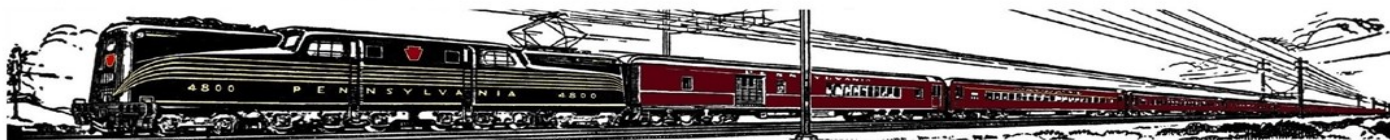


**LANCASTER  
DISPATCHER**

1935-2024



LANCASTER CHAPTER, INC., NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 57 NUMBER 8

DISTRICT 2—CHAPTER WEBSITE: [WWW.NRHS1.ORG](http://WWW.NRHS1.ORG)

AUGUST 2024



Penn Central # 50, The Admiral, between Landisville and Mount Joy. Photographed on April 26, 1969 by Fred Schneider. A classic Lancaster County view.



## Railway News Flash

By Steve Ferrell

Gathered from press releases and revised for this publication

CXS has added a 14<sup>th</sup> locomotive to its growing heritage fleet. Engine #1875 displays a Pittsburgh and Lake Erie dark paint scheme with a large P&LE lettering on the long hoods.

Four early action projects are underway in the Pennsylvania State's effort to prepare Norfolk Southern's Harrisburg-Pittsburgh main line to start the second Amtrak Pennsylvanian service. The completion target is planned for 2026. Amtrak awarded a construction contract to build a new Connecticut River Bridge. The 116-year-old structure is on the Northeast Corridor, between Old Saybrook and East Lyme, CT. Construction is set to begin late summer or early fall.

Amtrak reportedly has tentative plans to combine the Capitol Limited and Silver Star with single-level trains beginning in November. This will allow the redeployment of the three Superliner equipment sets to other long-distance trains. According to rumors, the Silver Star will now operate from Washington DC to Florida and passengers from New York and other cities further North will have to transfer in DC.

Amtrak will start a major rehabilitation project of the East River Tunnel in New York City later in 2024. The tunnel is made-up of four tubes – two of them requiring significant repairs and reconstruction. The need for repairs was caused by damage from floodwaters that entered the tunnels during hurricane Sandy.

Amtrak and its partners have marked the start of the Susquehanna River Rail Bridge Project in Northeast Maryland. This \$2.7 billion upgrade project will ensure continued connectivity on the busy Northeast Corridor. Amtrak on July 18<sup>th</sup> published new drawings of the future West Baltimore MARC station as part of the Frederick Douglas Tunnel Program. This new station will upgrade the customer experience for thousands of MARC commuters while enhancing connectivity to Baltimore Penn Station, Washington DC and beyond.

SEPTA announced that it will replace the aging catenary structure of its heavily traveled Main line just east of 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station. Upgrading of the four main tracks and the seventeen other tracks at the Powelton Yard will also be completed.

The Strasburg Rail Road is offering through August, 2024 "Date Night Concerts" in its new event center: Lefever Hall. This is a concert presented by the Rail Road's Entertainment Department. They will be serving a complimentary charcuterie board on the train. While listening to soothing sounds of the evening's performer, couples can unwind at a private table for two for just \$69. This is a BYOB event. The next event is Friday July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Halloween will be celebrated at the Strasburg Rail Road on selected Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sundays during October with a program called "Haunted Rails". Author and storyteller Matt Lake (who has appeared in film, stage and television) will serve as the host, he will guide the riders through spooky tales of Lancaster County. The program also features a professional cast of actors to enhance the experience. A pre-boarding performance begins at 615pm and departure is at 630pm. The dining car will be available for this event at an extra charge.

**THIS MONTH ON THE PENNSY****PRR, PRSL & LIRR EVENTS IN AUGUST**

Source: Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society (permission of Christopher Baer, PRRT&HS).

August, 1920 Juniata Shops turns out Class K4s No.3774; no further locomotives produced for two and a half years because of depression.

August 2, 1925 PRR announces campaign of prizes for best suggestions from employees on saving coal; PRR locomotives consumed 15 million tons in 1924.

August 7, 1930 PRR announces that 317 of 360 locomotives have been equipped with cab signals.

August 8, 1930 First Class O1 4-B-4 electric passenger locomotive placed in service between Philadelphia and Trenton; are designed for eventual use between New York and Philadelphia and Philadelphia and Washington.

August 17, 1930 PRR announces that according to the 1930 census, half the U.S. population lives in PRR territory.

August 2, 1935 PRR tests a motor truck fitted with retractable railroad wheels that can operate on either railroad tracks or highways; developed by General Transportation Company of Boston; leaves Akron by rail to Altoona; on second day proceeds to Philadelphia, and on Aug. 5 to New York and Boston.

August, 1940 Last of fifth lot of 20 GG1's, No. 4908, built at Juniata.

August 4, 1945 PRR executes largest single troop movement of the war; 20,000 returnees carried to Camp Kilmer on 31 trains totaling 331 Pullmans, 100 coaches and 41 kitchen cars, between 8:00 PM on Aug. 4 and 4:39 AM on Aug. 5; troops had arrived on the Queen Mary and Hermitage and were taken to 22 reception centers around the country.

August 7, 1950 PRR Board authorizes purchase of 214 diesel units for \$85 million; said to be largest single diesel order ever placed; hears report Equitable Life Assurance Society has agreed to purchase and lease to PRR 3,000 52-foot gondola cars, 2,000 46-foot gondola cars, 4,000 40-foot box cars and 1,000 50-foot box cars.

August 1955 PRR Board authorizes purchase of 214 diesel units for \$85 million; said to be largest single diesel order ever placed; hears report Equitable Life Assurance Society has agreed to purchase and lease to PRR 3,000 52-foot gondola cars, 2,000 46-foot gondola cars, 4,000 40-foot box cars and 1,000 50-foot box cars.

August 18-19, 1955 Hurricane Diane hits Northeast after ground is already saturated by Hurricane Connie; severe flooding in Delaware River watershed and southern New England; causes \$600,000 damage to PRR lines; Bel-Del Branch washed out between Belvidere and Manunka Chunk and abandoned; DL&W, Lehigh Valley and CNJ lines heavily damaged; new flood records of 25.9 feet at Bethlehem, 43.7 feet on the Delaware at Easton, and at Trenton, exceeding the flood of 1903.

Summer, 1960 PRR reports that average passenger counts on the Broadway Limited are up 21% over 1959, and extra cars are added "almost daily."

August 14, 1965 Strasburg Railroad returns PRR Class D16sb No. 1223 to revenue excursion service under five-year lease from PRR.

August 24, 1970 Seventh "Metroliner" round trip Nos. 112-113 placed in service in order to begin the formal two-year demonstration project on a revised basis; Penn Central is still unable to predict when they can have enough cars working to operate the 9 round trips required by the original demonstration project.

August 3, 1975 Amtrak begins two days of shakedown trials of the "Amfleet" cars on the Northeast Corridor; cars are basically unpowered versions of the "Metroliner" cars with airplane-type interiors.

Photos of Fred Schneider

MP54's



MP54's Westbound at Elizabeth NJ in 1960. George C. White, Collection Donald Duke



PRR New York Bound nine car local in Elizabeth NJ, 1960. George C. White, Collection Donald Duke



Penn Central NY to New Brunswick Local at South Newark NJ in May, 1969.



Penn Central MU on Schuylkill River Bridge into 30th Street Station in Philadelphia, PA in May, 1970.

Photos of Fred Schneider

MP54's



PRR South Bound Local between Edgemoore and Wilmington DE in May of 1956.



Penn Central Media to West Chester Local in August, 1971.



PRR Princeton Dinky at the Junction. Photo Jim Shaugnessy, Fred Schneider collection. Date unknown.



PC MU's local Landover MD 1971. Thomas Buckingham photo, Fred Schneider collection.



PC MU local Bowie MD in August, 1976. Thomas Buckingham photo, Fred Schneider collection.



PC Paoli Local arrives at Strafford PA in March, 1970.

**Photos of Fred Schneider**

**MP54's**



Penn Central MP54, still in PRR paint and lettering, laid up in Suburban Station in Philadelphia at 9:00 PM awaiting morning rush hour. April 6, 1970

### South Railroad Avenue grade crossing work/removal at New Holland, Pennsylvania Reported by Chapter Member Mark Hoffman

NOW — GRADE CROSSING WORK/REMOVAL— Bright orange barricade signs warning THIS ROAD TO BE CLOSED 6/24/2024 at South Railroad Avenue in New Holland, Pennsylvania, signaled the demise of an orphaned remnant of the former freight station siding and west leg of a disconnected wye. The main track of Norfolk Southern's New Holland Secondary was refurbished at this grade crossing at MP 28.1 by the NS MofW & Structures crew. The curved siding track in the foreground, however, was torn out and paved over. The paving contractor crew started its work soon after this photo was taken at 9:02 a.m., Wednesday, June 26, 2024. Following its sale at auction in October 3, 2022, the former PRR freight station was demolished by its new owner in January 2023. The switch for the siding was removed on November 2, 2022. While drivers will enjoy a smoother ride, it is disheartening to see the small town railroad infrastructure retrench and disappear.



THEN— In better times, NS H26 pulls an empty center beam flat car from the station track at 9:56 a.m., Tuesday, October 6, 2015. Stretched across South Railroad Avenue at New Holland, Pennsylvania, NS GP38-2s 5658 and 5657 had a challenging time making a good coupling this day.



# WOMEN ON THE RAILROAD

## From Pennsylvania Railroad's Admiration and Recognition of their Many Female Workers



### Meet MRS. Casey Jones

CASEY'S gone to war... so Mrs. Jones is "working on the railroad!"

She is putting in a big day's work oiling and swabbing down giant engines, cleaning and vacuuming cars, handling baggage, selling tickets, moving through the aisles as a trainman.

In fact, she is doing scores of different jobs on the Pennsylvania Railroad—and doing them well. So the men in the armed forces whom she has replaced can take comfort in the fact Mrs. Casey Jones is "carrying on" in fine style.

Since the war began, Pennsylvania Railroad has welcomed

thousands of women into its ranks of loyal, busy and able workers. They are taking a real part in the railroad's big two-fold job of moving troops and supplies and serving essential civilian needs during the war emergency.

You will find these women, not merely in expected places, such as offices, telephone exchanges and ticket windows... you will find them out where "man-size" jobs have to be done: in the round houses, in the shops, in the yards, in the terminals, in the cars.

We feel sure the American public will take pride in the way American womanhood has pitched in to keep the Victory trains rolling!



BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

★ 1/2¢ in the Armed Forces ★ 4¢ have given their lives for their country

### Molly Pitcher, 1944



Molly Pitcher, Bensalem, Pa. trainman, substitutes the work of her husband who takes over the work of men at war.

### Women are doing a big job on the Pennsylvania Railroad

More than 48,000 experienced Pennsylvania Railroad men have entered our armed forces. Yet, wartime's unusual needs for railroad service are being met... thanks in great part to more than 23,000 women who have rallied to the emergency. From colleges, high schools and homes, these women—after intensive training—are winning the wholehearted applause of the traveling public.

You see them working as trainmen, in ticket and station masters' offices and information bureaus, as platform ushers and train passenger representatives, in dining car service. Yes, even in loggery rooms, train dispatchers' offices, in shops and yards and as section hands. The Pennsylvania Railroad proudly salutes these "Molly Pitchers" who so gallantly fill the breach left by their fighting brothers-in-arms.

★ 1/2¢ in the Armed Forces ★ 4¢ have given their lives for their country



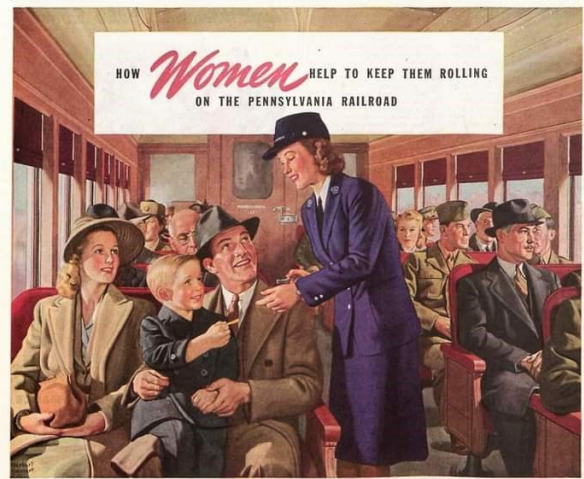
BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS



HOLDING DOWN THE JOBS OF FIGHTING MEN, WOMEN RAILROADERS GROOM A LOCOMOTIVE FOR ITS NEXT RUN. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

May 15, 1941



### HOW *Women* HELP TO KEEP THEM ROLLING ON THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

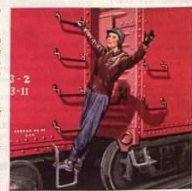
RAILROADING has always been regarded as a man's calling.

But when war reached deeply inland ranks—taking from the Pennsylvania Railroad alone more than 41,000 skilled and experienced workers for the Armed Forces—women were employed to help keep trains rolling.

Today, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, approximately 22,000 women are serving in a wide variety of occupations—four of which you see illustrated here.

Positions such as trainmen, ticket sellers, train passenger representatives, ushers, information and reservation personnel call for intelligence, courtesy and a high degree of efficiency. Young women fresh from college and high school—after intensive training—have proved they can fill these roles most capably.

So, we're glad to have their help in the greatest job railroads have ever been called upon to do, moving men and materials to Victory!



AS A BRANCH in freight yard operations, a woman fills a job that requires strength and endurance in all weather.



INFORMATION COUNTERS are besieged, these days—as a woman's knowledge of travel must be extensive.



★ 1/2¢ in the Armed Forces ★ 4¢ have given their lives for their country



### Lancaster Chapter Excursion on the Wilmington and Western Railroad

In lieu of a July Chapter meeting, an excursion run was held on the Wilmington and Western Railroad on July 21st, 2024.



<b>GM</b> <hr/> <b>General Motors</b>	<b>DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE</b>	<b>MC HUGH</b>
	<b>ELECTRO-MOTIVE-CORPORATION</b>	<b>LOCOMOTIVE and EQUIPMENT / MRME, Inc.</b>
	LA GRANGE, ILL.	
	CLASS <input type="text" value="0-44-0"/> TON <input type="text" value="100"/>	RE-BUILT <input type="text" value="September 23, 2015"/> HP <input type="text" value="600"/>
SERIAL NO. <input type="text" value="1106"/>	DATE <input type="text" value="July 10, 1940"/>	ENGINE <input type="text" value="Re-Built 567-C"/> TYPE <input type="text" value="SW-1"/>
Wilmington & Western RR / Historic Red Clay Valley Inc.		LOCOMOTIVE NUMBER <input type="text" value="8409"/>

Photo credits: John V. Smith



**Time Table 8-24  
PENNSYLVANIA  
EXCURSION  
RAILROADS  
AND MUSEUMS**

For Lancaster Chapter news, see  
"INSIDE THE BACK PAGE"

Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania  
300 Gap Road, Rt.741  
Strasburg PA 17579  
[www.rrmuseumpa.org](http://www.rrmuseumpa.org)  
717-687-8628



The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania will be open Wednesday thru Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sundays from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00.



Strasburg Rail Road.  
301 Gap Road, Ronks, PA 17572  
[www.strasburgrailroad.com](http://www.strasburgrailroad.com)  
866-725-9666  
Now operating daily.



Reading Blue Mountain & Northern  
Reading Outer Station:  
3501 Pottsville Pike  
Reading, PA 19605  
[www.rbmrrr-passenger.com](http://www.rbmrrr-passenger.com)  
610-562-2102  
Excursions to Jim Thorpe on Saturday's and Sunday's in August



Everett Railroad  
244 Pullman Drive  
Hollidaysburg, PA 16648  
<https://everettrailroad.com> 814-696-3877  
Train Ride Events Aug. 3rd, 7th, 14th, 17th and 31st



Stewartstown Railroad  
21 W. Pennsylvania Ave.  
Stewartstown, PA 17363  
717-746-4998  
<https://stewartstownrailroadco.com>  
Operating August 3rd and 10th



Wanamaker, Kempton & Southern  
42 Community Center Dr,  
Kempton, PA 19529  
[www.kemptontrain.com](http://www.kemptontrain.com) 610-756-6469  
Regular Train Rides on Sunday's in August



Allentown & Auburn  
232 Railroad Street  
Kutztown, PA 19530  
570-778-7531  
Train ride with Bluey & Bingo August 17th



Middletown & Hummelstown  
136 Brown Street  
Middletown, PA 17057  
<https://www.mhrailroad.com/>  
Operating Saturdays and Sundays in August



West Chester Railway  
230 E. Market Street  
West Chester, PA 19380  
[www.wcrailroad.com](http://www.wcrailroad.com)  
Train rides all Sundays in August



Wilmington & Western Railroad  
2201 Newport Gap Pike,  
Wilmington, DE 19808  
[www.wvrr.com](http://www.wvrr.com)  
302-998-1930  
Regular Train Rides August 2nd, 4th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 17th, 23rd and 24th



East Broad Top Railroad  
421 Meadow Street  
Rockhill Furnace, PA 17249  
[info@eastbroadtop.com](mailto:info@eastbroadtop.com)  
814-447-3285  
Operating all Wednesdays thru Sundays in August. Diesel-powered only.



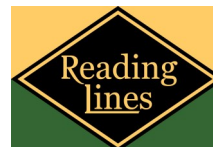
Colebrookdale Railroad  
64 S. Washington Street  
Boyertown, PA 19512  
[www.colebrookdalerrailroad.com](http://www.colebrookdalerrailroad.com)  
610-367-0200  
Special event rides on August 3rd, 7th, 10th, 20th and 22nd



The Stourbridge Line  
812 Main Street  
Honesdale PA 18431  
[www.thestourbridgeline.net](http://www.thestourbridgeline.net)  
570-470-2697  
Excursion trips Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays in August



New Hope Railroad  
32 West Bridge Street  
New Hope, PA 18938  
[www.newhoperrailroad.com](http://www.newhoperrailroad.com)  
215-862-2332  
Operating all Fridays, Saturdays and Sunday's in July



The Reading Railroad Heritage Museum  
500 S. Third Street,  
Hamburg, PA 19526  
[www.readingrailroad.org](http://www.readingrailroad.org)  
610-562-5513  
Saturdays 10 AM - 4 PM,  
Sundays Noon - 4pm.



Northern Central Railway  
117 N. Front Street  
New Freedom, PA 17349  
717-942-2370  
[www.northerncentralrailway.com](http://www.northerncentralrailway.com)  
Operating August 11th and 25th

"INSIDE THE BACK PAGE"  
UPCOMING LANCASTER CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

**AUGUST 18, 2024 - SUNDAY, 5:00 PM STRASBURG TRAIN RIDE AND CHAPTER MEETING  
 STRASBURG RAIL ROAD. TICKETS ARE \$ 10.00.**

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 - SATURDAY, 9:00 AM—3:00 PM CHRISTIANA HERITAGE DAYS AT THE FREIGHT HOUSE  
 SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 - SUNDAY BOARD MEETING 2:00 PM; ANNUAL CHAPTER PICNIC 3:00 PM**

**FOR SALE**

The Lancaster Chapter has several items for sale. Items must be picked up at the Christiana freight station. Call Steve Himpel 717-285-4283.



Left: 5 Step-boxes, \$45.00 each. If these are not sold within the next 2 months, I will be advertising them on the internet for \$55.00.

Right: 6 sand casting train wheel molds, \$55.00. Those will be advertised in 2 months for \$65.00. All six wood molds are different sizes.



**CHRISTIANA HERITAGE DAYS AT THE FREIGHT HOUSE  
 SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 - SATURDAY, 9:00 AM—3:00 PM**

**Member participation is needed to come out for the community that supports us so well! Come out and greet our local neighbors of Christiana. Even if you can just spend a few hours in the AM or PM, it would be very much appreciated. The borough has been very supportive of the Chapter and our buildings. Let's thank Christiana during their community celebration and welcome future railfans.**



**SAVE THE DATE!  
 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH AT 2:00 PM  
 LANCASTER CHAPTER TRAIN EXCURSION  
 ON THE WEST CHESTER RAILWAY  
 230 E. MARKET STREET, WEST CHESTER, PA 19380  
 TICKETS WILL BE \$ 30.00  
 (Train ride in lieu of October 21st Chapter Meeting)**

**ROOF REPLACEMENT FUND DONATIONS**

Thank you to our July contributors!  
 Joseph Sharinon and Doug Henry

Please send your check (made out to Lancaster Chapter, NRHS, marked "Roof Replacement Fund") to:  
 Mr. Richard Rutledge, 2935 Woodshead Terrace York, PA 17403-9752

**LANCASTER CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT:	TOM SHENK	717-560-1186	TSHENK@NRHS1.ORG
1ST VICE PRESIDENT:	HAROLD SHAAK	717-484-4020	HSHAAK@DEJAZZD.COM
2ND VICE PRESIDENT:	GLENN KENDIG	717-917-0644	CINDYKENDIG@GMAIL.COM
SECRETARY:	TOM FLUCK	610-873-1784	BEDBUGROW@MAC.COM
TREASURER:	RICHARD RUTLEDGE	717-741-0205	RRJ611@COMCAST.NET
EDITOR:	JIM DONOHUE	717-445-0394	JTD1117@GMAIL.COM
HISTORIAN:	STEVE FERRELL	610-812-1020	STFARREL@AOL.COM
1ST DIR AT LARGE:	CINDY KENDIG	717-917-5137	CINDYKENDIG@GMAIL.COM
2ND DIR AT LARGE:	STEPHEN HIMPSL	717-285-4283	SHIMPSL@AOL.COM
NATL REP & WEB:	THOMAS STECKLER	610-593-2594	THOMAZ@COMCAST.NET
CHAPLIN:	DAVID STAMBAUGH	717-683-3053	DAVIDESS3@ATT.NET
DONATIONS:	STEPHEN HIMPSL	717-285-4283	SHIMPSL@AOL.COM
RENTALS:	CINDY KENDIG	717-917-5137	CINDYKENDIG@GMAIL.COM

**LANCASTER DISPATCHER CO-EDITORS**

CO-EDITOR:	STEVE FERRELL	610-812-1020	STFARREL@AOL.COM
COPY EDITOR:	JANE FERRELL		

**NEXT CHAPTER MEETING**

**LANCASTER CHAPTER, INC., N.R.H.S.  
 AUGUST 18, 2024 - SUNDAY, 5:00 PM  
 STRASBURG RR RIDE AND CHAPTER MEETING  
 CHRISTIANA FREIGHT HOUSE  
 10 RAILROAD AVENUE  
 CHRISTIANA, PA 17509**

LANCASTER CHAPTER, INC.  
 NATIONAL RAILWAY  
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 10 RAILROAD AVENUE  
 CHRISTIANA, PA 17509-1416  
 PHONE: 717-917-5137  
 CHAPTER WEBSITE: WWW.NRHS1.ORG



THE LANCASTER DISPATCHER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY AS THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LANCASTER CHAPTER, NRHS, AND IS E-MAILED TO EACH MEMBER OF THE CHAPTER AS ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP. ANNUAL LANCASTER CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$ 20; FAMILY MEMBERSHIP : \$2; STUDENT: \$10; YOUTH: \$5. IF YOU DESIRE A MAILED NEWSLETTER: \$12. NATIONAL NRHS DUES ARE MAILED SEPARATELY. OPINIONS AND POINTS OF VIEW EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THOSE OF THE EDITORS, STAFF OR CONTRIBUTORS AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE MEMBERSHIP, OFFICERS, OR THE NRHS. THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS SUBMITTED IS THE THIRD MONDAY OF THE PRECEEDING MONTH. ADDRESS CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO: HAROLD SHAAK, P.O. BOX 813, ADAMSTOWN, PA 19501-0813 OR EMAIL: HSHAAK@DEJAZZD.COM.

**PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY  
 FIRST CLASS MAIL**

*Forwarding and Address Correction Requested*

**LANCASTER CHAPTER, INC., N.R.H.S.  
 10 RAILROAD AVENUE  
 CHRISTIANA, PA 17509-1416**