



The Semaphore

May 1996
Volume 38
Number 9

Newsletter of the Rochester NY Chapter, National Railway Historical Society

Program: May 16

Geoff Gerstung to talk on Olcott Trolleys

The program for the Chapter meeting on Thursday, May 16 will feature Geoff Gerstung, National Director of the Niagara Frontier Chapter of NRHS. Geoff has extensively researched the Olcott Beach trolley era and its contributions to Niagara County's history. He will illustrate his findings with a slide presentation.

In October of last year, Geoff presented this program before the Niagara County Historical Society's Annual Dinner.

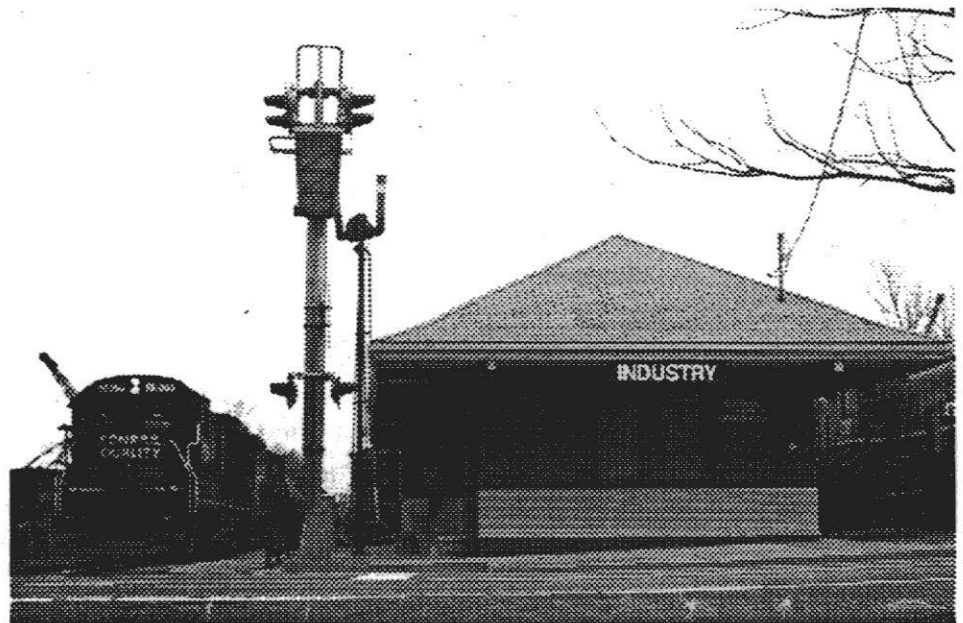
Elections:

The election of all officers and two trustees will also be held at this meeting. See Page 2 for details.

Banquet is June 1

Your editor humbly apologizes for mistaking giving June 6 date in the last issue. See details on Page 2.

Conrail's Last Run on the Mortimer Secondary



Above: Conrail B23-7 #2809 passes the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum on the last run.



Left: LA&L high-nose Alco C420 #420 and Alco C425 #425 enter the Avon yard passing the waiting Conrail power.

Photos by Chris Hauf

1996 Roster
of Chapter
Members en-
closed; Is your
name listed?

Good Friends

If you haven't made a donation to the Depot 25th Anniversary Building Fund, *PLEASE* take a minute and make a contribution. Your good buddies have graciously chipped in thirty-eight percent of the \$50,000 goal. But tell me, how's it going to look to the public if on July 18th we have only 38% of a building?

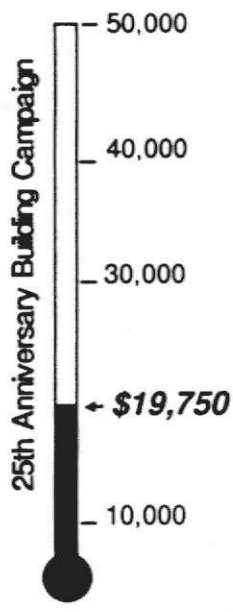
We know, that's a couple of roof supports and some metal siding. But, we really need a bit more if we're going to be able to help protect

our irreplaceable rail equipment and keep out the winter snows, the autumn winds, the spring rains and the summer dews and damp.

So, please contribute to the most worthy, tax deductible cause. After all, it's for the good of your Society and the benefit of future generations.

Don't have the funds immediately available? Then consider a pledge!

From the crew of the hard-working Depot 25th Anniversary Committee.



Oops!

The Annual Banquet is June 1 (not June 6 as listed in the April *Semaphore*)

The deadline for tickets to our Annual Banquet is May 26, which is rapidly approaching -- like a speeding train! Tickets are \$17 for singles; \$33 for couples. Included in this price is:

- A great deluxe buffet dinner.
- Special surprise collectors mug.
- An informative program on Rail City, a rail museum of the past.

Program:

Robert J. Groman, whose father developed the famed Rail City Museum, has planned an ambitious program with multi-projectors, photo albums and other artifacts describing his father's work. He also has travelled extensively in search of historical material.

He will also discuss present and future plans to honor this forerunner of RR museums.

Order from Mike Byrne, 49 Weiland Woods Lane, Rochester, NY 14626. For additional information, call Mike at 225-5659.

The Banquet starts at 7 PM at the Marketplace Inn, 800 Jefferson Rd., Henrietta. A Cocktail hour precedes the festivities at 6.

Elections

The elections for three trustees will be held at the May meetings. Steve Oagley is Nomination Committee chairman, assisted by Charles Harshbarger, Bonnie Glickman and John Becker. Interested? Contact Steve at 865-6535 or Charlie at 266-8339.

The candidates are:

President: Dave Luca

Vice President: John Weber

Treasurer: Ira Cohen

Recording Sec.: Jeremy Tuke

Corresponding Sec.: Donovan Shilling

National Director: Bob Miner

Trustees: John Redden, Rand Warner.

A ballot, with space for write-ins, is included with this issue if you are a Chapter member.

We are officially online!

by Chris Hauf

On Tuesday night, April 23, 1996, the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum's official home page on the Internet (World Wide Web) was put online. Created by Chris Hauf with advice from Mike Byrne, Naor Wallach, and Dave Luca, our site covers all aspects of our Chapter and Museum. People can visit us from all over the world. They can take a "Virtual tour" of our Museum, see when we are open, get information on all of our trips, see what items the Museum needs or has for sale, and more. The site is by no means finished. More work is planned including a companion NYMT site and continuous monthly updates/improvements. So, take a look for yourself at:

<http://www.rochester.ny.us/railmuseum.html>

At this time on behalf on the Chapter, I would like to thank Mr. Dale Grady and Grady Associates for donating space on their web server for our website. Without them, no one would be able to see our website. So, thank you for your very generous donation!!!

Railroad Wall of Fame

A new exhibit at the Rochester and Genesee Valley RR Museum will feature the **Railroad Wall of Fame** plaque.

The large walnut plaque will accommodate 200 engraved brass plates honoring those men and women who worked for the railroad industry (train crews, agents, operators, suppliers, etc.).

The plates will be mounted on first-come, first-served basis. If you wish to honor more than one family member and wish for the plates to be next to each other, you should order them together.

The cost is \$50 per plate, of which \$43 is tax deductible. A flyer is enclosed for ordering. If you should misplace the flyer, you may call 716/987-1305, or write to NRHS-Rochester, c/o Mike Byrne, 49 Weiland Woods Lane, Rochester, NY 14626.

Membership Report

Thomas A. Way, Chairman

Welcome to these New Members:

Scott & Nicola Gleason *

1453 Rush-Henrietta Townline Rd.

Rush, NY 14543

334-5484

* A Family Membership

David J. Goodwin

3211 Sweden-Walker Rd.

Brockport, NY 14420

637-9366

Anthony Mittiga

211 Edgerton St.

Rochester, NY 14607

442-0559

John A. Tripp, Jr.

51 Musket Ln.

Pittsford, NY 14534

381-7757

Notes: All payments for your Dues should have been made by April First. Beyond that date, your name will be deleted from the Roster, your Semaphore subscription will lapse and the National Bulletin will stop. **SO NOW IS THE TIME TO PAY UP!**

Breakdown of Chapter's Membership Categories:

Regular.....	107
Student/Retiree.....	15
Supporting.....	42
Sustaining.....	8
Patron.....	13
Benefactor.....	7
Sponsor.....	5
Life.....	5
Family.....	24
TOTAL:	226

Trustee's Board Meetings

The normal Thursday, June 6th meeting will be held at the Depot Museum rather than the 40 & 8 Club.

Because the July Trustee's normal meeting date falls on the 4th, this meeting will be advanced to Thursday, June 27th AND will be held at Charlie's Coldwater Station. The meeting will be preceded by a cocktail hour at 6 and dutch treat dinner at 7 PM. If you wish to attend the dinner, call Dave Luca at 288-0318.

Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum

by Rand Warner, Chairman, 425-8587

General

National Model Railroad Association Convention

NRHS and NYMT will be on the map for the Rochester Convention of the NMRA. Exhibits and tours will be available at both museums, and track car and diesel trains will haul the conventioners between museum sites. This event on Saturday, May 4, will precede our official season opening on Sunday, May 12.

Transportation Week

Transportation Week will be the theme for our official season opening May 11. See the special events flyer you received in April for more detailed info,

Visitor Operations

Supt. Don Shilling, 381-3171

Don is conducting tour guide/docent training. Our first season event is the NMRA Convention group of 100+ visitors on Saturday, May 4.

Don has prepared a high priority list of efforts to support the 1996 season, including indoor and outdoor cleanup for Depot and cars.

Buildings and Grounds

Supt. Dave Luca, 288-0318

Our Annual spring cleanup of buildings and grounds is now in full swing. Dave Luca is cleaning Depot rooms and mowing lawns. Mike Byrne is removing screens and washing Depot windows inside and out. Rand Warner is cleaning up outside areas with help from others.

We expect to be replacing more concrete slabs that are deteriorated in the Depot front apron. Hopefully this work can be orchestrated to occur with a comfortable margin ahead of our 25th Anniversary Celebration weekend in July.

Dave Luca is planning paint and trim touch-up on the Depot. Our new

INDUSTRY letterboards from Phil McCabe look great.

Within the next couple of years, we really need to put a new roof on the Depot. Doesn't seem possible but the existing "new" roof is getting to be upwards of 20 years old now.

We plan to gravel the parking area on the west side of Mortimer line with bank run gravel available close by. That will add greatly to appearance and utility, and also will help keep down the dust.

Our venerable 1971 John Deere tractor mower has been put into service by Dave Luca and used to mow the acreage across from the museum where the turntable is stored.

Track & Right-of-way

Acting Supt. Rand Warner, 425-8587

Track has been inspected by Rand Warner and areas needing attention have been marked with coded yellow paint symbols. Bad ties are being replaced in S-curves and at NYMT switches by our tie gang: Bob Miner, Dave Luca, Norm Shaddick, Bill Chapin, Jeff Carpenter, Rand Warner, John Redden, Chris Housler, Ed Van Horn, and Co.

Now that LA&L RR has taken over the Mortimer line, we expect to be working with them on improvements for drainage as would affect both our tracks and their tracks, north of Rte 251.

The Tuesday night crew will be working on the new passenger loading siding track at south side of NYMT barn, for ballast, surface, alignment, ties, switches and switch timbers.

We have been accumulating wood pallets over the winter, and now can resume palletizing our track supplies and hardware. This will be a big help as we have to relocate materials to accommodate grading for our new building.

Our new (to us) hi-rail boom/dump truck will be used for cleaning up our right of way of surplus materials, also for pick up of signal equipment stored near the S-curves, and for adding ballast to thin areas beginning at the S-curves and going north to NYMT barn.

In addition to high priority work on NYMT switches and loading track, tangent track north of Switch #6 shows poor alignment from the ravages of a hard winter and late spring. This will give us a chance to practice our track gang chants as we lean all together on the lining bars. This same area of track needs leveling as well in a number of areas.

Dave Luca and the Gandy Dancers developed a clever way to lower the passenger loading track at NYMT without dismantling it. Maybe this procedure should be patented!

The Tuesday night crew will be extending Track #6 and Siding #7 to provide badly needed rolling stock storage capacity.

Motive Power

Supt. John Redden, 594-2227

EKC #6 has gotten recent attention on fuel system and electrical controls. A trickle charger has been recently installed for the batteries. Paint touch up is underway with custom matched yellow paint thanks to John Redden, Bob Miner, Jim Johnson, Steve Huse, Norm Shaddick and others. We hope to have EKC #6 looking sharper during the coming operational season.

RG&E #1942 will be taken out of service for brake piping and air reservoir work very shortly. Additional attention will be given to the ratchet parking brake.

Army #1843 has been put at the head of a freight consist for picture taking at the N.M.R.A. local convention. It will be set up north or south of Reid's crossing.

LV #211 and NKP #79 will be started up this month (May) now that (we hope) freezing weather is past so that water can be left in their cooling systems safely.

New Building Project

Sparkplug Person: Don Shilling,
381-3171

Several existing buildings have been inspected for possible teardown and relocation.

Several types of custom and kit built new buildings have been reviewed with contractors and suppliers.

Layout/locations have been identified and discussed, and construction options are being evaluated.

An initial survey has been made and preliminary grades for excavation have been established.

We expect to begin preliminary land clearing as soon as weather permits.

Using map and survey information we will be designing a preliminary site plan for submission to local government.

Editor: Don has modeled the proposed building in HO-scale. A picture of this diorama will be in the June *Semaphore*.

Construction & Equipment

Supt. Joe Scanlon, 392-8841

George Knab has the Bucyrus-Erie 15-B backhoe shovel running and Neil Bellenger has been checking out the utility line truck -- first two of the season. It sure has been a long, wet, muddy, cold Spring so far. This is Spring??

The Mack 10-wheeler diesel is getting lots of attention. Dick Holbert has removed radio and status equipment for return to the donor.

Joe Scanlon is working on the D-2 Cat dozer in his barn at home. The steering clutches are the main problem at this point.

Rand Warner has checked out a smaller six-wheel dump truck for near term acquisition. This will be handy in tight spots.

When Tom Phillips & Co. get our Barber-Greene crawler conveyor going, we should not only be able to load

sand, stone, coal, ashes and ballast, but we should also have the option of screening material to sort it -- a luxury we've never enjoyed until now!

Believe it or not -- there is a least one more crane on the way ... stay tuned for late breaking developments.

Wanted List

Construction Equipment

Bobcat type skid steer loader
Good conventional backhoe tractor, gas or diesel
Good 18.00 x 25 tire(s)

M.O.W. Equipment

Tie inserter/remover

Communications, Signals & Power

2-0 grooved trolley wire
4-0 copper feeder wire
Lanterns & lantern parts

Motive Power

Green paint for RG&E loco
L-6-1 Cummins prime mover and generator for EKC #6

Freight Equipment

Interchange Box Car

Pass Equipment

Single car test device
Seats for Stillwell coach

Buildings & Grounds

Shrubs for landscaping
Mulch for landscaping
Good tall flag pole

Good 50-star flag

Track & R.O.W.

Good 18" culvert pipe
Good 90# track bolts

Engineering Dept.

Three ring notebooks

Tool Car & Shops

Hydraulic Porta Power outfit

Engineering Dept.

Supt. Jim Johnson, 467-1672

Jim Johnson has engaged a professional to make computer overlay maps of our land areas showing topography, utilities, trackage and structures all on one sheet of paper, or separately as you may desire. This is a long time dream coming to fruition that will pay big dividends for many years to come. The first application will be in aiding the layout, location and excavation considerations for our new building.

Train Operations

Supt. John Redden, 594-2227

Track car operator training sessions are well along now, directed by Jeremy Tuke. Several classroom and hands-on sessions have been scheduled and given to accommodate all NRHS and NYMT volunteers. Manuals were prepared and given out to trainees along with test questions.

Rolling stock has been relocated for summer operations and display, and also to set up a special freight train consist for photo sessions for the NMRA Convention, Saturday, May 4.

We expect to have all locomotives in operation in May, including LV RR #211, NKP #79, Army #1843, EKC #6 and RG&E #1941.

This season we expect to operate trains clear through to NYMT barn for certain special events. These operations were first run last November and December.

We also plan to have up to three sets of track motor car & trailer car available to haul visitors if necessary for the 1996 year.

Thanks to --

Dan Mordell of Binghamton for donation of parts for kerosene railroad lanterns.

Jim Deane for offer of steel job site tool box and other items.

Jerry Lederthiel for info on available buildings & materials.

Ontario Midland RR for donation of signal boxes.

Rand Warner for donation of insulators and office equipment.

John McDonald for info on 6-wheel dump truck availability.

George Knab for offering his yard as collection point for wooden poles.

Roe Brothers for parts for PRR track motor car.

Norm Shaddick for parts for LA&L track motor car.

Bob Mader for parts for G&W track motor car.

Shelden King for info on trolley cars.

George Knab for lug nuts for hi-ra dump, and rims for tires.

Chris Hauf for lumber for P-C caboose floor.

Jeremy Tuke for lumber for track cars rehab.

Chapter's Historical Construction Equipment featured in International Publication

by Joe Scanlon

The Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad Museum's historical construction equipment fleet was included in a feature article in the March-April 1996 issue of **Equipment Echoes**, the official publication of the Historical Construction Equipment Association. The H.C.E.A., as its name implies, consists of members dedicated to the preservation of the history, literature and actual historical construction equipment. **Equipment Echoes** is distributed to H.C.E.A.'s many thousand of members all over the world.

Diorama in Avon bank

via Rand Warner

The Avon Preservation and Historical Society has sponsored a diorama depicting Avon in the 1800s. Included is a 1872 historical map of Avon depicting the hotels, churches, business and rail transportation. Presently the diorama is in Avon's Marine Midland Bank. After a few weeks, it will be moved to Avon Middle School where fourth-graders will study the history of Avon. (Source: Mendon-Honeoye Falls-Lima *Sentinel*, March 28, 1996.)

Fall Foliage Ticket Order received

Spring has barely (brr-r-r) arrived, but one group is thinking Fall! Bob Miner announced at the April meeting that a ticket order for the Fall Foliage trips out of Sodus has been received!

That will probably prompt Bob in reviewing that list of things to be accomplished during the summer to ready the Chapter's train set by September.



LA&L purchases Conrail's Mortimer Branch

The Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad almost tripled its mileage with the recent purchase of 19 miles of trackage between Avon and Henrietta (Mortimer) from Conrail. Before, it just operated on ten miles of track between Avon and Lakeville since 1964.

The Road expects to add substantial new business along the new route. Current customers on this route include Genesee Reserve Supply, Matthews & Fields Lumber and High Point Mills.

Last year, almost 2,700 carloads of freight were handled for Kraft General Foods and King Cole Bean in Avon and Sweeteners Plus, Inc. and Archer-Daniels-Midland in Lakeville. This resulted in \$1 million in revenues, its best in history. Revenues have increased 60 percent over the last three years.

The LA&L originated when the Erie-Lackawanna Railway abandoned the Avon-to-Lakeville line and sold it 1964 to LA&L. In that year, 12,000 shares of stock at \$10 per share was offered but was not sold out until the late 1960s. Patience rewarded the 1,300 shareholders when in 1986 the company paid a dividend. Since that time, the dividend has been between \$1 and \$4 annually except for one year. (Source: *Times-Union*, April 18, 1996)

This issue of the Semaphore is only a 6-pager, to allow for the numerous enclosures accompanying it.

It could have easily been a 12-pager! Thanks to all the fine contributors, the June issue is almost complete! And speaking of June, that issue may arrive a little late, as our printer (Dave Luca) will be out of town at the end of May, and your Editor *may* be going to Ohio for a graduation.

On schedule are:

More info from Rand Warner
Chris Hauf's article of freight cars.
Dan Cosgrove submitted a poem.
Don Shilling's restoration building photo.
And other 'goodies'

Genesee & Wyoming RR faces troubled times.

The Rochester based Genesee & Wyoming Railroad may have to suspend operations. About 90% of its revenues came from hauling cars to and from the Retsof salt mines. As we know, these mines were shut down because of flooding.

Until recently, it looked promising that the mine owner, AKZO would construct a new mine nearby in Livingston County. However, AKZO has decided they could not receive sufficient financial returns to justify its construction.

Permits had been obtained to construct a new rail spur to the proposed location.

LV Historical Society to dedicate park

by Sheldon King

Events at Manchester Saturday, May 18, 1996 will see the dedication of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society Park at noon and commemoration of the start of the famous "Black Diamond" at a dinner to be held at the American Legion hall on Route 21 in Shortsville at 7 PM. Chapter member, Sheldon King, will speak at both events. Dinner cost is \$10.00. Reservations are required for dinner. Get in touch with Timothy Record at the Society: P.O. Box RR, Manchester, NY 14504.

Linn Hines called the editor with additional information on this event. This event is occurring on the 100th Anniversary of the Black Diamond. The new park is in the southeast corner of the former yard complex and in the vicinity where the Manchester wreck occurred.

The Society meets the last Sunday of each month (except June and December) at 7 PM at the Manchester Village Hall, 8 Clifton St. Dues are \$10 per year for which a member receives two newsletters.

The Semaphore is published monthly by the Rochester, NY Chapter, National Railway Historical Society. It is mailed free to all Chapter members. Non-member's subscriptions are \$5.00 and run from January 1 to December 31. Chapter meetings are held the third Thursday and the Board of Directors meets the first Thursday of each month.

Rochester Chapter NRHS Officers:

President: Dave Luca

Vice President: John Weber

Treasurer: Ira Cohen

Recording Secretary: Jeremy Tuke

Correspondence Sec.: Don Shilling

National Director: Bob Miner

The Semaphore Staff:

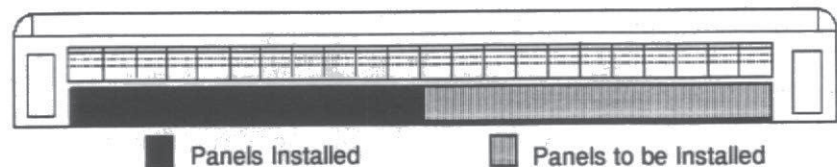
Editor: Gale Smith

Printing: Dave Luca

Contributions to **The Semaphore** are welcomed and encouraged from all readers. They should be mailed to: Gale E. Smith, 299 Seneca Park Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617-2433. Phone: (716) 544-6221. Contributors using a computer are asked to send their submissions on any MS-DOS diskette in ASCII format, as well as a printed copy. **Deadline: The first of each month.**

Stillwell Coach Panel Installation Status:

This graphic of the Stillwell coach was extended to represent 22 panels (11 panels per side). All panels have been subscribed. To date, eleven, or those on the west side have been installed.

**The Semaphore**

Rochester Chapter

National Railway Historical Society

P.O. Box 664

Rochester, NY 14603

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U.S. Postage

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Rochester, NY

Permit #826

Chapter Meeting & Program:

Olcott Beach Trolleys

by Geoff Gerstung

8:00 PM, May 16, 1996

40 & 8 Club, 933 University Ave.