

Awards and Reviews of Books by Dennis P. McIlnay

Awards for The Horseshoe Curve

📖 Gold Medal: 2008

Best Regional Non-Fiction Book in the Mid-Atlantic (seven states)
Independent Publishers Association of America

📖 President's Award for Historic Preservation: 2007

Blair County Historical Society

📖 Reviewer's Choice: 2007

Midwest Book Review
Chicago

📖 "Book of the Month" and "Staff Selection"

Barnes & Noble, Altoona

Awards for The Wreck of the Red Arrow

📖 Silver Medal: 2010

Best Transportation Book in the United States
Independent Publishers Association of America

📖 President's Award for Historic Preservation: 2010

Blair County Historical Society

📖 "Four Keystones" (Highest Rating): 2010

Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society

Reviews of The Horseshoe Curve

The Horseshoe Curve: "An inherently fascinating and thoroughly informative...remarkably vivid and very highly recommended"

"Reviewer's Choice"

—Jim Cox, Midwest Book Review (July 2007)

The Horseshoe Curve: "intriguing and highly informative...Pennsy fans can't afford to miss this one."

—Randy Lee, Stationmaster, Highlands Station, Aurora, Colorado

The Horseshoe Curve: "intricate and fascinating....captures the reader's attention in the best tradition of spy novels...profound relevance to 21st century terrorism....A must-read for all history enthusiasts...a 'must have' for anyone interested in the Pennsylvania Railroad...."

—David W. Seidel, Historian

Horseshoe Curve Chapter, National Railway Historical Society

The Horseshoe Curve: "fascinating...suspenseful"

-William Harry Brady
J. Edgar Thomson Foundation

The Horseshoe Curve: "splendid job reconstructing the lives and events of those saboteurs (and) a service to our nation in bringing to light these past events that have relevance in our lives today" ... "quite timely"

-Cummins McNitt, Former Director
Altoona Railroaders Memorial Museum

The Horseshoe Curve: "A true spy thriller"
-Ma and Pa Railroad Preservation Society (2008)

The Horseshoe Curve: "...reads like a spy novel, with many incredible twists and turns....spellbinding"

-The Automatic Block
Western Maryland Chapter, National Railway Historical Society

The Horseshoe Curve: "a spy-thriller (and) an American history lesson—all rolled into one...masterful job...great entertainment (and) a historically accurate account of American history."

-National Public Radio, WPSU, State College, Pennsylvania
"Bookmark" (October 29, 2008)

The Horseshoe Curve: "history at its best—very well written, very informative, well referenced, of great interest...quite relevant...very thorough and interesting...like a novel but with ample detail for the historical specialist....(An) absolute must for anyone even remotely interested in American history."

-RailroadBookstore.com (May 1, 2008)

The Horseshoe Curve: "fascinating tale of the Pennsy in World War II..." "comprehensive" "riveting part-spy story and part-historical epic. You'll enjoy every page!"

-Robert D. Brubaker
The Keystone (Spring 2010)
Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society

The Horseshoe Curve: "a dead-center ringer"... "cleverly written"... "reads like a spy novel"... "depth and detail"... "well-told history" ... "McIlnay makes history personal, interesting, and tangible" "told with equal portions of historical accuracy and quality storytelling" "a welcome break from the train-heavy, core-railfan material"

-Steven Goehring
Model Railroad News
September 2010

The Horseshoe Curve: "a fascinating look at this rather obscure chapter of American history."

-Susan O'Brien
S Gaugian

November/December 2011

The Wreck of the Red Arrow: An American Train Tragedy

The Wreck of the Red Arrow: "outstanding"..."fascinating"..."thorough research"..."amazing and very readable account"..."very impressive"...."This book is one first-class presentation and comes highly recommended."

—Dave Mrozek

The Michigan Railfan

March–April 2010

The Wreck of the Red Arrow: "a solid and complete and comprehensive history....a fine addition to any American History collection in general, and Railroading History reading list in particular."

James A. Cox

—Midwest Book Review (February 2011)

The Wreck of the Red Arrow: "The whole story of this controversial tragedy is told without hyperbole, including first-hand descriptions of the wreck using rare Pennsylvania Railroad documents."

—Susan O'Brien

S Gaugian

November/December 2011

The Wreck of the Red Arrow: "combines first-hand accounts (of a) story riddled with controversy, cover-ups, bungled reports, and the compassionate response of a community to the disaster."

—Model Railroad News

April 2011

Juniata, River of Sorrows: One Man's Journey into a River's Tragic Past

"A magnificent book...masterful...remarkable and thoroughly entertaining...exhaustive historical research...delightful travelogue and a compelling historical novel"

—Walt Young

Altoona Mirror (March 23, 2003)

"An excellent account of the Juniata River...wonderful compilation of historic events"

—Susan Connell

The Newport News (May 7, 2003)

"A great historical book...colorful descriptions...stirring...moving...fascinating blend of documentary and discovery by a master storyteller"

—Josephine B. McMeen

Huntingdon Daily News (June 21, 2003)

"Juniata, River of Sorrows has swept into the hearts of readers...."

—Christina Seiner

Tyrone Daily Herald (February 28, 2004)

Juniata, River of Sorrows is "brimming with colorful stories masterfully told. (The book has) touched a chord in the hearts of Pennsylvanians...running together across the pages of this monumental book."

—Eric Foley

Saint Francis University Magazine (Winter 2003)