

PRRTHS

BUCKEYE CHAPTER

Volume 10. No 1 – March 2013

CHAPTER MEETING, MARCH 24, AT HILLTOP BRANCH, COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN LIBRARY

Mark Sunday, March 24, on your calendar, for the next meeting of the Buckeye Chapter of the Pennsylvania Technical and Historical Society. We will meet at 1 p.m. with the business meeting called to order by President Al Dodroe at 1:30. The business meeting will include reports by officers and the annual election of officers for the coming year. .

Following the business meeting, we will have a presentation by Albert J. Churella, author of a new book, *The Pennsylvania Railroad, Volume 1, Building an Empire, 1846-1917*, his recently published book. It is a detailed look at the PRR during its early years, putting into the framework of the social, economic and technical changes taking place in our country during this period. The first of several volumes, it is 946 pages in length, and is available from Amazon.com (\$47.25 plus shipping). Author Churella will autograph any copies you can order and receive prior to the meeting. Thanks go to Chris Walsh for arranging this program.

The library meeting room has ample space for displaying what you are doing related to PRR in modeling, researching, and recalling. Feel free to bring your exhibits to share with others.

After the meeting, we are planning on visiting several home layouts.

DIRECTIONS TO HILLTOP BRANCH LIBRARY

The Hilltop Branch Library is located at 511 South Hague Avenue, just south of Sullivant Avenue.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

We are still looking for a new Newsletter editor. I am suffering from an eye disease that makes reading increasingly difficult, and ultimately my driving will have to be limited. For this reason, the chapter should select a new editor for this newsletter, so that we can effect a reasonable transition. If you are willing to take on this position, please let either me or Al know and we will work to phase you into the duties of Newsletter Editor.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is taken from Ron Widman's monthly column in the *Crestline Advocate*.

The Big Locomotive in Crestline, by Ron Widman

This month's archive history is compiled from The Crestline Advocate in the month of January 1941, 72 years ago in Crestline history.

Your archive history continues with the story of the Pennsylvania Railroads huge experimental steam-passenger locomotive called "The Big Engine." The huge locomotive was given the number 6100 and Class S1. It was based and maintained out of Crestline. The steam locomotive had 80" driving wheels (standing at over six and one-half feet high on the rails) and pulled the Blue Ribbon passenger trains of the P.R.R. to Chicago and back to Crestline.

The massive 140 foot long locomotive was chosen for the third year in a row to be featured on the P.R.R.'s well-known and colorful art rendered, full-size wall calendar. (The original P.R.R. full-size wall calendars have been and are still sought after by collectors and are very popular in the history collections of railroad memorabilia collectors.)

In addition, other railroad transportation related pre-World War II era news is chronicled from early in the year 1941, also found in the Advocate newspaper archives of Crestline history.

January 9, 1941. Again No. 6100, "The Big Engine" has been chosen for the picture on the Pennsylvania Railroad (*full-size wall*) calendar for the year 1941. This time it is referred to as "The Steel King" and is shown pulling a limited amid the mountains and steel mills of the East. As everyone knows, No. 6100 is now operating between Crestline and Chicago. This strip of track was selected for path of the engine because generally speaking, the track is straight and level.

January 23, 1941. Last Friday when the Big Engine, No. 6100, left here, pulling the Golden Arrow, (*P.R.R. passenger train*) there were eight men in the cab. Besides the fireman and engineer, there were six testers who were checking some more new equipment which has been put on No. 6100.

Of course it hasn't been made known by the P.R.R., but we think the reason that they are storing enormous quantities of coal at strategic pints on the system is that they are afraid of a coal strike this spring. According to information coming in from the East, John L. Lewis is operating to call an industry-wide strike of his coal-mining union sometime after the first of April when the present contract between the union and the mine operators expire.

It will be remembered that last spring the unexpected coal strike caught the various industries and railroads with little or no reserves of coal on hand. Evidently the P.R.R. doesn't want to be caught in the same predicament this year.

It's impossible to predict how long the threatened coal strike will last, and it may be that the precautions that the P.R.R is taking will be for naught. With the country's industries engaged in defense production, and the country's transportation system engaged in transporting these materials and products, it may be that the National Defense Commission or perhaps the President will intervene in the strike before it handicaps the defense program.



1941 THE STEEL KING Grif Teller

This 1941 artist's rendering of The Big Engine, # 6100, was the third consecutive and final exclusive painting to be used by the Pennsylvania Railroad for their yearly full-size wall calendar. Titled 'The Steel King', the painting was created by well-known artist Grif Teller. The 1941 calendar painting features the famous P.R.R. # 6100 effortlessly and speedily leading a passenger train around a curve on the Pennsy four-track main line, and past a huge steel mill that looks to be in the Pittsburgh or Johnstown, Pennsylvania area.

LINES WEST - BUCKEYE REGION CHAPTER

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Grove City, Ohio, 43123-8489 or bring to the chapter meeting.**

**P.R.R.T. & H.S. LINES WEST - BUCKEYE REGION CHAPTER THANKS
YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**