

The Byesville Switch Stand
A publication of the
Byesville Scenic Railway, Inc.
www.bsrw.org



Fall 2008
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The mission of the Byesville Scenic Railway is to preserve, restore, maintain and operate historic and vintage railway equipment and to provide scenic train rides featuring a living history of the local coal mines. To promote, create and maintain a railroad and coal mining museum and display site for the education and entertainment of the general public, to assist in the economic development of the area and to operate same as a non-profit 501-c-3 organization.

Company Store goes On

Line: Check out our web site www.bsrw.org for company store items we have listed on line for sale.

Signal Towers: The signal towers, Semaphore, and Dwarf lights have recently been sand blasted, painted and erected on the concrete bases and wired up in time for the October steam event, our members David Michael, Ray Kolasa, Bob Gold, and other members have put a lot of hours into these signal lights getting them ready to put up, job well done.

Ridge Tool donation: Ridge Tool Company www.ridgid.com has just recently donated a tool box with some tools to the Byesville Scenic Railway which is very much appreciated; in return we gave tickets to the local facility and had an employee appreciation day train ride.

Pipe Shipments: Pipe shipments to Bi Con Services, Derwent Yard, from Rocky Express Pipeline started arriving October 20, 2008 with 53 cars on the first delivery. Ohio Central Railroad (now Genesee & Wyoming) is delivering the pipe to the Bi Con yard over our line. There will be approx. 350 cars with 9 to 11 pieces of pipe 60 feet long per car, arriving in the next few weeks.

Restroom on coaches: We have completed installation of a restroom on one of our coaches with an RV style toilet, holding tank, and water tank; our other coach will be done at a later date as time permits.

Wine Train: Our 2nd Wine Train Excursion on October 11, 2008 was a big hit with wines from **Georgetown Vineyards**, Cambridge, Ohio, info@georgetownvineyards.com **Al-Bi Vineyards**, 29 North Smith

Street, Delroy, OH 44620 Phone (330) 735-1061

Raven's Glenn Winery, www.ravensglenn.com West Lafayette, Ohio, and **Terra Cotta Vineyards** www.terracottavineyards.com in New Concord, Ohio. We had approx. 100 riders with 20 Red Hat ladies from St. Clairsville, Ohio attending. Everyone on board had a wonderful time. We are planning on having two Wine Train events scheduled for next year. Watch our web site for dates. www.bsrw.org

Fall 2008 Steam Train event: was a great success taking place on October 3rd, 4th, & 5th, with over 700 visitors showing up to ride our train as well as taking pictures of the Steam Engine #1293 "Pacific Type" 4-6-2 that Ohio Central Railroad www.ocsteam.com brought down to pull our excursions for the weekend. Watch our web site www.bsrw.org for next years

Steam event(s).

Dickens Victorian Village: The Dickens Victorian Village display, which opened its inaugural season in November 2006, began with 40 scenes of 106 lifelike figures representing classic scenes from Victorian society.

The 2007-08 season featured an additional 37 figures comprising 19 new scenes downtown!

The 2008-09 season is complete now with 63 total scenes throughout downtown Cambridge. Visitors are invited to stroll amidst the scenes which feature plaques with interesting and **educational facts** about Victorian society.

This innovative public art exhibition is enjoyed by families, couples, and groups alike -- an experience that will engage the senses as you explore the charming streetscape, striking historic architecture, and eclectic shops and eateries of Cambridge.

Visitors are welcome to visit the exhibition any time of the day.

An exciting new development for the 2008-09 season is the **Guernsey County Courthouse Holiday Light Show**, a spectacular active display of lights on the downtown landmark that is synchronized to holiday music.

The Dickens scenes are stationed along Wheeling Avenue at each antique lamppost and bench between 6th and 11th Streets. Scenes in windows on street level and in second-story windows along Wheeling Avenue were added in the 2007-08 season, depicting indoor activities of the Victorian age such as wrapping gifts or decorating a Christmas tree.

Also developed during the 2007-08 season was Rotary Square, a replication of a Victorian-era village on the Guernsey County Courthouse lawn featuring heritage artisans and vendors demonstrating their craft and selling items during **Peddler**

Weekends.

Wheeling Avenue is also the historic National Road/Route 40, and features an outstanding streetscape of original buildings from the 1800s, including the signature courthouse.

A **self-guided walking tour brochure** is available at downtown shops and area hotels for your convenience. In addition, a mannequin caroler will greet visitors in six Cambridge hotel lobbies.

New for the 2008-09 season, stop in at Ye Ole Curiosity Shoppe and Dickens Welcome Center at 643 Wheeling Avenue to purchase Dickens and holiday souvenirs, pick up a walking tour brochure, get Dickens event information, and go behind the scenes to learn how it took a village to create this magnificent six-week event. Light refreshments will be available at the Shoppe.



Downtown Cambridge and Wheeling Avenue features a charming streetscape with eclectic shopping, striking architecture and eateries.

The Dickens Victorian Village scenes are comprised of life-sized and hand-made mannequins wearing real vintage clothing. The faces for each character have been individually sculpted and painted by local artists.

The displays include engaging depictions of classic Dickens-era

scenes and figures such as Bob Cratchit, and Tiny Tim, the town crier, groups of carolers (that actually "sing" classic carols!), a bucket brigade, lamplighters, school children, street peddlers, and Father Christmas, all posed in active scenes that appear frozen in time



The landmark Guernsey County Courthouse is the centerpiece of historic downtown Cambridge, Ohio.

A **public celebration** features a candle lighting ceremony, lighting of the historic Guernsey County Courthouse, and the evening's highlight -- the annual holiday parade on Wheeling Avenue featuring both Father Christmas and Santa Claus.

Other **components** of this seasonal experience include a variety of entertainment and special events at local attractions.

To enhance your Victorian experience, select downtown merchants will offer **commemorative merchandise.**

Cambridge is **located** at the intersection of Interstates 70 and 77 in east/central Ohio, with easy access from urban areas such as Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Parkersburg, W. Va.; and beyond.

The Dickens Victorian Village is a project affiliated with and supported by the **Cambridge Main**

Street organization.



A tour group enjoys the experience of the "Spirit of Christmas" train ride on the Byesville Scenic Railway, which includes a dramatic presentation, sing-along, and Santa.

Group tour packages are available, featuring both overnight and day tour itineraries that allow flexibility with choices while still highlighting our area's best seasonal offerings. They feature experiences such as holiday events, shopping, old-time meals, train rides, performances, museum tours, and much, much more, *including a complementary step-on guide.*

Information on visitor packages is available by contacting the Dickens Group Tour Sales Department at 866-334-6446.

Schedule: We are looking forward to upcoming season. Steam weekend, Coalminers festival Fall Foliage, Halloween, and Christmas runs with Santa will be some of the highlights. Our schedule for the 2009 season can be found on our web site at www.bsrw.org.

Track repairs: August, and September, 2008 we replaced approx. 2148 ties over 5 to 6 miles of our track, 1600 ties on track that we are currently using and the rest on track that we are

getting ready to open (1 to 2 miles) within the next 6 to 8 months hopefully. We have a small crew (5) working almost daily spiking these ties in.

Members & Volunteers: We are in need of members & volunteers to help with track repairs, brush cutting on our way to Cumberland, Ohio (approx. 9-10 miles), and also for positions of Car Hosts, Coal Miners, Narrators, Flagmen, Brakemen, Conductors, and Engineers. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact any crew member for more information, or visit our web site for an application. www.bsrw.org

Track Crew volunteers needed: The Track Crew needs leaders for all Saturdays for brush clearing. Persons wishing to lead one or more of Saturday track crews, you need to contact Tim Brown to be placed on the schedule. Crews will meet each Saturday at 8:00 am at the depot and will be clearing brush on the sections of track between SR 146 and Cumberland. The Crew Leader will be responsible for safety, tools, equipment and to coordinate the volunteers. You may also be needed to deal with landowners along the right of way. A cover letter to the landowners from Byesville Scenic Railway will be provided to the Crew Leaders.

Tools and Shop Equipment needed: We are in need of chain saws, hand tools, shop tools, and wood working tools for our

Volunteers Needed
Train Crew, Car Hosts and Historians
Contact Dave Michael for more information

maintenance shop. Please contact Wesley Michael or any other member if you wish to donate it to the organization. We are also in need of a fireproof file cabinet to store our permanent records.

The M & P Railroad: part 1, by Jake Davis: I know that some of you on the train have heard me say that " the M&P RR was built from Marietta to Dover in 1872"

1872 was the year that it was built through Byesville, and on north. Construction actually began at Marietta in 1871. The first Locomotive, "The Marietta" was built by the Baldwin Locomotive Works of Philadelphia, Pa., and was finished in 1870.

The new 4-4-0 American type engine received her "shakedown" across Pennsylvania as she ran under power over Horseshoe Curve and down to the Ohio River in Pittsburgh. There she was aligned with a barge and steamed out onto it, and was floated down the river to Marietta, where she steamed off the barge and onto and up the "Incline Track" in Marietta to the waiting work train for the push north.

The following are excerpts from the Guernsey Times, forerunner of the Jeffersonian.

Bear in mind that in that day and age, news at its best was spotty and had a tendency to be hearsay.

Feb. 23 1871 says "Nearly 15 miles of track are now laid, and the line will be open to Caldwell early in the season. Passenger and freight cars have been purchased and are on the road ready for business".

March 30, 1871 "The first regular train on the M&P RR commenced running on Thursday last".

Now we move to June 6, 1872 "Telegraph line completed from Marietta to Caldwell".

June 13, 1872 "Point Pleasant (Pleasant City) railroad hands have finally left our midst. They have going down to Byesville in grading the route. The next places that we expect soon will be the bridge builders and construction train, laying ties and track. They expect to be at Ava by 4th of July".

July 4th 1872 "Track laying on the M&P RR has reached a point 9 miles north of Caldwell".

July 11, 1872 "The M&P RR Co. is all ready doing a good freight business. During the month of June the company transported, in the item of tobacco alone, 440,380 pounds".

July 11 1872 "Mr. John Duff has the contract for cutting away the stone embankment along the Central Ohio track east of the depot at this place (Cambridge), and will commence the work as soon as the engineers of the M&P RR survey the line for there track. The cut will be about 425 ft. in length, has a width of 30 ft. and a depth of about 35 ft... The price paid by the RR Company is 50 cents per cubic yard. From 10 to 20 hands will be put upon the work, which is estimated will require 3 months to complete".

Note: The cut being mentioned above still can be seen today and the tracks still run through it. This place in Cambridge was called "Silver Cliff".

Sept. 19, 1872 "Trains on the M&P are running to a point within 6 miles of Cambridge. It is expected that they will reach Byesville by Sat. Next. The telegraph office has already been removed to that point".

Oct. 3, 1872 "The Marietta" engine No 1 on our new RR reappeared in a new refit, and does not now look any worse for having gone down in the late "Summit smash-up". It is used mainly on this part of the track in the transportation of building

materials, rails, ties, etc. Track laying is completed some considerable distance below Byesville. Mr. Jackson will soon have the station and wareroom done.

Note: The area that was called the "Summit" in those times was really Crows Summit which in later years became known as where the Ava tunnel was. See in the very early years of the M&P this part of the line switched over that hill where in later years the Ava tunnel would be constructed through it.

Oct. 3, 1872 "A post office, telegraph office and railroad depot, are among the institutions of Byesville".

Oct. 10, 1872 "Large quantities of ties & rails are taken to the end of track and we suppose from what we hear that track laying will be done to Cambridge this week".

Oct. 10, 1872 "It is rumored that the B&O RR and the M&P RR contemplate building a new union depot at this place (Cambridge), near the water station". The new M&P RR is completed to Morton's bridge about 1 mile from this place. It is thought the cars will be running to Cambridge in about 2 weeks.

Note: Morton's bridge today is the bridge located behind Cambridge McDonalds, just west.

Nov. 7, 1872 "The first coal shipped south over the M&P RR was taken from Nicholson's Bank, Cambridge last week. Preparations are being made for the shipment of a large quantity of coal from this

bank and these five cars are but the advance of what will yet develop into a large business. Even this early does the new RR benefit our economy".

This completes part 1 of this series; Part 2 will appear in the next newsletter.

2009 Third Annual Winter Awards and Membership Banquet

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to the Byesville Scenic Railway, Inc's; third annual awards & membership banquet. Several organizations and individuals have been selected to receive awards for outstanding service to our organization.

Hors D' Oeuvres' of Veggies, Cheese, and Meatballs will be served at 3pm.

Buffett style dinner of Carved Roast Beef, Chicken Cordon Blue, Buttered Red Potatoes, Penne Pasta Marinara, Green Beans Almandine, Assorted Desert Pies and Beverages will be served at 3:30pm.

A program will be presented by our own Coal Miner/Historian, Dave Adair.

Please join us on Saturday the 10th of January at 3:00pm at Theo's Restaurant Upstairs, 632 Wheeling Ave. in downtown Cambridge.

Theo's phone # is 432-3878
The cost is \$15.00 per person

Tim Brown

President

Byesville Scenic Railway, Inc.
740-680-4646

Please RSVP tim@timcoinc.net by January 5th.

Articles and Editor needed for the Switch Stand. Contact Tim Brown if interested.
tim@timcoinc.net