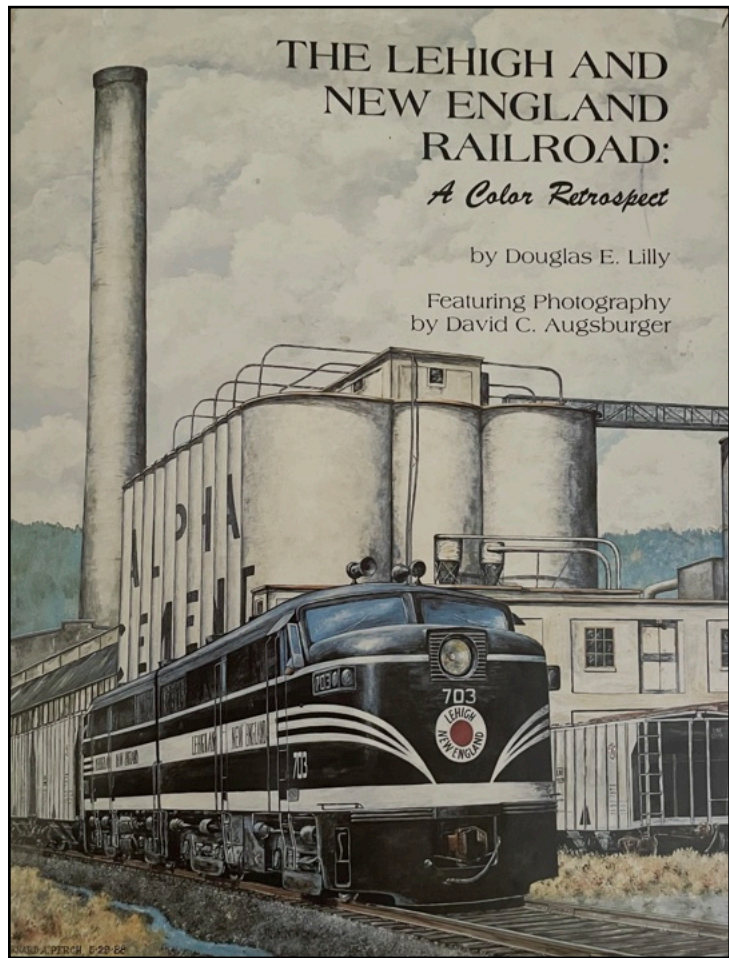


11. TODD HERMANN'S LEHIGH & NEW ENGLAND RR BOOK

My favorite railroad book is *The Lehigh & New England Railroad: A Color Retrospect* by Douglas E. Lilly. Nearly 40 years after its publication, Doug Lilly's book remains the "must-have" book on the L&NE in its final decades. It features the photography of David Augsburg and Randolph Kulp, two legendary chroniclers of railroading in eastern Pennsylvania. Both men lived close to the L&NE's territory, and they had the presence of mind to document virtually all aspects of the line before its abrupt sale, shutdown, and abandonment in late 1961. The book is organized geographically - including a chapter on my modeling subject: the L&NE's Catasauqua Branch, but it takes detours to look at other topics, including fan trips over the line, winter operations, and rolling stock. It also devotes a chapter to images of L&NE employees at work. That emphasis on the human side of railroading was ahead of its time, in my view.



I got a job at The Crossing Hobbies in the East Towne Mall on Rt. 30 near Lancaster, Pennsylvania in early 1989. That part-time job launched me into the railroad hobby in so many ways and exposure to this book was key among them. Right around the time I hired on, the shop started selling Doug Lilly's book. We always had display copies of our books available for customers to peruse. Naturally, I read all of the available books during quiet moments at the shop, but this book captivated me from the get-go - instantly converting me into an L&NE fan and planting the seed to one day model the line. As such, it has always been my favorite.

Unfortunately, the book is no longer in print, but copies are frequently available from online auction sites, like eBay, and used railroad book dealers. *Todd Hermann*

