

Depot News from Painesville



# THE DEPOT DISPATCH

## August was Hot with Events



August was filled with two events every weekend, so busy is an understatement. Two picnics, and three parades, all in one month.

Aug. 1 National night out, Painesville.

Aug. 4 Move the Boxcar

Aug. 5 hosting Div. 5 Picnic

Aug. 6 Timberlake Parade

Aug. 12 Last Stop Willoughby Parade

Aug 13 Birthday Party Jim Wendorf

Aug 19 Mentor Cityfest Parade

Aug 20 Depot Picnic

Aug 26 Railroad Memorabilia Show

Trolley arrives at its new home!

Aug 27 personal family day!

**A very big THANK YOU for all of our members who help with these events.**

As the Collinwood 999 has been out, we have been asked to be at several other events with her.

Sept. 9, Sat. Hometown Heroes at Great Lake Mall

Sept. 20, Wed. Texas Roadhouse 'Touch a Truck'

Oct. 7, Sat. Fall Fest - City of Painesville.

Nov. 17, Fri. Christmas Lighting - City of Painesville, Santa rides in the 999.

This month I also did two presentation of our museum, one a Painesville Rotary Club and one at the Willoughby Historical Society.

**Engine Barn** updated. Our electrical work continues in the barn.

**Side Walks:** Our sidewalks and aprons are now complete. What a difference it makes. See page 6.

Taking a bight of a break for September, we have Hometown Heroes on Sept 9, Ham Radio Day on Sept. 23 and Euclid Beach car show on Sept. 24.

**Trolley Move** has been postpone until this Saturday, September 2.

The rest of the roof repair will be done this month with replacing missing and broken shingles.

**Family First - Please stay Healthy**

*Tom Pescha, V.P.*

### Inside

V.P insight	1
Upcoming Events	2
999 /Jim Bday	3
999 Parades	4-5
Sidewalks	6
Picnic	7
Dick Gifford Story	8-9
National Night Out	10
Box Car move	11-14
Railroad Memorabilia	15
Flyers	16

**This months Membership meeting is Sept. 12, 2023**

**Program: Moving our Boxcar**

**Next BOD meeting is Sept. 26, 2023**



# Upcoming Dates and Events

- Sept. 12, Membership Meeting, Depot 6 pm
- Sept. 16, PA Trolley museum - **Cancelled**
- Sept. 20, Touch a truck - Texas Roadhouse 5-8pm
- Sept. 26, **BOD Meeting**, Depot 6 pm
- Sept. 23, Ham Radio Day**, Depot 10 am to 3 pm
- Sept. 24. Euclid Beach Car Show
- Oct. 7-8, Berea Train Show
- Oct. 7 , Painesville City Fall Fest
- Oct. 21, Depot Fundraiser Dinner

For a complete list of locate Train and Toy Shows visit [www.cleveshows.com](http://www.cleveshows.com)

# Depot Dispatch

The Depot Dispatch is an official publication of The Western Reserve Railroad Association, Painesville Railroad Museum, Painesville, Ohio. It is published approximately once a month and is posted on the on the Depot Website free of charge. An electronic version of the newsletter will be emailed to members and a hard copy will be available at the Depot upon request.. Information regarding The Depot Dispatch, Depot activities and events may be obtained by writing to 3942 E. 364th St., Willoughby, Ohio 44094 or sending an e-mail to [cleveshows@att.net](mailto:cleveshows@att.net). The Depot Dispatch and Depot activities and special events are funded by open houses, contributions, donations and annual fundraisers. All comments and opinions are welcome. Those views expressed in The Depot Dispatch do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of the Western Reserve Railroad Association.



## THE WESTERN RESERVE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

DBA

## PAINESVILLE RAILROAD MUSEUM



[www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org](http://www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org)

501(c)3 Non-profit



President:	Jim Wendorf 11381 Labrador Lane Concord, Ohio 44077	(440) 357-8890	<a href="mailto:lionelho@gmail.com">lionelho@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President:	Tom Pescha 3942 E. 364 Street, Willoughby, Ohio 44094	(216) 470-5780	<a href="mailto:cleveshows@att.net">cleveshows@att.net</a>
Secretary:	George Anderson 288 Meriden Rd., Painesville, Ohio 44060	(440) 251-2031	<a href="mailto:baberuth342@yahoo.com">baberuth342@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer:	R.J. Price 1312 East 340., Eastlake, Ohio 44095	(440) 477-0133	<a href="mailto:robertpricesr236@gmail.com">robertpricesr236@gmail.com</a>
Editor:	Tom Pescha 3942 E. 364 Street, Willoughby, Ohio 44094	(216) 470-5780	<a href="mailto:cleveshows@att.net">cleveshows@att.net</a>



## Collinwood 999 Parades for 2023

Weather Permitting, we will have the Collinwood 999 engine at the following Parades and appearances for 2023.

Sept. 9, Hometown Heroes - Great Lakes Mall, 10 am to Noon

Sept. 20, Touch a Truck - Texas Roadhouse 5-8 pm

Sept. 24, Sunday, Euclid Beach, 10 am car show.

Oct. 7, Saturday, City Painesville Fall Fest 3-6 pm

Nov. 17, Friday, City Painesville Xmas Tree Lighting - Santa 6 pm

### Jim's Birthday Party

Jim Wendorf celebrated his 75th Birthday this year. His daughter, Magen planed a surprise birthday party for him at the depot. And yes Jim was surprised!



### PA Trolley Museum Road trip

At our August 28 BOD meeting, it has been decided to **CANCEL** this event due to low commitment of membership.



# 999 in Parades

This month the Collinwood 999 has been three different parades. At the beginning of the month, August 6, we were in the Timberlake Family Fun Day Parade, next on August 12, we were at Last Stop Willoughby and it's parade. Last on August 19 we were in the Mentor Cityfest Parade.

The 999 performed great without any mechanical issues. The smoke unit really made a big hit with the crowds.



Timberlake Parade



Last Stop Willoughby Parade





# 999 in Parades



**1ST PLACE  
FOR BEST  
FLOAT!**

**Mentor Cityfest Parade**



# Sidewalks

Our sidewalk project was started last month and was finished this month. And what a difference it makes. As we own the entire North side of Railroad Street, this was very big project. Again I wish to thank the City of Painesville and Lake County Commissioners for helping us receive the grant from Community Development Block Grant Program.



Artifacts found from the CPE interurban Railway under the old sidewalks.



Rail tie plate from CPE



Before



After



# PRRM Picnic 2023

This years annual Picnic was held on August 20. With 45 members attending, we enjoyed good times, and outstanding food, HoBo Beans, Fried Chicken, BBQ Pulled Pork, potato Salad and coleslaw.





## The Painesville Depot

**Thoughts from Railroad Day Gone By . . .**

By Dick Gifford Part 3

*Good morning America, how are ya? Say don't you know me? I'm your native son. I'm a train they call "The City of New Orleans" I'll be gone 500 miles when the day is done...*

*From the song "The City of New Orleans"*

**Riding the Rails**  
**The GREAT STEEL FLEET**  
**1950's, 1960's, & 1970s**

My family: me, my dad, & my mom always took my dad's vacations on the train. We journeyed everywhere from the East coast westward to Chicago and south to Sanford Florida. About 40% of our travels were in the coach seats, which buy the way were very comfortable to ride and sleep in. The other 60% of the time we rode in the sleepers which had couches and seats during the day and were converted by the porter into beds (upper and lower) when we were ready to go to sleep. The sleeper also had a private bathroom. Every time the train would stop



at night I would wake up because of the loss of motion and see where we were and what was going on outside. Of course one of the best things was eating in the dining car for our breakfast, lunch, and dinner. There were pure white linen tablecloths and napkins. Sterling silver

“silverware” and all silver adornments on the table with NYC's special plate ware. They always filled the dinner tables so you got to meet other people from anywhere around the country, or the world. We always dressed up for train travel, as did everyone else. I never rode on the train without a suit and tie.

On one of my family's summer trips from Painesville Ohio to Sanford Florida via New York City we had just got on the train. It was just beginning night fall. I was about 6 years old at the time. We found our coach seats, sat down and got comfortable. I needed to go to the bathroom so I ventured forth to the end of our ever so long 85 foot car speeding eastward. At the time I was the only one in the bathroom and I was just washing my hands when one of the Conductors came in. He said “hello, your ticket please”. Well, we had just gone over some switch tracks at that exact time which was louder inside the train. I said “pardon me” back to him. So now it was quieter again and the conductor said in a very loud, clear and masterful voice “YOUR TICKET PLEASE”. Well, I jumped what felt like two feet off the floor with soapy hands! He said “sorry for startling you son”. Yes, I then showed him my ticket. Both of us all smiles as we went our various ways.

A lot of the times there were as many as 17 passenger cars to the train. The public was encouraged to venture about and walk the length of the train if they pleased. One could visit the club car or the observation car if the train had one. My favorite part of that was walking between the cars because you have to time yourself just right to transverse between the two cars when the train is moving. I spent as much time as I could in the last car out on the veranda watching the tracks and the scenery traveling into the distance of our great United States of America.



## **“Those Lights” at Night on the Train**

When I'm riding a train I always like to look out the window and see this great country of ours. I don't want to talk to anyone, and I don't want to read. In the daytime there's no problem. But at night there is a problem. There are two sets of lights in a passenger coach. One set is in the center of the ceiling. The others are switchable lights for each individual seat. The seat lights I have no problem with whatsoever. It's the center ceiling lights I have an issue with. Just before dusk the center ceiling lights are turned on. When darkness emerges at the end of the day the ceiling lights are kept on until 10:00pm at which time they are dimmed way down. Well with those lights on full blast there is so much glare on the windows they are like a mirror. I don't like it at all. No scenery watching until the lights are dimmed.

### **PROTOCOL**

By the way, every time a passenger train was stopping at the station, either my dad or the ticket agent on duty (three shifts, or three tricks as they were called) would announce the train over the PA system, (say like: "Train number 43 Eastbound for Buffalo, Albany, and New York City arriving on track 2") then it was a brisk rush out to the baggage cars for loading and unloading. When I was old enough I'd say 10 years old and up to 16 years old when my Dad retired I would help him pull out the baggage carts to and from the trains. I would help hand up and receive the baggage. There was one exception – I could not touch the mail bags since I wasn't a railroad employee. The employees in the baggage car always got a kick of me helping my dad. Sometimes they'd ask me if I was going to work for the railroad when I grew up. I always answered enthusiastically "I hope so sir!".

### **CLASS 1 RAILROADS**

We rode on seven Class 1 railroads over the years: The New York Central, the Baltimore & Ohio, the Atlantic Coast Line, the Seaboard Coast Line, the Louisville & Nashville, The Southern Railway, and the Penn Central. I myself rode on Amtrak in 2003 from Cleveland Ohio to Portland Maine via Boston's North and South

stations round trip. I took a 6 day sailing voyage on the 92 foot deck Schooner 'American Eagle' in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Maine. There were 22 passengers and five crew including the Captain. The boat was built in 1930 as a fishing boat and rebuilt for passengers in 1987. I've always dreamed of sailing on a schooner since I was 9 years old in 1960 and would watch the TV show 'Adventures in Paradise' starring Gardner McKay as Adam Troy as captain on the schooner 'Tiki'.

Some of the cities we stopped at and visited while riding thru the eastern half of the U.S.A. were Columbus Ohio, Cincinnati Ohio, Atlanta Georgia, Buffalo New York, Niagara falls New York, New York City New York, Boston Massachusetts, Philadelphia Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., Sanford Florida, Detroit Michigan, Cedar Point Ohio, and Chicago Illinois.

### **BEST FRIENDS' on the R.R.**

#### **“The 3 Musketeers”**

My dad, Jim Evans and Jack Boor were best buddies, (The 3 Musketeers). Uncle Jim and Uncle Jack to me. Jim and Jack also worked at the depot in Painesville. Frequently our three family's would get together, having dinner, playing cards, or watching TV (on Saturday nights it was always 'The Lawrence Welk Show'). Sometimes my dad would play the piano, yes – a sing-a-long could be involved. Now... railroaders like to take a drink once and a while. My dad, Jim, and Jack drank beer (POC was a favorite, 'Pride Of Cleveland' for you youngsters), shots of whiskey, or a highball, my dad's specialty drink. Now when one drinks, sometimes a toast would appear. The guys had quite a few. I can only remember three of them. 1. "Here's hoping you live forever, & I never die". 2. "Here's to the Nickle Plate Road, the New York Central's longest siding". 3. "Here's to the New York Central Railroad". Yes, there were a lot of railroads back then and others sometimes got a toast of their own - i.e. the Santa Fe, Erie, Atlantic Cost Line, Illinois Central, Louisville & Nashville. Stop!... Yes, I could go on, but you catch my drift. Yes, those were good times.



# National Night Out

National Night Out is a positive night with local police, fire and EMS. This year it was held on August 1. We were by the Painesville Police to bring our Collinwood 999 engine to it. Everyone loved it and Spanky. Mentor is having Hometown Heroes at the Great Lakes Mall on Sept. 9, 10 am to Noon and have ask us to bring the Collinwood 999.





# On the Move

After a long awaited time, our Boxcar is now at its new home at our Museum. The move was contracted to Interstate Towing. They had all the special equipment necessary to complete the move with great expertizes. This was complete within 5 hours, which included 1 hour delay because of an illegal park car.



Special Low Boy trailer that expanded from 40 feet long to 90 feet long.



# On the Move



Turning from St. Clair onto Chester



Turning from Chester to N. State St.



Just inches clearance



Checking clearance at Railroad underpass

A Special Thank You to the Lake County Visitor Bureau Capital Improvement Grant for providing partial funds for this project.



Lowered the Low Boy and lowered the air cushion ride



# On the Move





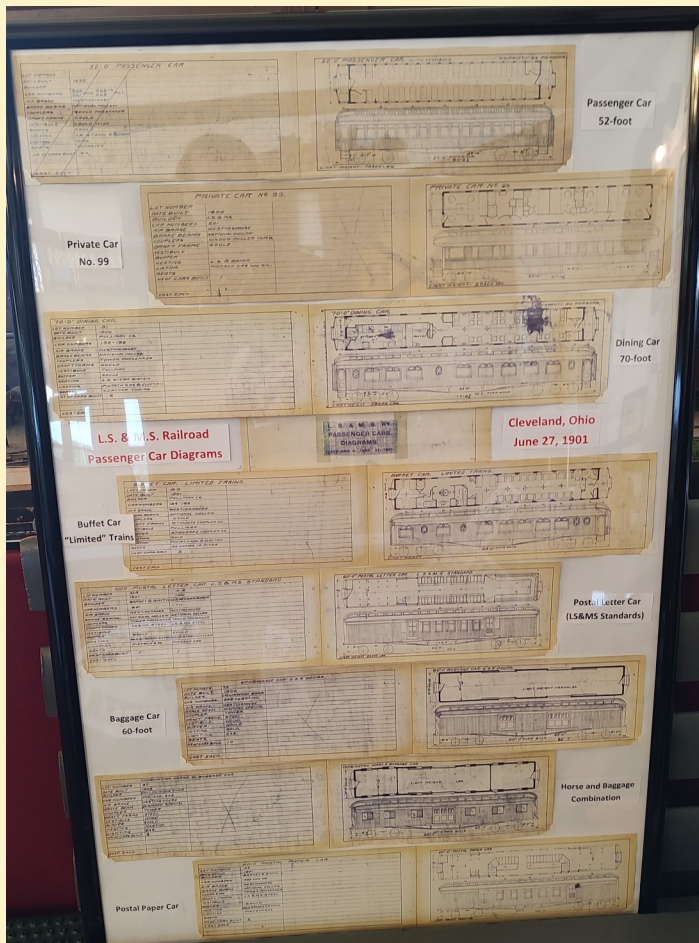
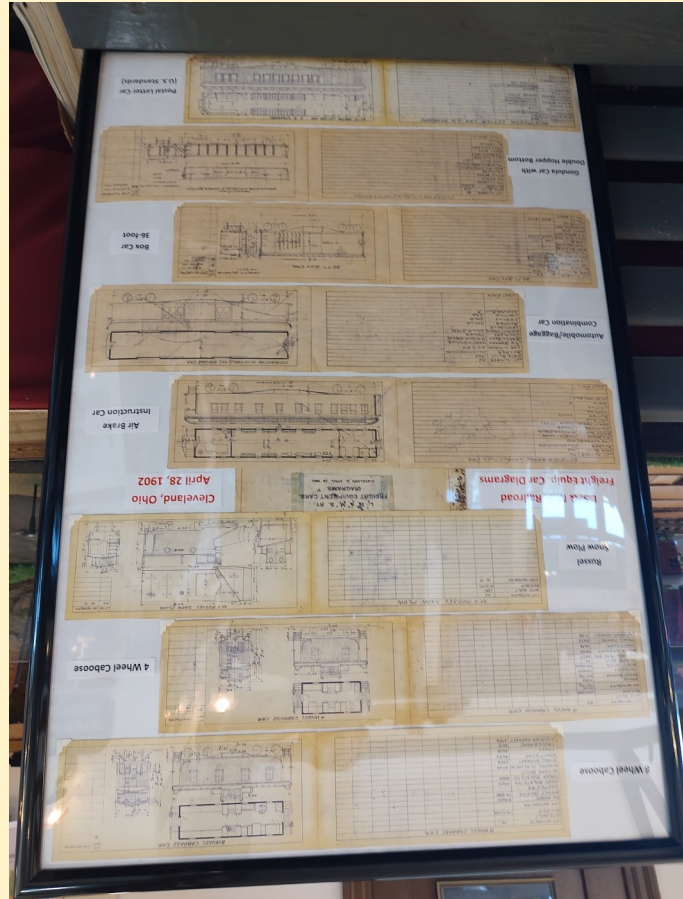
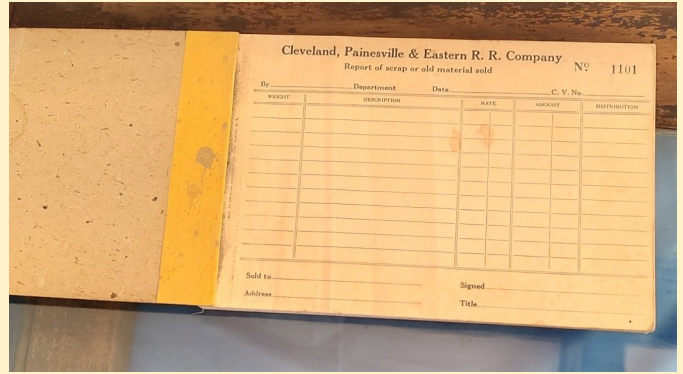
# On the Move





# Railroad Memorabilia Show

This past Saturday, August 26, was our 5th annual Railroad Memorabilia Show. Mother nature for the most part provided us with a great, clear blue warm day. To bad the week before was very heavy rains and on Thursday tornados in the area. Many of the local streets were still closed and without powers. This did hurt our attendance. A big **Thank You** to the Lake County Visitor Bureau for the Art and Cultural Grant.





## Signals and Smoke Ham Radio Day

Join us for a fun day of Trains, Model Trains and Ham Radio on September 23, 2023 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Painesville Railroad Museum (Painesville Depot), 475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio.

In the early days of rail-roading, communications with trains was done with telegraph using Morse Code. Train orders would be telegraph from station to station and then handed off to the trains.

Spend the day railfanning, learning how the telegraph works and see operating Ham Radio station.

The Telegraph was invented in the 1830 for long distance communications. Morse code was used via wires. As the railroads provided paths through the America's, it made since to use the railroad beds for the telegraph poles and wires. As radio was invented, it was discovered that Morse code would transmit much farther than voice. Even today, amateur radio operators (HAM) still use Morse Code.

**SIGNALS AND SMOKE**

# HAM RADIO DAY

**AMATEUR RADIO**

at

## THE PAINESVILLE RAILROAD MUSEUM

475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077

For info call Tom at 216-470-5780

# SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

## 10 am to 4 pm

Learn how the Telegraph, Railroads and Radio work together.  
See fully operational Ham radio station.




**Model Train flea market on grounds.**

**Admission: Free**

**Direction to Painesville Depot**  
 I-90 (exit 200) to Rt. 44  
 North on Rt. 44 to Rt. 2  
 East on Rt. 2 (1.5 miles) to OH 535 / OH 283 (exit 223)  
 South on OH 283 for 200 feet, left turn (east onto Chester St.)  
 East on Chester St (0.7 miles) to North State Street  
 South on North State Street (under RR Bridge) to Railroad Street.  
 East on Railroad Street to Depot.




[www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org](http://www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org)  
501(c)3 non-profit

**Food and Drinks available.**

**Proceeds** to help the restoration and preservation of the historic NYC Painesville Depot and bring her back to its glory days of the NYC.

