

PRRTHS

BUCKEYE CHAPTER

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NEXT CHAPTER MEETING IN ORRVILLE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

The Buckeye Chapter of the PRRTHS will have its next meeting in Orrville at the restored station on Sunday, September 19, beginning at 2 o'clock. We will have a short business meeting, followed by a visit to the Museum housed in the station. There is also on site an N5C cabin car as well as the former Orrville Tower structure, both under restoration.

Orrville was originally founded as a fuel (wood) and water stop on the fledging Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad, building west from the Pennsylvania border to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The railroad was merged into the Pittsburgh, Ft Wayne and Western, and then into the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Orrville Union Station was built by the Pennsylvania Railroad at the junction of the PRR's Pittsburgh Ft. Wayne and Chicago Railroad and the Cleveland Akron and Columbus Railroad in 1868. It replaced the original depot, located at Main Street, which was destroyed by fire. The junction was a busy transfer point with freight and passengers being transferred between the two railroads. In 1899 the Pennsy bought the C.A. & C. and Orrville became a terminal. The CA&C also had terminal with a yard and roundhouse in Orrville.

The depot served passengers for 100 years before the Pennsy (by then merged into the Penn Central RR) stopped passenger service to the city. The station became a maintenance building until the early 1980's when it was no longer needed and was scheduled to be demolished. The ORHC purchased the building, along with the tower across the tracks. For more information, see orrvillerrailroad.com.

In 1982 the group started operating passenger excursions using both steam and diesel locomotives. There have been over 70 excursions. These trips have been powered by such famous locomotives as Nickel Plate 765, C&O 2765, Norfolk and Western 611 and 1218, Ohio Central 1551, 1293, 6325 and diesel locomotives of Conrail, Norfolk Southern, Ohio Central, and Wheeling and Lake Erie. The group owns GP7 471 and a number of passenger cars.

Due to the nature of the location, there has been no formal program scheduled other than seeing the museum. If someone would like to bring some slides and a projector, let President Al Doddroe know, and we will arrange to include these.



Mike Spinelli photo



ORHS 471
Orrville, Ohio
ORHS photos

DIRECTIONS: From Central Ohio, take I-71 to Mansfield, then take US30 EAST to Ohio 57 NORTH. Entering town, after crossing the railroad, take W. Market St WEST three blocks to Depot Street and the Station. Thanks to Pete White for arranging this meeting location. Also, belated thanks to Ron Widman for arranging the meeting in Bucyrus last June.

We need someone with audio/visual experience to help with the program room and banquet setups for the annual meeting next May in Columbus. You will hear more about our role in sponsoring this convention at the meeting.

Our chapter Treasurer recently resigned the position. We need to fill this position with someone with some ability with figures and records. This is an important position, especially this year. Please talk to Al about filling this important position.

The Bradford Historical Society has been renovating their museum in the former bank building, greatly increasing their available space. They are seeking donations or loans of railroad artifacts, especially from the PRR, for display in their newly acquired space. If you have something you would be willing to donate or lend, please get in touch with Al Doddroe for contact information of the Bradford group.

Finally, as usual, we ask for articles for this newsletter. All we have this month is the photo below, from the Lewistown collection, of the St. Clair Avenue Enginehouse. This photo could be blown up to poster size for display at the convention. Unfortunately it is undated.

