

Data on Old P&R Observation Locomotives

The following information is for the most part derived from the old "Annual Reports" of the Philadelphia & Reading Railway Company.

In all, there were seven of these engines called:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Weight</u>	
Alpha	8.3	Tons
Ariel	8.3	" - Changed 1-1872 to 9.5 T.
Gem	11.0	"
Stag	14.6	"
Transit	9.5	"
Witch	10.7	"
Black Diamond	8.3	"

The "Alpha" was acquired 8-1856 by purchase of another road, and never used. Retired in 1878.

The "Gem" which was a larger engine than most of the others was obtained from the Mine Hill Railroad 5-1864 and retired September 1886 (Last Record).

The "Stag" was built in 2-1851 and retired in March 1886.

The remaining four referred to in Mr. Coleman's letter, namely the Ariel, Transit, Witch and Black Diamond were originally all alike and had inside crank axles as stated in the letter. The Black Diamond and the Witch were changed to the outside connected crank pins, but the Ariel and Transit were not changed. In this Mr. Whalen is correct.

It is practically impossible to get any authentic historical data on the Black Diamond as it was owned by the P&R C&I Company, and they called practically all of their engines the Black Diamond, so that my records are all mixed up with more than one engine. It is our belief that the engine now stored at Reading Frog Shop called the Black Diamond was the Witch originally, as the records show that the Witch was sold to the P&R C&I Company in April 1900. The present Black Diamond has Sellers injectors, hand lever brake and is outside connected.

Have set up the data in tabular form attached. Where spaces are blank no data is available.

1-31-1940

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DATA OLD READING COMPANY LOCOMOTIVES

Name	Class	Weight (Tons)	Built By	First Run	Rebuilt	I.S. Crank Axle	Changed to O.S. Connection	Injectors	Lever Hand Brake	Later Status	Remarks
Alpha	4th	<u>8.3</u>		8-1856						Retired 1878	
Ariel	"	<u>8.3</u>	P&R	8-1856	1871	<u>Yes</u>	No			Retired 1902	
Gem	"	11.0	Purchased from Mine Hill RR	5-1864						Retired 1888	Probably exploded as mentioned by Mr. Whalen
Stag	"	14.6	P&R	2-1851		<u>Yes</u>	No	Pump on cross-head		Last Record 3-1886	
Transit	"	<u>9.5</u>	P&R	7-1867		<u>Yes</u>	No			Destroyed Nov. 1906	
Witch	"	<u>10.7</u>	P&R	11-1885		Yes When Built	Yes			Sold to P&R C&I Co. 1900	Used by P&R C&I Co. as early as 1874 but apparently owned by P&R Rwy Co.
Black Diamond	"	<u>8.3</u>	P&R	9-1868		Yes When Built	Yes	Yes	Yes	Stored at Rdg. Shops 1940	There was a Black Diamond destroyed in 1886

NOTE: There were at least two (2) "Ariels" and even more "Black Diamonds".

1-31-1940 Ud-v