

Special Trip Marks Passing Of Raritan River Railroad

North Jersey Chapter of the National Railway Historical
Society Sponsors Trip From This City to South Amboy
and Return; Forty Members in Party

5/28/38

Members of the North Jersey Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society enjoyed a special trip over the Raritan River Railroad Company line from this city to South Amboy on Saturday, during which they took photographs and inspected the company property.

The society is composed of persons from 16 to 60 who are interested in preserving train and trolley photos as well as historical data, maps and other related railroad material.

The fans also make a hobby of producing models which are duplicates of locomotives and cars. The society sponsors scenic and inspection trips over roads which are educational and form a fine social contact with other fans. The aim of the organization is to boost rail lines and encourage rail travel, as well as making it a hobby.

As the Raritan River Railroad recently abandoned passenger service, it was believed fitting to honor its passing with a special trip in the last remaining passenger coach the line can use.

Aboard the special train were passengers from Philadelphia, New York City, Trenton, Camden, Plainfield, Elizabeth, Newark, Hoboken, Metuchen, Eatontown, Summit, East Orange, Maplewood, Red Bank, Bloomfield and this city; also Mt. Vernon, N. Y., and Allentown, Pa., about 40 in all.

The special train left the Sandford street depot at 2:40 p. m., and after stopping at the Lawrence Brook trestle for a photo, it proceeded up the Serviss branch as far as State Highway 28. Here the passing motorists stopped and wondered at the strange sight of a one-coach passenger train which had never before been seen on the freight branch.

Returning to the main line, the group stopped at the South River

bridge to see in operation the only hand-operated railroad drawbridge in the state.

After pausing once again at Sayreville Junction to see a passing freight train, the group rode to the end of the road at South Amboy, where it was conducted through the shops and given a cordial welcome by the assistant superintendent, Harold Filskov, and his staff.

The return trip was made with only a stop at the Sayreville Junction, arriving at New Brunswick at 6 o'clock.

The trip was arranged by Howard E. Johnston and Wilbur E. Wyckoff, both of Plainfield, for the National Railway Historical Society. Assistant Superintendent Harold Filskov of the Raritan River Railroad gave the society splendid cooperation.