

THE MARKER LIGHT

NUMBER 21

THE PORT HURON & DETROIT RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING 2014

IT'S OURS: ALCO #52 !

BOOK REVIEW: *Chronicles Vol. 4*
BUILDING COMMITTEE NEWS
DBC&W ROAD RALLY!
EVENTS CALENDAR
PH&D EMPLOYEE: *Bob Jones*
CARRY YOUR CARD!
JOIN TODAY!
PURPOSE



#52 *LOOKING RESPLENDENT (C. WHIPP)*

Cover: #52 looks brand new in this crisp shot taken by Charley Whipp. My vote for best looking ALCO S1 of them all.

PG. 2: Book Review: *Chronicles of a Detroit Railfan Volume 4*

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Dear Friends of the PH&D:

FROM WHERE I SIT The recent acquisition of ALCO #52 is huge news. Not only do we acquire one of our two original as-delivered (1945) first generation diesels, we get to bring it back to join its original assigned caboose, #52! (Not to confuse you, caboose #62 was renumbered back to #52 by a vote of the board of directors in January.) Having the "front and tail" together again is an exceptional rarity for a railroad museum. In the meantime, we expect to initiate a full cosmetic restoration while it's at the Knoxville Locomotive Works. We will be updating you as that happens. We owe a huge debt of thanks to the anonymous donor who provided the funding to buy ALCO #52.

Progress continues out at the wye. Our exterior improvements are finished which means the office is now sealed and protected from the elements. We can now move indoors. We would like to thank our contractors and suppliers for their excellent work. Also, a special thanks to our Port Huron Township board and staff for their unwavering support. **Kirk Lavigne**, Planning/Zoning Administrator and **Bob Lewandowski**, Superintendent, have made things smooth as silk. They and their Planning Commission share our vision of a Railroad Transportation Museum Complex.

Finally, we had a great turnout in December at the Dorsey House, commemorating the 30 year anniversary of the Last Train North. Kurt Stetzer came in from California to offer posters and images of his time photographing the railroad, and we had many former employees show up as well. He has a website that you can visit to order crystal-clear images of the PH&D before the sale. You can go to www.laughingfrogimages.com, click on "Galleries" and then "Trains".

Our momentum continues. Won't you join or renew and get onboard?

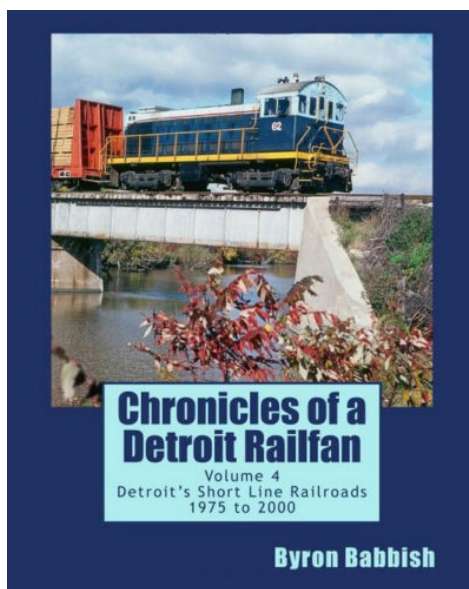
Sandy Duffy

BOOK REVIEW: BYRON BABBISH VOLUME 4

Thank goodness for rail fan photographers like Byron Babbish! Byron's series *Chronicles of a Detroit Railfan* captures many fallen flags and, in Volume 4, includes our PH&D with engine #62 on the cover!

Byron did us well. He provides 13 pages with 20 color and black and white photographs. One remarkable and rare color shot features S4 #62 spotting cars behind the Marysville depot on one of the two side tracks. His photographs cover the years between 1981 and 1984 and follow the action from the 32nd Street wye down to the yard at St. Clair. For modelers, it's a great companion to the 3-ring *Modelling the PH&D*.

You can obtain Byron's excellent book for \$20.71 on Amazon.com. Thanks to *Society* member **Bud Gilbert** for the "heads-up" on this!



BUILDING COMMITTEE NEWS

Next time you're out at our wye, you'll see great changes!. Our improvements are mostly for the exterior. A new patio area, connected to a brand new sidewalk, is sure to please and will definitely demand an upgrade to the usual tube steaks on the grill. Steaks? Probably not. Shrimp? Maybe. New windows to the older additions and matching gutters and soffits complete the look.

Our progress now moves inside. We have a temporary heating unit donated that allows us to hold meetings throughout the year. Vents in the ceiling direct heat to the second floor which will give us the opportunity to start work upstairs. The superintendent's office is slated for a full restoration with new drywall and a tongue and groove varnished wainscoting. Tables and file storage with a computer work station will complete this project. A finished office!

There is much more in store and we'll be alerting you via our website and Facebook pages. You can bet that most Saturday's will find some activity going on. Check our website for scheduled work sessions (phdrailroad.com) Bring a camera, as we front the Class I CN yard, perfect to watch the action!



*New PH&DRRHS patio! Coming to a weekend work session:
Shrimp on the Barbie!*



*DBC&W Mill Creek Trestle
Built by William Boyd, Chief Engineer DBC&WRR*

DBC&W /DC&S NEWS: FALL ROADRALLY PLANNED

Announcing the upcoming fall DBC&W Roadrally! We are aiming for September 12th. We'll be starting in Sandusky at the Big Boy between 8:30 and 9:00AM. After breakfast and a brief run down, we roll out at 10:00AM. We plan to cover the DBC&W and the PM in Sandusky. We will then follow the DBC&W south down to Port Huron. We are attempting to gain access to the north side of the Ruby trestle site. Stay tuned for more updates in the next *Marker Light!*

ACQUISITIONS: PH&D ALCO #52 PURCHASED

It all began with Society board member **Aaron Farmer**. He'd been keeping an eye on one of the original first generation ALCO engines that came to the PH&DRR in 1945 which was located in Knoxville Tennessee owned by the Gulf & Ohio Railway. When he learned that it might be for sale, he alerted the board and, in 2012, arranged a site visit with **Tom German**, manager of Knoxville Locomotive Works, which is a subsidiary of the G&O (see *ML #10*). This resulted in a face to face meeting with the President of Gulf & Ohio Railway, "**Doc**" **Claussen**, who offered to sell the engine to the Society for \$50,000. He agreed to keep the engine for us for two years until December 31, 2014, after which it would go on the open market.

It was a tall order. Well, in the Spring of 2014, a local donor, knowing the deadline we were facing, came forward and offered to give the Society the amount needed to buy the engine! After contacting the G&O, arrangements were completed, insurance was obtained, a check was mailed, and the deal was completed. The Port Huron & Detroit Railroad Historical Society has just acquired one of the two original first generation ALCO switchers! And **Aaron** started it all!



*#52 had been purchased from Coe Rail by the G&O and had been stored on a siding down in Knoxville, Tennessee, along with another period engine. Through the years though, it had been vandalized. Parts had been removed, the bell stolen, and valuable copper taken from the traction motors. The crew here in 2012 (**Sandy Duffy**, **T.J. Gaffney**, **Aaron Farmer**, and **Bruce Sawdon**) conducted an inspection and found the engine in pretty good shape in spite of the harm done.*



Perhaps no man alive today knows more about vintage first-generation ALCO switchers that **Bruce Sawdon**. He came into the roundhouse in the early 1970's when old Nate retired. The PH&D took special care in maintaining their switchers, not unlike one would do with a classic car. Periodic maintenance ensured that all three engines performed faithfully, regardless of the fact that, in the case of #52, it was an engine that was almost 30 years old!



Back in the weeds, #52, now 67 years old, sits forlorn, awaiting a sympathetic owner. Fortunately, the arrangement with the G&O allows free (and safe) storage inside the gates of the Knoxville Locomotive Works for a two-year period. At this facility, the subsidiary has all it needs for an initial full cosmetic restoration back to the pre-1980s sale condition, after which it would be shipped north, back to its home base in Port Huron.



Here's a rare Poloroid taken in the early 1970's. That original red and gray livery is about to undergo a totally different metamorphosis! (Duffy Collection)



In the foreground, we can see a few tires stacked together. As always, the engine house is spotless. Venerable #52 awaits the call for duty. Way back in the corner lies a "speeder". This was one hell of a railroad, wasn't it? (C. Whipp Photo)

ACQUISITIONS: Slide Carousel of Michigan Railroads D&TS, PH&D, D&M, AA

There's been a real interest on FaceBook for local railroads that served the Port Huron and Detroit area. The *Grand Trunk Western Historical Society* often features these railroads whose engines and trains came into Port Huron. When this item came up, I figured we should have it. Having a visual inventory of this equipment gives modelers and scholars references to confirm dates of service.

It was ultimately an expensive outcome; seems a few others wanted this as well. Luckily, we prevailed and now it's ours. Society member **Dan Meinhard** volunteered his services and used his professional scanning program to enhance the entire selection. The contents of the carousel will be catalogued and available on a CD, after we enter it into our archives. Take a look:



D&M roundhouse and Office Car #2, Tawas City. All gone.



Two Ann Arbor Geep 35s rounding the curve, Frankfort.



Sturdy Detroit & Toledo Shore Line Geep 7s



ALCO S3



S2 PH&D #60 ready for the 1:00 job.



Ann Arbor's plow #4502 getting a rain wash up in Cadillac.

30 YEAR COMMEMORATIVE LUNCHEON DECEMBER 13



Mino Duffy-Kramer elicits a laugh from William Schultz and his wife Jane. Bill succeeded long time PH&DRR trainmaster Bert Sari and was the railroad's last to hold that position.



President Sandy Duffy presents 30 year commemorative brass Adlake lanterns to Kay Houghton and Mino Duffy-Kramer. Both ladies made it possible for last year's major exterior improvements to the office.



Among the attendees we see in this picture are clerk Howard Ferns, roundhouse foreman Bruce Sawdon, engineer of the Last Train North Charlie Brennan, and Superintendent Bill Munce at the table in the back, left. Table in the foreground is Society member Jack Alison, former head of the Michigan Association of Rail Passengers Bob Tischbein, John Langolf, and past President Bud Gilbert. At the window seat are Society members Ed and Alice Reives (she prepares and donates the Hobofest Stew each September), and Society member Hugh Hales. Hugh recently presented a check to the Society to cover the publication of all four Marker Lights for 2015!

2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

Mar 12 Board Meeting Wye Office 6:00 PM
 Apr 9 " " " "
 Apr 26 Port Huron Train Show McMorran 10:00AM

All members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings.

Saturdays at the Wye is in effect. Check the website for last minute weekend gatherings and schedules.
phdrailroad.com

If you'd like to come up on a Saturday and spend time watching and photographing trains, make sure you have a paid-up membership card allowing unlimited access to the Society-owned half of the "wye" property, which is marked by the yellow stripe. You may park in 32nd Street west of the stripe.

PH	PORT HURON and DETROIT RAILROAD CO.
	- St. Clair Blue Water Route -
D	PORT HURON & DETROIT RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
	MEMBERSHIP CARD
NAME: _____	
JOINED: _____ / _____ MO/YEAR	

Regulations covering access to U.S. rail yards are in effect, administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and enforced by local enforcement agencies. Accordingly, those with PH&DRRHS membership cards must, if requested, present their cards to authorized personnel from either CN, CSX, or St. Clair County Sheriff's officers. When visiting, please stay on the west side of the yellow line (PH&DRRHS property).

The purpose of The Port Huron & Detroit Railroad Historical Society is:

To collect, archive, preserve, and present, all for the education of the community, historical documents, photographs, drawings, artifacts and equipment relating to The Port Huron & Detroit Railroad Company and its predecessors, The Port Huron Southern Railway and The Detroit Bay City & Western Railroad, as well as the Grand Trunk Western/Canadian National, and the Pere Marquette/Chesapeake and Ohio.

To obtain, restore and maintain the roundhouse at 32nd Street for use as a museum, as well as other structures, artifacts, and rolling stock, as they may become available;

To accumulate, conserve, and index all data relating to the above-named railroads for the use of scholars, rail fans and scale modelers.

PH&DRR EMPLOYEES:

Bob Jones

Bob came from the trucking industry to the PH&D in the late 1970's. He replaced Grace Paterson and was the company's last agent. He managed the downstairs office with efficiency and consistency and had a great sense of humor,



JOIN NOW AND GET ONBOARD!

The *Port Huron & Detroit Railroad Historical Society* needs your talent! We invite you to join committees, contribute your time with hands on restoration projects, and be on board at this early, critical stage.

Membership, publicity, web design, resource development, lawn mowing, and acquisitions, are just a few of the areas that you can help out with.

For only \$30 a year, you'll receive 4 nifty newsletters, a chance to be a part of creating the area's first railroad transportation museum complex, have exclusive access to the "wye", and learn more about this historic Michigan short line!

Mail to: PH&DRRHS, P.O. Box 217, Marysville, MI 48040.

BOARD of DIRECTORS 2015

- Thomas Boswell**
- George Y. Duffy, Jr.**
- Aaron Farmer**
- T.J. Gaffney**
- Bruce Sawdon**
- Ken Schramm**
- David N. Schultz**

<p>XTRA-SPECIAL THANKS: The Anonymous Donor of #52.</p>	<p>SPECIAL THANKS: Long time loyal member Hugh Hales for covering the publication of <i>The Marker Light</i> for 2015!!!</p>
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