

Summerdale Jct—The Restaurant and the Engine

“Summerdale Jct” was a restaurant in Enola, Pa., built on a knoll overlooking the western portion of Enola Yard. It was fitted out with railroad décor and even sported a little 0-4-0T engine in the parking lot. The restaurant burned sometime around 1990, but the engine still survives. Here is the story, written in 2013, by someone intimately familiar with the details:

“This engine was built by Alco in 1927 and had road number 12 at the Phoenix Iron and Steel Co. in Harrisburg. We (the Williams Grove Association) bought two engines (the 12 and the 643) at the same time although number 12 wasn’t moved to Williams Grove until a year after 643.

“The engine had a brass number plate with the number 1 cast into it so it may have started out somewhere else. I took the number plate off and cleaned off many coats of paint and polished and lacquered it. The plate was circular with a border area that had the words American Locomotive Co. 1927 in raised letters. As I remember it, I painted the area around the raised 1, green and the areas in between the letters in the ring red. I should have left it alone. I put it back on and that year I had to leave for school the day after Labor Day so I didn’t have time to remove it. My brother and a friend tried to get it off but they lacked the skills necessary to deal with rusty bolts and nuts that had been apart just a few months before. The plate was stolen shortly thereafter.

“In the early 1970’s the Williams Grove Amusement Park was sold to a man from New York who was hard to deal with. He could not comprehend an all volunteer organization squatting on his property and doing things that made him enough money that he needed them. In order to convince him that it all could be hauled away by truck they made a deal with the new Summerdale Junction Restaurant to rent the engine for display and when they were done with it, it was to be returned.

“The restaurant was closed for renovations, but the collection was “removed for safe keeping.” While the collection was out of the building, there was a strange case of Jewish Lightening and the building was consumed by fire. The subsequent owner of the property wanted the engine removed from the grounds, but its condition was too bad to justify the expense of bringing it back to the Williams Grove park so it was sold in a consignment sale to a man from Temple PA. If I remember correctly, the new owner worked for Reading and Northern RR and was operating a wreck crane when it rolled down an embankment and killed him. His father visited us at the Grove some years ago and told me it is still sitting out back of his house.”



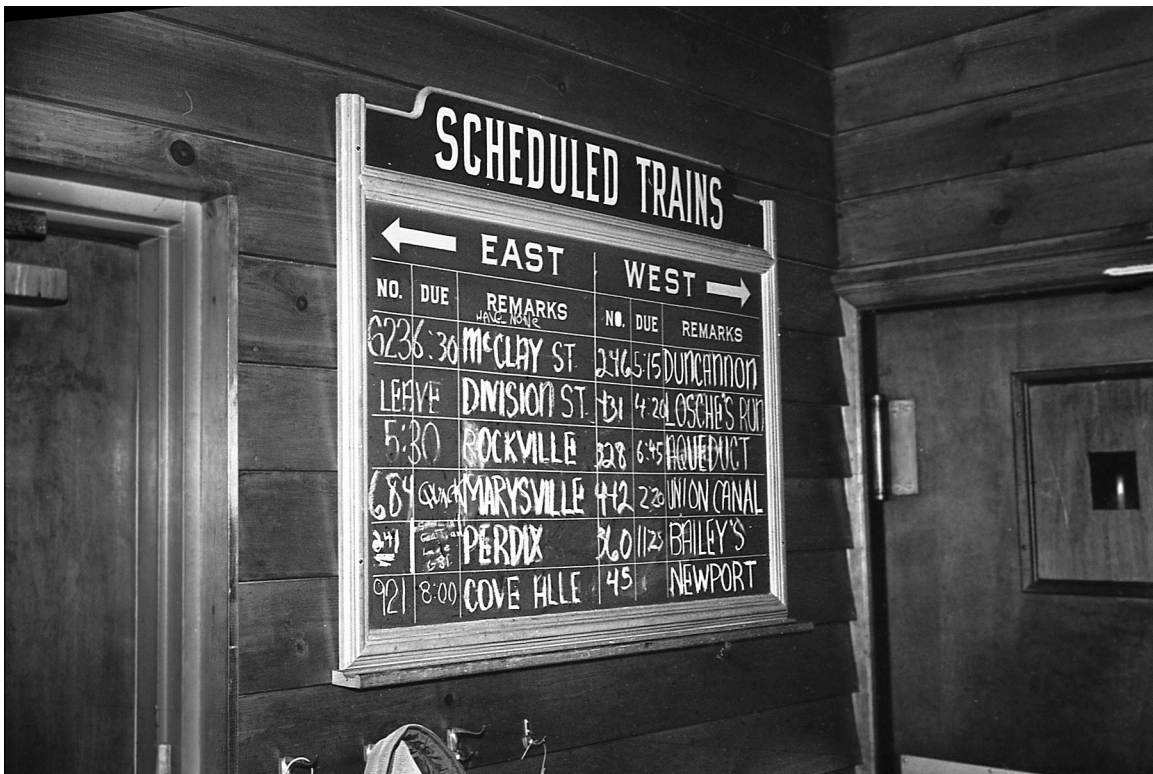
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Photograph of Engine 12, May 2013, Geigertown (Berks Co.,) Pa.

Interior Photographs, taken circa 1983









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ROOM RESERVATION REQUEST
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Type of Accommodation: _____ Twin _____ Single _____
Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Motel Room Banquet Room Check one

Reservation is cancelled unless card is received
one week in advance.
It is understood that this reservation will be held only until
6 P.M. unless advance deposit is received.
ENGINE: Williams Grove Steam Engine Association



12360-D

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