



The Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum

in cooperation with

The New York Museum of Transportation

In the Celebration of our 25th Anniversary of the Depot

present

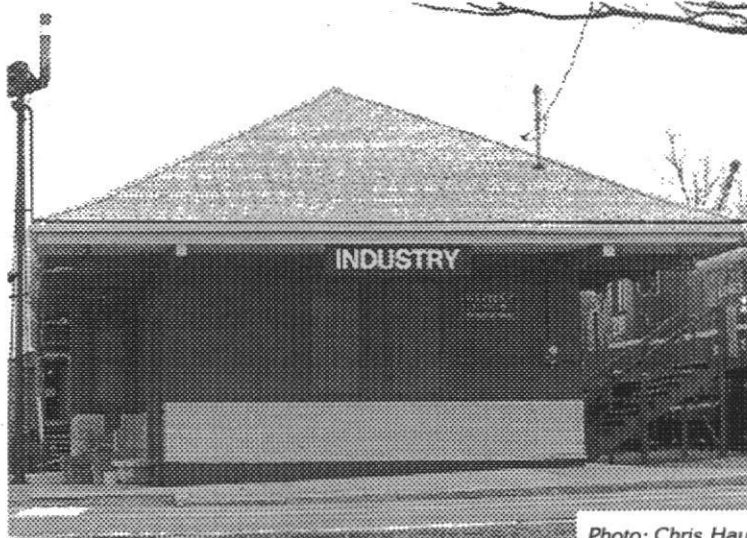


Photo: Chris Hauf

"25 Years Ago vs. Today"

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Today we own the Depot and the land under it and the land around it up and down our right of way and along both sides of the Mortimer line.

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Today we have a seventy five foot tool car shop, stocked with all kinds of hand and power tools, various kinds of work benches and work areas, and a highly organized stock of all kinds of parts. And now we're going to build a two track 60 x 130 foot restoration building with all the bells and whistles!

Photos of a model of this building are on page 3.

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Today, we have at our disposal a huge fleet of dozers, loaders, trucks, backhoes, excavators, cranes, compressors, generators, fork lifts, concrete buggies, boom truck, auger truck, gradall and more. We even have a support shop trailer, and a repair shop is in the works!

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Today we have a lot more people with a lot more knowledge and skills, an extensive collection of technical railroad literature and a substantial library of railroad and railway textbooks. All our Museum data is organized in functional group files in 4-drawer file cabinets.

- 25 years ago we had zero utilities and great inconvenience.

Today we have a 200 amp electric service with an extensive system of indoor and outdoor power distribution, hot and cold running water in the Depot, working toilets, and indoor and outdoor telephones. There's a computer, a copier, drafting board, map and plan files, and survey equipment. A fax and a modem may be the next thing coming to help us.

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Today we have minor and major artifacts representing all major railroads in the area -- motive power, rolling stock, MOW equipment, signals, structures -- even a turntable and sand tower. At one point our Chapter Library for the membership filled the Depot north waiting room. Now that wouldn't be enough space and we are looking for a new structure.

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Today we have pamphlets, fliers and brochures. We are listed in the Steam passenger Directory, other tourist guides and the Pocket Guide to Railroad Officials. We belong to TRAIN and ARM. We have an active site on InterNet/World Wide Web. We are in the phone book and other local directories. We have radio, television and newspaper coverage and get visibility in TRAINS, RAILFAN & RAILROAD, RAILPACE and RAILWAY PRESERVATION. We are shown on local area maps.

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Today the reality would certainly have far exceeded our very wildest dreams back in 1971.

Hard work, fortunate circumstances and location, strong community support, and an ever-growing volunteer base have brought us to where we are.

No one could predict where we will be 25 years from today, but if the past is any clue to the future, I sure hope I'm around to see it.

Thanks to all for making the first 25 years happen!

Rand Warner

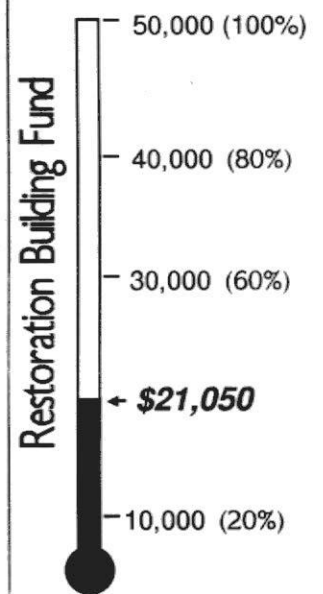
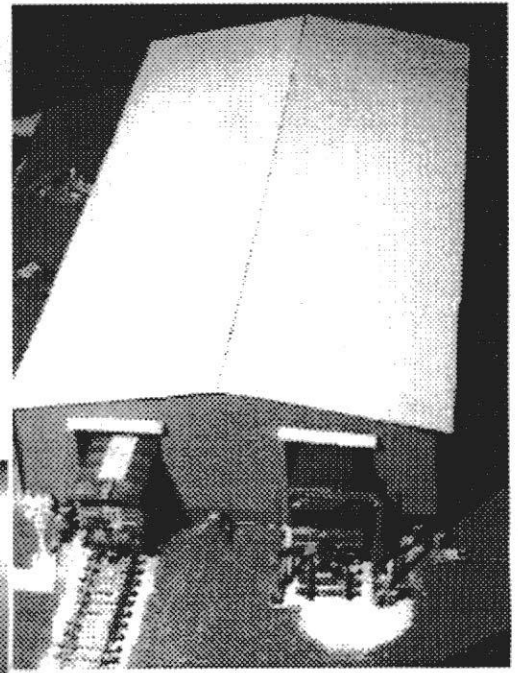
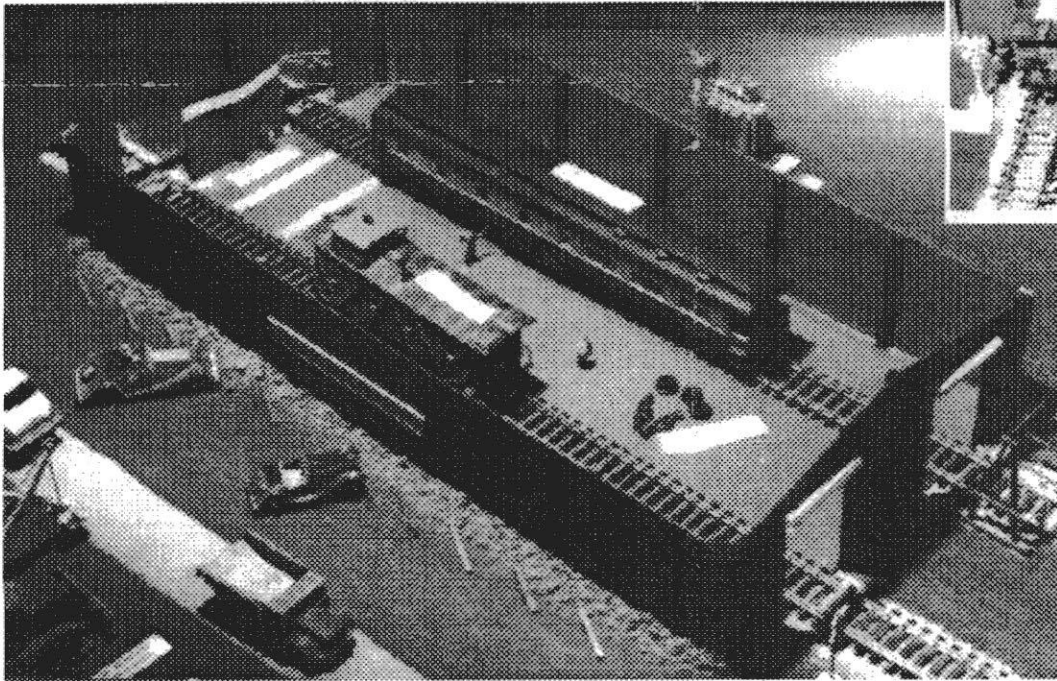
25th Erie Depot Anniversary & Ground Breaking Ceremony

Our Depot was purchased July 19, 1971 from Attica Branch, Buffalo Division, Erie-Lackawanna Railroad for a dollar. Exactly twenty-five years later, we honored our purchase with this Ground Breaking Ceremony on Friday Morning, July 19, 1996:

- 9:30** Continental breakfast at Depot Museum.
- 9:50** Boarded train to ground breaking site.
- 10:00** Introduction of guest speakers by Mike Byrne:
 - Rand Warner spoke on first 25 years.
 - Dave Luca foresaw the next 25 years.
 - Jerry Johnson, New York State Assemblyman presented a flag flown over the State Capitol.
 - Terri Schmitt, Town of Rush Supervisor, read a proclamation.
- 10:30** Ground Breaking Ceremony Speakers and others broke ground assisted by a vintage 1937 Bay City excavator. 1937 is historically significant since this is the year of the Rochester Chapter's formation.
- 10:35** Boarded return train to Depot.

Model of Restoration Building

The above ground breaking ceremony affirmed the start of construction of a building to allow the restoration and maintenance of our ever-growing collection. These pictures show an HO-scale model, constructed by Donovan Shilling, of the Restoration Building as planned.



Souvenirs available at New York Museum of Transportation's Gift Shop

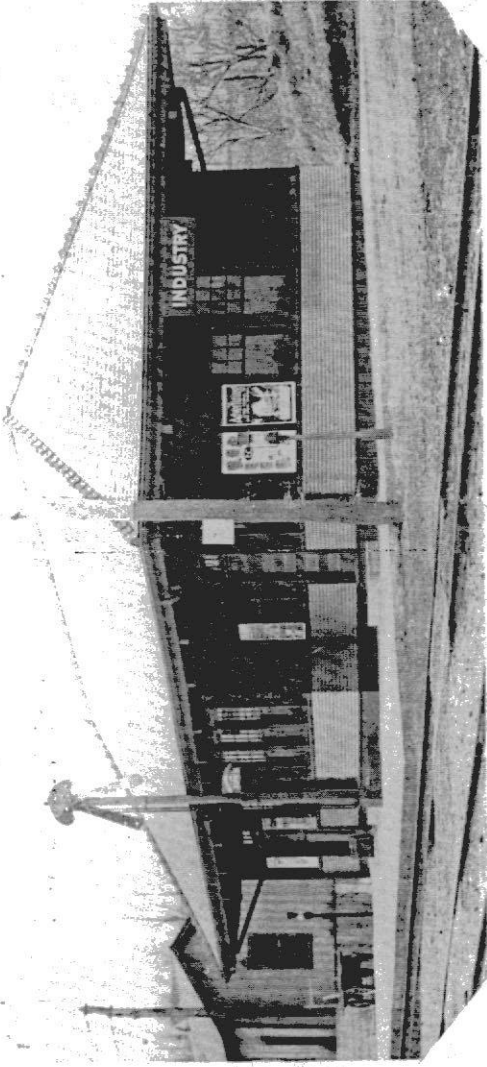
A limited number of commemorative T-shirts are available at \$10 each. They are striking: the Depot with a crossing gate, printed in red, green and black.

A limited number of 25th Anniversary green glass coffee mugs: \$5.25. Print on one side is graphic of Depot, the other side words including "Collector Series".

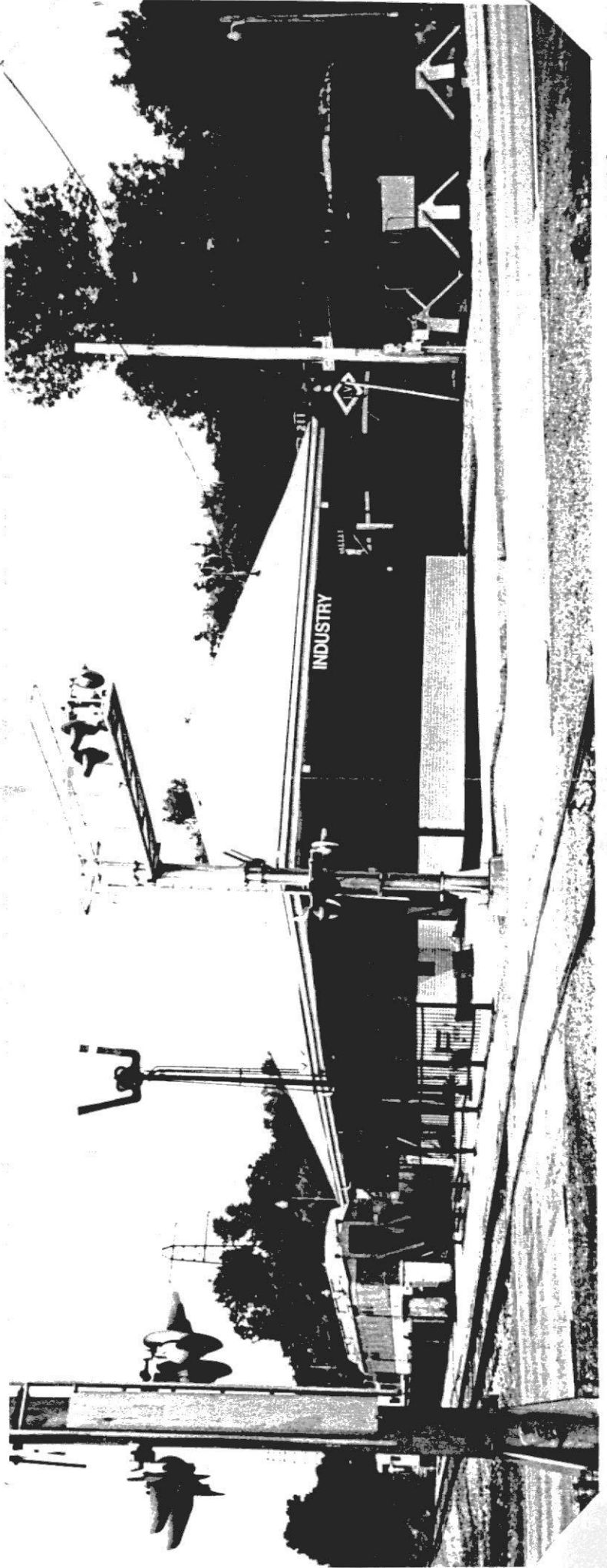
The proceeds for the items on the left go towards our Building Fund.

Also available is "Souvenir Guide", a descriptive and illustrated booklet outlining the collections in both museums. It has received excellent reviews.

Rochester Chapter, NRHS
P.O. Box 664
Rochester, NY 14603



JUNE 1909



JUNE 1996

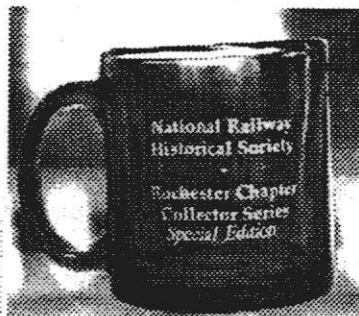
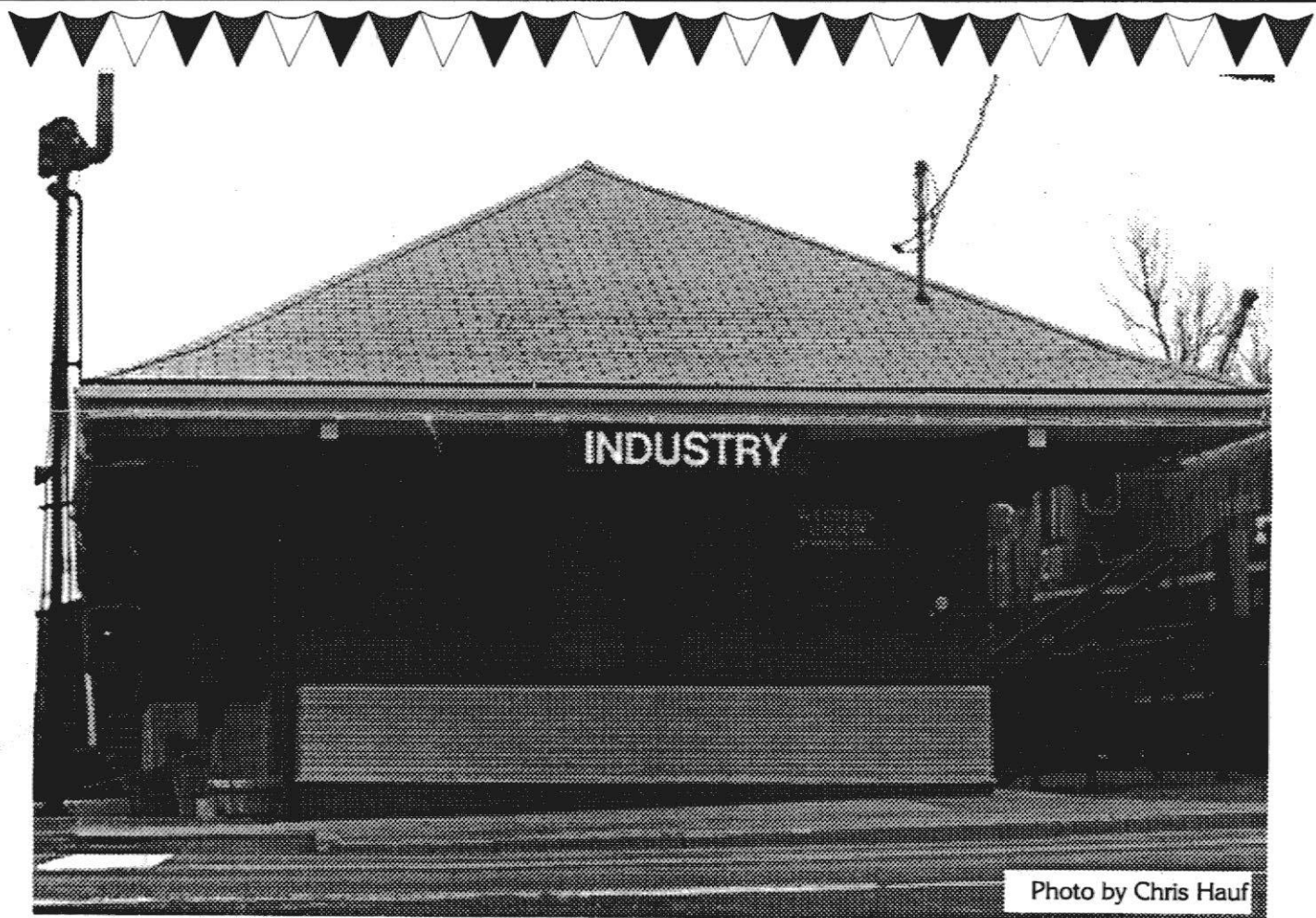


The Semaphore

July 1996
Volume 38
Number 11

Newsletter of the Rochester NY Chapter, National Railway Historical Society

Celebrating 25 Years at Our Chapter's Depot!



Schedule of Events and Description of Commemorative Items appear on Page 2

25th Erie Depot Anniversary & Ground Breaking Ceremony

Our Depot was purchased July 19, 1971 from Attica Branch, Buffalo Division, Erie-Lackawanna Railroad for a dollar.

The Schedule

Thursday Evening, July 18: 7:30 PM

This is a regular third Thursday Chapter meeting night, but definitely unlike any other held the past 59 years!

On the program:

- A trial run of the ceremonies to take place the next day.
- "Spikes" in our chapter's History: 4 Feb. 1937 to 28 July 1996 by Don Shilling.
- Rural rails to Rochester; The Story of the Depot Museum by Don Shilling.
- Presidents of the Rochester Chapter: 1971 to 1996.
- A limited number of commemorative T-shirts will be available at \$10 each. They are striking: the Depot with a crossing gate printed in red, green and black.
- A limited number of 25th Anniversary glass coffee mugs: \$5.25. These were distributed to recent Banquet attendees. If you didn't get one, or want another, here may be your last chance before they go on sale to the visiting public at the NYMT store.

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Saturday, July 20 and Sunday, July 21: 10:00am - 5:00PM Open to the Public.

25th Souvenirs Available (as pictured on Page 1)

#1 Commemorative green glass coffee 'mug'. Green glass was chosen to represent the many, many insulators used on railroad communications poles. The quantity is limited so Chapter members should purchase soon at \$5.50 each, tax included, before they are placed in the NYMT Gift Shop.

#2 Commemorative T-shirts are \$10.00 each. The design by Jim Dierks is printed in red, green and black. Very striking. Available at Chapter Store or NYMT Gift Shop. Proceeds go to Building Fund.

Membership Committee Report

Thomas A. Way, Chairman

Change of Address:

Duncan A. Richards
97 Penhurst Rd.
Rochester, NY 14610
586-9626

Add to April Roster:

John R. Gallagher, Jr.
223 Bristol St., Apt 120-C
Canandaigua, NY 14424
396-2701

Igor & Mary Lou Rosien *
21 Ironstone Dr.
Rochester, NY 14626
429-7889

Dave & Sabrina Veltre *
P.O. Box # 393
Churchville, NY 14428
889-9251

* New Members to be voted in.

Current Membership Tally:

Full, National at Rochester	204
Elsewhere + Rochester	8
Family	20
TOTAL:	241

Frank Goodrich

Our sympathy to the family of Frank Goodrich who passed away on June 12. Frank attended our Chapter meetings and served as Car Host on the Fall Foliage Trips. Those who worked with Frank will remember him as a quiet man before the first encounter, but thereafter he was the man with a jovial smile and wit.

Frank was also a member of the Genesee & Ontario Model-N-gineers, the local N-scale model railroad club.

Night Photo Session: Sat, July 20

Chris Hauf is arranging a night photo session for Saturday evening. Setup will start around 8:30 PM.

Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum

by Rand Warner, Chairman, 425-8587

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Continued on Page 4

25 Year Ago (Cont'd from Page 3)

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Thanks to all for making the first 25 years happen!

Rand Warner

A Review

Our Chapter's *Souvenir Guide* received an excellent review by Richard G. Prince in the *Railway & Locomotive Historical Society's* Bulletin #174.

We quote: "Such a guide, and the spirit of cooperation displayed therein, should serve as a model for others".

Your editor will attempt to get permission to reprint the review. The *Guide* is available at the Chapter's Store or at NYMT's Gift Shop.

V.I.P. Agency to donate to Building Fund

As many of you might know, one of our members, Tom Tischer, has been associated with V.I.P. Travel Service, 144 Exchange Blvd., just south of the War Memorial, in the Court Exchange Building.

To help with the Chapter's Building Fund, V.I.P. has offered to donate their commission on all AMTRAK and VIA tickets booked by Chapter members from now until February 1, 1997.

If you are travelling by rail, this is an excellent way to help the Chapter and have knowledgeable travel advice. Just call (716) 454-7100 and ask for Suzanne, Eric, or Tom. Happy Rail Travelling.

Your ZIP + 4 Needed

Dan Cosgrove, the maintainer of the Chapter's mailing lists, writes that the Post Office is pressing to have *all* mail addressed using ZIP+4 addressing.

(Continued to Page 5)

ZIP (Continued from Page 4)

Thanks to hard work on the part of Charley Peterson, I am now in possession of your plus 4 ZIP numbers. I am in the process of typing them in, and will probably be a few weeks working on this when I can. If in the next month or so, I do not have your +4 number on the label, please feel free to call me with this information. It will certainly lead to faster delivery of the newsletter in the future. (Dan's phone number is: 352-6931.)

Niagara Frontier Chapter sponsors two trips

The Niagara Frontier Chapter, NRHS is sponsoring two trips

Saturday, July 27: Knox & Kane RR

A bus takes you to the Knox & Kane Railroad in northern Pennsylvania, where you will ride over 64 miles of rail behind a 2-8-2 steam locomotive among peaks and valleys of Allegheny National Forest and over the legendary Kinzua Bridge.

Cost: \$39 Adult; \$34 Child (3-12). Departs 7:30, returning about 9 PM. For information: Lewiston - 754-7629, or Lockport - 434-5665 (evenings). Mail orders to: Knox & Rail Tour, 416 Chicora Rd., Lewiston, NY 14092 by Saturday, July 20.

Saturday, August 24: St. Thomas, Ont.

A bus trip to St. Thomas, Ontario and the Elgin County Railway Museum, plus ride on portion of former London & Port Stanley Railway, an electric interurban. The museum contains a 1913 Michigan Central shop building and yards, a 4-6-4 Hudson, 0-6-0 switcher (under restoration), early diesel switcher, and other rolling stock. Also a train ride tour in yards.

Cost: \$34 Adult; \$30 Senior (65+); \$28 Child (2-12). Departs 7:30, returning about 9 PM. For information: Lockport 434-5665 (evenings). Mail orders to: Railway Heritage Tour, 4 Alabama Place, Lockport, NY 14094 by Monday, August 12.

Construction & Equipment

by Joe Scanlon

So far this summer, heavy weekend rains have succeeded to delay excavating and grading projects for both the equipment display area and the proposed 25th Anniversary building site. By the time you read this article George Knab and company should be up at the building site with the Ford forklift, D-7 bulldozer and the Lorain yard crane relocating stockpiled materials and rough grading for the building pad.

One item especially useful around the museum has been the Ford 4000 forklift. However, the forklift hasn't been used much over the past two years due to a faulty steering system. George Knab decided it was time to put the forklift back to work. He tore out the balky mechanical steering system completely from the rear axle all the way to the steering wheel. With help from Charlie Harshbarger, Bob Mader, Dave Luca, Chuck Whalen and others, George engineered, machined and installed a completely new hydraulic steering system from scratch, using parts mostly from George's own personal collection. George declared the forklift ready for active duty on Saturday, June 22, 1996! Another machine from our lineup goes back to work! Many thanks to George Knab and his merry men!

Charlie Harshbarger has torn out more defective aging concrete south of the tool car. Joe Scanlon headed up the concrete gang along with the help of our usual stalwart volunteer crew who proved their mettle by preventing a disaster to the just placed wet concrete in the form of a huge flooding thunderstorm. As usual, we were up to the challenge. A special thank you to Mr. Joe Salce, a journeyman mason from Cortland, NY who volunteered to put the finish on the concrete for us.

A huge number of heavy equipment acquisitions are being evaluated for appropriateness to the Chapter needs based upon condition, usefulness,

costs, etc. Owners of various historical construction equipment have offered to display interesting items at our museum, which we hope to take advantage of on a space available basis. Stay tuned.

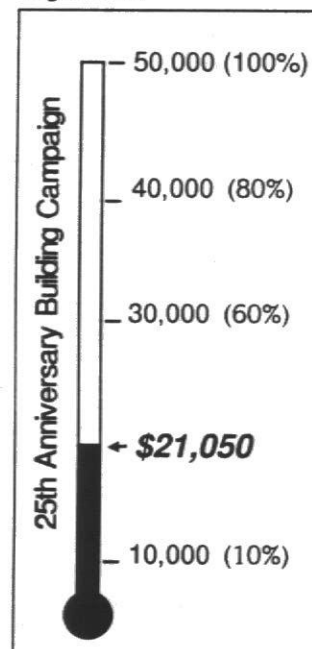
There are many exciting developments and achievements in the near future for the Rochester and Genesee Valley RR Museum and Rochester Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. Come on out and get into the action!



President Dave Luca has been 'feeding' your editor past copies of *The Semaphore* for purpose of extracting items of historical interest for the upcoming 25th Anniversary.

There is no way that this editor could compete with the outstanding summary that Rand Warner has described in "25 Year Ago vs. Today" starting on Page 3.

Several interviews of Chapter workers are ready and will appear in forthcoming issues.



Note that our 'Thermometer' is not rising with the summer heat. Maybe, it should be palmed in the 'Pine Falls' car! Or, come winter, the outside temperature will induce a fire under the bulb!

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

Trustees: Neil Bellenger, Charlie Harshbarger, Steve Oagley, John Redden, Joe Scanlon, Rand Warner,

The Semaphore Staff:

Editor: Gale Smith

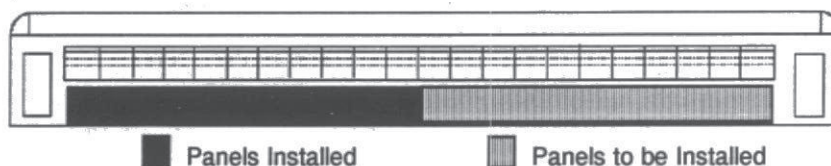
Printing: Dave Luca

InterNet (World Wide Web) address: <http://www.rochester.ny.us/rail-museum.html>

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

Chapter Meeting & Program:

25th Anniversary Prep.

7:30 PM, June 20, 1996

Industry Depot, Rush

Non Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Rochester, NY

Permit #826