

ALL ABOARD!

Great Stone Viaduct celebration about historical structure planned in Bellaire

BELLAIRE — The Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society is planning its quarter year celebration in Bellaire surrounding the history and significance of the important Great Stone Viaduct.

The viaduct still carries the railroad traffic of the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad 141 years after its completion in 1871.

Originally built by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the Central Ohio Railroad, the viaduct passes through downtown Bellaire along 31st with 43 stone arches serving as the Ohio side approach to the railroad bridge spanning the Ohio river between Bellaire, Ohio and Benwood, W.Va.

The main theme of the celebration to be held on Aug. 18, will be to educate and inform the public about the historical significance of this structure which was placed upon the National Register of Historic Structures in 1976, and which is marked by the Ohio Historical Society with an OHS Marker placed in 2008.

The Great Stone Viaduct Society will present a lecture series at the Bellaire Public Library commencing on Aug. 18 at 9 a.m. in the Community Room.

Speaking at this event will be John P. Hankey, railroad historian and former curator of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad

Museum in Baltimore, Md.; Roger Pickenpaugh, author and lecturer on Civil War topics, including the great troop movements by rail; and local author and historian, Attorney Daniel Frizzi Jr., whose railroad books have addressed the railroad influence in the Ohio Valley. Greg Levy of the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railroad will also be discussing the current rail operations over this historic bridge.

Reservations are required to attend the lectures and gain admittance to the community room at a cost of \$18 per attendee. The admission includes access to all exhibits and free box lunch at intermission.

One special exhibit will be the display of photographs of the master railroad photographer and former Wheeling resident, J.J. Young Jr.

This exhibit will display not only his photographs of the railroad traffic in the Bellaire area during the 1950s, '60s and '70s, but will also include his own descriptions of each photograph.

The exhibit is titled "Master Railroad Photographer J. J. Young Jr.: In His Own Words." Young died in 2004 after many years of photographing the Baltimore & Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroads in the Ohio Valley, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York.

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Historical Society will also participate in this year's event by bringing the "Company Store" to Bellaire. Railroad enthusiasts will find books, video and many other railroad "stuff" at the Company Store.

A special treat will be "The Spirit of America" Street Train that will be providing rides to children of all ages.

The train is a miniature modeled as a steam locomotive with passenger coaches that will carry visitors to this year's event. Wayne Davies and family of Adena, who owns the train, has invited "children of all ages" to come join the festivities.

The train tickets can be purchased at the ticket office at the library on the day of the event, and boarding of the train will take place at the Guernsey Street entrance of the library.

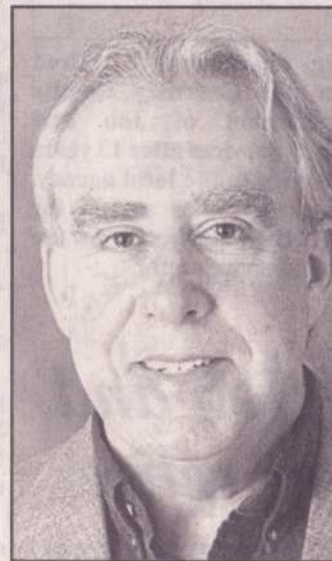
The train will follow a route north on Guernsey Street, east on 33rd Street to the Bellaire Farmer's Market, South to 31st, and then along the Great Stone Viaduct on 31st Street before returning to the library.

Under the arches of the Great Stone Viaduct, crafters are invited to set up shop by registering with the Great Stone Viaduct Society.

Crafters interested in securing one of the limited spaces under the arches should



Great Stone Viaduct



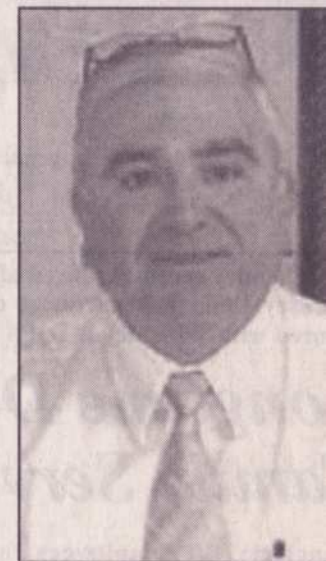
John P. Hankey

contact the committee chairperson Erica Keller by calling 740-671-1089 or emailing the Society.



Roger Pickenpaugh

Advance registration is suggested for the lecture series, and registration forms are available at Gulla's lunch and



Daniel Frizzi

Rigas Restaurant in Bellaire or by calling 740-676-2700 or emailing the Society GSVSociety@aol.com.