

## **Description of The Horseshoe Curve: Sabotage and Subversion in the Railroad City**

The Horseshoe Curve: Sabotage and Subversion in the Railroad City, the new book by Dennis P. McIlnay, tells the true story of three inter-connected-but little-known-events in American history:

- The Nazi plot during World War II to destroy the Horseshoe Curve, the Mecca of American railroading, near Altoona, Pennsylvania
- The little-known internment by the United States government of 15,000 German and Italian Americans during World War II and the FBI's arrest on July 1 and 2, 1942 of 225 Altoonans as "alien enemies"—suspected Nazi sympathizers
- The personal and organizational drama of founding the Pennsylvania Railroad and building the Horseshoe Curve.

Part-spy story and part-historical epic, The Horseshoe Curve: Sabotage and Subversion in the Railroad City blends information from 300 sources, including diaries, biographies, military records, histories, engineering studies, court briefs, and FBI files that McIlnay acquired through the Freedom of Information Act.

The Nazi plot to destroy the Horseshoe Curve during World War II—a mission that Hitler himself conceived—was one of the deadliest acts of terrorism in history. Had the Nazis succeeded in demolishing the Horseshoe Curve, they could have crippled the American war machine.

Most Americans know of the internment of Japanese Americans in World War II, but few know that this nation also interned 15,000 German and Italian Americans during the war. Even fewer people know that on July 1 and 2, 1942, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested 225 residents of Altoona, Pennsylvania, home of the Horseshoe Curve, as "alien enemies"—suspected Nazi sympathizers.

Founding the Pennsylvania Railroad and building the Horseshoe Curve are two of America's greatest achievements in transportation, feats that conquered the long-insurmountable Allegheny Mountains and opened the country to settlement in the west. But before the historic Pennsylvania Railroad was completed, bitter personal, political, and organizational battles threatened to destroy the railroad and halt the westward march of the United States.

McIlnay is also author of the book, Juniata, River of Sorrows, published in 2003, one of the bestselling regional books in the United States. That book tells the story of McIlnay's 15-day float trip down the Juniata River and important historical events on the Juniata in the 1600s and 1700s. McIlnay is Professor of Management at Saint Francis University where he received the Distinguished Professor Award, the Outstanding Educator Award, and the Distinguished Faculty Award. He lives with his wife, Kathy, in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania, ten miles from the Horseshoe Curve.

The Horseshoe Curve: Sabotage and Subversion in the Railroad City is available for \$36.99 (includes tax and shipping) from Seven Oaks Press, 826 Walnut Street, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648 or by phoning toll-free (866) 695-5960 or at [Books@SevenOaksPress.com](mailto:Books@SevenOaksPress.com).