



RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA

Real Trains. Real History. Real Excitement.

NEWS RELEASE

P. O. Box 15, PA Route 741, 300 Gap Road, Strasburg, PA 17579

717/687-8628 • Fax: 717/687-0876

info@rrmuseumpa.org • www.rrmuseumpa.org

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is administered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, with the active support of the Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania non profit organization.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 18, 2010

MEDIA CONTACT: DEBORAH REDDIG (EXT 3007; dreddig@rrmuseumpa.org)

RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

Strasburg, PA—The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is proud to welcome its new director, Charles Fox. Fox has spent the past twelve years as director of Somerset Historical Center in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. A native-born Pennsylvanian, he graduated from Penn State with bachelor degrees in history and art history. Starting his museum career as an intern at Curtin Village, a 19th century ironworks museum, Fox later served as its director for five years.

In 1997, Fox was appointed site administrator of the Somerset Historical Center. Serving there until joining the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in late December 2009, he also spent a year as interim director of the Fort Pitt Museum.

From 2001 to 2005, Fox directed the Somerset Historical Center's involvement in the development of the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania and spent a great deal of time focusing on the marketing activities of the Historical Center, serving as a board member and later chairman of the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau from 1998 to 2009.

Fox's interest in railroad history was sparked by many early journeys into Reading Terminal on the old "Blueliners" from Doylestown and Hatboro. He is an avid Lionel collector and is interested particularly in all the northeastern railroads.

-more-

(2) RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

Fox is the fifth director of the world-class Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, which opened its doors to the public in April 1975. He was preceded by David W. Dunn, Robert Emerson, William Withuhn and George Hart.

“The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is a phenomenal facility,” Fox asserts, “and I am excited at the opportunity that presents itself here. We are committed to giving our visitors the best experience possible and caring for our amazing historic treasures. In today’s economic climate, this is clearly a challenge, but one I believe our Friends’ group and many other partners, community members, businesses and organizations will step forward to meet with us.”

Fox adds, “Alternative sources of funding must be found to help maintain the level and quality of the Railroad Museum's programs, not to mention a costly restoration program for the locomotives and rolling stock in our extensive collection. Railroad history has not ended. It did not end when the steam locomotives went away. The railroad industry is still alive and vital, so we need to be nimble and adapt to our audience and to changing circumstances in order to stay on top of our game.”

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, considered to be among the top railroad museums in the world, houses a premier collection of 111 historic locomotives and vintage railroad cars, a hands-on education center, a working restoration shop and a vast library and archives.

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, with the active support of the Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. Visit www.rrmuseumpa.org or call (717)687-8268 for more information.

###