

MARCH 1976

issue 10 - thomas r. pulsifer, editor

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS
Post Office Box 653 • Xenia, Ohio 45385



OARP HAS NEW PRESIDENT, SECRETARY

Members of OARP attending the Annual Meeting in Toledo on February 7th elected Tom Pulsifer of Xenia as OARP's new president.

Tom will turn over the secretary's duties to Joseph F. Brove of Lorain but will retain editorship of "The 6:53". Rodger J. Sillars of Cleveland remains OARP's vice-president, and Dean E. Denlinger of Dayton will retain his post as OARP's treasurer. James C. Mann of Huron will still handle the OARP membership clerical duties.

OARP's central mailing address will remain the same; Box 653 in Xenia, OH 45385. The revised OARP Directory appears elsewhere in this issue.

Following the Annual Meeting, Tom Pulsifer announced the appointment of OARP's founder and first president, Dave Marshall, to the newly created post of legislative relations chairman.

fortunately, this was one of those days! The Lake Shore was a good three hours late, pulling into Toledo just before 1:00pm. The cause, a freight derailment south of Albany on PC's busy Hudson Division mainline necessitating the bussing of the New York section passengers to Albany-Rensselaer and delaying the Boston section. Despite the disappointment in missing the state meeting, the members accepted the delay and took everything in good stride, many expressing good comments about their train ride to the OARP/NARP meetings.

DERAILMENTS DELAY NARP/OARP MEMBERS, OFFICERS, GUEST SPEAKER, ENROUTE TO FEBRUARY 7th MEETINGS IN TOLEDO

Two separate freight train derailments in the east caused one-third of the persons attending the Toledo meetings to miss half of the day's activities! Approximately sixty gathered in the Toledo Room of the Commodore Perry Motor Inn in downtown Toledo for the first annual membership meeting for NARP Region Six. But twenty of these people, who had all planned to participate in the OARP annual meeting at 10:30am, did not arrive in Toledo until close to 1:00pm!

Guest speaker Ross Capon's train, the Washington section of the Broadway Limited, encountered a freight derailment just outside Washington, DC, and did not arrive in Lima until 11:09am.

OARP's secretary Tom Pulsifer and OARP member Jim Lewis, who had arrived in Lima by 7:30am to pick up Ross, had no choice but to wait for #441, running as the second section of the Broadway. When Tom, Jim and Ross arrived at the Commodore Perry at 12:45pm, Tom learned that he had been elected OARP president that morning, at the meeting he had missed!

Meanwhile, OARP's vice-president Rodg Sillars, membership chairman Jim Mann and 15 other OARP/NARP members had arranged to ride to Toledo and back on the Lake Shore Limited, boarding at Cleveland and Elyria. Un-

PRESIDENT FORD'S BUDGET CUTS COULD THREATEN AMTRAK'S FUTURE!

Details inside

"the 6:53" is the official publication of the OHIO ASSOCIATION of RAILROAD PASSENGERS, an organization supported through the dues and donations of its members and whose purpose is to coordinate efforts of concerned citizens to promote travel by train and to urge the improvement and expansion of rail passenger services in and through the state of Ohio. OARP welcomes new members (regular membership \$5 annually) and also appreciates receiving letters, news articles, and other materials. An ever-increasing volume of mail often prevents individual acknowledgement of materials submitted; but we THANK YOU anyway. Please write us for a copy of our new promotional brochure!

FORD BUDGET COULD THREATEN FUTURE OF AMTRAK - - - - -

Amtrak could be largely dismantled under the budget President Ford sent to Congress in January for fiscal 1977. Amtrak would receive \$378 million, or \$62 million less than it requested.

If accepted by Congress, the President's request, under one plausible plan suggested by Amtrak, would leave such cities as Detroit, Cleveland, Toledo, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Buffalo and Albany without service. The only routes surviving would link Boston - Washington, New York - Florida, New York - Chicago via Pittsburgh, Chicago - Seattle, Chicago - Los Angeles, Chicago - New Orleans, New Orleans - Los Angeles, and Seattle - Los Angeles.

OARP is of the opinion that the President will not get all the requested budget cuts. Opposition to the cuts in the Amtrak funding is pretty strong; but there is a danger that Amtrak may have to cut some of its "heavy losers". Our own National Limited falls into this category.

Senator Taft has informed OARP that he will take whatever action he feels necessary to assure that Amtrak is fully funded. "I plan to testify against such a cut in Amtrak's funding," said Taft in a letter to Tom Pulsifer, "and if necessary, I will propose an amendment on the Floor of the Senate to restore full funding for Amtrak."

While not coming on quite as strong as Taft, Senator Glenn nevertheless has indicated support for a strong and efficient rail passenger service.

Letters of support to our two U.S. Senators (Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510) from concerned OARP members would be in order.

Meanwhile, NARP has been busily testifying in Washington regarding Amtrak's route selection process in light of the possibility that some of the "political" routes might or might not be dropped. NARP is also making the most of every possible opportunity in our nation's capital to present the views of rail passengers to our legislators and transportation officials.

It is no secret that the Ford administration, especially through Secretary of Transportation William Coleman and Under-Secretary John Barnum, has a very negative view towards rail passenger service in the U.S.

NEW USE FOR THE OLD C A & C LINE ----

Wooster, OH, insurance executive, R. B. Jameson, is actively working

to convince his fellow Wayne County citizens that the CA&C line (Cleveland, Akron & Columbus - now PC with part of it out-of-service and another portion with tracks torn up) would provide the shortest rail route between Columbus and Akron and should be considered for future passenger and freight service. Jameson writes, "The need, as we in this farming, industrial, and educational area, see it, is to presently use the best available and most direct rail right-of-way, to encourage and bring about the best transportation and rapid transit plan, to the most potential users." He has prepared a fact-sheet citing the advantages of the CA&C route for future rail service needs.

A LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP
FROM OARP'S NEW PRESIDENT!



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS
Post Office Box 653 • Xenia, Ohio 45385

March 1, 1976

To all members of OARP:

I am both humbled and honored that you have chosen me to serve as OARP's new president. I assure you that I will continue to do the best I can, both for the organization and for the cause of passenger rail. Although we are all volunteers, we must be professional in all we do. At times the work of OARP calls for significant personal sacrifices; but I believe very strongly, as I know you do, that our cause is both worthwhile and necessary.

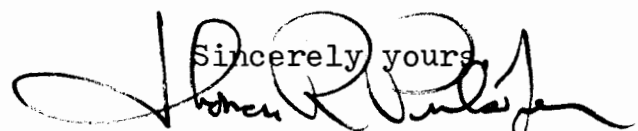
We are beginning to see the results of the work of OARP, although we are seldom in a position to take full credit for any of the rail service improvements in Ohio. Rather, it is better for us to say that OARP has helped to do this, or helped to do that. We have helped bring the Lake Shore Limited through northern Ohio. We have helped get Lima's station opened and refurbished. We have helped Elyria get an Amtrak station stop. We have helped get the concerns of rail passengers across to legislators in Columbus. And I could go on; but we must keep looking ahead --- building upon our past experiences and planning for tomorrow.

I am pleased that more of our members are getting involved in local and regional rail concerns across the state. This contributes immeasurably to the ongoing success of OARP. It is thanks to the dedication, drive, determination and support of many people that OARP is where it is today. We enthusiastically believe in what we are doing.

I am pleased, too, that our founder and first president, Dave Marshall, has been elected to the Board of Directors of NARP. His guidance, political and business know-how, and especially his initial perseverance to get a rail passenger association going in Ohio, have all contributed greatly to the growth and strength of OARP. I know he will be an influential member of the NARP Board and am grateful that he wishes to remain active in the work of OARP.

In closing this personal message to our members, I want to say that I both seek and value your cooperation in keeping OARP a strong and healthy organization and in working together to further promote and help improve and expand the rail mode as a vital and integral part of our passenger transport system.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas R. (Tom) Pulsifer,
President

513-372-9868 (best between 4:00 and 10:00pm)

ROSS CAPON CALLS FOR "FAIR TEST" FOR AMTRAK

NARP's Assistant Director, Ross Capon, in speaking before the NARP Region Six membership meeting in Toledo on February 7th, called for Amtrak to be given a "fair test" before the national rail passenger system is scuttled by Congress. Capon noted that some high Washington officials are saying that Amtrak has already failed the test.

"Failed?" said Ross Capon, "I don't think a fair test has even begun yet. Amtrak won't go much of anywhere but downhill under the Ford administration."

By "fair test", Capon stated that he means at least three years of operation of a modern rail passenger network which uses new or rebuilt passenger equipment with reliable electric heating and air-conditioning; proper management of staff and schedules; tracks repaired to good condition; route structure with reasonable service frequencies; and new cost-effectiveness measures. Capon concluded that the goal of NARP is to work for continued federal subsidies for Amtrak and for improved service by Amtrak.

Capon noted in his remarks that the Lake Shore Limited is one of the routes proposed to be eliminated if the cuts in President Ford's budget for Amtrak are not restored.

OARP INDICATES SUPPORT FOR STAGGERS' BILL

Legislation has been introduced in Congress by Harley Staggers (WV) at the request of Pres. Al Chesser of the United Transportation Union, which would make it a federal crime to throw any object or shoot a firearm at any train operating in interstate commerce. OARP has indicated strong support for this legislation, commending Staggers on taking a stand to do something about this "sick sport" which is on the rise throughout America, especially in the East and in most urban areas. And it is the innocent passengers and train crewmen who get hurt when someone uses a train for target practice. In the East it is rare if any passenger train makes a run without at least one rock being hurled at it somewhere along its route; the cracked, scarred and broken windows testify to this. And we know of one instance where bullets were fired at the Lake Shore Limited one day in November as it passed through a Chicago suburb. We think it's time for a tough stand with tough penalties against this.

GOV. RHODES NAMES ORTA BOARD

By January 13th, Gov. Rhodes had named the four members to the newly created Ohio Rail Transportation Authority Board of Directors. They are:

- R- Carl E. Freshour, 54, from Marion, a U.T.U. official
- R- Paul T. Zellers, 53, an attorney from Youngstown
- D- Dominick P. Insana, 52, of Middleburg Heights and an engineer with the E-L Railway
- D- Lawrence S. Knight, 49, of Huntsville in Logan County

ODOT Director Richard Jackson is the fifth member of the ORTA Board. ORTA will oversee the development of high-speed rail passenger service corridors in Ohio and will draw up a state-wide plan for rail development so that Ohio can be eligible for federal aid to railroads.

Several OARP members asked to be considered for appointment to the ORTA Board. ODOT Dir. Jackson indicated to OARP's Dave Marshall that the resumes submitted by these persons will be held for future consideration for openings on the Board. Jackson indicated that the immediate priority for ORTA is to attempt to arrange subsidies for marginal freight lines that will see service ended under ConRail.

Right now Ohio may lose any bid for rail subsidies as the FRA refused to accept the State Master Rail Plan as submitted. This was prepared by the ODOT, and it should be noted here that the ORTA as yet has no funding for operation, although the Board has met in Columbus.

The Rhodes administration axed many good rail-oriented people from the ODOT and the State is now finding out, too late, that it should have kept them around as the state government is now devoid of persons with much genuine rail experience.

So it goes...

LATEST UPDATE ON CINCINNATI STATION SITUATION

OARP has learned that plans are being finalized for the City of Cincinnati to build a new station for Amtrak. The site is near the old REA Express Building north of Union Terminal. Entrance access will be off Dalton St. Once the go-ahead is given, construction is expected to take 18 months. Any chance of Amtrak's using Union Terminal is now nil; and the future of the Terminal is reported in extreme jeopardy.

POSTERS WIN TOP PRIZES

Richard Slewinski, a Cleveland high school student, and the entire sixth grade class at Oakwood Elementary School in Elyria were declared winners in their respective categories of the poster contest hailing the inaugural of the Lake Shore Limited.

AMTRAK ADDS SALES STAFF IN OHIO

Amtrak has a new senior Sales Representative in Ohio. He is Fred R. Frayer, working with Sales Manager - Ohio, Joseph L. Pollard. Frayer's background includes passenger sales experience with the NYCRR and he was the New York District Passenger Agent for the Northern Pacific.

EFFICIENCY WITH AMTRAK? -- Here it is March already and the busy Cleveland Lakefront Amtrak Station has no ARTS reservation scope. For each ticket sale the agents at the busiest rail passenger station in Ohio must make time consuming phone calls to the reservations center in Chicago. Wouldn't it be more efficient to equip the busiest stations with the modern, instant communication and verification ARTS scopes?

APRIL 25th TIMETABLE CHANGES

Amtrak has indicated that with the April 25th schedule revisions, we will see some speed-up in the schedules of the Lake Shore Limited, the Broadway Limited, and the National Limited. There should be improved connections between the Lake Shore and the Broadway with other Amtrak trains at Chicago.

DID YOU KNOW... that Amtrak's U.S.A.RAIL-PASS, good for unlimited travel anywhere in the Amtrak system, is now available to citizens of the U.S., for a 2½ month test period starting March 1st. Passes are good for coach travel (except on Metroliners) and are \$150 for 14 days, \$200 for 21 days, and \$250 for 30 days. U.S.A.RAIL-PASS may be purchased at any Amtrak ticket office, or through any Amtrak authorized travel agency.

OARP's METAL BADGES ARE STILL AVAILABLE! Many OARP members bought theirs at the Annual Meeting in Toledo.

Wear one with pride! Identify yourself to others as a member of one of our country's leading state rail passenger associations! Badges are black-on-yellow, laminated, pin-on type and are 55¢ each, or 2 for \$1 (plus a 13¢ stamp enclosed for each badge ordered). PLEASE ORDER DIRECTLY FROM: OARP member JOE SCHWIETERMAN, BOX 13, ROLFES ROAD, MARIA STEIN, OH 45860.

SHORT LINES ----- Amtrak has begun a major takeover of equipment maintenance bases at eleven key points throughout the Midwest and Northeast, the largest of which is the 12th St. Yard and 16th St. Locomotive Shop in Chicago. The facilities will be conveyed to Amtrak under the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1975. ----- On February 15th, Amtrak revamped the Northeast Corridor schedules, regularly assigning new Amfleet equipment to the Minute Man, Senator, Murray Hill, New Yorker, and Merchants Limited. 140 of the new cars have been delivered. New off-peak excursion fares have been put into effect. ----- Effective Feb. 15th, Morris and Phydeaux (cats and dogs) were banished to the baggage car on all Amtrak trains. And if your train has no baggage car or your station doesn't handle checked baggage, your four-footed friend may have to stay home. New ruling on pets came as a direct result of passenger complaints.

A LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM DAVE MARSHALL ----

"At the February 7, 1976, annual business meeting of OARP I nominated Tom Pulsifer for president. Tom's outstanding service to OARP over the past two and a half years has earned him that post to which he was elected.

"I want to thank all who have supported me in leading the development of our organization from the summer of 1973.

"The Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers continues to play a special role in representing the interests of all Americans in working toward better and more economical substitutes for highway travel.

"I personally feel our relations as consumers with Amtrak have been good and are getting better. I am critical of Amtrak's apparent lack of motivation or ability to report its specific goals to the public. Taxpayers and voters need to know where we are going with such services as the National Limited and the Riley that justify the financial aid and political support we must work for. Obviously the present service is temporary, but what may lie ahead? Amtrak has a great need to answer these and other related questions, justifiably posed by anyone who is a friend or foe of rail passenger service.

"Our organization is above all a consumer group dedicated to improving things. In spite of our love for good conventional train rides, following the spirit that most of us would 'ride any train no matter where it's going' (I might add, no matter what time it arrives or departs, or how bad the track is, or how long it takes to get there), we must work toward developing an increased usefulness of our favorite travel mode as a very important public transportation resource. I know we will continue that work even more effectively than before."

---- David S. Marshall

WILL THE NATIONAL LIMITED BE REROUTED? -- The word from the USRA is that ConRail has arranged a one-year lease of the Richmond - Indianapolis PC mainline for "overhead" traffic. Overhead traffic includes Amtrak, unit trains, the U.S. Mail run, Trail-Van trains, and "through" freights. No local freight service will be provided on that segment of the line which was slated for eventual abandonment under ConRail. Therefore, the National Limited will continue to use its present route until such time as the track on the Dayton - Cincinnati - Indianapolis route is upgraded to allow 79mph passenger train operation. OARP and NARP see this situation as an opportunity for additional study into retention of the Richmond - Indianapolis line as a desirable high-speed line for both passenger and freight service. With the change of schedules on April 25th, Amtrak has indicated that we will see some speed-up in the present heavily padded schedule of the National Limited, reflecting the improved track conditions on portions of its route.

NEED CONRAIL INFORMATION? --- Our liaison for Ohio at ConRail headquarters is William R. Black, 15th Floor, 1818 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, 213-568-3116.

SOUTH PORTSMOUTH? -- At press time, Amtrak would neither confirm nor deny earlier reports that the Riley/Mountaineer would begin handling passengers at South Portsmouth, KY (across the Ohio River from Portsmouth, OH) starting April 25th. Stop there would be a "platform stop" only, with no ticket nor checked baggage services provided.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL OARP MEETING

Saturday, April 24th, 1976 12:30 - 3:30pm
in the Parish Hall of the First English Lutheran Church, on S.R. 38 just south of downtown MARYSVILLE, OHIO.

This special meeting is for all OARP OFFICERS, CHAIRPERSONS, REGIONAL COORDINATORS, and any other OARP members who wish to take an active role in the work of OARP. This meeting will be an opportunity for COMMUNICATION and for PLANNING THE FUTURE WORK OF OARP, bringing together those with various talents who can serve OARP's needs. The session will be generally informal. Refreshments (but no meal) will be served. This particular location was chosen so no one should have to drive more than 3 hours to reach it.

So that we'll know how many will be attending; PLEASE INDICATE THIS ON A POSTAL CARD AND MAIL TO OARP PRES. TOM PULSIFER, BOX 653, XENIA, OH 45385 or call him at 513-372-9868. In return you'll be sent a map and directions.

OARP DIRECTORY -----

PRESIDENT / "6:53" EDITOR

Thomas R. Pulsifer
1751 Wilshire - Box 371
Xenia, OH 45385
513-372-9868

VICE PRESIDENT / LIBRARIAN

Rodger J. Sillars
2521 Euclid Heights Blvd.
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106
216-932-2781

SECRETARY

Joseph F. Brove
3902 Valley View Drive
Lorain, OH 44053
216-282-2130

TREASURER

Dean E. Denlinger
7845 So. County Rd. 25-A
Tipp City, OH 45371
513-667-2295

MEMBERSHIP

James C. Mann
1227 Brookview Drive
Huron, OH 44839
419-433-5693

LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS

David S. Marshall
1024-A Courtney Drive
Dayton, OH 45431
513-252-0481 or 222-1215

STATE OF OHIO LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SERVICE (toll-free)

800-282-0253

revised and corrected as of March 1, 1976

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Robert D. Goldstein
4 East Rochelle, Cincinnati, OH 45219
513-861-2864
Harry Sova
154 East State Street, Athens, OH 45701
614-593-5737

GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

Rick Francaviglia
127 West Third Street, Xenia, OH 45385
513-372-4204

STATE REGIONAL COORDINATORS

CLEVELAND / NORTHEASTERN OHIO

Bill Snorteland
1367 Summit Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107
216-221-1722

COLUMBUS / CENTRAL OHIO

Dave Lebold
343 Lynwood Lane, Lancaster, OH 43130
614-653-0721

SPRINGFIELD / WESTERN OHIO

Jim Lewis
3134 E. Leffel La., Springfield, OH 45505
513-325-4727

CINCINNATI / SOUTHWESTERN OHIO

Ron Garner
112 Kings Road, Milford, OH 45150
513-831-4427

TOLEDO / NORTHWESTERN OHIO

Rick Priest has taken a job with Amtrak. We will appoint a new coordinator soon, as Rick will be leaving Ohio. We wish Rick all our best, and hearty thanks for his service to OARP!

NARP - Washington, DC - 202-546-1550

SHORT LINES... Have you seen the "visit Canada" TV commercial featuring both on- and off-train footage of CN's Super Continental? ---- OARP's Cleveland/Elyria How To Find The Station map has gone into its third printing (over 2000 copies distributed since last October) and it has been slightly revised for clarity and the supplemental information on the back has been updated. ---- SLUMBERCOACHES (a private single or double room at coach fare plus small room charge) are now running regularly on the Lake Shore Limited between New York and Chicago; also on the Broadway Limited between New York and Chicago, Washington and Chicago. ---- Did you know that morning newspapers for Chicago-bound Broadway Limited passengers are put on board each morning by the Amtrak agents at Lima? ---- We have heard that the Chessie plans to demolish the classic old B&O passenger station at the railroad town of Willard, OH. ---- Amtrak has arranged to assume ownership of the infamous "12 missing miles of track" between Rensselaer and Post Road, NY, and the missing track will be relaid, thus cutting a large hunk of time from the schedule of the Lake Shore Limited, Boston section. ---- Did you know that 1,000 passengers used the Cleveland Lakefront Amtrak station during the first six days of 1976? ---- No one was injured January 24th when one car of the westbound National Limited derailed at Heath, west of Newark, OH. Passengers were all bussed on west. Remainder of train continued on west (seen passing thru Dayton at 11:00am) and reportedly beat the buses to Kansas City! ---- Illinois Central Gulf has begun work on a \$4 million extension of its electrified commuter operation from Richton to Stuenkel Road in Park Forest South, site of Governor's State University. ---- We highly recommend the article "Light Rail Goes On Trial" by Edward T. Myers, in the February issue of Modern Railroads/Rail Transit. It discusses, in good detail, Dayton's plan for a low-cost, light rail system using an existing PC branch. It also reports on UMTA's rejection of Dayton's pre-application for funds, calling for further study on ridership predictions and regional funding before resubmitting the application to UMTA. ---- In April, N&W will acquire 98 miles of PC (ex-PRR) line between Cincinnati, Eaton, Richmond and New Castle, IN. Line will cut 130 miles from N&W schedules between St. Louis and Norfolk, VA. Acquisition includes 11 miles of trackage rights in the Cincinnati and Hamilton areas. ---- Greater Cleveland RTA has announced a big rail improvement program including; installation of 20 miles of continuous welded rail, surfacing 30 miles of track, installing 1000 tons of ballast and 2000 new wooden ties, purchase of 10 rapid transit cars for the CTS line and 60 light rail cars for the Shaker line, purchase of a locomotive, line car and various pieces of MofW equipment, plus the addition of 75 train and mobile radio units, installation of 20 miles of CTC and 48 track miles of ATC signalling. ---- Active OARP member Steve Evans, now living in Gautier, Mississippi, is busily organizing a "Dixie" regional ARP. He reports good initial interest from area NARP members. We extend to Steve our pledge of cooperation and extend our best wishes for success in his work.

BULLETINS! LATE-BREAKING ITEMS! "Issue 8" (except it won't be called that this time), providing the constitutional

amendment necessary for the State of Ohio to contract with ConRail and with Amtrak, WILL VERY LIKELY GO ON THE JUNE PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT. If so, a promotional campaign is definitely in the works this time. Support will again be needed. OARP has already expressed organizational support. -----

----- Following three derailments of Amtrak trains with SDP40F diesels, Chessie has INDEFINITELY BANNED these units from operating above 50mph, with even lower speed limits on some portions of its lines. This move has forced Amtrak to assign vintage E8 units to the Riley and Mountaineer. Three E8's move the train from Chicago to Russell, KY, causing severe delays in servicing the train at River Road Station in Cincinnati. Although the E8's can move faster than 50mph on many portions of the Chessie, Amtrak officials are reporting the on-time performance of the Riley as "terrible". And, apparently Chessie's crackdown is ONLY THE BEGINNING! A few other railroads may follow suit over high-speed operation of Amtrak's SDP40F's.

OARP MEMBERS ASKED TO PARTICIPATE IN TRAIN TRIP REPORT PROJECT -----

This Spring OARP will begin an ongoing project in which it will seek the co-operation of all train riding OARP members. OARP plans to provide simple forms for persons to make a short report of each rail trip they make. It is expected that most of the reports will cover the passenger trains in and through Ohio; however, OARP is just as anxious to learn Ohioans reactions to rail passenger service in other parts of the country. OARP member Stephen Avakian of Cleveland has initiated this project and is now developing a suitable report form.

Passengers will be asked to note examples of outstanding, favorable service to the passenger as well as to call attention to less than desirable conditions and suggestions for improving them. OARP will carefully compile information from these train trip reports and use the data to give OARP a better picture of what is going on so that we're better prepared in our dealings with Amtrak, with legislators and others regarding present train services and in planning for service improvements.

Those who write (enclose stamp please) will be sent forms when they are ready.

OARP PARTICIPATES IN CLEVELAND FORUM

A public forum at Cleveland State University on Friday, January 23rd, discussed the future for rail passenger service and the outlook appears extremely promising.

Panel members were Joe Pollard, Amtrak Sales Manager--Ohio; Fletcher Bouty, special assistant to Amtrak's Vice-President--Public Affairs; Rodg Sillars, OARP's Vice-President; Al Mladineo, OARP member and organizer of Cleveland's Grass-Roots for Amtrak movement; and Rev. Robert Wickens, OARP member also representing the Lorain County Transit Authority. Moderator was Dr. Ronald Busch of CSU's faculty. Amtrak's Manager of Stations and Operations for northern Ohio, Santo Cala, was unable to participate on the panel due to illness.

Although numerous obstacles to progress were cited, all panelists did agree that the rail passenger business in the near future would see a tremendous growth, especially with the growing environmental concerns over transportation modes.

WATCH OUT FOR THIS MAN! -----

Savannah, GA (UPI) - 1/29/76 - Secretary of Transportation William Coleman says Amtrak passenger service, which he called a waste of taxpayers' money, "would die tomorrow" if he had his way.

(Now we know which side he's on.-Ed.)

CLEVELAND RTA/AMTRAK SHUTTLE SERVICE STILL RUNNING, BUT NEEDS RIDERS

Cleveland's RTA bus shuttle service linking Public Square with the new Amtrak Lakefront Station has been running faithfully, but nearly empty, averaging only a half-dozen riders on each run. Most Amtrak passengers are using private autos or taxis to get to and from the station.

The bus, which costs only 10¢, leaves from in front of Terminal Tower, on Public Square, at 7:00am to meet the westbound Lake Shore Limited, and at 10:50pm to meet the eastbound train. The RTA bus leaves the Amtrak station after all arriving passengers have claimed their baggage. The availability of the RTA shuttle bus is being announced at the station upon the Lake Shore's arrival each day.

QUOTES WORTH NOTING -----

"Although excessive government spending must be held in check, a balanced transportation system including an efficient passenger rail service is of the utmost importance."

Sen. John Glenn, OH

"I disagree totally with the cut in Amtrak's funds proposed by the President's budget. I believe an adequate rail passenger system is vital to this country, now and in the future."

Sen. Robert Taft, Jr., OH

WICKENS GETS LORAIN COUNTY POST

OARP/NARP member Rev. Robert G. Wickens, pastor of the Community United Methodist Church in Elyria, has been appointed a member of the new Lorain County Transportation Board. The appointment was announced on Jan. 14th by Lorain County Commissioners J. J. Keron and Fred M. Ritenauer. The Transportation Board plans to get a study made on a coordinated regional transit system for Lorain County.

BOSTON RAIL HOLIDAY ORIGINATING FROM ELYRIA

June 13th thru the 20th. All 1st class bedrooms on the Lake Shore. Three nights in Boston in deluxe hotel overlooking historic Boston Common. Two nights at oceanside inn. Space for only twenty couples. Significant savings on hotels and Amtrak through group fares. Trip led by Rev. & Mrs. Robert Wickens, Elyria's #1 passenger train travel fans. Call Rev. Wickens at 365-8231 or 365-5757 for complete details on this rail trip.

WICKENS RECIPIENT OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Pastor Wickens was honored January 24th by the Elyria Jaycees for his active promotion of train travel and for his motivational support for an Amtrak station stop in Elyria. He was named the recipient of the annual Distinguished Service Award. He was nominated for the honor by the general manager of Elyria's Chamber of Commerce, Richard J. Elliott. In commenting upon receiving the citation Wickens said, "This should be an encouragement to others to get involved in their communities. Their labors will not go unnoticed." Guest speaker at the awards banquet was noted Cleveland TV newscaster, Doug Adair.

"TAKE A TRAIN" BUMPERSTICKER IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE

OARP member Tim Colbert of Parma has informed us that he regrets that he can no longer supply the "Avoid Strain, Take a Train" bumperstickers which we have advertised for some time through the pages of "the 6:53".

The Elyria station parking lot will be expanded soon

FOUR NEW FACES ON NARP BOARD FROM REGION SIX

James B. Stevenson, Sr., was the only incumbent re-elected to the Board of Directors of NARP representing Region Six which includes all of Ohio, all of Michigan, and the western half of Pennsylvania. The Region is entitled to five Directors. Stevenson and the four new Directors were elected at the meeting of Region Six NARP members at Toledo, OH, on Saturday, February 7th.

Representing our Region are:

- John deLora, Box 6901, Grosse Pointe, MI 48236.
- David S. Marshall, 329 South Jefferson St., Dayton, OH 45402.
- Albert Mladineo, 4119 Brainard Road, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022.
- James B. Stevenson, Sr., R.D. 1, Box 229-C, Youngsville, PA 16371.
- Rev. Robert G. Wickens, 637 North Abbe Road, Elyria, OH 44035.

OARP believes our Region is both capably and fairly represented. We pledge our support to NARP and to our newly elected regional representatives to NARP's Board of Directors!

AND JOIN NARP IF YOU'RE NOT ALREADY A MEMBER!

CTSTC MAKING PLANS FOR 1977

Ronald D. Garner, OARP's Southwestern Ohio/Cincinnati Area Regional Coordinator, will officially represent OARP on the Cincinnati Tri-State Transportation Conference Planning Committee. A March 11th meeting of this group will focus on planning a conference dealing with the improvement of all kinds of transportation planning and services which impact the Greater Cincinnati area. This conference is tentatively set for the Spring of 1977. OARP is pleased to have received an invitation to participate in the planning of this event.

ASK YOUR AMTRAK AGENT ABOUT THE COLONIAL CORRIDOR EXCURSION COACH TICKET

(and save more than 30%)

OARP's HANDY "HOW-TO-FIND-THE-STATION" MAPS ARE IN PLENTIFUL SUPPLY FOR:

Cleveland - Elyria
Toledo - Lima
Canton - Crestline
Columbus - Dayton
Cincinnati - Louisville (incl. auto-train)
Tri-State Station - Huntington
Muncie - Richmond
Indianapolis

They're FREE; but please send us some postage to help out. Also, a self-addressed, stamped envelope is appreciated with a request for only a few maps. Thank You!

OUR NEW UP-TO-DATE BROCHURES ARE AVAILABLE

We have large quantities of our brand new membership/promotional brochure on hand, entitled IF WE WANT TO GO BY MODERN PASSENGER TRAIN, THE TIME TO GET GOING IS NOW! Many attending the Toledo meeting picked up quantities to distribute to interested associates, friends, neighbors, civic officials, travel agencies, and others.

Maybe YOU could help OARP get some of these into the hands of people who are apt to be in favor of better passenger rail service?

We'll supply these FREE, even in larger quantities; but we can always use some postage stamps to help our cause. So you can estimate the mailing cost, 100 of the brochures weigh close to 16 oz. Write or call OARP (513-372-9868) if you can use a supply of brochures (or even just a few).

PASSENGER RAIL STORY ~~MUST~~ WILL BE TOLD

OARP's 25-minute Sound/Slide Show (100 slides in Sawyers-GAF Rototray Carrousel plus cassette tape narrative) is now being duplicated so we can safely send it out for use by any OARP officer or member. It will be available after May 1st through the OARP "office" or by contacting any officer or regional coordinator. Users must provide their own projector and cassette tape player. If at all possible, we would like one of OARP's officers or regional coordinators to be present at your showing, but this is not mandatory. **BORROWERS MUST PAY POSTAGE AND INSURANCE BOTH WAYS!** When you return the slides and tape, note the amount of postage it required to send it to you and include this amount (stamps are acceptable) when you mail it back to us. This is the only "charge" we are asking.

1976 8½x11" OARP CALENDAR is being mailed with this issue of "the 6:53" to all OARP MEMBERS. Others receiving "the 6:53" who'd like a calendar, please send us a 13¢ stamp and we'll mail you one, as long as the supply lasts.

These handy calendars, printed at no charge to OARP, were distributed to all attending the Toledo OARP/NARP meetings. The newsphoto of the Lake Shore Limited inaugural at Toledo's Central Union Station is featured.

"the 6:53" TO GO BI-MONTHLY

We will attempt to publish "the 6:53" every two months throughout 1976 in an effort to improve communications between OARP and our members and friends and to provide news which is a little more up-to-date. We'll try our best to have "the 6:53" in the mail on or about the first week in January, March, May, July, September, and November. **Contributions and letters are always welcomed for consideration for publication.**

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR DUES????

You'll only be reminded **once!!**

NOTICE: We are getting an increasing number of "6:53's" returned to us marked "moved--forwarding order expired" or "addressee unknown" or "addressee no longer employed at this address".

SO... a plea to members and others who depend on prompt and accurate receipt of "the 6:53" and other communications from OARP; **MAKE SURE WE ARE ADVISED IF YOUR MAILING ADDRESS CHANGES!** A postal card listing old and new addresses is all we need. Please help us function as efficiently as possible. THANKS!

AMTRAK -- ON THE TRACK....

Amtrak announced in mid-January that the Lake Shore Limited ranked third busiest of Amtrak's long-distance runs. The passenger count at Elyria shows it is outdrawing Lima, Canton, and even Columbus for ridership. Cleveland is the second busiest station on the Lake Shore route; Albany is #1. Elyrians are pushing for a larger, manned station. And Amtrak's President Reistrup said, at a Cleveland press conference, that the route may soon get a second train! (Photo: Elyria Chron.-Teleg.)

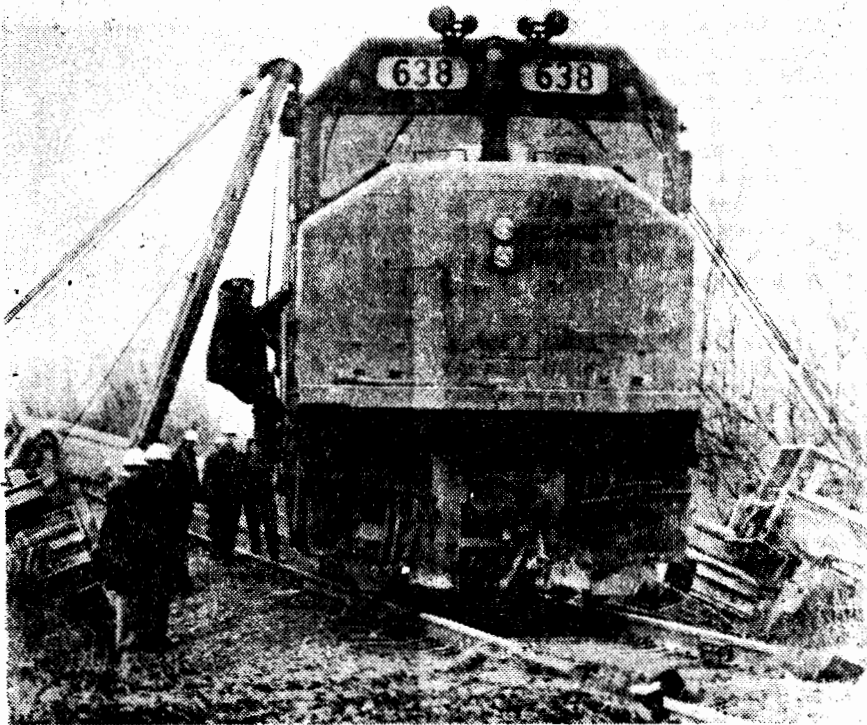


Elyria Ohio



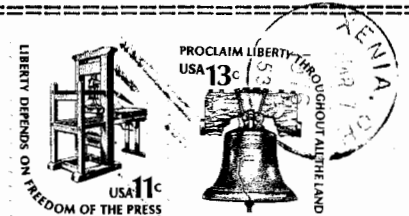
....AND OFF THE TRACK

Two passengers received minor injuries when eight cars and two engines of the westbound James Whitcomb Riley derailed January 30th on the C&O near Shandon, OH. The 10-car train was reportedly moving at 50mph and running on-time when the accident occurred. The cause is unknown. The most embarrassing bit of information connected with this incident was the total passenger count on the train at the time -- 28 people! Amtrak reported an additional 7 on-board service personnel were also on the train. Because the accident occurred on an embankment and curve, it took Chessie heavy-equipment crews nearly two days to get things back in order and reopen the line. Amtrak reported \$142,000 damage to the exterior of the derailed equipment. (Photo: Cincinnati Post)



Photographer: ALEX BURROWS

"the 6:53"
OHIO ASSOCIATION of
RAILROAD PASSENGERS
Post Office Box 653
XENIA, OH 45385



FIRST CLASS MAIL

WILLIAM H HUTCHISON JR
5851 SOUTH RIDGE WEST
ASHTABULA, OH 44004

M

