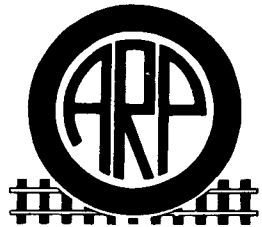


# the 6:53

***3-C GETS GREEN SIGNALS  
AMTRAK FACING RED ONES***



(Amtrak photo)



**March 1986**

**issue #67**

Official Publication of the  
OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS

DIRECTORY of the OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS

MARCH 1986

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# 3-C MOVING AHEAD

-- by Manfred Orlow OARP's Government Affairs Coordinator

The advent of this new year during these midwinter days has kept your OARP Government Affairs Coordinator very busy with the 3-T's (typewriter, telephone and travel) while working on the proposed 3-C Corridor Intercity Passenger Rail Service legislation! Shortly after the January 6:53 had gone to the printer we were informed that the Hon. Frederick H. Deering (D-Monroeville) had just introduced the 3-C Corridor bill into the Ohio House of Representatives.

**H.B. 773** House Bill #773 was introduced on December 30th by Rep. Deering and 26 co-sponsors! It has moved quickly through three House Transportation Committee (Rep. Ike Thompson, Chm.) hearings and is now scheduled for a final committee vote before being sent on to the House Finance Committee. Testifying for H.B. 773 was your writer, Manfred Orlow, and Ron Good for The Sierra Club. There was no opposition.

**S.B. 264** The previously written about Senate Bill #264 is identical to the House version and has received three hearings before the Senate Highways & Transportation Committee (Sen. Ted Gray, Chm.). Testifying at a well-attended February 3rd Senate hearing were OARP President Tom Pulsifer, Howard Harding for The Sierra Club, and Walt Szczesny for the Clark County/Springfield Transportation Study Committee in favor of the bill. Tom Dudgeon, representing the oil interests, spoke briefly against the bill. I'm happy to report that S.B. #264 has now been passed by this committee and sent on to the Rules Committee which will refer it on to the Senate Finance Committee before a full Senate vote can be scheduled.

An important amendment introduced by the bill's sponsor, Sen. H. Cooper Snyder, was to allow any common carrier railroad to contract with Ohio for the proposed 3-C Corridor service, not just Amtrak. This amendment was approved by Sen. Gray's Committee. We feel quite happy with the progress of our Ohio 3-C legislation to date! There has been little opposition and a great deal of support. Never before in the history of OARP have so many volunteers been involved with a single cause. We are ever so grateful to receive copies of your legislative correspondence and your occasional phone calls.

**CONTINUED SUPPORT NEEDED** It's your turn to act! Needed in the next few weeks will be your personal contact -- written or otherwise -- with the ENTIRE Ohio House and Ohio Senate membership in anticipation of full General Assembly votes after both Finance Committee actions. If all goes well, the deciding votes in the House and Senate could come around March 15th - 30th. Please write your letters of support or make phone calls to the office of your State Rep. and State Senator prior to March 15th. It can be expected that all sponsors, co-sponsors and committee affirmers will

likely also note for the bill in its final stage. Therefore, a special effort needs to be made now to contact all those legislators not otherwise involved. Call the toll-free Ohio Legislative Information Hotline [1-800-282-0253, in Columbus call 466-8842] to find out about scheduled votes. Contact your local County Board of Elections if you don't know who your State Rep. or State Senator is. These are not the Congresspersons in Washington, DC.

CURRENT 3-C PROPOSAL ENDORSEMENTS Here is a current, as of February 14th, list of 3-C Proposal Endorsements including legislative sponsors, co-sponsors and supportive committee members:

OHIO SENATE: Cooper Snyder, Robert Boggs, Robert Ney, Lee Fisher, Eugene Branstool, Donald Lukens, Oakley Collins, Oliver Ocasek, Grace Drake, Richard Pfeiffer, Richard Shafra, Charles Horn, William Bowen, Ted Gray, Thomas Carney, Alan Zaleski.

OHIO HOUSE: Frederick Deering, John Bara, Ross Boggs, Jr., Rocco Collona, Vernon Cook, Robert Doyle, Michael Fox, Marc Guthrie, Robert Hagan, Robert Hickey, Troy Lee James, Walter McClaskey, Daniel Troy, C. J. McLin, Paul Mechling, Robert Nettle, Robert Netzley, Francine Panehal, Thomas Pottenger, Barbara Pringle, Barney Quilter, Judy Sheerer, Michael Stinziano, Vernon Sykes, Ike Thompson, Dwight Wise, Jr.

ORGANIZATIONAL: City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County Board of County Commissioners, The Sierra Club/Ohio Chapter, Ohio Association of Railroad Passengers, Indiana Association of Railroad Passengers, Clark County Board of County Commissioners, City of Dayton City Commission, City of Springfield City Commission, City of Middletown City Commission, Ohio Planning Conference, Montgomery County Board of County Commissioners, Ohio Department of Development, Clark County/Springfield Transportation Coordinating Committee, AAA Tours/Dayton, Cincinnati Visitors and Convention Bureau, Radio Station WTVN/Columbus, City of Delaware, City of Shelby, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees, Brotherhood of Railway-Airline-Steamship Clerks, Warren Tribune Chronicle, United Transportation Union/Ohio State Legislative Board, National Association of Retired and Veteran Railroad Employees/Chapter #20, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee.

OARP 3-C TESTIMONY A complete copy of OARP's testimony as delivered to the Ohio Senate and Ohio House committees on February 4th and 5th (same message to both committees) may be had for \$2.00. This helps cover copying charges and helps with the postage.

The United Transportation Union is nearing agreement with Amtrak for Amtrak takeover of all operating employees nationwide. Amtrak has now set a March 1, 1986 target date for the takeover of operating employees and the complete operation by Amtrak (instead of through contracts with the various railroads) of the present Amtrak service between New York & Chicago, south to Cincinnati and north to New England and Canada. Present carriers are Conrail, B&M, D&H, CV, B&O-C&O, GTW and Seaboard. Amtrak took over all the operating employees (conductors, assistants, firemen and enginemen) on the Boston-Washington Northeast Corridor on January 1, 1983. This move will help to reduce Amtrak's operating costs. For the operating crews it will mean larger seniority zones and extended operating districts.

OARP thanks all those who've "Come Aboard" in recent weeks to personally help work with passage of the 3-C bills, especially: HOWARD HARDING (testimony preparation), BILL HUTCHISON (testimony data), DON HOLLOWAY (testimony preparation), PATTY HARDING (word processing), MANFRED ORLOW (testimony presentations, legislative research), TOM PULSIFER (testimony presentations), BOB BOYCE (legislative hearings observer); also to RON GOOD (The Sierra Club), THOMAS BROWN (M of W employees), CHUCK YENNI (B. of L. E.), and HAROLD ZWEIFEL (NARVRE) for information and assistance.

Thanks also to TOM BROWN, DOUG HUDSON, ART SMOCK and HAROLD ZWEIFEL for arranging speaking presentations by OARP on the 3-C Project; and to the dozens of OARP members and members of the public who have already written personal letters to their Ohio Legislators or who have submitted written testimony on the 3-C bills to the House and Senate Committees.

## AMTRAK BUDGET SITUATION

### COULD IMPACT OHIO 3-C PROJECT

OARP has just received a copy of Amtrak President W. Graham Claytor's letter dated January 30th to Ohio Director of Transportation Warren Smith, in which Claytor states "that the uncertainties of Amtrak's future budget situation prevent our being able to commit at this time to operating Ohio's 403(b) proposal."

This means that even when the 3-C Ohio Legislation is passed and signed by Governor Celeste, this is no guarantee that Amtrak will start operating trains here. However, OARP remains hopeful that an agreement can be worked out and that Amtrak's federal budget situation can be resolved in a way that results in an improved and expanded national rail passenger system.

## AMTRAK IN CRISIS

-- by Manfred Orlow, OARP Government Affairs Coordinator

As we all know, the future of Amtrak is in very serious trouble. President Reagan has included \$0 for Amtrak in his 1987 federal budget which begins October 1st of this year. The 1986 slim appropriation of \$610 million represents 7/100ths of 1% of the total U.S. budget, or about 17 hours, 48 minutes worth of running the Pentagon!

What is needed to prevent the year-to-year Amtrak crises is the creation of a "unified transportation trust fund" where revenues could be used (as they already are in a few states) to address the most pressing transportation needs, and not simply the improvement of the mode where the funds were collected.

At odds with this is the President's philosophy of "fewer government operations make for better government". Not all members of Congress agree, however, so Amtrak won key Senate and House votes last year by large margins. Unfortunately, they are not "veto-proof" margins!

(continued...)

There are other options -- Gramm-Rudman-Hollings modification, revenue enhancement (tax increase), a change in other "sacred program" funding, or a combination of these.

A very popular idea right now among rail advocates, including the National Association of Railroad Passengers, is the idea of a cent-or-two tax for each gallon of gasoline purchased which would be distributed among various transportation modes.

There is some basis for hope. House-Senate conferees agreed last year on a 3-year authorization with ascending funding levels for Amtrak. But for reasons unrelated to Amtrak this has not yet passed Congress.

WRITING TO YOUR U.S. SENATORS AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IS AGAIN URGED, ASKING THEM TO SUPPORT AMTRAK. ADDRESS AS FOLLOWS:

The Hon. \_\_\_\_\_  
United State Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Use your OARP LEGISLATIVE GUIDE for names, or contact your local county board of elections. Your letters DO count and this is something which ALL of you can easily do. Keep your letter short and to the point. Typewrite if possible; otherwise make it as legible as you can. Let your elected legislators know that you are a USER of Amtrak service and would use it more if the system were improved and expanded. There is much more to the current crisis than space will allow here. If you're interested in really doing something helpful, write to me at OARP and I'll send you a packet of current information which you can use. A small donation to the cause is always appreciated to help defray our postage and photocopying expenses.

B A G G A G E & E X P R E S S

Calendar Year 1985 was the best in Amtrak's history, with 4.977 billion passenger miles recorded! First quarter FY 1986 results point to another record-setting year. Total revenues are already up 8.4% over FY85 levels and passenger revenues are already up by 11.4%!

*President Reagan delights in telling people it costs the taxpayers \$35.00 in subsidy every time an Amtrak passenger boards a train. What the President fails to tell us is that it requires \$43.00 in subsidies for each airline passenger who boards a plane in the U.S.*

Although checked baggage service continues for ticketed passengers, Amtrak has discontinued its Package Express service at several smaller stations including LIMA, OHIO.

OARP's 3-C CORRIDOR SLIDE SHOW is still being worked on and is not yet available. Please contact OARP before you schedule a showing.

OARP's Sandusky Area Regional Coordinator JOHN KEMPTON called to say that Amtrak recently responded to the problem of one broken window in the Sandusky Amtrak Waiting Room by boarding up ALL the windows! Passengers at this location have right to wonder if Amtrak's out of business already! OARP is right now trying to get some answers on this from officials.

Thanks to Ohio Gov. Celeste, Ohio's Bureau of Employment Services set up a special program to assist some 60 B&O operating employees furloughed when the Chessie System reduced its rail operations at Chillicothe.

Several OARP members have contacted me with questions on station considerations for Ohio's 3-C Corridor. To the best of my knowledge, here's what is presently being proposed:

At CLEVELAND the existing Amtrak station is to be used with improvements to accomodate switching and servicing the 3-C trains. Presently being discussed is a proposed interface between the 3-C trains and the RTA and buses at West 150th Street.

The city owned property at the east end of Walnut Street in GALION, behind the Municipal Building, would be the site for an unmanned station. A platform and lighted parking lot would have to be built along with a waiting shelter.

The owner of the former Big Four passenger depot in DELAWARE is willing to lease part of the depot for a passenger waiting room. The depot is now a flower shop. In addition to some building interior work, a paved parking lot and lighting would be required here.

The COLUMBUS station would be at the Ohio Center between the Conrail mainline tracks and the north wall of the Convention Center, with the station at track level and served by stairs, escalators and a handicap elevator from the existing skyway.

Some track-work would also be required here. It appears that the COLUMBUS station would require the largest capital outlay of any of the 3-C facilities.

The proposed SPRINGFIELD station, again unmanned, would be next to and just south of the Conrail tracks, north of an existing parking lot, between Limestone Street and Spring Street. A new platform and lighting and a shelter would be required here.

The DAYTON facility appears to be the second most expensive station on the 3-C since it has been determined that the former Dayton Union Station is no longer suitable for use due to extensive internal structural damage and deterioration over the years.

A new station is proposed in the northeast quadrant of the South Jefferson-Stone Street-Sixth Street intersection, next to the Trailways Depot at the Transportation Center. A new skyway would lead directly from the existing parking garage, over Stone Street, to the elevated railroad track.

Also required would be a new platform, stairs, escalators and handicap elevator. Thus far, Conrail officials have been very cooperative about this proposal as it would also allow them to realign their main tracks through the former Dayton Union area and raise train speeds from 10 mph up to 35 mph through downtown Dayton.

At MIDDLETOWN it is proposed to use city-owned land on the south side of Central Avenue next to and east of the Conrail mainline. This would be an unmanned station requiring a shelter, platform and lighted parking lot.

The existing River Road Station in CINCINNATI would be used with some connector track improvements and arrangements for servicing and storage of trains required. A new "wye" is proposed just east of the station to allow for turning the 3-C trains more expeditiously.

A suburban stop in the vicinity of SHARONVILLE is being discussed (proximity to belt highway access) but at this time we have no details on a specified site.

I am also aware of interest in serving WELLINGTON which would draw 3-C users from the Lorain-Elyria-Oberlin communities, also from the growing Medina area to the east.

The Ohio Department of Transportation's Division of Rail Transportation has retained URS DALTON of Cleveland to investigate the station considerations for the Amtrak service in the 3-C Corridor. Larry Jacobson is the project manager for URS DALTON (formerly Dalton-Dalton-Newport).

CHANGES FOR AMTRAK'S CARDINAL APPEAR TO BE IN THE WORKS.....

During the week of January 12th, Amtrak operated its inspection train over the B&O line between Indianapolis and Hamilton, Ohio, via Rushville, Connersville and Cottage Grove. After it returned to Indianapolis it went on to St. Louis over the Conrail mainline, the former route of Amtrak's NATIONAL LIMITED which was discontinued in 1979.

Although no firm decision has yet been made, it appears that Amtrak is considering rerouting the CARDINAL by way of Indianapolis, possibly with the end-of-April timetable change. OARP also understands that Amtrak is looking at running the CARDINAL from Indianapolis to St. Louis and Kansas City (a resurrection of the NATIONAL LIMITED?) with a through sleeper and a coach to Chicago via the HOOSIER STATE at Indianapolis. We understand this possible CARDINAL route change would enable Amtrak to bid on a new bulk mail contract between New York, Kansas City and Los Angeles. Could this mean DAILY service? OARP does not know now. This change could also indicate the end of the St. Louis - Centralia RIVER CITIES connection with the Chicago - New Orleans route and replacement of the MULE between St. Louis - Kansas City. The proposed changes could mean WORSE TRAIN TIMES FOR CINCINNATI (between midnight and 6:00am) but better times for Northeast Corridor points that are presently served by the CARDINAL (no more 11:59pm arrival in New York City). We'll be watching developments with great interest and expect to have much more to report on this in our next 6:53.

On January 1st the Chessie System made good on its promise to reduce its Cincinnati - Chicago line (the present route of the tri-weekly CARDINAL) to local freight service only. They are running a local freight between Cincinnati and Peru three days a week; up one day and back the next. Between Peru and Wellsboro the CARDINAL is the only train on the tracks; no local freight service at all. Between Cincinnati and Indianapolis it is indicated that the running time for the CARDINAL would be about three hours and ten minutes. Chessie (B&O) freight traffic is up on this route and the railroad officials are concerned that the single track and lack of long passing tracks (McGonigle being the longest -- between Hamilton and Oxford) may delay the CARDINAL occasionally. West of Indianapolis the Conrail mainline utilizes the former NYCRR to Terre Haute and the former PRR to St. Louis. This route is a combination of single and double track, all under centralized traffic control. The line is reportedly in good shape for fast trains.

OARP's MIKE WEBER and JOHN WILSON rounded up 135 PEOPLE (!) for their January 19th "BLIZZARD TRIP ON THE CARDINAL", including the editor of the Hamilton (Ohio) JOURNAL-NEWS. The trip ended with some wet snow on the ground. Amtrak restored the full dining cars to both CARDINALS that day to accommodate the extra large group which traveled to White Sulphur Springs and back. Most boarded at Cincinnati and Hamilton.

OARP's NEW 1986 CALENDARS

ARE STILL AVAILABLE!

ORDER YOURS NOW!

For 1986 we have redesigned our handy 9" x 12" OARP CALENDAR so that it appears more streamlined and also allows a much larger area for the photo.

This year our CALENDAR reinforces the concept of modern passenger trains providing dependable, comfortable, safe and economical downtown - to - downtown travel convenience. The photo shows an Amtrak "Passenger Extra" departing downtown Dayton, crossing Main Street and passing the Convention Center. This photo was reproduced in the January issue of the 6:53.

Additionally... our 1986 OARP CALENDAR displays the entire year at a glance with all major holidays highlighted.

And... our CALENDAR is made more useful to you by listing handy phone numbers you may well need; including:

- \* Amtrak's toll-free information and reservations number including the direct-line local numbers from Cleveland, Toledo and Cincinnati.
- \* Amtrak's local station phone numbers for all staffed Ohio stations plus those in adjacent states used by Ohioans.
- \* Amtrak's regional sales and marketing offices in Toledo and in Indianapolis.
- \* The toll-free Ohio Legislative Information number plus the local number for use in the Columbus area.
- \* The Ohio Department of Transportation's Division of Rail Transportation Development address and phone number.

...plus brief information on OARP, membership, and how to get in touch with us.

AGAIN THIS YEAR, OARP'S CALENDARS ARE JUST 10¢ EACH IN ANY QUANTITY, PLUS A MINIMUM \$1.00 DONATION WHICH HELPS US COVER CALENDAR MAILING COSTS.

ORDER SEVERAL --- SOME FOR YOURSELF, OTHERS TO GIVE OUT TO FRIENDS AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATES!

USE THE HANDY CALENDAR COUPON ON THIS PAGE IF YOU WISH . . .

9 x 12 OARP 1986 CALENDARS

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_

I'm enclosing payment at 10¢ per calendar plus a minimum donation of \$1.00 to help OARP cover the costs of mailing the 1986 calendars.

OARP CALENDARS  
P.O. BOX 653  
XENIA, OH 45385

SHIP TO: \_\_\_\_\_

MAR

First, I'd like to personally thank the ten OARP members who staffed our display booth at the NMRA Show in Dayton back in late November, contributing their time to making this event a success for OARP. Much interest was shown in our organization, Amtrak service, and the proposed Ohio 3-C Corridor service. It was reported that over 3600 persons attended this event over the two days and our volunteers were kept busy answering questions and providing information. We've also gained some new members as a result!

At this point I'd like to state a few words about volunteerism and YOUR OARP. We are totally a volunteer organization with about 700 members, with some 65 in the Greater Dayton area. As in any organization there's a small core of the membership who do the bulk of the work. Events such as the annual NMRA Show in Dayton take only a few hours of a member's time. Yet it is often unbelievably difficult to get enough volunteers scheduled so that some do not have to work double-duty, or long hours with no break, or work alone.

As with many of our members, I am also involved in a number of activities other than OARP; but did manage to make time to pitch in and help, as did the others who were there. If we are to achieve our goal of rail passenger service implemented in the 3-C Corridor, as well as more and better Amtrak service for Ohio -- just wishing for it won't make it happen.

We need more activist members; members willing to give of their time -- not necessarily a lot, but something. We need more members to write letters to legislators, to newspapers, to attend our quarterly meetings (especially when the meeting is held right in their area) and give a little of themselves to help promote our cause -- in any way they can.

As 1986 begins, let us all examine our priorities and try to give this organization, which is YOUR organization, more of your time and support than in the past. Let's also seek out opportunities for OARP and make use of them! The sooner we have more involvement, the sooner our goals will be realized.

And isn't that the reason we joined OARP in the first place?

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#### CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES (and changes)

OARP's Columbus Area Regional Coordinator, BRAD UPHAM, is now working for Amtrak as an auditor in their Philadelphia offices. Our former Regional Coordinator, DAVE LEBOLD [614-261-1549] has offered to fill in for Brad until another person can take over the RC post.

And, our newly appointed Regional Coordinator for the Elyria-Lorain area, DALE MENCHHOFER, will be leaving Ohio soon to work in the Seattle area and expects to become an active member of our counterpart in that state, WashARP. At this time, we are unable to announce a successor to Dale for this region. Please contact either JOHN KEMPTON in Sandusky or JIM STEVENSON in Berea [see page 2]. All of us in OARP wish both BRAD and DALE all our best in their new endeavors!

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#### OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL HOLDS ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER RETREAT

Dave Lebold represented OARP again this year at the Annual Retreat for the organization members of the Ohio Environmental Council on Saturday, January 18th, from 9:30am-3:30pm at the Sharon Woods MetroPark in Columbus. Dave writes...

There were about 25 people there representing about 20 different organizations, all in some way concerned with environmental issues. Included were such groups as The Sierra Club, Ohio Wildlife Federation, League of Women Voters, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, the Ohio Railroad Association, and OARP.

The meeting was split into two sessions, and small groups. The morning session was devoted to defining and listing the environmental priorities of the member organizations. High on the list were water quality and alternative funding mechanisms in light of Federal budget cutbacks. I brought out how NARP is looking at alternate funding for Amtrak. Another concern was educating the public about environmental issues.

The afternoon session was to establish how the OEC could better serve its member organizations; such as publishing helpful and informative materials for groups, serving as a liaison between groups and governmental bodies, and keeping member groups informed about government action affecting their areas of concern.

The people attending were interested in our 3-C Corridor bills in the legislature and I felt this second year of exposure was good for OARP. Steve Sedam, the OEC director, told me that the 3-C Corridor and OARP would be featured in the upcoming issue of their newsletter, The Hotline [February 1986].

Thanks, Dave, for attending and reporting on this meeting!

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REGARDING AMTRAK'S NATIONWIDE TIMETABLES... If you have requested a copy of Amtrak's Form "A" Nationwide Timetable from OARP, please be advised that due to the Federal budget uncertainties, the reissuing of the Form "A" timetable, promised for January 12th, has been postponed. OARP will hold all requests and mail out the timetables whenever we get them. The ONLY regional timetable we can provide at this time is the Form "7" East-Midwest folder which shows all Amtrak trains serving the state of Ohio. OARP suggests that you might wish to call Amtrak [1-800-USA-RAIL toll-free] and ask them to mail you whatever regional timetable folders you need. It is OARP's understanding that the Form "A" timetable will be issued at the end of April when Daylight Saving Time takes effect.

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#### LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORIES COMING SOON!

OARP's popular little Ohio Legislative Directory folders will soon be mailed to all Ohio OARP members. Others may request a copy, at no charge, from OARP. Please help expedite shipment by enclosing a self-addressed business letter size envelope with a 22¢ stamp affixed. Our Directories have been ordered from Lawhead Press and we should have them in hand and ready to ship by March first.



PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE AUTHORIZED AMTRAK TRAVEL AGENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS

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CANAL FULTON	MASSILLON AAA TRAVEL	216-854-6616
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CINCINNATI	CAROUSEL TRAVEL/BILL CANEDY, CTC	513-451-4660
CLEVELAND	'ROUND THE WORLD TRAVEL AGENCY	216-432-2235
COLUMBUS	THE OHIO AUTOMOBILE CLUB	614-431-7823
COLUMBUS	THE TRAVEL MARKET, INC.	614-885-7597
FAIRBORN	HERITAGE TRAVEL, INC.	513-879-5444
FINDLAY	McDOWELL TRAVEL AGENCY, INC.	419-422-6151
MASSILLON	MASSILLON AAA TRAVEL	216-833-1084
PERRYSBURG	HAYES TRAVEL AGENCY	419-874-2271
PIQUA	MIAMI COUNTY AUTO CLUB	513-773-3753
ST. MARYS	VIP TRAVEL SERVICES, INC.	419-394-7428
SANDUSKY	SANDUSKY TRAVEL SERVICE, INC.	419-626-4633
SIDNEY	AAA WORLD-WIDE TRAVEL	513-492-3167
TROY	MIAMI COUNTY AUTO CLUB	513-339-0112
WEST CHESTER	WEST CHESTER TRAVEL, INC.	513-777-6770

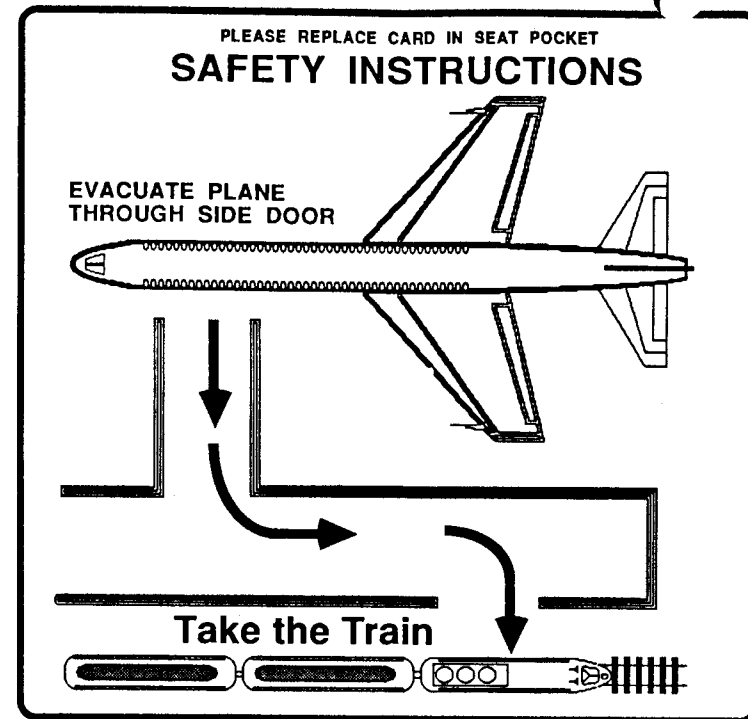
Authorized AMTRAK travel agents who wish to join OARP and be listed in this DIRECTORY should send a \$25.00 check, made payable to the OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS, and mail this to OARP, P.O. Box 653, Xenia, OH 45385. Please refer any inquiries on OARP's "TRAM" (Travel Agency Member) PROGRAM to OARP Pres. Tom Pulsifer (at the same address) or call 513-461-0464 (days) or 513-372-9868 (evenings). The DIRECTORY listings are limited to the CITY, the BUSINESS NAME of your Agency, and your local PHONE NUMBER.

Through unintentional oversight, the OARP "TRAM" DIRECTORY got left out of the last issue (January) of the 6:53. Your OARP President sent a letter of apology to each of our members in this Program.

The AMTRAK BOOTH at the Great American Train Show at the DAYTON CONVENTION CENTER on January 18 & 19 was staffed by John Smith and John McCann with assistance from OARP members Chuck Young, Manfred Orlow and Tom Pulsifer. In the last issue we reported that John Smith and Bob Bachmann of the Cincinnati Amtrak Station staff have had an Amtrak display at several recent "show" opportunities in southwest Ohio. Cincinnati agent Mike Kahlman has been working with John Smith at these shows. Bob Bachmann is the lead agent at Cincinnati. We apologize to Mike for omitting him from the original write-up. We also apologize to our own John T. McCann who helped work our OARP exhibit at the late November Railroad Show at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds Coliseum in Dayton. We inadvertently left his name off the list of our volunteer workers in the last issue of the 6:53.

OARP's 1986 CALENDARS ARE POPULAR! THEY'RE GOING FAST! ORDER YOURS TODAY BEFORE WE RUN OUT (it may happen).

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Courtesy: Minnesota Association of Railroad Passengers

#### BAGGAGE & EXPRESS

The Indiana & Ohio Railroad recently announced that they will operate their weekend and holiday diesel passenger excursion trains this year over the former CL&N line between Mason, Hageman and Lebanon in southwest Ohio. Trips begin in May. Last season the I&O operated between Mason and Monroe.

The last through train on the Chessie System (B&O) Ohio Division mainline between Cincinnati and Parkersburg ran eastward on December 20th. We understand there hasn't been a B&O movement through Athens, Ohio, since that date! There are strong rumors that segments of this route will be listed for abandonment. This was the route of Amtrak's SHENANDOAH and the traditional Washington-St. Louis mainline of the B&O Railroad. Through traffic has been diverted east of Cincinnati via Dayton and Deshler, then east over the B&O mainline through Akron and Pittsburgh to the East Coast.

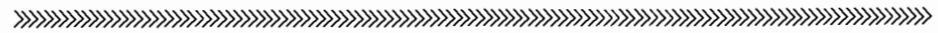
Another Amtrak mainline segment in jeopardy? OARP understands that the Chessie System is taking a hard look at the future of its C&O mainline between Orange and Clifton Forge, VA, which is used by the CARDINAL and occasional Amtrak specials between Washington, DC, and The Greenbrier at White Sulphur Springs, WV. This line is not a favorite with C&O freight operations because of grades and curves up to the Afton Tunnel.

On Monday, February 10th, USA TODAY devoted its entire editorial page (8A) to debate on aid for Amtrak, including pro-Amtrak views by NARP's executive director Ross Capon.

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REGISTRATION FORMS for the MARCH 15th MEETINGS:

You must be registered in advance for the March 15th Meetings and the Amtrak Shops Tour. If you don't want to cut up your 6:53, photocopy this page.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Enclose \$12.00 per person.
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Make check out to "IndARP" and mail to:
City \_\_\_\_\_ R. DON HURST
State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ 137 S. 13th AVE.
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ BEECH GROVE, INDIANA 46107

NARP REGION 6 ANNUAL MEETING [OARP]
Decorative separator lines

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Enclose \$12.00 per person.
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Make check out to "IndARP" and mail to:
City \_\_\_\_\_ R. DON HURST
State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ 137 S. 13th AVE.
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ BEECH GROVE, INDIANA 46107

NARP REGION 6 ANNUAL MEETING [OARP]
Decorative separator lines

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The guided tour of the Amtrak Beech Grove Shops will be designed for our group, i.e. rail passenger advocates. You will be required to wear a HARD HAT and sign a release form. Bring your own HARD HAT if you have one; if not, Amtrak will loan you one. This will be a working, industrial environment and you should wear appropriate shoes (no high heels, ladies) and follow all safety rules. This is NOT a suitable tour for young children. Please stay with your tour group. Photography IS permitted; so it's OK to bring your camera along.

This guided tour will begin at 8:30am SHARP from the main entrance off Garstang Avenue. Meet there (plenty of parking available) or leave from the Parke Hotel at 8:00am if you need a ride to the Amtrak Shops. This tour will last approximately two hours. There's a lot to see and learn about at the Amtrak Beech Grove Maintenance Facility. Our tour will include building interiors, a benefit not often included on any "weekend tours" at Beech Grove. Remember... our guided tour will begin at 8:30am SHARP (Eastern Time in effect here).

SATURDAY, MARCH 15th, 1986 NARP REGION 6 ANNUAL MEETING
BEECH GROVE, INDIANA featuring guest speakers and
PARKE HOTEL guided tour of the AMTRAK
BEECH GROVE MAINTENANCE FACILITY
8:30am - 4:30 pm [ET]



This year's ANNUAL MEETING for Region 6 (Ohio, Indiana and Michigan) of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS (NARP) will be held on Saturday, March 15th in Beech Grove, Indiana which is a southeast suburb of Indianapolis. IndARP will host this year's MEETING which will be headquartered at the PARKE HOTEL, 4514 South Emerson Avenue at I-465.

Our own OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS will hold a short business meeting at the Parke Hotel during this day.

A special feature of this day will be a guided tour (2 hour) of Amtrak's Beech Grove Maintenance Facility which is just one mile from the Parke Hotel. This tour will begin from the main entrance to the Amtrak Shops off Garstang Avenue at 8:30am SHARP (Eastern Time). This facility is Amtrak's major car repair shop. Our guided tour will include the interior of the various buildings in the complex (a benefit not often available for "weekend tours") and will be geared to the interests of rail passenger advocates. Additionally, following the afternoon NARP and the state ARP MEETINGS, information and directions will be provided for those who wish to go downtown to see the restoration work (in progress) on historic Union Station. Visiting Union Station is on your own and is not an official part of this day's events.

The cost for this day is just \$12.00 per person and this includes a nice BUFFET LUNCHEON at noon at the Parke Hotel. NARP Regional Director R. DON HURST who is coordinating the day's events urges EARLY REGISTRATIONS so that all who wish to participate can be accomodated in the meetings, the luncheon, and in the Beech Grove Shops tour. Partly due to large interest in the Shops tour, a much larger-than-average attendance is expected for this year's Region 6 Meeting. Plan ahead and register early! This helps everything run smoothly.

Indianapolis observes EASTERN TIME at this time of year, so for most OARP members it is the same as OHIO TIME. The Shop tour does begin early, at 8:30am SHARP. You may want to arrive on the 14th and stay overnight at the Parke Hotel. They are holding a block of rooms for those attending the NARP Meeting. Rates are \$36.00 single and \$39.00 double. You must make overnight reservations directly with the Parke if you want a room. Call them at 317-787-3344. They'll accept major credit cards to guarantee your room for late arrival. Room reservations at the Parke Hotel must be made prior to



Friday, February 28th. They'll not hold the block of rooms after that date. Again, EARLY arrangements are advised.

If you have questions or concerns about this day, contact DON HURST at 317-784-4621 (home) or 317-236-2785 (office).

If you have questions or concerns about the OARP meeting, contact OARP Pres. Tom Pulsifer at 513-372-9868 (home) or 513-461-0464 (office). The time of the OARP meeting will be announced that day. All events, other than the Shops tour, will take place at the Parke Hotel.

REGISTRATION FORMS are provided in this issue of the 6:53, as is a handy sketch MAP to help you get to the Parke Hotel and to the Amtrak Shops. And... please read the IMPORTANT NOTICE carefully. It's right under the REGISTRATION FORMS.

AT PRESS TIME OARP DID NOT KNOW WHO THE GUEST SPEAKERS WOULD BE. YOUR OARP OFFICERS AND REGIONAL COORDINATORS WILL BE NOTIFIED AS SOON AS THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CLOSEST OARP OFFICER OR REGIONAL COORDINATOR.

BAGGAGE & EXPRESS

Our friends at RAILS DIVERSIFIED OF OHIO, INC. [P.O. Box 1567, Stow, OH 44221] are

sponsoring two diesel excursion train trips from Akron and Alliance to Pittsburgh and return on April 26th and 27th over the Conrail mainline. Includes 5-hour stopover in downtown Pittsburgh. For details send a business letter size stamped self-addressed envelope to their address, or call 216-688-2270 between 9am-4pm, Mon-Fri.

OH-OH-OH-OH! OARP has received a press release and attached supplemental material from the office of Ohio Governor Celeste's press secretary in which Gov. Celeste denounces the proposed sale of Conrail to the Norfolk Southern. Our sharp eyes perusing the attachment noted reference to the GTW in Ohio (page 12) as the Grant Truck Western Railroad (sic)!

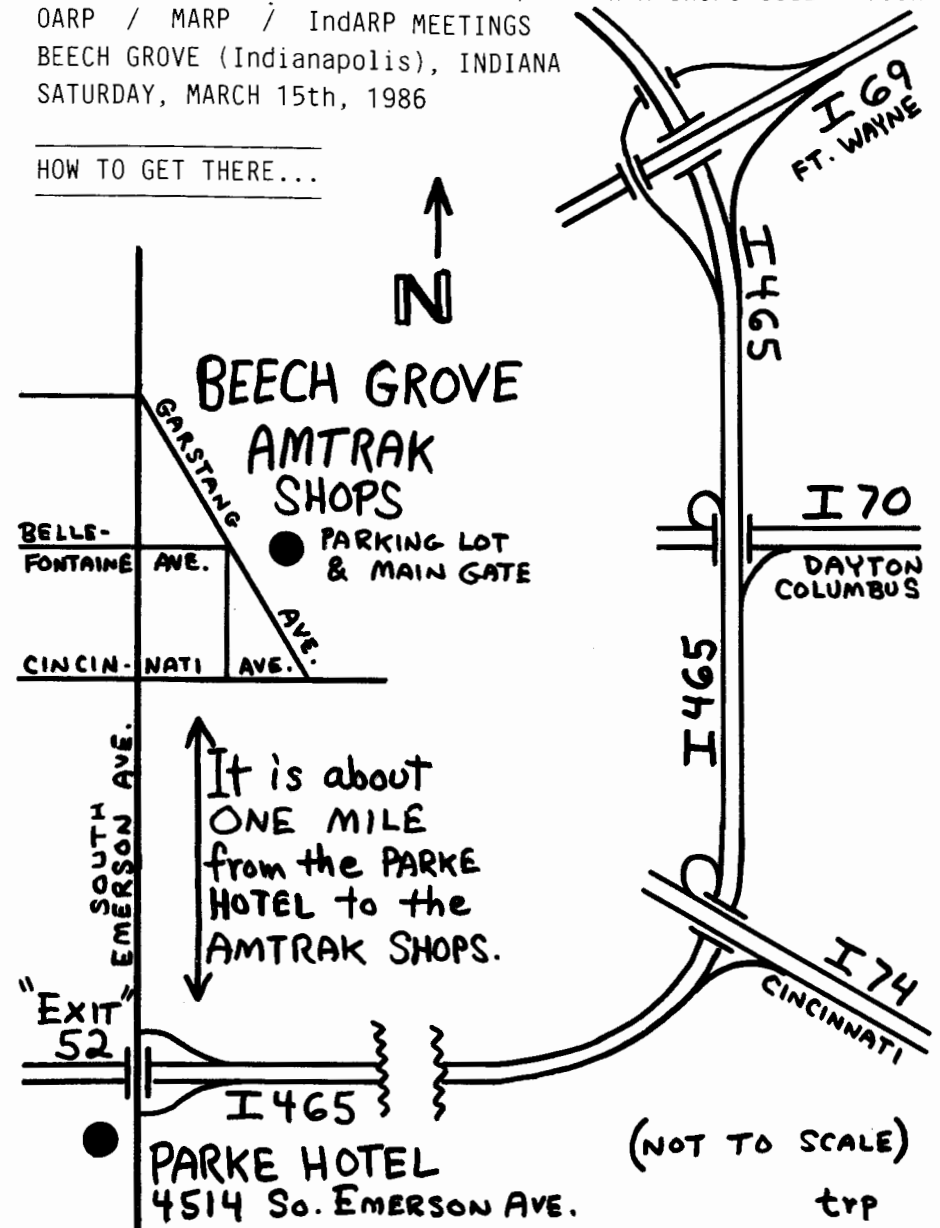
According to Advertising Age (Jan. 13, '86) Amtrak has launched a \$25 million "Magic" ad campaign serving the dual purpose of attracting riders and rallying public sentiment for maintaining the nation's passenger railroad system. The TV portion of the campaign, via Needham Harper Worldwide agency, began in mid-January in 22 markets that generate 75% of Amtrak's revenue. And a computer-generated direct-mailing promoting Amtrak's All Aboard America Fares, \$7 Return Fares, and All-America Vacations has recently been received by quite a few OARP members.

The Fall 1985 issue of Queen City Heritage, the quarterly journal of the Cincinnati Historical Society, contains an excellent, illustrated feature on Railway Station Designs including Cincinnati Union Terminal. Copies, at \$4.00 each, may be ordered from The Cincinnati Historical Society, Eden Park, Cincinnati 45202; or call 513-241-4622. Our thanks to OARP member TED ISAACS for donating one copy of this issue to OARP's archives!

Upcoming Train Shows of interest to OARP members; Greenbo State Resort Park (nr. Ashland, KY) March 1 & 2 -- Quaker Square in Akron, OH, June 14 & 15.

NARP REGION SIX ANNUAL MEETING / AMTRAK SHOPS GUIDED TOUR  
OARP / MARP / IndARP MEETINGS  
BEECH GROVE (Indianapolis), INDIANA  
SATURDAY, MARCH 15th, 1986

HOW TO GET THERE...



If you're coming on Amtrak's HOOSIER STATE, or by bus or by air for this day, contact NARP Regional Director DON HURST in advance of your arrival so he can help coordinate local transport for you to the Parke Hotel. Call Don at home at 317-784-4621 or at his office which is 317-236-2785.



OARP member DICK NOBLE and the EAGLE CANON PASSENGER CAR COMPANY announce a PRIVATE RAILWAY CAR EXCURSION from Huntington-Charleston, WV, to Washington, DC, on the weekend of April 25-27, 1986. Trip will feature Bar-Lounge car EAGLE CANON and Tavern-Lounge-Observation car #257 which is owned by Dick Noble and pictured above at Pittsburgh's Amtrak Station. Trip includes two nights at the HYATT REGENCY WASHINGTON on Capitol Hill. Cost is \$350 per person based on double occupancy. For complete details, send a business-letter size self-addressed stamped envelope to EAGLE CANON PASSENGER CAR COMPANY, INC., 1708 OAK STREET, PARKERSBURG, WV 26101 or you may call DICK NOBLE evenings at 614-797-4455. Dick Noble lives in The Plains which is near Athens, Ohio. Tentative future trips include 3 private railway car excursions to New York City, September 26-28, November 7-9, and November 26-30 over Thanksgiving.

BAGGAGE & EXPRESS

Amtrak has announced the appointment of Henry R. Moore as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, replacing Thomas P. Hackney, Jr., who is retiring. Moore began his rail transportation career with the Southern Railway in 1940 and has worked with Amtrak as a part-time consultant since 1982.

President Reagan has appointed Mrs. Heather Gradison chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Mrs. Gradison has been on the ICC since 1982 and succeeds Reese Taylor as chairman of the agency. Mrs. Gradison is the wife of U.S. Congressman Willis Gradison, Jr. of Cincinnati. Her tenure may be short-lived, however, as Congress will soon be holding hearings on the Reagan Administration's plan to abolish the ICC by 1987. The ICC was created in 1887 to regulate railroad rate and operating practices.

It is with sadness that we pass on the news that long-time rail passenger service advocate BURT C. BLANTON of Dallas, TX, died on January 19th at age 88. A noted author and editor on transportation, he remained a most active and outspoken fighter for passenger trains right into his recent illness. Though not a member of OARP, Burt Blanton was a regular reader of the 6:53 and maintained a strong interest in the activities of OARP.

JOIN OARP TODAY AND HELP GET OHIO MOVING ON MODERN PASSENGER TRAINS. OARP IS NOT ANOTHER RAILFAN CLUB. WE ARE RAIL TRANSPORTATION ADVOCATES. OARP IS THE STATEWIDE VOICE OF CONCERNED CITIZENS WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP ACHIEVE BETTER RAIL PASSENGER SERVICES. WE'RE OVER 700 STRONG AND WE ARE MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER FOR BETTER RAIL TRANSPORTATION FOR OHIO. WE INVITE YOU TO GET ON BOARD! A NEW MEMBERSHIP IN OARP IS \$10 FOR YOUR FIRST YEAR; \$15 THEREAFTER.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK HERE [ ] if  
 you can be active  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ in the ongoing work  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ of your OARP!  
 State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this entire page with your check/money order made payable to O.A.R.P. to OARP MEMBERSHIP SERVICES  
 P.O. BOX 653, XENIA, OH 45385

A D D I T I O N A L L Y . . .

- SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ OARP logo LAPEL PINS (metal) @ \$3.50 ea., postpaid.
- SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ OARP logo GLASS TANKARDS @ \$5.00 ea., postpaid.
- SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ OARP logo WINDOW DECALS @ 50¢ ea., postpaid.
- SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ OARP "LET'S GET OHIO MOVING ON PASSENGER TRAINS" white on blue BUMPER STICKERS @ \$1.00 ea., postpaid.
- SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ OARP 1986 CALENDARS @ 10¢ ea. in any quantity PLUS a minimum \$1.00 donation to help cover calendar mailing costs. 1986 CALENDARS will be available in November 1985.
- SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ OARP LEGISLATIVE DIRECTORY No charge for these items;
- SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ OARP GUIDE TO THE OHIO CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION & OFFICIALS OF AMTRAK however, OARP would appreciate stamps, a self-addressed stamped envelope or a donation to help us defray postage expenses.
- SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ OARP MEMBERSHIP FLYERS
- SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ SAMPLE COPIES OF "the 6:53" Please indicate quantity wanted for any item(s).
- SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ OARP RAIL TRIP REPORT FORMS
- SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ OARP WALLET-SIZE CARDS LISTING AMTRAK INFORMATION & RESERVATION PHONE NUMBERS YOUR DONATIONS TO OARP WILL HELP US DO MORE FOR BETTER PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICES FOR OHIO!
- SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ AMTRAK EAST-MIDWEST TIMETABLE
- SEND ME \_\_\_\_\_ AMTRAK NATIONWIDE TIMETABLE (Please send a self-addressed business letter size envelope with 73¢ postage [22+17+17+17] affixed for this item to expedite handling. Thanks!)

"the 6:53" is the official bi-monthly publication (Jan-Mar-May-Jul-Sep-Nov) of the OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS, an incorporated, not-for-profit organization of some 700+ concerned citizens working on a volunteer basis to PROMOTE TRAVEL BY TRAIN and to HELP WORK FOR IMPROVED AND EXPANDED RAIL PASSENGER SERVICES IN AND THROUGH OHIO. The work of OARP is supported solely through membership dues and by extra donations of time, talents and dollars by our members. JOIN OARP NOW and HELP US FIGHT FOR THE RAIL TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE! Annual dues are \$10 (min.) for NEW MEMBERS and \$15 (min.) for all renewals. There's a handy membership coupon printed in this issue. ALL ABOARD!

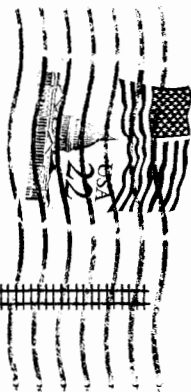
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NEXT MEETING: OARP MIDWINTER MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 15th, 1986  
8:30am - 4:30pm [Eastern Time]  
at the PARKE HOTEL  
BEECH GROVE [Indianapolis], INDIANA  
in conjunction with NARP REGION 6  
FULL DETAILS INSIDE THIS ISSUE...



|||||  
**OHIO ASSOCIATION OF  
RAILROAD PASSENGERS**  
P.O. BOX 653, HB  
XENIA, OHIO 45385-0653 M  
RAIL TRANSPORTATION ADVOCATES

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