



The Semaphore

August 1996
Volume 38
Number 12

Newsletter of the Rochester NY Chapter, National Railway Historical Society

25th Anniversary Weekend Firsts

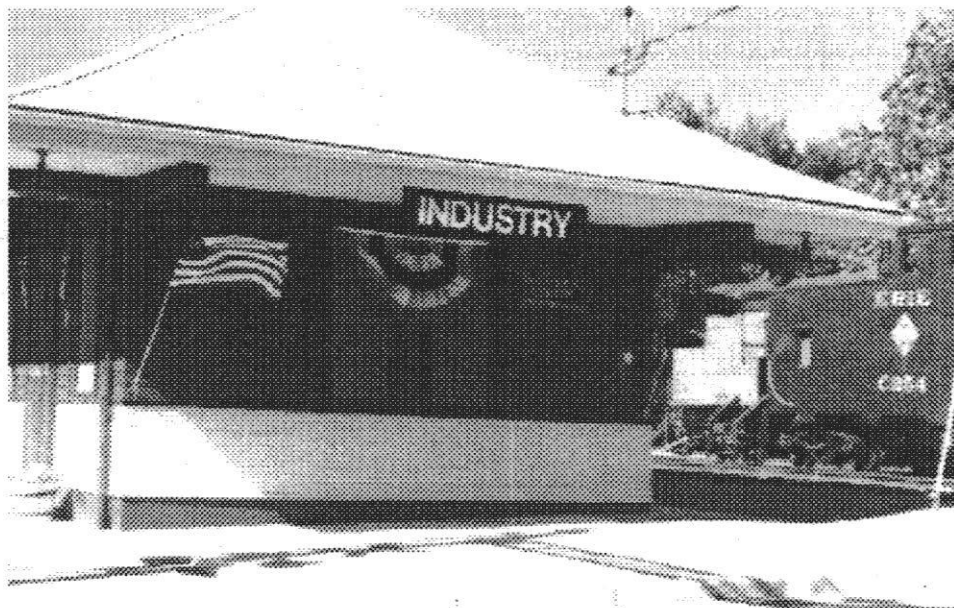
Rand Warner

- First use of three (3) sets of track motor cars and trailer cars for all day use.
- First time we opened and ran from 10:00 Am till 5:00 PM and were busy all day long.
- First time to haul 440 passengers in one day, Saturday July 20.
- First time to haul 712 passengers in one day, Sunday July 21.
- First time with interactive railroad freight car display: manual icing of MDT reefer car.
- First time to use a shuttle bus between our two Museums to double our throughput capacity.
- First time to display our rolling stock throughout the full length of the railroad.

25th Anniversary Held July 18 thru July 21

Our 25th Anniversary Celebration over four days was a great success, thanks to the combined efforts and hard work, dedication, motivation, and commitment of a large group of volunteers. We hosted our Chapter Thursday evening, July 18, hosted dignitaries and media Friday morning, hauled 440 passengers from the general public through our Museums on Saturday, and an amazing 712 passengers through on Sunday! On Saturday evening, we put on an after dark photo session.

Photos of this event appear on Pages 7, 8 and 9.



Industry Depot 'all decked out' for its 25th Anniversary. Newly donated New York State flag occupying the right corner hasn't caught the breeze.

Railroad Days Sat. August 10 & Sun. August 11

Our next featured event is Railroad Days, which will demonstrate trackwork activities in front of the NYMT barn, opposite the track car loading ramp. We expect to demonstrate tie replacement, spiking, ballasting, joint bolting, alignment, leveling, hand (and possibly power) tamping, and maybe we'll be able to feature a scoop shovel pulled by a draft horse. Call Rick Isrealson or Rand Warner if you can help.

Restoration Building Progress

Don Shilling

Land is being cleared of track materials and other supplies using our Lorain clam crane and Cat D-7 dozer, operated by George Knab and supported by many volunteers on the ground.

Most of you have seen the beautiful diorama model of the new building made by Don Shilling.

Rand Warner and Dave Luca have staked out the approximate corner locations of a 60' x 130' size building.

John Weber has prepared a preliminary site plan which has been submitted to the Town of Rush.

Don Shilling's Capital Fund Drive is now over \$22,000 and climbing. Thanks to Cal and Rose Bulman for a \$1,000 contribution which will be matched by Cal's former employer, Mobil Chemical, for a total of \$2,000!

Mike Byrne's "Railroader's Wall of Fame" project now has over 50 brass name tags installed, and is also raising money for our building project.

Tom Tischer's travel credits program is also raising money for our building through his travel agency, VIP.

Remember the Date! 1996 Annual Picnic at Industry Depot - Saturday 7 September 1:00 Till??

25th Anniversary Heroics

Rand Warner

For the last several weeks and week-ends we have seen some monumental heroics performed in getting ready for the big celebration weekend.

Thanks to Dave and Jan Luca & Co. who cleaned and painted the Depot inside and out. These folks also planted flowers, mowed lawns, pruned shrubs and trees and week-wacked forever.

Thanks to John Redden & Co. for refurbishing the inside and outside of the MDT reefer and arranging for real ice to make a powerful interactive attraction.

Thanks to Bob Mader and his farmer friend for coming up with 3 bales of straw in an 11th hour save for protecting our ceremony Friday morning in the rain.

Thanks to Steve Huse, Dave Luca, Norm Shaddick, Mike Byrne and others for getting our track cars painted.

Thanks to Chris Hauf and his Dad for creating and putting up a great photo display in the DL&W baggage car and CD-ROM displays in the Depot and the baggage car.

Thanks to Dave Hulings for providing a fine multimedia Operation Lifesaver display in our Pine Falls cars when the Amtrak Operation Lifesaver van couldn't be here.

Thanks to Bernie Cubit for a fine new hand painted billboard that really sets off our outdoor appearance.

Thanks to John Redden & Co. for getting BEO bay window caboose painted to present an attractive freight train to our visitors.

Thanks to George Knab, Joe Scanlon and Dave Luca for spearheading palletizing and relocation of track parts, ties, rails and switch timbers.

25th Anniversary Team

Rand Warner

- > Thanks to Jim East and all his parking people.
- > Thanks to Bob & Marie Miner & Co. on ticketing & operations.
- > Thanks to Don Shilling & Co. on Depot hosts/tour guides.
- > Thanks to Jan Dittmer and Marge Warner & Co. on food layouts.
- > Thanks to John Redden and Norm Shaddick & Co. on equipment placement.
- > Thanks to Neil Bellenger & Co. for signal work and operations.
- > Thanks to Don Shilling and Dave Luca for handouts.
- > Thanks to Rand Warner for tent, toilets and shuttle bus.

New Museum Volunteers

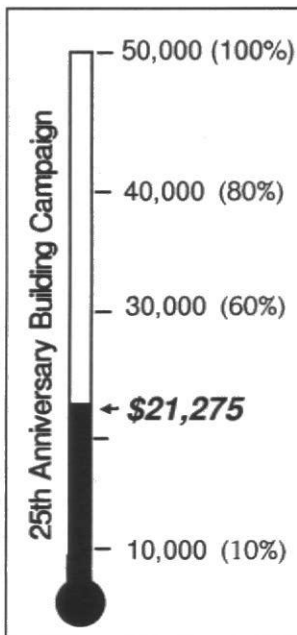
Great News! The following new people are participating in our Museum activities in recent months: Charles Robinson, Don Wawrzyniak, Kevin Klees, Chris Hausler, Bill Blasei, Jim Hardy, Dave Goodwin.

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

Member, Tom Tischer, who is associated with V.I.P. Travel Service, 144

Exchange Blvd, has arranged for V.I.P. to donate their commission on all AMTRAK and VIA tickets booked by Chapter members to go to the Building Fund. This offer expires 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.



Membership Committee Report

Thomas A. Way, Chairman

Welcome to these new members:

Patrick Sofin and Sara Phoenix *
P.O. Box 532
Webster, NY 14580
671-4073

Daniel & Roberta Strong *
313 Hollybrook Rd.
Rochester, NY 14623
334-3290

Dan E. Waterstraat **
1128 Oak Openings Rd.
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
582-1149

Kenneth & Rosemarie Young *
2304 W. Estes Ave.
Chicago, IL 60645
312-465-2276

Add to your April Roster

Robert J. Sickelco
95 Maplewood Ave
Spencerport, NY 14559
352-3395

* Family Membership
** To be voted in.

Chapter Membership tally:

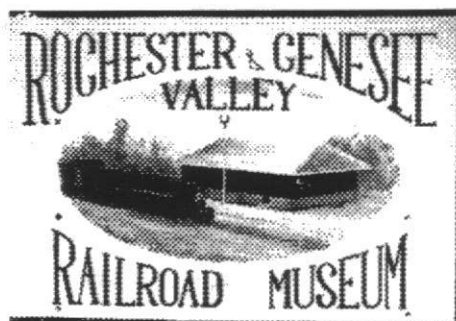
Full National at Rochester.....	209
Elsewhere + Rochester.....	8
Family.....	32
Total:	249

Few Spaces Available on Williamsburg, VA Trip

About four spaces are available for the Chapter's sponsored rail trip to Williamsburg, VA. Departs Rochester Oct 11 and returns Oct 15 via Amtrak roundtrip.

The cost is \$370 - 395 per person/ double occupancy. Include are three nights in a hotel with continental breakfasts, one dinner, and of course a tour of Old Williamsburg.

Call Jim East at (716) 377-5389.



by Rand Warner, Chairman, 425-8587

History

Several years ago Peter Gores donated the CTC board display from Chili Junction to our Museum. Member Tom Mundrick worked that Tower #33 for NYC RR and has many stories to tell. How about getting our history people together with Tom and doing a video tape oral history with the lighted board in the background? Or maybe our Semaphore editor could do a story?

Electrification Project

Rand Warner, Coordinator

Our NRHS/NYMT joint electrification program is moving ahead on several fronts. Charlie Lowe, Eric Norden and Bob Miner have made up and painted six bracket arm assemblies. Jim Johnson and Rand Warner have measured insulation resistance on these assemblies and they are good to use. Charlie Robinson and Rand Warner have measured locomotive and car clearances, and set stakes for poles, and measured poles. Don Quant, Charlie Robinson and Jim Dierks are refurbishing electrical parts for NYMT Interurban R&E #157. Rand Warner is pursuing various power supply options and opportunities. Neil Bellenger has checked out the auger truck for setting trolley poles.

Buildings & Grounds

Dave Luca, Supt; 288-0318

Progress: Depot floors refinished by Dave Luca.

Depot skirting repainted by Chris Hausler.

Lower half of Depot repainted by Jan Dittmer and Rand Warner.

All areas mowed by Dave Luca, Bob Miner, Bill Chapin, Steve Huse and others.

Wrought iron fence painted by Janet Dittmer, Elaine D'Angelo, Ira Cohen, Dave Hullings, Rick Israelson, Bobbie Corzine, Chris Hausler and Don Shilling.

Many areas trimmed at NRHS and NYMT by Chris Hauf and Mr. Shattuck using week wackers.

Litter cleared and grounds mowed at Switch #6 by Luca, Warner, Hauf and others.

Plans: Clear brush and low hanging tree limbs around Rte 251 crossing to aid visibility for safety.

Revarnish floor in Depot South waiting room.

Continue clearing, cleaning and mowing along access roads and right of ways.

Clear out junk in vicinity of Rome road grader.

Relocate tool shed in vicinity of Rome grader.

Motive Power

John Redden, Supt; 594-2227

Progress: Reglazing of EKC #6 cab windows continued by Bill Chapin.

LV #211 operational and in service.

EKC #6 exterior paint touched up by John Redden.

Bob Cowan providing fuel filters for pre-lube pump to drain and strain contaminated diesel fuel.

Our motive power people are hot on the trail of potential acquisitions in the areas of steam locomotive and doodlebug.

Plans: Drain and strain diesel fuel from EKC #6 and NKP #79.

Rework brake systems (3) on RG&E #1941.

Begin preparations for RG&E #1941 exterior repaint.

Continue exterior repaint of EKC #6.

Inspect possible pieces for acquisitions.

Communications, Signals & Power

Neil Bellenger, Supt; 359-9985

Progress: Wiring continued north to support next signal block to be activated beyond Switch #6 by Neil Bellenger, Jim Johnson, Mike Dow and Charles Harshbarger.

Semaphore mast for hill block signal painted by Neil Bellenger.

Relay control box wiring continued by Jim Johnson and Mike Dow.

Signal equipment relocated off hill area by George Knab, Joe Scanlon, Rand Warner and Neil Bellenger to clear for new building.

Plans: Fix up unused space inside Trailer Car #3 to haul C&S supplies and tools to job sites out on track line.

Complete painting of signals and semaphore masts.

Continue installation of next signal block north of Switch #6.

Continue support to Electrification Project. Begin setting wood poles with auger truck in NYMT area.

Train Operations

John Redden, Supt; 594-2227

Progress: Motive power, rolling stock and MOW equipment relocated and/or displayed for Anniversary Celebration.

Equipment maintenance, repair and restoration priorities reviewed.

Plans: Operations training with new manuals.

Safety meeting and follow up action items.

Assess equipment for passenger hauling capacity between Museums.

Plan ahead to possible train operations for November and December as we did last year to replace track cars for inclement weather.

Information of the upcoming Sodus Fall Foliage Trips appears on Page 7.

Visitor Operations

Don Shilling, Supt; 381-3171

Progress: All steps have been repainted by Don and others.

Large step assembly has been sectioned by Dave Luca to fit end of DL&W baggage car.

Depot redecorated for summer operations and 25th Anniversary Celebration by Shilling and Luca.

A number of attractive and historic handouts have been prepared for our visitors by Don Shilling.

Plans: Paint reworked ramp into DL&W baggage car display.

Meet with local town supervisors, librarians, historians, and recreation directors.

Maintenance of Way Equipment

Norm Shaddick, Supt; 865-2773

Progress: Jackson tamper in use by John Redden.

PRR track motor car ("Roemobile") almost complete, fully operational, partially painted, with a new roof -- thanks to Leonard and Raymond Roe, Norm Shaddick, Bob Miner, Bob Mader, Bernie Cubitt and others.

Trailer Car #3 reconfigured, rebuilt and repainted by Norm Shaddick, Rand Warner, Jeremy Tuke, Bob Mader, Bob Miner, Dave Luca and others, and was put into service a week before our 25th Anniversary. It holds 8 adults.

The MaderMobile track motor car now has fully operational air brakes, air horn and air reverse. It was used all through our Anniversary Weekend and ran perfectly. Bob has even written a manual for it.

Plans: Complete remaining mechanical and paint work on PRR rack motor car and Trailer Car #3.

Continue body and mechanical work on Kershaw snow broom.

Track & Right of Way

Rand Warner, Acting Supt; 425-8587

Progress: Gage rods added at NYMT to reinforce curves and areas with weak ties and poor gage.

Barn lead switch at NYMT reworked for better hot weather operation.

Chain link fence taken down along west side of Mortimer line by Charles Harshbarger and Bill Chapin.

Ties replaced at NYMT end by John Redden, Norm Shaddick, Rand Warner, Jeff Carpenter, Jeremy Tuke and others.

Trackage inspected and actions required noted and marked by Rand Warner end to end on complete line.

Plans: Replace missing switch stand timbers at NYMT loop switch.

Replace switch stand timbers at NYMT barn lead switch.

Replace spring frog at NYMT loading track.

Reactivate switch to two barn tracks at NYMT barn.

Engineering Dept.

Jim Johnson, Supt; 467-1672

Progress: Multi layer map drawing of facility is in work showing all infrastructure on computer system -- thus we can get any or all portions on output or any combination -- thanks to Jim Johnson & Co.

Preliminary site plan for new building prepared to Town of Rush specs by John Weber and submitted to Town.

Plans: Complete computer data base map.

Gather instrumentation for Electrification Project.

Tool Car & Shops

Charles Harshbarger, Supt; 266-8339

Progress: Additional files and cabinets procured for tool car by Charles Harshbarger and installed in north end of car.

Indoor/outdoor metal work benches set up at Flexivan trailer by George Knab for heavy work and welding.

Materials for shop to support heavy equipment reorganized by George Knab and Joe Scanlon & Co.

Plans: Think about interior layout options for new building.

Think about desired power tools for restoration building.

Think about configuration for Flexi-flo office.

Freight Equipment

Chris Hauf, Supt; 381-8583

Progress: PC transfer caboose flooring replaced and refinished by Chris Hauf. Exterior dents pulled by George Knab and John McDonald. Interior ready to reassemble and paint.

B&O bay window caboose painted in final colors and lettered on both ends and west side by John Redden.

NYC caboose touched up by Chud Whalen.

Plans: Prepare and paint PC transfer caboose exterior and letter.

Prepare and paint east side of B&O bay window caboose and letter.

Install grab irons at doors of Erie milk car.

Passenger Equipment

Bob Miner, Supt; 671-3589

Progress: Gale Smith is cleaning all metalwork in Pine Falls kitchen and improving other areas of car as well.

Dave Behnke is back on metal work for Erie Stillwell coach after a tough stint of overtime.

DL&W baggage car converted into walk thru display for summer by Chris Hauf & Co.

Plans: Replace lamp lenses in Pine Falls lounge area.

Begin preparation of excursion train a Sodus for Fall Foliage runs season.

Recoat roofs on B&O baggage car and Pine Falls and touch up roof

coating on MCI car and Erie Stillwell.

Reinstall grab irons and steps on Pennsy RPO car.

Construction & Equipment

by Joe Scanlon

As we had predicted in the last Semaphore issue, George Knab has moved the Ford forklift, the Cat D-7 bulldozer and the Lorain yard crane (both of the latter donated to the Chapter by Rochester Asphalt Materials, Inc.) up to the restoration building site. Since the, George and Dave Luca have enlisted the aid of many of our stalwart volunteers to sort and stack rail and ties. Literally hundreds of rail sections and ties have been sorted and stacked. George has worked the Lorain crane many hours, and the Lorain has proven to be a gutsy, responsive worker.

Meanwhile, back in the equipment display area, Tom Phillips has been quietly working away on the Barber Greene crawler conveyor, and is very close to having this venerable old machine fired up again. We can't wait to hear it run again.

In the last issue we promised you more acquisitions. On Saturday, July 27, 1996, early in the morning, we drove two (2) Mack trucks into the display area!

Through the kind assistance of member Dave Goodwin, who is also Town Highway Superintendent for the Town of Clarkson, the Chapter purchased a Mack Model R-600 single axle diesel dump truck from the Town of Clarkson. The dump truck is scheduled to be put to work soon on the 25th Anniversary Restoration Building site development project.

On the same morning, Joe Scanlon and George Knab pulled in with a 1965 Mack Model B-30 single axle water tank truck. This truck was acquired for Chapter use from Mr. George Sperzio of Construction Services, Inc. Once again, we have acquired a historically significant truck,

since this is the last year (1965) that Mack manufactured the 'B' models.

But wait -- we're not done yet -- we saved the best for last. George Knab, with the help of Dave Goodwin, has moved his 1923 Keystone excavator into the equipment display area. The Keystone is a huge museum display piece, and a fine example of early attempts in the equipment industry to develop a high production excavator. The Keystone skimmer is powered by a four cylinder Climax gas engine and is in running condition! The Keystone is a great addition to our heavy equipment display.

You are encouraged to come out to the Depot and see our new acquisitions. You are also encouraged to come out and help with the equipment, since there is more than enough restoration projects to go around. Contact Joe Scanlon, George Knab or Rand Warner for more details.

Many thanks to our benefactors and the many volunteers who make this all happen!

Wanted

- Copper feeder line for trolley #2-0 to #4-0.
- Crushed stone railroad ballast #3A for NYMT end.
- Backhoe tractor, conventional, gas or diesel.
- Skid steer loader, Bobcat or equivalent.
- Set of shocks for Alonzo Cornell RPO car at Sodus.
- Diesel generator 300-500kw for trolley power supply.
- Volunteers to work on excursion train out of Sodus.
- Consumables: lube oil, diesel fuel, kerosene, gasoline, hydraulic fluid, anti-freeze, paper towels, toilet paper.
- Heavy equipment maintenance and repair personnel.

Thanks to

Jim Deane for information on crane base.

F. L. Heughes for donation of crane base.

George and Dave Knab for tractor/trailer to move crane base.

George Knab for donation of hydraulic hose, belts, hardware and tools.

Rand Warner for hardware and tools donations.

Dave Jacobs & Star Headlight and Lantern Co. for donation of latest technology lantern at our 25th Anniversary.

Lynn Heintz for thread chaser and journal box lid.

Jim & Joy Lethbridge for antique suitcases for display.

Lou Ahrens and NYS/DOT Region 4 with Conrail, for donation of antique crossing flasher set from Attica.

George Knab for set of ox/acetylene tanks and getting all our tanks filled.

Norm Shaddick for new electric fuel pump for Roemobile track motor car.

John Weber for donation of assorted angle bar stock and offer of possible use of storage space.

Jeremy Tuke for parts and work on lanterns and locks.

John Redden for pursuing power tools for new building.

Look up, Look UP

A single-engine, home built plane has been flying around our museum complex lately. The pilot/owner/builder is Dave Goodwin, and he has taken some great photos of our operations. Prints and negatives have been passed to Don Shilling and Chris Hauf, who will be making up some large display pictures for the public and our members to view. Thanks, Dave, for a whole new angle!

An Interview: Mike Byrne



Mike is another Rochester transplant. He was born in Johnson City, NY and grew up in Endwell (15 miles west of Binghamton).

After high school, Mike attended Broome Community College where he obtained an A.A.S. degree as a Medical Lab Technician. Further education was at R.I.T. where he received a B.S. in Business-Marketing. Both specialties are serving him well as you shall read.

He works for Johnson & Johnson Clinical Diagnostics as a Technical Support Specialist. For the Chapter, Mike is Chairman of Marketing & Publicity Committee, and if you follow our local media, he has been doing an outstanding job promoting current Chapter activities.

Mike well remembers when he moved to Rochester: on Jan 30, 1978 -- it was during one of our major snow storms! He joined the Chapter six years later, when he met Dave Shields on an Ontario Central Victor to Manchester train excursion.

The early years of interest in railroads were the E-L in Endicott/Endwell, NY where he spent hot summer days at the Endicott's Hayes Ave Yard. There was also those D&H sharks headed to Sayre, PA. His current interest is along the technical aspects: track layout, signals, dispatching.

For Chapter activities, we mentioned his current position as Marketing and Publicity Chairman (by the way, Mike is

looking for a volunteer to take over these duties!). He has served on the Board of Trustees.

Mike continues his interest in Erie-Lackawana with being a member of the E-L Historical Society. He has authored two **Trains** articles and one article for **Railfan and Railroad** magazines.

Mike is one of the 'youngsters' in our Chapter and as such is a devoted family man. With his wife, Deborah, who is a research scientist, he takes time out of railroading (oh?) to assist in raising two daughters: Kelly (an avid equestrian) and Lisa (loves to dance).

New Publications

Chapter member Richard Barrett has authored another book. **Boston's Depots & Terminals** details the history of downtown Boston's railroad depots from 1834 to today. This hard cover 8.5 x 11" book contains 240 pages and almost 300 photos and illustrations. The price is \$54.95 plus \$3.00 s&h and NYS tax if applicable. (Sorry, Richard about this late notice - Editor).

Order from Railroad Research Publications. 3400 Ridge Road West, Suite 5-266, Rochester, NY 14626-3495. For credit card order, call 1-800-205-8254; information: 1-716-6903.

Another recently release book is: **Scenes Along the Rails, Volume I: The Anthracite Region of Pennsylvania, Part 1** by John W. and Suzanne C. Hudson.

There are three parts to Volume I. Part 1 focuses on the city of Scranton and the area to its north and east. Railroads covered are NYO&W, DL&W, Erie and D&H plus four others. It contains 166 pages, 110 photos and seven maps.

Order from Depot Square Publishing, 6683 Loveland-Miamiville Rd., Loveland, OH 45140-8732. Price is \$25 plus \$3.75 for s&h.

Help needed for Air Show!

We will have an information booth at this years air show in Batavia on Aug. 17&18. See the Air Show and help the Chapter. Call M. Byrne at 225-5659.

Rules are Rules --- Aren't They ??

by Dan Cosgrove

On the railroad, rules are usually inflexible, and the meaning are clear. If a rule advises you on a plan of action, there is no way you can subvert that. However, some rules can be bent - carefully.

Take for instance Rule No. 14: When two main tracks are numbered, and for three or more main racks the following whistle signals will be used:

----- flagman may return from east or north on No. 1 track.

----- flagman may return from south or west on No. 2 track.

----- 0 flagman may return from east or north on No. 3 track.

----- 0 flagman may return from south or west on No. 4 track.

One day at Wayneport where all trains stopped to clean their fires and to take on coal, two westbound freights on tracks 1 and 3 were being serviced at the same time. The man on track 1 was ready to leave so he blew the signal for this tracks which was 5 long blasts on his whistle. This took a little time, and the man on 3 was ready before the man on 1 had blown his fifth long whistle and as soon as the man on one had finished, the man on three blew one short whistle. The two flagmen standing well to the rear of the two trains heard five long blasts of the whistle (the man on track one) and one short blast (the man on track 3) so the flay returned to the train and they departed Wayneport. The engine-man on the train on track 1 did not understand what went on for a few minutes. The rules weren't bent, but they had been twisted that day.

1963 ORER reissued

With permission from K-III Communications Corp. the 1963 Official Railway Equipment Register will be reprinted by NMRA. The price is \$49.95 plus \$4.95 s&h and is available from: NMRA, 4121 Cromwell Road, Chattanooga, TX 37421.

All Aboard!

1996 Excursion Train Work Schedule

This year, as in previous years, there is much work to do and so little time to do it, preparing the excursion train for the 1966 Excursion Season.

This year we will again have two work sessions per week. On Wednesday, beginning on August 7th, Bob Miner and/or Dave Luca will be out in Sodus 5:00pm till ??? for those that want to help out after work. Retirees should contact Bob about an earlier starting tie. August 17th will be the start of regular Saturday work sessions beginning at 9:00am. The Wednesday and Saturday sessions will be every week (except holiday weekends) until the work is done.

If you are interested in helping out please give Bob Miner a call at 671-3589 or Dave Luca at 288-0318 to coordinate the work. If you think an 85ft railroad passenger car is big and there is a lots of work maintaining it, you would be correct. Trucks, brakes, windows, interior repairs and painting, exterior work, etc. Now just imagine all of the possibilities maintaining a six car train! After you are through imagining, pick up the phone and call Bob or Dave. I'm sure we can find just the right job to match your skills.

Fall Foliage Flyer

Included with this months newsletter is our Fall Foliage Flyer. The Fall trips we operate each year are very important. They provide a source of income, and additional way of educating the public about rail transportation, a way of reaching new members and are a lot of fund to be on.

Please pass this on to a friend or post it at work. Feel free to make several copies if you have access to a copier or if you need additional copies call Mike Byrne, Dave Luca, or Bob Miner. Remember, each Chapter member is actually a silent member of the Publicity and Membership Committees.

Volunteer Help Needed!

It's time to start thinking about Fall Foliage Train Trips at Sodus again. This year's dates are Sunday, September 22 and 29 and October 6, 13 and 20; Saturdays, October 12 and 19. We will be needing car cleaners, car hosts, parking lot attendants, store & concession helpers and ticket agents.

Bob Miner will be heading up the car cleaners. Wednesdays and Saturdays as clean up days. Bob's number is 671-3589.

To sign up for car hosts or parking lot attendant, please call Jim East at 377-5389. For store and concession helpers and ticket agents, please call Janet Dittmer at 288-0318. If anyone needs a Chapter badge, the cost is \$5.00; call Janet to order one.

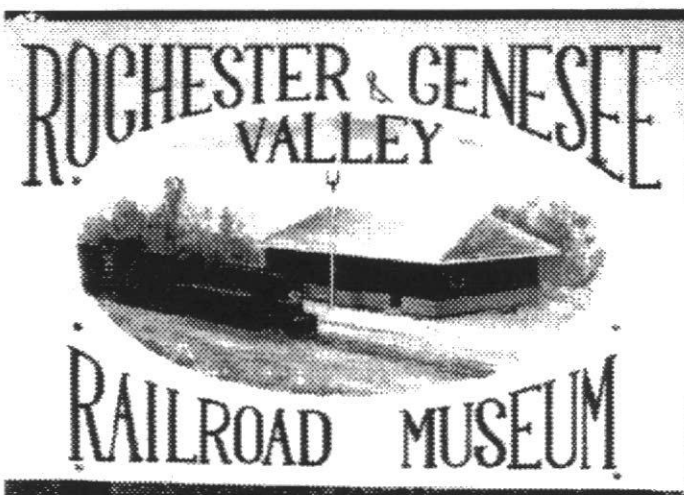
Special Thank You's

We would like to thank Lynn McCarthy at Wegmans on Hylan Drive for the \$25.00 gift card which was donated to the Chapter. It was used to purchase the wonderful 25th Anniversary cake for the Chapter meeting.

A thank you to Bob Mader's friend for three bales of straw. The straw was used as a "mud" cover at Friday's Ground Breaking for the press and dignitaries.

Another thank you goes to Karen Cutitta at Tops on Jefferson Rd. Tops donated a \$15.00 gift certificate. It was used for items needed for the Saturday night picnic held between operations and the night photo shoot.

Preparing for the "BIG" Event: the 25th Anniversary



New Sign Announces our RG&V RR Museum

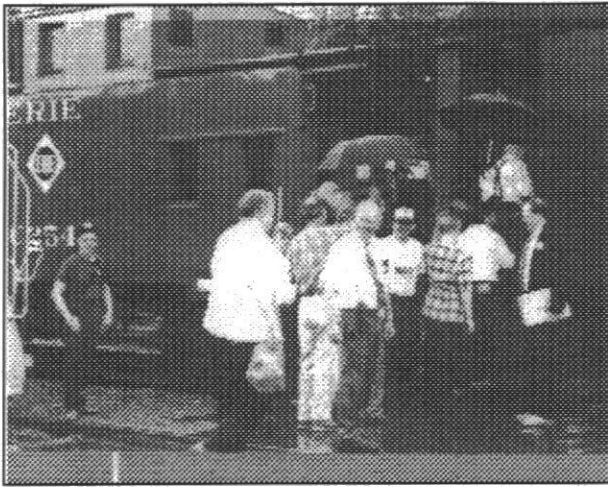
Bernie Cubitt designed and painted this colorful sign. Its mounted by the display yard and faces Rte 251. Too bad we could not reproduce it in full color! It measures about 3 x 5 feet.



Left to right: Dave Luca, Dee Mowers and Chuck Whalen are sprucing up the ballast in the display yard. After many years, the equipment was moved to allow access.

More Photos and Information on Pages 8 and 9

The Ground Breaking Ceremony



Above: Following a Continental Breakfast in the Depot, hosted by Marge Warner and Janet Dittmer, our dignitaries board the MU car in a 'drizzle' (left). Right: When the car reached the ground breaking site, umbrellas were required as the 'drizzle' turned to rain.



Left: Mike Byrne was the Master of Ceremonies. He pointed out that the weather of the day confirms the need for a Restoration Building!

Right: Rand Warner briefly details the accomplishments of the Museum over the past 25 years. Dave Luca forecasts what the next 25 years should be like.



Terri Schmitt, Town of Rush Supervisor, reads a Proclamation from the Town.

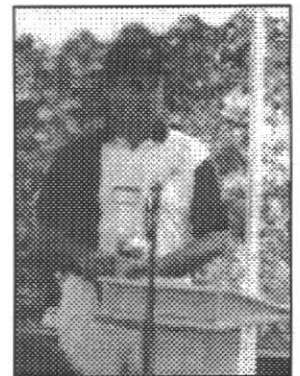


Left: Jerry Johnson, NY State Assemblyman, presents a proclamation and a New York State flag for the Depot.

Right: Jim Dierks of the New York Museum of Transportation presents a framed pronouncement.



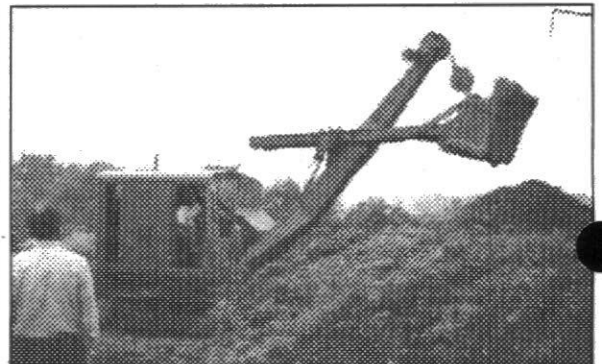
Dave Jacobs of Star Headlight & Lantern Co. presents the Chapter with the Company's latest railroad lantern.



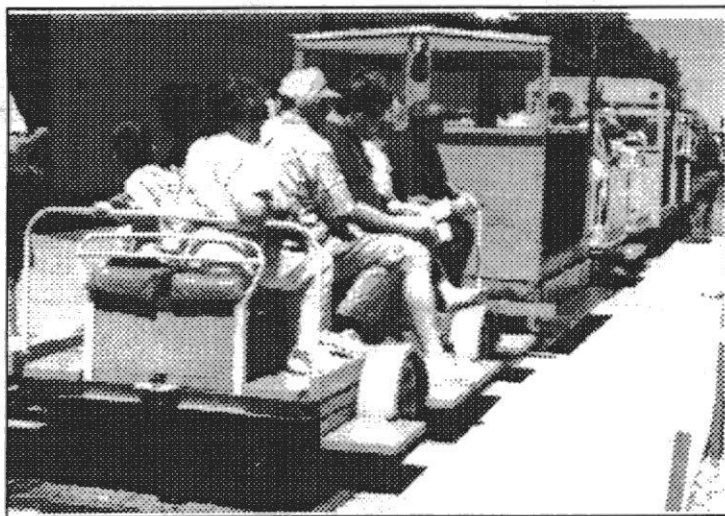
Below: Joe Scanlon powers up the 1937 Bay City shovel for a "big" scoop of dirt!



Left: Jerry Johnson, Dave Luca, Rand Warner and Terri Schmitt use 'gold-plated' shovels to 'break the ground' for the new building. By this time it was mud rather than loose dirt.



Views from Saturday & Sunday Activities



Three track cars with trailers were used for each trip between NYMT & R&GV RR Museums.



The young ladies enjoy a view from the Erie caboose.

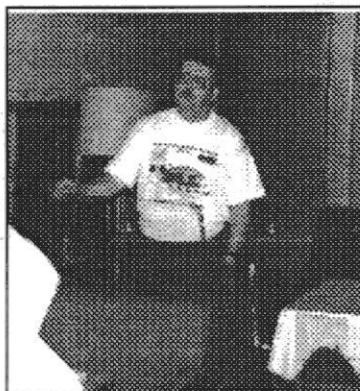


Dick Holbert at the throttle of the LV 211 engine.

Right: Bruce Hodges, Northeast Vice President of NRHS spends two days with us, missing his own Chapter's picnic.



Left: David Hulings informs our visitors about Operation Lifesaver in the Pine Falls sleeper/lounge car.



Dan Cosgrove informs the public about the duties of a station agent, while Bob Miner monitors another train movement.



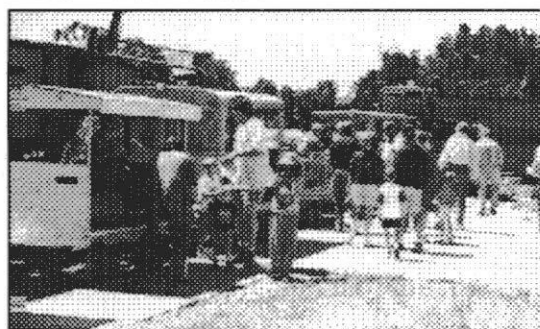
Above: One of the highlights: demonstration of 'icing' (with genuine ice) of the MDT refrigerator car.



Above: Three track cars/trailers were not enough to haul Sunday's visitors; a bus was necessary. *Left:* Jim East, our Chapter's tour director, inviting visitors to board the Pine Falls.



Charles Goodman working the parking detail.



Visitors debarking at the loading platform at New York Museum of Transportation.



Elaine D'Angelo and John Redden preparing for another track car run. Who says that railroading isn't romantic; Elaine and John have announced their engagement. CONGRATULATIONS!

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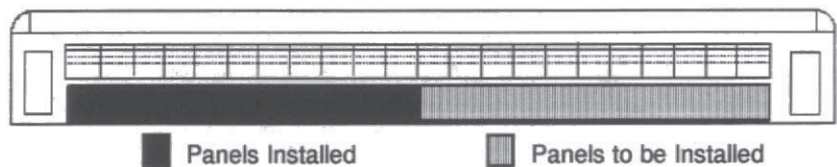
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Contributions to **The Semaphore** are welcomed and encouraged from all readers. They should be mailed to: Gale E. Smith, 299 Seneca Park Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617-2433. Phone: (716) 544-6221. Contributors using a computer are asked to send their 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

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Chapter Meeting & Program:

Relax & Enjoy!

6:00PM, August 15, 1996

Industry Depot, Rush