

YESTERYEAR

at the Cresco Station

BTHS
MASTERS



2017



Looking west along the tracks in early March, 1928. Seguine's Souvenir Shop and Post Office is the prominent two story building in the center of the picture. Just to its left is the Cresco Station. Further to the left is the Cresco Hotel. The houses to the right are no longer present. Picture C6099 by Lackawanna photographer William B. Barry, Jr., from the Steamtown NHS Archives, used with permission.



A view taken in early March, 1928, the same day as the picture for January. Seguire's Souvenir Shop and Post Office is the subject of this picture. The hotel is visible to the left; the station is hidden behind the Post Office. The freight house is just to the right of the Post Office, with a box car parked to its right. The stairs from the platform to the ground (still snow covered) are a puzzle, since they do not seem to lead anywhere. Does anyone know why they were built? (They do not appear in pictures from 1917.) Picture by Lackawanna photographer William B. Barry, Jr., from the collection of the BTHS.



Another view of the Cresco Station and the Post Office, dated July 24, 1916. The gateman's shanty is visible under the Cresco station sign, along with the white crossing gate in the raised position. To the left of the station, across the tracks, is the high level platform used for loading milk (note the milk can) and express shipments. The white pole in front of the platform is a "mail crane", where a mail bag could be hung to be picked up on the fly by a passing mail train. The hotel is just visible among the trees on the left. It is apparent that July 24, 1916 was a Monday, as evidenced by the laundry hanging on the line to the right. Picture C3602 by Lackawanna photographer John Anneman, from the Steamtown NHS Archives, used with permission.



Looking north from the road in front of the hotel, this picture is undated. The boxcar is on the branch to Mountainhome; at the extreme right is Seguin's Department Store. Note the stove in the station visible through the open door.



Lackawanna R. R. Station, Cresco, Pa.

This picture is from an undated postcard, but probably from the 'teens, based on the automobiles. The crowding of the parking area is evident. Seguire's Store and Post Office is at the left. The hotel is hidden behind the trees, but a part of the "widow's walk" is visible. A few horse-and-carts are still around, but automobiles dominate the scene. From a postcard in the BTHS collection.



From Steamtown NHS Archives

5-9-1917

C. 4055

Another picture by Lackawanna photographer John Anneman, taken on May 9, 1917. The photographer took the pictures in our centerfold from on top of the boxcars seen in this picture. They are on the Mountainhome branch of the Lackawanna Railroad. Again, Seguire's Store and Post Office is the prominent building in the picture. The elegant house on the right was torn down in the early 2000's. Picture C4055 from the Steamtown NHS Archives, used with permission.



Another view of the crowded parking lot, this one from a 1920's postcard. Since Seguire's Store and Post Office is still present (on the left), this cannot be after 1928. In that year the store and Post Office was torn down (see our February picture). An early bus is near the center of the picture. From a postcard in the BTHS collection.



This view is again from the 1920's, but not later than 1928. The track next to the station was for westbound trains (toward Scranton and Buffalo), and the other track was for eastbound trains (toward Hoboken). The mast in the right foreground is for the eastbound train order signal; the westbound signal is at the far end of the station. To the left of the station is the freight house, and Seguire's Store is visible to the right of the station. This picture is unusual because the station has two chimneys. The earlier chimney was near the center of the building, and now it is nearer the end away from the old road. From a postcard in the BTHS collection.



In this view, circa 1917, the Cresco Station is at the far left, with Seguire's shop and the gateman's shanty just beyond. The collection of houses is along Sand Spring Road. The short passenger train may be picking up milk cans or express shipments; or perhaps it is the photographer's special train. A stone wall supports the landscaping in front of the hotel, out of view to the right. The sign on the station is for Western Union: Picture by Lackawanna photographer William B. Barry, Jr., from the BTHS collection





From Steamtown NHS Archives C3403

The Cresco station and the freight house seem to be painted in two tones – when the station was recently repainted, a layer of gray in two tones was discovered. For once, there is little traffic at the station. Picture C3403 by Lackawanna photographer John Anneman, from the Steamtown NHS Archives, used with permission.



Circa 1941, Nevin Hummel, station agent, is seen at the right tying a train order onto the delivery hoop. The visitors are (according to the accompanying article) David Sarnoff, Chairman of the Board of the Radio Corporation of America on the left, and Richard Crooks, former leading tenor with the Metropolitan Opera in the center. This picture was taken in the agent's office, although the station interior has been re-configured since this photo was taken. From the BTHS collection.



In 2016 the BTHS received some significant historical papers regarding the Cresco station. We also realized that a number of historical pictures of the station had been made available from the archives at the Steamtown National Historic Site, and many of these pictures had not been published. So, this year, our calendar is entirely devoted to the station and the immediate surrounding area.

The front cover picture (from the BTHS collection) was taken in August, 2016 to show the station as it exists today.

The back cover picture was taken September 24, 2006 by Richard M. Gross (used with permission); the station had been primed in preparation for the present paint (some of the dark green is between the end windows). The station has been lovingly restored by the Weiler Corporation. The Cresco Station Museum has occupied the building since 1999 through the generosity of the Weiler Family Foundation and the Weiler Corporation.

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