

The Black Diamond

Official Newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society

September 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The September 2012 edition of "The Black Diamond" features full details about all upcoming Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society events during the fall. Our organization will again be sponsoring fall foliage train excursions in October and Santa train excursions in November. This will be the eleventh year that the LVRHHS has sponsored train rides on the Finger Lakes Railway. Please send any Society news and/or historical articles about the Lehigh Valley Railroad to me by U. S. Mail at P. O. Box RR, Manchester, NY 14504 or by e-mail at kemay59@hotmail.com. Thank you for your contributions.

Ken May, Editor/Trustee

STATION MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE ON SEPTEMBER 16

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society Station Museum at 8 E. High St. in Shortsville will be open to the public on Sunday, September 16, 2012. Hours will be 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. A large collection of historical artifacts from the Lehigh Valley Railroad is on display at the museum. The gift shop will be open. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

FALL FOLIAGE TRAIN EXCURSIONS TO RUN OVER FINGER LAKES RAILWAY BETWEEN SHORTSVILLE AND PHELPS ON OCTOBER 13

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society, in cooperation with the Finger Lakes Railway, will sponsor fall foliage train excursions over the former New York Central Railroad "Auburn Road" branch line between Shortsville and Phelps on Saturday, October 13, 2012. Four passenger train excursions will be operated from Shortsville to Phelps and return over the Finger Lakes Railway using two diesel locomotives and four passenger coaches. The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society museum in the old New York Central freight station at 8 E. High St. in Shortsville will be open to passengers during the excursions.

Each train ride will last 90 minutes and will be an 18 mile round trip. Departure times are 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. All trains will load and unload at the LVRHHS station museum. The freight station is located one block south of Main St. in downtown Shortsville via Sheldon St. to E. High St. Free parking is available at this location.

Fares are \$17.00 per person for adults and children age 3 and over. Children age 2 and under on lap are free. The ticket price includes the train ride and admission to the museum. Tickets can be purchased now by visiting the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society web site on the Internet at www.lvrhhs.org (click on Excursions link) or by calling 585-869-1498. If the rides are not sold out in advance, walk-up tickets will be available at the LVRHHS station museum at the time of the scheduled trip.

Snacks, beverages, and gift items will be sold at the station and onboard the trains. The Shortsville Presbyterian Church will operate a refreshment stand at the station. No smoking or alcohol is allowed. There are restrooms at the station and in the passenger coaches. Passengers are advised to dress appropriately for the weather.

SANTA TRAIN EXCURSIONS TO RUN OVER FINGER LAKES RAILWAY BETWEEN SHORTSVILLE AND CANANDAIGUA ON NOVEMBER 24

The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society, in cooperation with the Finger Lakes Railway, will sponsor Santa train excursions over the former New York Central Railroad "Auburn Road" branch line between Shortsville and Canandaigua on Saturday, November 24, 2012. Five passenger train excursions will be operated from Shortsville to Canandaigua and return over the Finger Lakes Railway using two diesel locomotives and three passenger coaches. Santa will be onboard the trains to visit with children. The Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society museum in the old New York Central freight station at 8 E. High St. in Shortsville will be open to passengers during the excursions. The station museum will be decorated for the holidays and will have operating model train displays.

Each train ride will last one hour and will be a 12 mile round trip. Departure times are 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. All trains will load and unload at the LVRHRS station museum. The freight station is located one block south of Main St. in downtown Shortsville via Sheldon St. to E. High St. Free parking is available at this location.

Fares are \$12.00 per person for adults and children age 3 and over. Children age 2 and under on lap are free. The ticket price includes the train ride and admission to the museum. Tickets can be purchased after October 15 by visiting the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society web site on the Internet at www.lvrhhs.org (click on Excursions link) or by calling 585-869-1498. If the rides are not sold out in advance, walk-up tickets will be available at the LVRHRS station museum at the time of the scheduled trip.

Snacks, beverages, and gift items will be sold at the station and onboard the trains. The Shortsville Presbyterian Church will operate a refreshment stand at the station. No smoking or alcohol is allowed. There are restrooms at the station and in the passenger coaches. Passengers are advised to dress appropriately for the weather.

NEW SIGN AT THE MUSEUM

Last fall, Ewing Graphics of Farmington provided and installed a 36" by 60" exterior sign on the lawn near the museum deck. The new sign has the Lehigh Valley Railroad flag logo and LVRHRS website address, as well as the street address. See below for a photograph of the new sign taken by Dave Halderman.



JOSEPH COMMISSO PASSES

Joseph R. Commisso of Manchester passed away at the age of 90, on March 4, 2012, at Clifton Springs Hospital and Nursing Home. He was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, Nellie DelGatto Commisso. He was born on August 15, 1921. Joe was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He loved gardening, woodworking, cooking, railroads, and the New York Yankees. He retired from the Lehigh Valley Railroad and was a World War II veteran who served four years with the U. S. Navy aboard the USS Kula Gulf. Joe was a member of American Legion Post 34, St. Dominic Church, Knights of Columbus, and the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society. He was also a former member of the Order of the Moose and a past firefighter. Joe served as Vice President and as a Trustee for the LVRRHS. He was a valuable member of the Collections Committee, providing information on railroad paperwork, identifying employees in photographs, etc. Our sincere condolences to his family.

SHELDEN KING PASSES

Shelden S. King, 80, of Alloway, passed away on June 16, 2012, at Rochester General Hospital. He was born on December 6, 1931, in Syracuse. He was a graduate of Marathon Central Schools and Cortland Business Institute. He received his Bachelors degree in 1959 from SUNY Geneseo. Shelden retired as a librarian for Westinghouse in Horseheads.

Shelden was an author of books and articles concerning upstate New York railroads and electric railways. He was also a speaker on the same topics. Shelden was a parishioner of the Lyons United Methodist Church, a member of the Lyons Civic Club, Western New York Postcard Club, and several railroad historical societies. Shelden gave a few presentations on Lehigh Valley Railroad history for the LVRRHS at open houses and fundraiser dinners.

Shelden was a prolific author, having his first work, a history of the New York State Railways, published at age nineteen in 1951. He wrote extensively on the trolleys centered around the cities of Binghamton, Elmira, and Geneva. He also wrote a book about the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad in 1986 titled, "The Route of Phoebe Snow." Shelden spent the last decade of his life working on a manuscript for an unpublished Lehigh Valley Railroad book.

Shelden remembered the LVRRHS in his will, bequeathing his collection of LVRR books, notes, and photographs to the Society. Our sincere condolences to his family as well.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you have not already renewed your membership for 2012, we do hope that you will consider renewing for 2013. Memberships received after September 30 will be considered good through 2013. We thank all of our members for their continued support of the Society.

LVRRHS MEETINGS

Society meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at the LVRRHS Station Museum, 8 East High Street, Shortsville, New York. All members are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings.

Visit the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society website at www.lvrrhs.org for the latest information about Society activities.

"The Black Diamond" is published by the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society, P. O. Box RR, Manchester, NY 14504-0200. Displays and archives are located at 8 E. High St., Shortsville, NY. Hours by appointment. Contact Deb Halderman, Treasurer, at 585-289-8022.

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