

Depot News from Painesville



THE DEPOT DISPATCH

July is busy with Events



We have changed the date of our Annual Picnic from Saturday, August 19 to **Sunday, August 20** so we can have the Collinwood 999 in the Mentor Cityfest parade on the 19th. This year there will be a \$5.00/person charge. Be sure to call Tom with your **RSVP** as this is a catered event.

Our CPE second presentation was good with 35 guest attending.

Our trip to Mayfield Hts. For their parade was disappointing as we developed a radiator leak and had to cancel. This has been repaired.

Our June Open House and Flea market was hampered with light rain and fog. Turn out was light but by the end of the day, the Sun made its way out.

Engine Barn updated. We had planed a work day on July 1 to add the weather stripping to the barn doors. Unfortunately not enough members came to help, so this has not been completed. *This was very disappointing.*

July 14, 15 & 16 is Painesville Party in the Park (PPIP). The Museum has the North West corner and the Collinwood 999 will be in our booth

this year. If you wish to help and volunteer at the PPIP, see Rob.

Hobo Day: This years HoBo day is Saturday, July 29. See page 10

Side Walks: This week I have a meeting with the City on our new city sidewalks and the contractor who will be doing the work. By fall, we will have new sidewalks.

Depot Picnic: This years picnic is Sunday, August 20. This year there will be a \$5.00/person charge to offset the cost of the food. **Be sure to RSVP me if you are planning on attending.** See page 9

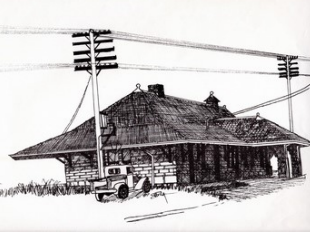
Family First - Please stay Healthy

Tom Pescha, V.P.



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This months Membership meeting is July 13, 2023
Program: Three Giant Steps - NYC
Next BOD meeting is Cancelled because of Parade

Upcoming Dates and Events

- July 11, Membership Meeting, Depot 6 pm
- July 14, 15 & 16 PPIP
- July 25, BOD Meeting **Cancelled**
- July 25, Lake County Parade
- July 29, Hobo Day**, Depot, 10 am to 3 pm
- Aug 8, Membership Meeting, Depot 6 pm
- Aug, 12, Last Stop Willoughby 10 am, Parade 2 pm
- Aug. 19, Mentor Cityfest Parade 10 am
- Aug. 20, Depot Picnic** Noon to 5 pm
- Aug. 22, BOD Meeting, Depot 6 pm
- Sept. 12, Membership Meeting, Depot 6 pm
- Sept. 23, Ham Radio Day**, Depot 10 am to 3 pm
For a complete list of locate Train and Toy Shows visit 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. 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

501(c)3 Non-profit



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Collinwood 999 Parades for 2023

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

July 25, Tuesday, Lake County Fair Parade, 4 pm

August 6, Sunday, Timberlake Family Day, Parade at 1 pm

August 12, Saturday, Last Stop Willoughby, Parade at 2 pm, we will be on display at 10 am.

August 19, Saturday, Mentor Cityfest, 10 am Parade, Mentor Rt 615

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

PA Trolley Museum Road trip

We have been planning a road trip to the Pennsylvanian Trolley Museum in Washington, PA, which is 28 miles south of Pittsburgh, on Saturday, September 16, 2023. After investigating different tour busses, the only ones that can travel interstate, are 55 passenger busses.

So the BOD has looked into renting a 15 passenger van and drive ourselves.

The Van cost is \$387 for the weekend plus gas. It is about 160 miles each way, and at 18 miles/gallon we would use about 18 gals of gas at \$3.60/ gal = \$65

$\$387 + \$65 = \$452$ divided by 15 = \$30.13 each

Admission to museum = \$12.00 (\$11.00 for seniors)

This would cost each person going a minimum of **42.13 each + lunch**. This is based on 15 people going.

We need to know who is will to be part of this trip. **PLEASE RSVP me by JULY 11**

[Pennsylvanian Trolley Museum](#)

Boy Scout Day

Scout Leader, Phil Baioni lead a group of 27 Scouts to receive the Railroad merit badge. He was assisted with Gus Ubaldi from Operation Lifesaver. This year we had 3 young ladies attend the class.



Fairport Harbor Marti Gras Parade

Mother Nature blessed with a very good weather, mostly sunny and warm. NO Rain but some smoke from Canadian filers. The Collinwood 999 engine perform with any issues. Everyone was impressed with the new smoke unit. Thanks to RJ and Dan for their hard work. Thousands of children were on the Parade Route.



The Painesville Depot

Thoughts from Railroad Day Gone By . . .

By Dick Gifford Part 1

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"

THE GOOD OLE' DAYS

My dad, 'Walter Dickinson Gifford Sr.' started to work at age 18 for the Pennsylvania Railroad on the 'Alley Division' from Wednesday, December 1st, 1920 through Friday, March 29th, 1929 for a total of 8 years and 3 months. He then worked for the Carnation Milk Company during the great depression. He worked at the Painesville Depot as a 'Telegrapher / Ticket Agent' from somewhere around 1940 through Friday November 24th 1967 at which time he retired.



As a kid I was there at the depot quite a bit. I was born in 1951. For a while throughout the late 1940's and the 1950's my dad worked at the NYC Vine Street Tower in Willoughby Ohio operating the RR crossing gates and switches, before the underpass was put in in 1960 and 1961. I remember all



the Railroad workers working at the depot were always in a good mood and had a smile on their faces for me as they went about their jobs. To me, they were all my family. Many times through the years some of them would come over to our house on Second Street in Willoughby and play cards, have dinner and drinks, or have a picnic in the back yard. We (railroaders) were a close knit community. My Dad had me address each of

them as either Aunt or Uncle, i.e. Uncle Jack, Aunt Vie, Aunt Helen, Uncle Floyd & so on. Yes, those names are real railroad people. In the summers I would go to work with my dad and spend the whole day there, many, many, times as I loved the New York Central Railroad. You've got to remember I've been at the depot since birth. Actually before birth! A lot of times when my dad and I pulled into the depot he would say "remember, always look and listen in all directions at all times, because, if you get killed your mother will kill me!". Remember in those days the NYC was a four track main line between New York City New York and Chicago Illinois, with the southern two tracks East and West passenger trains, and the northern two tracks East and West freight trains. During



World War 2 at the height of traffic on the NYC there were 200 trains a day! Buy the way that averages out to one train every 7 minutes and 20 seconds in a 24 hour period. Yes, my Dad was hard of hearing when he retired. On the north side of the "main" or "high iron" the freight depot had a five switch tracks in the freight yard that went all the way to Storrs Street. There is still one track there. There were always RR cars and a caboose or two coming and going. There was always one engine used for moving the ever changing freight cars around, usually an F7,

but sometimes a RS-3, or a GP-9 (the diesel(s) running 24/7). I remember many times two passenger trains stopped at the same time. The northern most train had to wait for the other train to load and unload and depart before it was their turn. And they were all on tight schedules! My dad's parking place was just on the grass at the eastern end of the depot right in the center of the curved end of the building. My mom made bagged lunches for us. On lunch we would eat in the Chevy's front seat. When I was going down there my dad had a '55 Chevy Belair, then in 1966 he bought a '66 Chevy Impala. They were both black with red interiors. Very cool cars. My dad chose the colour of the cars, and my mom got to choose the interior colour.

The New York Central Hotel i.e. Silvestro's Depot Café

There were a lot of times, always on a Friday because I didn't have school the next day that my mom and I would get on the Greyhound bus in Willoughby and ride to the bus station in downtown Painesville. We would then walk to the depot to meet my dad getting off work. We would go across the street to Silvestro's Depot Café (built by Lucian and Jenny Silvestro in 1936 as "The New York Central Hotel") and have a wonderful dinner. I would either get spaghetti and meatballs



and a tossed salad, or a hamburger and French fries and Cole slaw. Once in a while I'd order their wonderful fish dinner. The fish was (and still is) always fresh caught from Lake Erie. Their fresh baked bread and whipped butter to this day are a singular culinary experience. Always with a crisp cold Coke a Cola or Ginger Ale of course .

WORLD WAR II

In late 1941 (after Sunday, December 7th) my dad was called up for the military draft. When he got to the draft board they asked him his occupation. My dad said "I work for the New York Central Railroad". The soldier said to him "your classified not needed for the United States Armed Services because you're greatly needed to serve your country on the railroad.

Continued Next Month.



CSX Replacing Ties on Track 2

CSX has been replacing ties on track 2 from Collinwood Yard to the PA boarder. This week they have been by our station.



This years Picnic is Sunday, August 20, of the food.
from Noon to 5 pm.

You must **RSVP by August 8** so we can

Our BOD has voted to have a \$5.00 order the correct amount of food.
charge per person to help offset the cost

Call Tom at 216-470-5780 for RSVP



DEPOT PICNIC

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Noon to 5:00pm

At

The Painesville Depot

475 Railroad Street

Painesville, Ohio 44077

www.painesvillerailroadmuseum.org



**Join in on good fellowship
and railfanning!**



Menu:

- Breaded Chicken
- BBQ Pork
- Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Chips
- Hobo Beans,
- Desert
- Pop & water
- If you wish - Dish to pass



Food is being provide by PRRM

Admission: \$5.00 per person.



RSVP by **August 8, 2023** to Tom at:

(216) 470-5780 or send an e-mail to cleveshows@att.net

Be sure to bring your Camera!



Hobo Day

Come and join us for a day of fun at Hobo Day at the Painesville Railroad Museum on Saturday, July 29, 2023 from 10 am to 3 pm. We will have a Hobo Hobo Beans, Hamburg's and Hot Dogs, Corn Roast, Chips and Ice Cream. Food Donations extra.

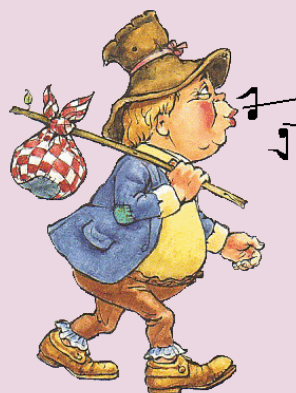
Come in the spirit of the day and get in Costume and be part of our Costume Contest.

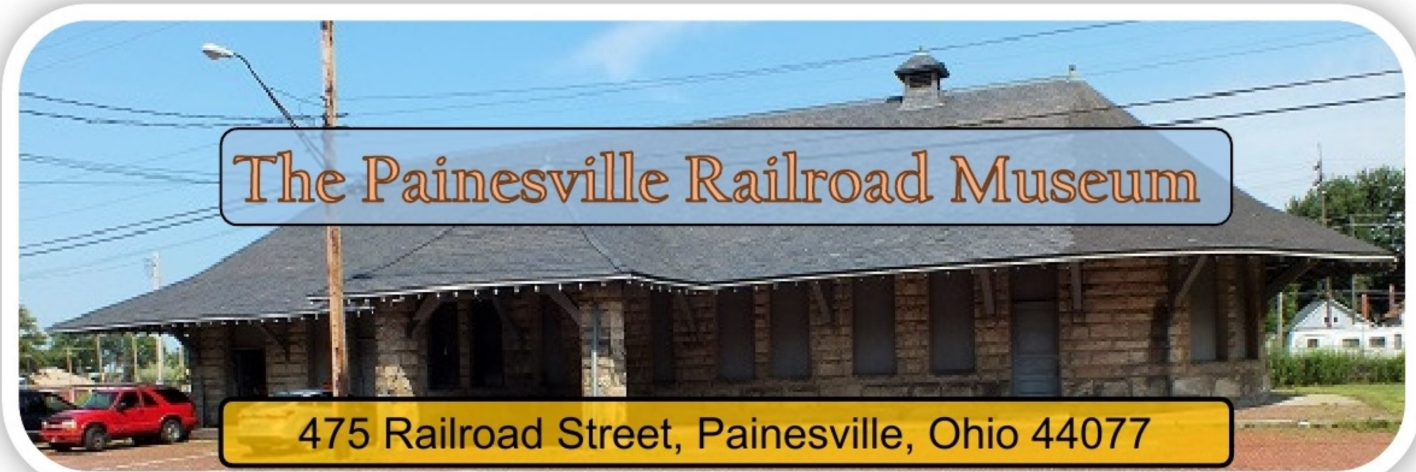
Barbara Hacha, author of 'Line by Line, Mulligan Stew (Stories and Traditions of American Hobos), and Sidetracks', will be joining us and talk about Hobo life and will be doing book signing.

And don't forget a day of railfanning.

Admission: Free, Donation is accepted and appreciated.

We will also have a Model Train Flea Market. Many new items have been added thanks to recent donations.





The Painesville Railroad Museum

475 Railroad Street, Painesville, Ohio 44077

HOBO DAY

SATURDAY, JULY 29
10 AM TO 3 PM

Model Trains Flea Market

Food and Refreshments
available
for small donation
Hamburg's and Hot Dogs
Hobo Beans
Corn Roast

Admission: **Free**,
Donation accepted
and appreciated!



RAILPANNING



The Depot is located on
CSX Main Line, with plenty of
rail traffic to take pics of.
Be sure to bring your Camera!

RAILROAD MEMORABELLA SHOW

Saturday,
August 26, 2023
10 am to 4 pm

**COME AND SEE ARTIFACTS OF
RAILROADS GLORY DAYS
FROM TIMES GONE BY**




Admission:
\$5.00 adult, \$3.00 child
(3 to 12 year old)
\$12.00 Family (max 2 adults, 3 children)

Model Train Flea Market

Food & Drinks available



 Remarkable
Lake County, OH

prrm@att.net 501(c)3 non-profit
www.painesvillerrailroadmuseum.org

HAM RADIO DAY

AMATEUR RADIO

Saturday, Sept. 23
10 am to 4 pm



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

Food & Drinks available

Admission: Free
Donations accepted
and appreciated.

Model Train Flea Market

This ad was in the N-H special insert on June 22