Remembering Thomas R. Pulsifer

Fall Meeting Oct. 31, 2015
Remembering Thomas R. Pulsifer

Died Sept. 8, 2015 in Xenia, Ohio.

Longest serving president of the Ohio Association of RR Passengers (dba “All Aboard Ohio”) from 1976-89. Also was chairman of the Ohio Rail Transportation Authority and served on other rail-related boards and commissions.

Fall Meeting Oct. 31, 2015
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Tom, daughter Bethany & wife Eloise, 1976
Remembering Thomas R. Pulsifer

Meeting at which Tom was elected President
Remembering Thomas R. Pulsifer

A LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP
FROM OARP’s NEW PRESIDENT

March 1, 1976

To all members of OARP:

I am both humbled and honored that you have chosen me to serve as OARP’s new president. I assure you that I will continue to do the best I can, both for the organization and for the cause of passenger rail. Although we are all volunteers, we must be professional in all we do. At times the work of OARP calls for significant personal sacrifices; but I believe very strongly, as I know you do, that our cause is both worthwhile and necessary.

We are beginning to see the results of the work of OARP, although we are seldom in a position to take full credit for any of the rail service improvements in Ohio. Rather, it is better for us to say that OARP has helped to do this, or helped to do that. We have helped bring the Lake Shore Limited through northern Ohio. We have helped get Lima’s station opened and refurbished. We have helped Elyria get an Amtrak station stop. We have helped get the concerns of rail passengers across to legislators in Columbus. And I could go on, but we must keep looking ahead —— building upon our past experiences and planning for tomorrow.

I am pleased that more of our members are getting involved in local and regional rail concerns across the state. This contributes immeasurably to the ongoing success of OARP. It is thanks to the dedication, drive, determination and support of many people that OARP is where it is today. We enthusiastically believe in what we are doing.

I am pleased, too, that our founder and first president, Dave Marshall, has been elected to the Board of Directors of NARP. His guidance, political and business know-how, and especially his initial perseverance to get a rail passenger association going in Ohio, have all contributed greatly to the growth and strength of OARP. I know he will be an influential member of the NARP Board and am grateful that he wishes to remain active in the work of OARP.

In closing this personal message to our members, I want to say that I both seek and value your cooperation in keeping OARP a strong and healthy organization and in working together to further promote and help improve and expand the rail mode as a vital and integral part of our passenger transport system.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas R. (Tom) Pulsifer,
President

513-372-9868 (best between 4:00 and 10:00 pm)
Remembering Thomas R. Pulsifer

One of Tom's most painful defeats was the loss of Amtrak's National Limited in 1979 (Columbus, shown) through his hometown of Xenia.
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Highlights were his efforts in the mid-to late-1980s to create the 3C Corridor
Remembering Thomas R. Pulsifer

Tom invited to attend Gov. Celeste's 1986 signing of law to create OHSRA
Remembering Thomas R. Pulsifer

Through no fault of Tom, those efforts didn't bring passenger trains to Dayton and to the rest of Ohio's 3C Corridor.
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But we still have trains in Ohio and the USA because of Tom and the members and volunteers he recruited.
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Tom's last newsletter.

the 6:53

October 1989
Issue #85

Official Publication of the OHIO ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS

ALL ABOARD OHIO!
Remembering Thomas R. Pulsifer

Tom suffered worsening health problems in recent years but enjoyed spending time with family, including his grandson Glenn Thomas Hobbs, who is rode his first Amtrak train this year.
Hello, Ken!! You may share this letter with AAO. First, thanks to all for thoughts and prayers and well-wishes. Some think that because I am in a rehab facility that I must have an alcohol or drug problem. No such luck. Since a midnight fall at-home triggered hospitalization for low blood oxygen, I am currently on oxygen. But, working with therapy to wean myself away from dependence on oxygen. Then, despite a "pneumonia" shot by my family doctor late in 2013, I’ve managed to come down with significant cases of pneumonia THREE TIMES! Each required hospitalization at Greene Memorial (just across the parking lot from Greene Oaks), twice in ICU. With physical therapy I’m learning to walk again with a walker or rollator. Eloise wants me to be able to care for myself before I return home to 1751 Wilshire Drive.

Some of you know that I’m also a Church organist, having 54 years of involvement in church music. Despite retiring from Faith Lutheran Church in Dayton as organist/music director in August of 2012, I try to keep the fingers nimble! Greene Oaks asked me to play the piano for the twice-weekly chapel services (10am Sunday, 10:45am Tuesday) and thanks to Eloise bringing over several tote bags of music, I play a 15-20 minute program of classics, folk, jazz, ragtime and Broadway songs, transitioning to Sacred hymns, songs and arrangements for the 15 minutes prior to each service. Many of the GO residents look forward to the music as for several years the piano was silent.

Yes, I have a program of RR songs, including the City of New Orleans, Chattanooga Choo-Choo, Casey Jones, On the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, etc. I miss the involvement with OARP/AAO and thank the good Lord I enjoyed good health to keep up the pace all these years. Good wishes to you and all!!

[Signature]
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After Tom's passing, here is the response by Tom's wife Eloise to AAO sending her flowers and an afghan decorated with a butterfly and the words “Come with me to a quiet place... Mark 6:31”
Remembering Thomas R. Pulsifer

Thank you, Tom.
But you left us too soon.