

The Museums of Harry L. Magee Or: What Became of the Trolleys?

Reviewed by Ann Diseroad

Outspoken local author Pat Parker (Do you remember Fernville?) pulls no punches in her new book *The Museums of Harry L. Magee Or: What Became of the Trolleys?* published by the Columbia County Historical and Genealogical Society. She combines reminiscence with research to tell the tale of one of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania's most colorful characters and his favorite obsession.

For those who grew up or lived in Bloomsburg during the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, the book will evoke nostalgia as Pat retells many of the stories circulating about Harry Magee during those years. They'll also get the answers to some of the questions they may not have had the nerve to ask at the time. Newcomers to the area will learn why the Magee name evokes so many different and often intense emotions among natives.

Harry L. Magee was a collector, and his collections were diverse, ranging from a conglomeration of antiques and memorabilia to railroad and trolley cars. But he was not a hoarder. He loved to share, not just with his family and friends but also with the public. It is through the story of the three Magee Museums that Pat Parker preserves the memory of Harry Magee, the wonderful things he collected and the individuals who helped make the museums possible.

Trolley aficionados will be delighted to learn that Pat has even managed to trace the location today of many of the cars which had to be sold when the unfortunate combination of Harry Magee's death and Hurricane Agnes in 1972 made it necessary to disband the collection.

Books are available at the Society and Friar Tuck Book Shop in the Columbia Mall. The soft and hard bound editions sell for \$15 and \$25 respectively. The hard bound copy is a limited edition, signed by the author and numbered. For Society members to receive a 10% discount on the different editions, they must purchase them from the Society.

The Columbia County Historical & Genealogical Society will hold an author's reception at the Bloomsburg Public Library, 225 Market Street in Bloomsburg on Friday, October 15, 2004, from three to five p.m. Refreshments will be served.

For additional information, please call the Society at 570-784-1600.

BOOK ORDER FORM

THE MUSEUMS OF HARRY L. MAGEE OR: WHAT BECAME OF THE TROLLEYS?

Hardbound

CCHGS Society Members: \$18.50

Non-Members \$20.50

Soft Cover

CCHGS Society Members: \$8.00

Non-Members \$10.00

Add charges for mail orders: \$4.00

Book Order: __ Soft Cover \$ __

Name: _

Street: _

City: __

State: __

Zip _

Enclosed is my check for \$_____, payable to Columbia County Hist. & Gen. Society.