

New book available on Black Diamond Express



The famous Black Diamond Express is pictured in this painting set along the Susquehanna River near Ulster, Pa.

The Sayre Historical Society is pleased to announce the publication of a new book by railroad historian Richard F. Palmer on the early years of the Lehigh Valley Railroad's famous passenger train, the Black Diamond Express. The book is titled *The Handsomest Train in the World: The First Twenty-Five Years of the Black Diamond Express*.

Books are available at the historical society Gift Shop, located in the Sayre Historical Society Museum in the former Lehigh Valley Railroad passenger station in downtown Sayre, for \$10 (\$9.45 plus PA sales tax). Books are also available at the Sayre Hobby Shop, 809 North Lehigh Avenue, Sayre, PA.

For mail orders, add \$2 for shipping per book. For mail orders, sales tax is applicable for books shipped to a PA address. See the historical society's website for more information.

"Although the train existed for nearly 63 years, the book covers the period between 1896 and 1920," said Palmer, a Syracuse, NY resident who has had a life-long interest in regional railroad history. "These first 25 years may be considered the train's true glory days when it was a highly fashionable and fast-moving intercity express."

Palmer has written nearly a dozen short histories of various local railroads as well as many articles for journals and magazines. He was the author of *Rails North*, a pictorial history of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, published by the Central New York Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

"This was my first venture in writing the story of the glory days of the Black Diamond Express, one of the most famous name trains in American railroad history," said Palmer. "This book is the result of several years of research into obscure sources."

The Sayre Historical Society is a recipient of the Bradford County United Way.