an icing platform nor a track water pan. I do remember streamlined K4's and T1's on the Spirit of St. Louis, and seeing Santa Fe locomotives on the Columbus line, so I guess I have some good memories.

If you think this newsletter is a little short, it's because YOU didn't submit an article to share!



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