

***THE FUTURE COMES TO COLUMBIA COUNTY:
THE ERA OF THE TROLLEYS, 1901-1926***
By Robert Dunkelberger

In its history Columbia County has never experienced a time period more progressive or rapidly-changing than the first quarter of the 20th century, and one major reason for this progress was the introduction of the trolleys. *The Future Comes to Columbia County* evokes the memory of those long-ago days from 1901 to 1926 when the county could boast a mass transit system equal to almost any found in Pennsylvania, connecting Bloomsburg with Berwick, Catawissa, and Danville. The trolley aided the spread of industry in these communities and along its routes, as well as encouraging the development of land and building of homes that were easily accessible by the trolley cars.

This 160 page book provides an in-depth look at the history of the Columbia County trolleys and is richly illustrated with nearly 200 photographs and print advertisements. In addition to the trolleys, the book serves as a history of other areas they impacted or were impacted by, including Columbia Park, the paving of streets and roads, development of business and industry, and major floods and winter storms. Adding further detailed coverage are an index, a timeline of trolley-related historical events spanning a century from the 1890s to the 1990s, and a listing of all known conductors, motormen and other employees of the North Branch Transit Company and its predecessors. Many relatives of these employees still live in the area.

The author, Robert Dunkelberger, is an associate professor and the University Archivist at Bloomsburg University, and has previously written about the trolleys in a chapter in the Bloomsburg bicentennial history, *Discovering Bloomsburg*. This current book, his first, is an extension of his research interests in the history of Columbia County, which include baseball and football, local businesses, and all aspects of the University back to its normal school days.

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