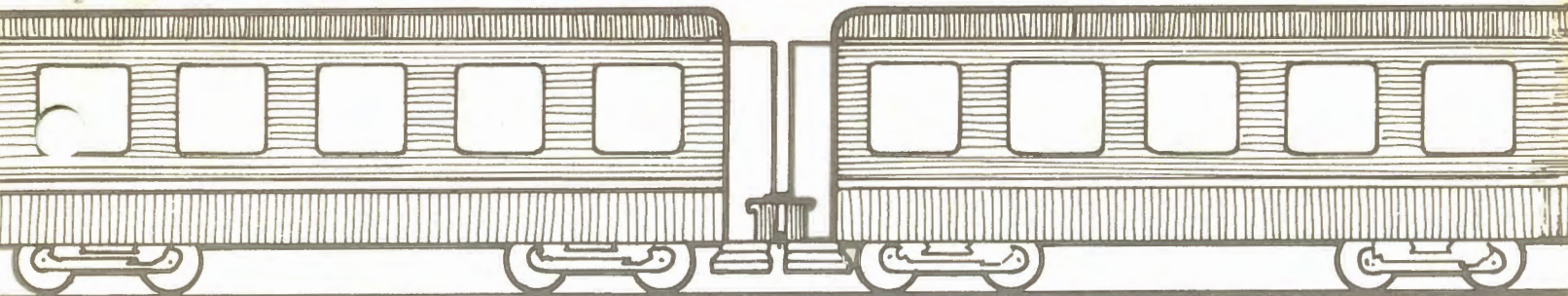


NEWS FROM THE



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS

Post Office Box 653 • Xenia, Ohio 45385

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NEWSLETTER OARP's newsletter editor, Tom Pulsifer, has picked "the 6:53" as the title of OARP's quarterly publication. This will be the official organization newsletter and will contain OARP news items for the information of all members of OARP and other interested persons. In addition to reports from officers and committees, "the 6:53" welcomes timely contributions from members for use in future issues.

OARP IS! The OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS became official at a February 9th meeting of the organizational committee plus other interested individuals at Lincoln Lodge in Columbus. President of OARP is Daytonian David S. Marshall, the prime figure in getting OARP "on the track" during mid-1973. Rodger Sillars is the Vice-President, Dean Denlinger is the Treasurer, and Thomas Pulsifer is the Secretary. Jim Mann is appointed to the post of Membership Chairman. Other appointments include Rodger Sillars as Librarian, Harry Sova as Public Relations Chairman, Rick Francaviglia as Geography Chairman, Bill Snorteland as Cleveland Area Coordinator, Ron Garner as Cincinnati Area Coordinator, and Bill Hunt and Dave Lebold as Columbus & Central Ohio Area Coordinators.

Guest speakers at the February 9th meeting were Mrs. Judy Mohr from the railroad division of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and Mr. James Rhinehart, representative of DART (Dayton Area Rail Transit). Both gave excellent and informative presentations to the group.

ICC HEARING OARP Secretary Tom Pulsifer delivered a prepared statement on behalf of OARP at the ICC hearing on the Northeast Rail Reorganization Plan held in Columbus on Monday evening, March 4th. OARP's testimony received both radio and press coverage the following day in several Ohio cities. OARP President, Dave Marshall arranged the appointment to testify and accompanied Pulsifer at the hearing.

STATE COMMITTEE On Monday, February 25th, OARP representatives Dave Marshall, Ron Garner, and Tom Pulsifer testified before Senator Calabrese's Urban Transportation Study Committee in Columbus. A written proposal was submitted and Dave Marshall delivered spoken testimony. OARP's concern is with expanded AMTRAK service in the

3-C Corridor, connecting at Cleveland with the proposed restored Chicago-Boston service, at Cincinnati with the George Washington/James Whitcomb Riley, and at Louisville with the Floridian for points south. Even without the connections, restoration of rail passenger service in the Cleveland-Columbus-Dayton-Cincinnati corridor would be a significant step forward in expanding the AMTRAK network. A few copies of OARP's written proposal are left, available from the OARP headquarters upon request.

In the morning, Marshall, Garner, and Pulsifer met with Mr. Gordon, Mr. Feddern, and Mrs. Mohr of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio at the PUCO offices on North High Street for an exchange of current information.

MAPS/TIPS OARP is preparing helpful how-to-find-the-station maps and including valuable local information for rail travelers on the reverse side. MAPS/TIPS for LIMA, DAYTON, CINCINNATI, and CRESTLINE are done. Those for CANTON, COLUMBUS, LOUISVILLE, and INDIANAPOLIS are in the works. Prepared at the initial request of several AMTRAK ticket agents and travel bureau offices, OARP's MAPS/TIPS are already serving a useful purpose in assisting the rail passenger in Ohio. Members may request single copies by sending a legal-size SAS envelope to OARP headquarters. The complete set should be ready by summer.

PATIENCE & UNDERSTANDING! Since OARP is a non-profit organization staffed by unpaid volunteers doing OARP business largely in their few moments of spare time, we ask that everyone (especially as we go through this time of getting underway as an official organization) be sympathetic and patient. We may not be able to answer your letter as fast as you'd like. We are right now processing the memberships that have been coming in and the membership certificates and receipts are on their way. We are also now working on an economical, yet efficient, means of addressing and mailing communications to members and to the press. There may be some snags, although we are working carefully to avoid problems.

COMMUNICATIONS Mailing headquarters for OARP is P.O. Box 653 in Xenia, Ohio 45385. From here all communications will be forwarded to the appropriate officer or committee for action. When you write, PLEASE be sure to include your correct return address and we MUST have your Zip Code. For fast response on an urgent matter include your phone number and area code. Your OARP President may be reached at 513-222-1215 (bus.) or 513-252-0481 (res.). OARP's Secretary may be reached at 513-372-9868 in Xenia.

A REQUEST Until we become affluent (?) OARP would appreciate it very much if, when you write requesting a copy of a report or a proposal, or a bulk order of the MAPS/TIPS, you would kindly enclose a postage stamp (or two or three) to help us out. Thank you very much!

BE A "CLIPPER" All members are encouraged to contribute to our library, forwarding any resource materials, clippings, copies of letters, and other items of interest or containing facts to our Librarian, Rodger Sillars, c/o OARP's address. If you run across mention of OARP in your local paper please do us a favor by clipping the article and mailing it (or a photocopy will do fine) to OARP. Both a clipping file and a library of pertinent material can be valuable assets to our work.

CONTRIBUTIONS We wish to include in "the 6:53" listings of activities by our members including any visits to officials, references to communications and other items (which are not confidential) to demonstrate the scope of work in this area. We would also like to carry names and addresses of contacts which would be valuable for correspondence by our members. OARP's Secretary has a 3M copier which will handle all copying jobs up to 8½x11 in size. If you have something to contribute, either to the OARP Library or to "the 6:53", and have no access to a copier, send it in. We will make the copy and return the original to you. Please be sure to specify if you want this done.

CHARTER MEMBERS The first one-hundred applicants for membership in OARP will receive by return mail a handsome certificate suitable for framing. The OARP stationery and charter membership certificates are printed by Chantry Press and G. M. Otto Designs of Springfield, Ohio, whose owners believe in a strong future for rail passenger service in the Buckeye State!

NETC AFFILIATION Thanks to initial donations by concerned OARP members, your organization is now affiliated with the NORTHEAST TRANSPORTATION COALITION which is coordinating efforts to support better public transportation and improved rail service in the Northeast. NETC intends to make available further information about the substance of the new Northeast rail legislation, how to fight statutory abandonments, hearings, and steps that can be taken with Congress to prevent approval of such massive abandonments of rail lines to the detriment of the Northeast communities involved and of the Nation itself in terms of meeting the energy crisis. NETC held a meeting in Pittsfield, MA, on Saturday, February 23rd. News from this meeting was heard over the CBS Radio News Network the following day. OARP was unable to send a delegate to this meeting.

\$ \$ DONATIONS Along with their \$5 memberships, some persons have already made additional monetary contributions to further support the work of OARP. Be assured that your donation will be carefully allocated to projects promoted by our Project Review Committee with final approval by your Association officers.

AMTRAK RELATIONS Mr. Ron Garner, OARP's Cincinnati Area Coordinator, arranged a meeting with Mr. James F. Clayton, Amtrak's General Supervisor in Cincinnati. This meeting on March 9th at the new AMTRAK station was also attended

by OARP's President and Secretary. A lively exchange of information, ideas, and discussion of concerns and problems took place. OARP came away from this meeting with Mr. Clayton with a sense of definite hope for the improvement of AMTRAK services in the area and that we are definitely "on the right track" in doing what we are doing presently in urging the expansion of AMTRAK services in Ohio.

**SPEAKERS BUREAU
and
SLIDE SHOW**

OARP is planning to organize a speakers bureau within the organization. Upon request, OARP representatives would present a short talk and slide show to community, church, school or civic groups in return for a donation to OARP by the group. OARP can do much to enlighten the public about rail passenger service in this way.

OARP would appreciate donations of 35mm slides on a loan basis for use in the slide show. Subjects should generally have something to do with stations, AMTRAK, passenger trains, equipment, facilities, rail rapid transit, applicable to Ohio (past-present-future). We would edit what we could use and either return the rest or hold them for future use. If you are willing to share some of your slides (duplicates, perhaps?) for this purpose, you may send them to our headquarters in a secure envelope or parcel. Mark each slide with your name and address, or some definite identifying mark. If you have some ideas about a slide show you'd like to share, please write. In later issues of "the 6:53" we may put out requests for slides of specific subjects for use in the show.

ADDRESSES YOU MIGHT NEED:

AMTRAK (National Railroad Passenger Corporation)
955 L'Enfant Plaza North, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024

NARP (National Association of Railroad Passengers)
417 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003

United States SENATORS
Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202)224-3121

United States REPRESENTATIVES
House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515 (202)224-3121

Ohio SENATE or HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State House, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
111 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 (614)466-2401

Ohio Department of Transportation
25 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Northeast Transportation Coalition
c/o James Ullman, 95 East Main St., Meriden, Conn. 06450

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