

Montevallo Historical Press

Publishers and Booksellers • Local and Regional History

Press Release

Publisher Will Attend Marblehead's Lighthouse Days Festival October 4th

Dean K. Fick Will Answer Questions About The Toledo, Port Clinton and Lakeside Railway as Guest of Marblehead's School House Art Gallery

Montevallo, Alabama – September 22, 1997 – Montevallo Historical Press, Inc., a publishing company that recently reissued a book about northwestern Ohio's Toledo, Port Clinton and Lakeside Railway, announced today that its founder, railroad enthusiast Dean K. Fick, will answer questions about the railway at Marblehead's Lighthouse Days Festival. He will be the guest of The School House Art Gallery.

"I'm flattered to have been invited as the School House Gallery's guest," said Dean K. Fick. "I'll be flying to Ohio from my home in Alabama just for the occasion. Nothing makes me happier than to talk with folks about northern Ohio's fascinating history, and The Toledo, Port Clinton and Lakeside Railway is an important part of that," he said.

Dean has an excellent working knowledge of the line. "I know just about every inch of it since my grandfather used to work for the Ohio Public Service Company, which owned the railway until just after World War II. My father, Ken Fick, also helped me get started on my research by driving me in our car along the miles of abandoned right-of-way."

The Toledo, Port Clinton and Lakeside Railway was a distinct success compared to other lines of its type. "Ohio had nearly 3,00 miles of electric interurban railways in 1918," said Dean, "but by the close of the 1930's, almost all of these were gone. Amazingly, parts the Toledo, Port Clinton and Lakeside lasted almost twenty more years, until 1958, a time when it would have been difficult to find any remnant at all of the other lines. This longevity is even more amazing when you consider that the line's tributary area population never exceeded 15,000 people."

Three of the Toledo, Port Clinton and Lakeside's cars are still in existence in museums. Two of them can still be ridden. "The Ohio Railway Museum in Worthington owns and operates TPC&L cars 21 and 64. Number 21 is a heavyweight wooden car from 1905 which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Number 64 is a more modern car dating from 1925," said Dean. "No less significant is number 2, a wooden car dating from 1904, which is owned and displayed by Dayton's Carillon Historical Park."

- continued -

Dean's publishing company, Montevallo Historical Press, Inc., recently republished *The Toledo, Port Clinton and Lakeside Railway*, a book telling the concise history of the line. The book's author is noted transportation historian George W. Hilton.

Visitors to Lighthouse Days will be able to purchase copies of *The Toledo, Port Clinton and Lakeside Railway* and chat with Dean at the School House Art Gallery's display booth. Internet users can learn more at www.mhpress.com.

-End-

Contact:

Montevallo Historical Press, Inc.
Dean K. Fick
Tel: 563-324-4605
Fax: 563-324-4608
E-mail: dean@mhpress.com

The School House Art Gallery, Ohio
Tel: 419-798-8332