

# Spanning the Gap

## Photo Gallery: Open House at Water Gap Station July 12, 2003



**July 12, 1913** -- Just over an hour out of New York City, your train veers sharp left over the Delaware River. Your friends told you to sit on the right side of the coach, so now you look out the window and upstream to see the famed Water Gap in the

distance. A few minutes later, the train halts at Water Gap Station in Pennsylvania. A pleasant lawn leads down to the riverbank where vacationers like yourself are beaching their rowboats or strolling across a footbridge to an island in the river.

In the hustle of getting all your bags together, you forget to glance back for another look at the river, but know that when you pay a visit to friends at the *Kittatinny Hotel* on Mt. Minsi, with its veranda overlooking the river, you will be able to see the Gap again. You have booked less dramatic but more convenient lodgings at the *Delaware House* in town.

The conductor's urgent call, then a steamy blast, and the *DL&W* continues on its way. The screech and roar of the departing engine are dampened by the high ceilings of the waiting room. Your trunks and bags are assembled in a heap, and while the porter piles them onto his wooden cart, you pick up a paper at the news-stand. Then you cautiously emerge in to the sunshine of the street side of the station. Through a maze of horse-drawn carriages and a smattering of cars, you spot your hotel, right across the street. Your vacation in Delaware Water Gap is about to begin ...



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**Water Gap Station** was built by the *Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad* in 1903, the only brick station in Monroe County PA. It served as a rail station until 1952, when passenger service to Delaware Water Gap was discontinued. In the 1950s, the Boy Scouts used the building for activities -- the high ceiling of the main waiting room accommodated their basketball hoop. Then it served as the town's maintenance depot. Funding is now being sought to re-use the station as a center for civic activities and local resort history.

(Above, left) Detail on the track side of the station today.  
(Above, right) Looking out from the main waiting room to the platform today.

(Left) The west side of the station, which faces toward the Delaware River, looking northbound toward Scranton. Today, the view of the river down to the right is blocked by trees.  
(Middle) The east side of the station, which once opened to the town of Delaware Water Gap, looking southbound toward Slateford Junction. The embankment of Interstate 80 is now directly to the right. Interstate 80 crossing the river is in the distance.  
(Right) A detail of the platform overhang. Metal gutters have been stripped off by vandals.



(Left) Freight clerk's desk in the main waiting room. The freight office also opened to the platform at the left. To the left on the wall is a bulletin board bearing Boy Scout notices.  
(Middle) Glazed tile in the ladies' powder room  
(Right) Ceiling and wall corner in the main waiting room

