

The Liggie

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ATTENDANCE AT THE LVRR MUSEUM IS ENCOURAGING

As expected, daily attendance at the museum has fluctuated from just a few visitors to so many that the staff has been almost overwhelmed. As people become aware of the museum and what it has to offer, attendance has steadily increased. Many visitors have been impressed by the restoration of the Darlington Station and LVRRRA's extensive collection of artifacts and memorabilia. The children who have visited have enjoyed climbing aboard the bobber caboose and exploring its nooks and crannies. Having already attracted guests from 16 states, the LVRRRA appears to be on the right track in drawing tourists to the museum.



While touring the museum, Louise and Jim Ashbaugh pose with their daughter Rebecca, who now resides in Maine.

The increasing attendance is the result of several factors. Certainly, word-of-mouth has helped. Advertisements published in the local newspapers, LVRRRA's participation in community events, and the PowerPoint presentations focused on

LVRRRA's history which have been presented to local organizations have done much to publicize the opening of the LVRR Museum in the Darlington Station.

In addition, LVRRRA's website www.lvrra.org, created and updated by Bill Potthoff, has been instrumental in bringing many out-of-towners to the museum, in part, because of its being linked to other valley attractions' websites. Also, in working with the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, the LVRRRA has published a brochure which is now available along with other travel brochures throughout the Laurel Highlands. The LVRRRA has distributed additional brochures to local establishments. (Anyone aware of a tourist information rack that does not have the LVRRRA brochure, please call the office at 724-238-7819 or e-mail lvrra@verizon.net.)

The LVRRRA is also working with the Pennsylvania Tourism Signing Trust to add additional road signs along Route 30 to increase awareness of the museum and to direct tourists to it. The signs will be incorporated into existing signage for other attractions wherever possible.



Signs such as this one on Route 30 near Latrobe will soon be erected close to the turnoff to the museum along both the east-bound and west-bound lanes of the highway.

Ligonier Valley Rail Road Museum

www.lvrra.org
724-238-7819



Restored Darlington Station



Railroad lanterns



Authentic bobber caboose

The front side of LVRRRA's brochure is colorful and eye-catching.

LVRRA ANNOUNCES MUSEUM HOURS

The museum will be open for visitors from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays until the end of October and will continue to be open on Saturdays year round. Additional off-season hours are yet to be determined. Up-to-date information will be available on the website www.lvrra.org or by calling 724-238-7819.

LVRRA PARTICIPATES IN COMMUNITY DAYS

**Art and History Through the Valley
June 13, 2010**

More than 130 guests visited the Darlington Station on June 13 as part of the Arts and History Through the Valley tour offered by various Ligonier landmarks. Included along with the LVRR Museum were Fort Ligonier, Compass Inn, Southern Alleghenies Museum of the Arts, Antiochian Village, and the Ligonier Theater, home of the Valley Players.

At the LVRR Museum, a number of Friends volunteered to greet visitors, answer questions and lead tours throughout the museum. A slice of pie and a cup of coffee were available to visitors.

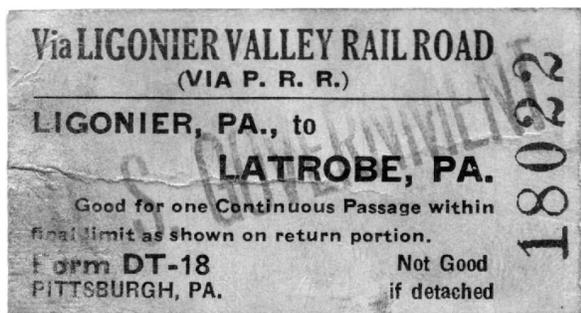
The tour was established to familiarize local residents with landmark attractions that they might not otherwise visit. Organizers hope those on the tour will spread the word about the tourist attractions that Ligonier Valley offers.

LIGONIER LIBRARY EXHIBIT RUNS THROUGH MID-SEPTEMBER

To help in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Ligonier Station, which opened August 13, 1910, the Ligonier Valley Library has organized an exhibit in the Pennsylvania Room of the library. The exhibit, called The Ligonier Train Station: Celebrating 100 Years, began August 1 and will be available to the public through September 11.

Library employees Shirley Iscrupe and Barbara Banales, assisted by the LVRRA and local historians Ray Kinsey, Neal Nicely and Ken Stackawitz, collected over 50 photographs of the Ligonier Station in various stages of its existence. This collection is displayed in the Pennsylvania Room gallery along with maps, original postcards, railroad passes and other LVRRA memorabilia, including an original cast-iron Ligonier Station sign.

The committee was unable to locate pictures of the Civil Defense station which was built on top of the Ligonier Station during World War II or of area World War II draftees boarding the train in Ligonier en route to boot camp. LVRRA's only article from that period of the Ligonier Station is a ticket from Ligonier to Latrobe bearing a U. S. Government stamp, which was donated to the LVRRA by the family of Dennis Crusan of Derry, who saved the ticket as a keepsake. Such pictures and/or memorabilia would greatly enhance the historical relevance of the train station during the 1940s.



This government-stamped ticket issued during World War II is part of LVRRA's collection.

Members of the LVRRA, as well as the librarians, hope to obtain additional photographs of the station and information about it from visitors attending the exhibit.

NEW MEMBERS (SINCE MARCH 1, 2010)

Gene & Myra Appleby
Jim & Sandy Blazek
Allan Bluman
Raymond Bourdage
Robert Boyer
Bernard Byrne
Rebecca Cain
Virginia Carns
Chick and Eleanor Cicconi
William Clark
Lee Corbett
Dr. Henry Croft
Bradley Crooks
Pat Darbous
Rus Davies
Bill and Glenda Dickson
Mary Echols
William "Pat" Ferry
Richard and Suzanne Fisher
Dennis Gallucci
Cyrus Homer III
Richard Kelly
Steven Kerr
William "Skip" Knapp
Edward Lamolinara
Joseph Loftis
John & Charlene Lopatich
Harry & Elizabeth Marker
Bob and Kelly McCoy
J. Paul McCracken
Lois Neiderhiser
Raymond Pohaski
Alice "Penny" Rinier
Rachel Roehrig
Robert South
Robert Stufft
Annie Urban
Gina Varrone
Douglas and Jennifer Welty
Michael Wingard

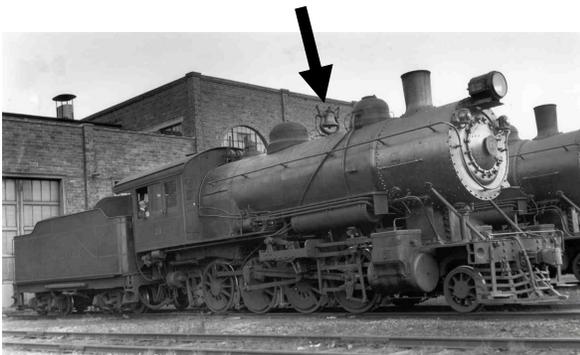
WELCOME ABOARD TO ALL!

HAVE BELL, WILL TRAVEL

Always eager to spread awareness of its railroad museum located in the restored Darlington Station, the LVRRA welcomes opportunities to set up its information booth at local venues. During July, the LVRRA served as the "featured vendor" at the Ligonier Country Market and also participated in the Summer in Ligonier Arts and Crafts Festival. The original brass bell from LVRR Engine #19 has become an important part of the traveling booth, attracting much attention as well as providing a conversation starter.



This close-up picture of the bell, being rung by Clara Wallace of Ligonier at the Summer in Ligonier Arts and Crafts Festival, clearly shows how large the LVRR bell is.



That same bell shown in the previous photograph is dwarfed in the above picture by the immensity of the LVRR engine on which it is mounted.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

The LVRRA greatly appreciates its many volunteers who share the workload of spreading awareness of the LVRRA and its mission. Below is the list of Friends who volunteered their time at recent events.

Jim Ashbaugh	Louise Ashbaugh
Marjorie Byers	Ruth Campbell
Frank Dominick	Tom Donchez
Nancy Donchez	Paul Fry
Tom Hunter	Al Kovacs
Gladys Light	Phil Light
Bill McCullough	Karen McCullough
Art McMullen	Lois Neiderhiser
Al Pilz	Connie Pilz
Bill Potthoff	Fran Robb
Ray Robb	Susan Shaffer
Bruce Shirey	Bob Stutzman
Carolyn Stutzman	Sally Walker

Additional volunteers will be needed for Fort Days to staff a booth in front of the former Ligonier Station on West Main Street. Other members who would like to meet and greet people should notify the office at 724-238-7819 or send an e-mail to lvrra@verizon.net.

THE MISSION OF THE LVRRA

**Ligonier Valley Rail Road Association
Organized in 2004:**

To Preserve the legacy of the LVRR
To Conserve vestiges of the LVRR
To Collect memorabilia of the LVRR
To Educate the public about the history of railroading in Ligonier Valley

FEATURED DONATIONS

One of the joys of working in the museum is the element of surprise that often occurs when a stranger comes through the door offering to give to the museum some LVRR treasure that has been hidden away for many years. Many items in the LVRRRA's collection have been donated in this manner.

In one case, Robert Worbois of North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, waited until the grand opening to donate the 35-mm slides of the LVRR that he had taken August 24, 1952, one week before the Last Run.

He and his family had just moved to the area in July 1952, and his parents from Rochester, New York, were visiting for the weekend. Being railroad buffs, Worbis and his father decided to visit Horseshoe Curve outside Altoona. Having earlier read about the upcoming Last Run of the LVRR, the younger Worbois opted to drive through Latrobe on his way to Altoona just to see what was happening. Fortunately, the doodlebug was just pulling into the Latrobe station.

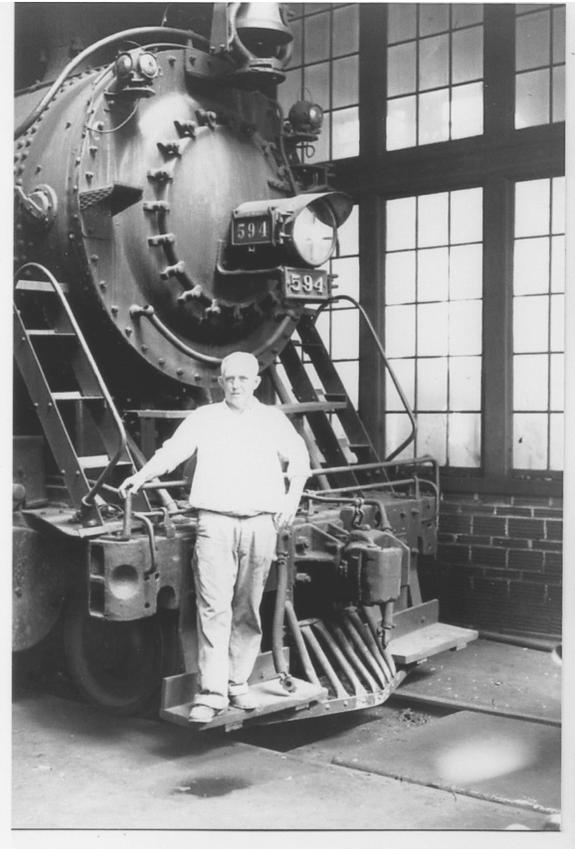


Photograph of doodlebug #1152 crossing the east leg of the Ligonier tye one week before the Last Run

On a whim, Worbis asked his dad to meet him in Ligonier and climbed aboard the doodlebug, camera in hand, to document his ride to Ligonier, one week before the Last Run. Some 58 years later, Worbis donated his 35-mm slides of the pictures that he took that

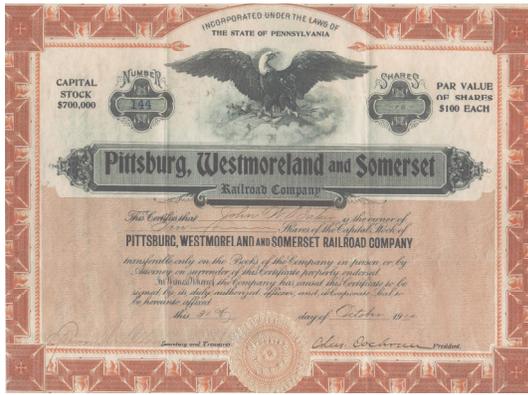
day to the LVRRRA where they will be preserved in its archives.

In another case, Robert Boyer of Mt. Pleasant, related to staff members that he had taken photographs of the engines in the Ligonier engine house one week after the Last Run, September 7, 1952. Boyer has since generously donated copies of his photographs to the LVRRRA.



Photograph of a LVRR watchman posing with engine #594 in the engine house, taken September 7, 1952, by Robert Boyer of Mt. Pleasant

Additionally, Boyer donated a copy of a Pittsburg, Westmoreland and Somerset Railroad (PW&S) stock certificate sold to John W. Baker in 1914. (It is interesting to note that by 1914, although the timber had been depleted, the PW&S continued to sell stock based solely on speculation that passenger and freight traffic between Ligonier and Somerset would keep the railroad viable.)



*PW&S stock certificate
(Note spelling of "Pittsburg" without the "h.")*

Not all surprises come through the museum door. Some begin with a phone call to one of LVRRA's members. Such is the case with the extensive collection LVRRA received from Jim Williams, great grandson of 40-year LVRR employee John Holman.

After his mother, Holman's granddaughter, died four years ago, Williams inherited his great-grandfather's railroad collection. At that time he donated to the LVRRA an LVRR engine headlight, which is currently displayed in the museum. Recently, Williams gave the balance of the collection to the LVRRA, knowing that it would be preserved and appreciated by railroad enthusiasts throughout the area.



John Holman was 73 years old when he retired from the LVRR on August 31, 1952.

Included in the collection is an original hand-printed account of the July 5, 1912, accident on the Mill Creek Branch that resulted in the deaths of 23 persons. Dated 11 days after the accident, it describes the accident and attempts to establish its cause.



Margie Holman, granddaughter of John Holman and later, the mother of Jim Williams, poses as a teenager on the caboose near the Ligonier engine house. The Ligonier Lumber Company is visible in the background.

Most significant in Holman's collection are the ten personal logbooks that Holman maintained throughout his 40-year career. The books contain his daily entries, including the dates of the month, his starting and ending times, his duty assignments, holidays, illnesses, funerals, weddings and wage increases, as well as other pertinent information.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill McCullough - President

724-238-5859

Bob Stutzman - Vice President

724-537-2647

Bill Potthoff - Secretary

724-532-5564

Art McMullen - Treasurer

724-593-7277

Al Pilz - Director

Bill Stablein - Director

Pat Wallace - Director

Paul Fry - Director

Armour Mellon - Director

Janet Hudson - Emerita

Lisa Hays - Emerita

Ralph Scalise - Emeritus

**CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED
SINCE MARCH 1, 2010**

Thanks to all contributors for the following items that have been donated to the LVRRRA:

Anonymous

Copy of the book *The Pennsylvania Turnpike History*

Robert Boyer

Photographs of LVRR engines, copy of a PW&S stock certificate, copy of PW&S Tariff of Passenger Fares dated 1909, and a copy of a Greensburg *Tribune-Review* article, written by Robert VanAtta regarding the PW&S

Bill Bush

Railroad-related books and magazines for the museum's lending library

Frank Calabrese

1950 LVRR timetable

James Clark

Adlake lantern safety award, issued by Norfolk Southern

Richard Fisher

Railroad steam-line testing device

Dick Flock

1911 LVRR pass, issued to Marcus Saxman

Wayne King

Generic railroad memorabilia and a switch stand

Carl Mattioli

Copy of the 1996 edition of *The Railroad Encyclopedia* and photograph of construction workers installing stone walls along the PRR

Ron Maxson

Copy of the booklet *The Greensburg Route: Building the PRR through Greensburg*, written by Jim Miller

Jim Murdock

Display cases

Richard M. Scaife

Copy of James Madison Myers' doctorate thesis, "The Ligonier Valley Rail Road and Its Communities," written in 1955, and a 1952 LVRR timetable

Bill Stablein

LVRR rate schedule and PRR handbook

Howie Stahl

Copies of LVRR valuation charts in Latrobe

Nancy Stickle

LVRR Last Run ticket, original newspaper clippings regarding LVRR, and Penn-Ligonier Railroad Club rail-fan ticket and schedule

Jim Williams

LVRR paraphernalia and memorabilia collected by Williams' great-grandfather, John Holman, a 40-year employee of the LVRR, including hat badges, a uniform button, switch locks and keys, railroad lanterns, a section of LVRR rail dated 1878, numerous photographs, LVRR employee handbooks, notices, train orders, accident reports, railroad-car distribution logs, and employee logbooks kept throughout Holman's career

Robert Worbois

Ten original 35mm color slides pertaining to the LVRR doodlebug and Ligonier yard, dated one week before the Last Run

E-VERSION OF THE *LIGGIE*

If you prefer to access the newsletter in electronic format rather than to receive a hard copy, please notify the office at 724-238-7819 or send an e-mail to lorra@verizon.net.

**NEW MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE
FOR SALE AT THE LVRR GIFT
SHOP**

With the holidays just around the corner, readers might be looking for a unique gift for someone special. The gift shop at the LVRR Museum at the Darlington Station has several options.

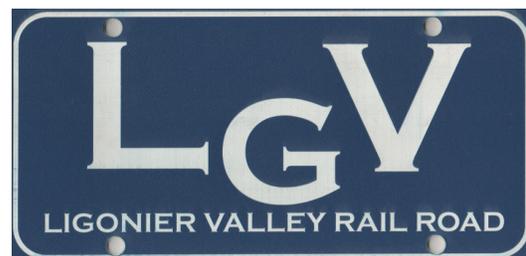
In addition to the denim LVRR hats and shirts, model-train cars in both O and HO gauges are available, as well as an O gauge doodlebug that announces the station stops between Latrobe and Ligonier.

Along with the beer steins and lapel pins decorated with the LGV reporting mark, is a new item, a LGV license plate. Also new this year are two framed plaques featuring railroad-themed mosaics. One includes a collectible railroad stamp superimposed upon a background of the Darlington Station; the other features two railroad stamps superimposed upon a brief historical account of the LVRR.

History buffs might enjoy a copy of *Stemwinders*, written by Benjamin F. G. Kline, which relates the story of the PW&S and other logging railroads in the Laurel Highlands. The Ligonier Chamber of Commerce Christmas ornament, which features the grand opening of the LVRR Museum at the Darlington Station, is also available. All items can be purchased through LVRRRA's website, www.lorra.org, or at the museum gift shop on Idlewild Hill.



These attractively framed stamp mosaics are currently available online at www.lorra.org or at the LVRRRA gift shop.



The license plate features LVRR's reporting mark, LGV, on a dark-blue background.

The Liggie is published quarterly for Friends of the LVRR.
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