

PRESS RELEASE

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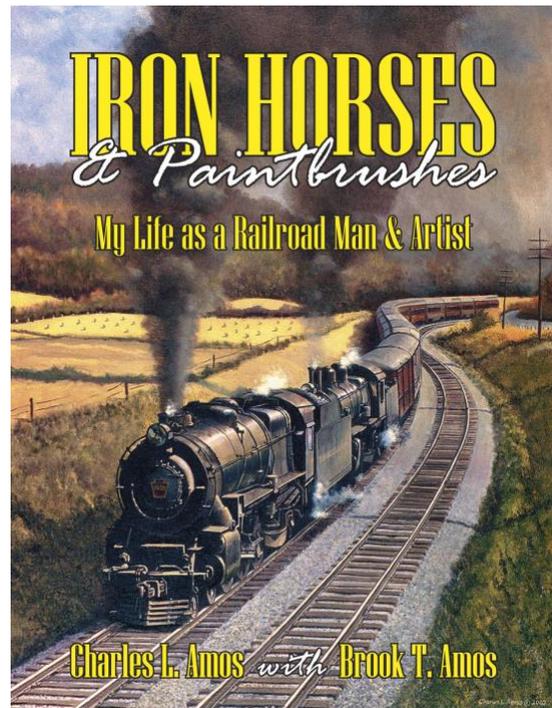
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Cumberland Railroader & Artist Releases Memoirs, Holds Book Signing

By the time Charles L. Amos set down his paintbrushes in his Cumberland studio for the last time in 2015, he had already left quite a legacy behind him.

After retiring from a 30-year railroad career, Charlie spent another 35 years brushing the memories of his railroad career onto canvas. In the process, he became one of the most respected and revered American railroad artists in the genre, painting his way to numerous accolades in both railroad and art publications.

Now 89 years old, Charlie has put his extraordinary life into print. His memoir, entitled *Iron Horses & Paintbrushes: My Life as a Railroad Man & Artist* (published by The Garbely Publishing Company), will be available by Friday, November 22nd through The Book Center in downtown Cumberland. The book's release comes just in time for holiday shoppers looking for a unique local story.



Charlie's book covers his life growing up in Lutherville, Maryland during the Great Depression and World War II and his fascination with the trains of the Pennsylvania and Baltimore & Ohio Railroads that rolled near his childhood home. His formal artistic training under famed Baltimore

Impressionist Marjorie Martinet and his teenage years spent on the local fire company give way to his railroad career in Cumberland, Hagerstown, Hanover, and Baltimore, working his way up from a locomotive fireman to upper management at the Western Maryland Railway between the 1950s through the 1970s. He continued his railroad career with jobs at the Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, and Association of American Railroads before retiring to pursue a second career in art.

Charlie returned to Cumberland in the 1980s, setting up a modest studio downtown. For the next 30 years, lucrative commissions from railroads, companies, and individuals across the country supplied his income, while his directorships with both the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce and the Western Maryland Scenic Railway kept him firmly entrenched in local society. Over 30 of Charlie's original artworks are reproduced throughout the pages of the book in stunning quality.

Charlie's contributions to American railroading, and to Cumberland specifically, led CSX Transportation to rename their Cumberland locomotive shop in his honor. John W. Snow, the former CEO of CSX and retired U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, has called Charlie's book "a stirring, moving, and well-told story of a man who combined his fascination with trains with rare artistic gifts, a man who found his true calling as an artist."

Now living in peaceful retirement in Swanton, Charles L. Amos will return to Cumberland in conjunction with the monthly Discover Downtown Cumberland event on Saturday, December 14th for an exclusive book signing at The Book Center from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. For details about purchasing the book and attending the signing event, please contact Lee Schwartz at The Book Center at 301-722-2284 or at lgschwartz@hotmail.com.

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The Garbely Publishing Company (GPCo) is a small, independent publisher of railroad history based in New Jersey. Since 2012, GPCo has specialized in short-run books for authors with unique or niche railroad topics, with over 15 titles currently in print. As specialists in the railroad marketing and advertising field, GPCo also offers a number of graphic design and web design services for non-profits and for-profits, as well as photographic restoration and digital retouching for both companies and individuals. For more information, please visit GPCo online at www.garbelypublishing.com.