



WESTERN MARYLAND CHAPTER
National Railway Historical Society



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Videos show PRR locomotive shops at Altoona

CUMBERLAND, Md. - Two videos featuring the Pennsylvania Railroad and its locomotive shops at Altoona will be shown during the monthly meeting of the Western Maryland Chapter, National Railway Historical Society. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 17, in the grand hall on the second floor of the Allegany Museum on the corner of Pershing and South Mechanic streets. Enter the building through the south entrance facing the parking lot, then take the elevator to the second floor. This meeting is open to the public at no cost.

The first half-hour long video, titled "Altoona at Work: An Era of Steam," is about the Pennsylvania Railroad locomotive shops at Altoona, 67 miles north of Cumberland. The railroad shops consisted of 120 buildings that extended over three square miles. At one point, 17,000 persons were employed by these PRR maintenance facilities.

The second half-hour long video is entirely about the Pennsylvania Railroad, known as the "Standard Railroad of the World." Scenes show how this railroad transitioned from using powerful steam engines to the first generation of diesel-electric locomotives. Viewers will see many different PRR trains as they operate around the world-famous Horseshoe Curve and in the nearby Hollidaysburg boxcar yard. Also shown are scenes of the renowned Broadway Limited passenger train and it ends with the creation of the Penn Central Transportation Company, the PRR's successor rail system.

The Western Maryland Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society is a non-profit organization chartered in 1977 to promote the appreciation of rail transportation and its heritage. Members meet on the third Wednesday of each month, and receive a monthly newsletter containing information about chapter activities, current railroad news, and local railroad history. Anyone interested in railroads is invited to attend the meetings.