

Passenger train was way of life

Thursday, May 2, 1985 O&E

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OVER THE airwaves the other evening came the stunning news that the nation's railroads might eliminate all passenger trains. The news was stunning because it seemed like the loss of a close family friend. In fact, the passenger trains with their fancy names had been a friend for years, dating way back to The Stroller's youth.

It may seem strange to the present generation, but back in the home town in the Dutch country of Pennsylvania we never retired for the night until we walked across the bridge to see the Lehigh Valley's top train, the Black Diamond, go by. It always was on time at 9:24, and as we turned our backs and headed home, it was the signal to say "So long."



the stroller
W.W.
Edgar

These gatherings to see the train were almost like family reunions. If you wanted to see someone in particular, you could find him crossing the bridge to watch Black Diamond go by.

This train was especially close to The Stroller for it was the train he took when he left home to come to Detroit more than 60 years ago.

WHILE IT was sort of a sad moment when he said good-bye to his mother and sisters, it turned out to be a proud time when he nestled in the big chair of his favorite train.

When he settled in Detroit, another train captured his fancy. It was the Union train that left the station promptly at noon on Saturdays in the fall to take the football fans to Ferry Field in Ann Arbor for the Michigan game. That was long before the present stadium was built. This was a fascinating train, too.

Then others came into The Stroller's life. One was the Super Chief which ran from Chicago to Los Angeles, and it was on this fancy train that we made our first trip to the Pacific coast.

It was our first trip out west, and in the morning the lady who heads our house was surprised to see roses growing between the rails. It was an unforgettable sight.

THEN THERE was the Canadian train that took us from Windsor to Lake Louise, then to Jasper for another great sight in the Rocky Mountains.

Another great treat was to ride the New York, New Haven and Hartford up through the New England states. This was always a great way to start a vacation in the east.

In our home town, even the berry pickers had a train. This was a special that ran only during the berry season on the Catsaugua and Fogelsville line. The train moved only as fast as the pickers moved. When they were finished, the train brought them back home.

So the passenger trains were part of our "bringing up," and it is too bad that the young folks of today will not have the same thrills. The passenger trains played a large part in our lives.

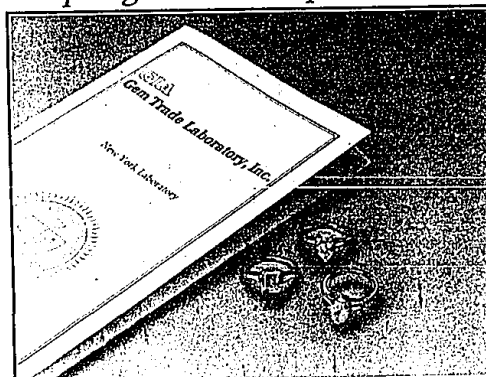
There is nothing like that today. But there was a time when the passenger train was a real part of living. The airplane took over for long-distance travel.

But while the scenery from the plane is fine, it cannot equal the close-up view of the world's beauty one enjoys from a passenger train.

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U.S. grant aids eye research at OU

Oakland University's Institute of Biological Sciences (IBS) received a \$594,000 grant from the National Eye Institute to expand eye research.

The highly competitive core grant for vision research will be paid over five years. In addition, OU will receive another \$137,700 in indirect costs. The National Eye Institute is a unit of the National Institute of Health.

IBS director Venkat N. Reddy said the funds will be used in part to purchase state-of-the-art scanning and transmission electron microscopes and tissue culture facilities to be shared by institute members. The materials will enable the researchers to expand work in immunology (immunity to disease), molecular biology, and eye structure and form.

IBS is devoted entirely to eye research. Faculty are investigating factors that cause cataracts, physiologic mechanisms involved in glaucoma, maintenance of corneal transparency, biochemical and physiologic mechanisms by which the retina converts light signals to neural responses, and the characteristics of antigens that cause inflammation of uveal tissue (uveitis).

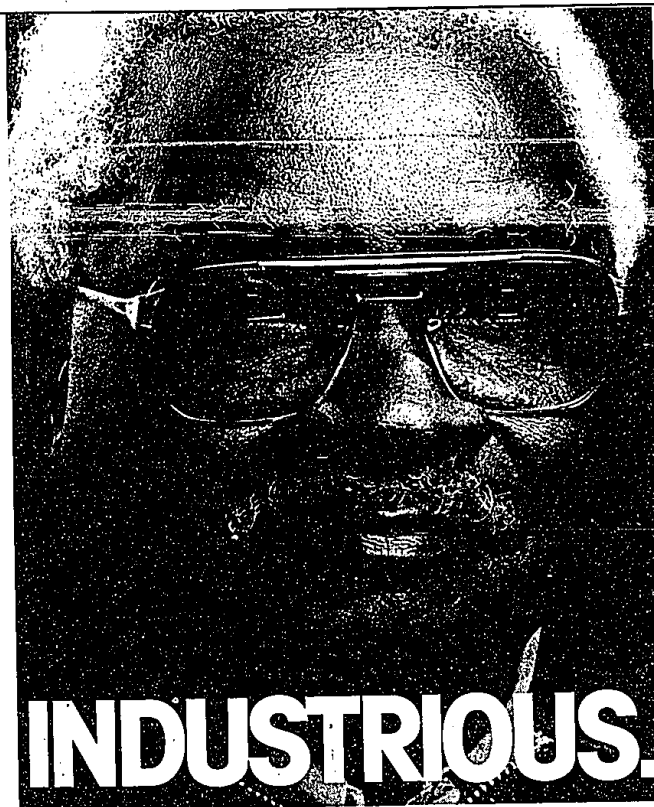
Keith R. Klechner, senior vice president for university affairs and provost, said IBS has received in excess of \$6 million in research funding from the NIH since 1968. He said the core grant is the most significant one because it signals the recognition of OU's Institute of Biological Sciences as a center of excellence in vision research throughout the country.

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What does that mean to you? Well, if you're a regular SEMTA rider you know your seat has been given proper care and attention. No gum, no dirt, no dust. Because along with his other duties James takes special pride in keeping his buses clean. And he works very hard at it. "It isn't just a matter of a wipe here and a wipe there," says James. "I've given these buses more elbow grease over the years. The cleaner they are the better I feel."

Industrious. That's James Keener. But he also brings other outstanding qualities to the job — just like all SEMTA people who make SEMTA the bus system that works. They're simply doing their best to be the best. As for James, it just means doing it very industriously.

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