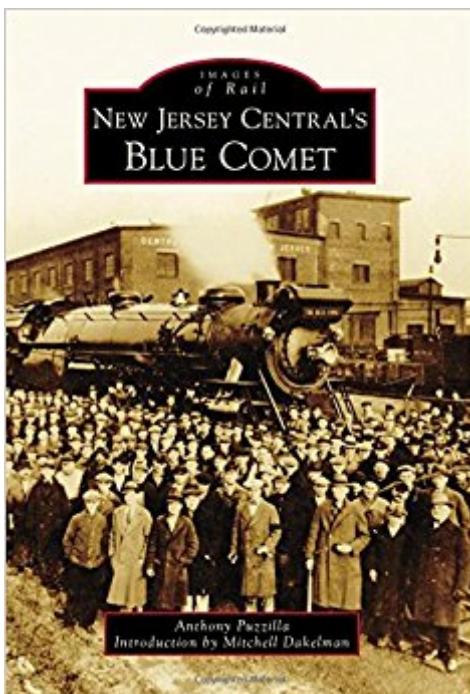


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# New Jersey Central's Blue Comet (Images Of Rail)



## **Synopsis**

The New Jersey Central's Blue Comet passenger train service operated from 1929 to 1941, on a route from the New York metropolitan area to Atlantic City, in the midst of the Great Depression. Despite this backdrop and stiff competition from other railroads, it survived and established an enduring legacy in the annals of New Jersey rails. This book contains memorable images, many from private archival photograph collections, showing the remarkable history of this classic train and of the hardworking and dedicated people who made it all possible. The legendary Blue Comet train no longer streaks through the pines of New Jersey. However, its memory still lives on through timeless images and the sustained efforts of New Jersey historical societies and preservation organizations that maintain its legacy.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Anthony Puzzilla is a retired federal government employee and is now a full-time railfan, rail historian, and model train enthusiast. He is a member of the Lionel Collectors Club of America (LCCA), Train Collectors Association (TCA), Jersey Central Railway Historical Society, West Jersey Chapter of the TCA, Metropolitan Division of the TCA, and the Washington, Baltimore, and Annapolis Chapter of the TCA. In addition, he has written a book on the Western Maryland Railway for Arcadia Publishing and is a regular contributor to the LCCA's the Lion Roars magazine.

Spectacular reading....and viewing! Well worth the investment! The legend of "The Blue Comet" lives on!

Previously, there were two non-fiction books that greatly detailed the history of the CNJ's named train, The Blue Comet. For years they held the standard. But they were long out of print and VERY pricey to acquire. Anthony Puzzilla has answered a longtime request. He has brought The Blue Comet back into print, and he's done it beautifully. Today, we get a new photo history that holds up to Joel Rosenbaum and Tom Gallo's Seashore's Finest Train: The Blue Comet and Christopher T. Baer, William J. Coxey, and Paul W. Schopp's The Trail of the Blue Comet - A History of the Jersey Central's New Jersey Southern Division. Puzzilla's New Jersey Central's Blue Comet is a substantial addition to the Arcadia series. It is designed with the kind of care and accuracy that comes from a true lover of history and this special train. Puzzilla doesn't just tell the story through photographs of The Blue Comet, but he places those images within a world of photographs that create the full historical context of the Depression Era passenger train. At a 130 pages, Puzilla's extensive photohistory provides a full picture of the world The Blue Comet blazed through. Anthony Puzzilla and Arcadia have done a great service to railfans, train lovers, history buffs, and enthusiasts of The Blue Comet by giving us an affordable and lush photohistory of New Jersey's finest train!

Wayne Wesolowski, PhD Professor Emeritus Benedictine University Review: New Jersey Central's Blue Comet by Anthony Puzzilla  
Raised in the Midwest, I knew a little about Atlantic City — maybe the Board Walk, Casinos, and the Miss America Pageant — and nothing about the Blue Comet of the Central Railroad of New Jersey. Anthony Puzzilla's book is a fascinating ride through the history of Atlantic City and the railroad trains that brought tens of thousands to party at what must have been the "East Coast Las Vegas" of the 1920s and 1930s. A well-written, easy read the story is lavishly illustrated with high quality photographs of not only the train, but the scenes, people and ephemera that accompanied them. Just when I might have tired of another locomotive shot there was a detour into timetables, maps, dining cars, diving horses with a blind rider, and the pipe organ in the enormous Atlantic City Convention Hall where the Miss America Pageant was held. It was hard to put down. Beginning with the reason for the train's existence -- the "Playground" where prohibition and most of the rules might have been forgotten while a young Frank Sinatra sang — you progress through the

development, operation, competition and eventual demise of the all-class train between NYC and Atlantic City. The Who, What and Why of the special train are clearly and comfortably discussed. In the end just when you are feeling a little sad about the Comet's last run there is a light hearted section on Lionel model trains' re-creation of the blue train from the author's collection and sections on individual prototype cars and even current locations of the remaining artifacts. The New Jersey Central's Blue Comet is an enjoyable and educational read that I would recommend to anyone interested in our railroad history.

A fascinating and illuminating look at one of the most interesting passenger services in US rail history.

This book was very Well-written and very easy to understand. My son who is 12 and in the 6th grade did a book report that landed him several awards and gave him top placement in his class. If this is a subject you are interested and reading about this is the book to get. 5 stars hands down !!!!

This book is very well written, and the photographs really make one feel like they were there. This is a very good book about one of the more famous trains in U.S. history (thanks in part to Lionel Trains). Thank you for taking the time to write and publish it, Mr. Puzzilla.

The author shares a wide variety of historical pictures and details about The Blue Comet. By the end of the book I was almost wishing that I had been around between 1929-1941 so that I could have experienced travelling on this magnificent train!

I loved this book! The pictures were great and the writer was so informative. I love to read this authors books. I would definitely recommend!

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