



The Semaphore

Newsletter of the Rochester NY Chapter, NRHS
P.O. Box 23326, Rochester, NY 14692-3326; Published Monthly

January 2004
Volume 46, No. 5

Program for Jan. 15

Erie Canal - Its History by Donovan Shilling

January's meeting will feature our own Donovan Shilling discussing the Erie Canal and its history. He will present color slides of the historical canal modules he has built.

Donovan is not only our resident Chapter Historian but a very sought-after expert on Rochester and vicinity history. He often gives classes at the Rochester Museum & Science Center and has about four books on various aspects of local history.

He is also famous for his well detailed dioramas that tell a story in each one based on a historical event.

Meeting starts at 7:30

Chapter Store open before and following the meeting

Program starts about 8:15

Place: 40&8 Club, 933 University Ave.

Feb. Program - Members' Slide Night

by Harold Russell

February will be our Members' slide night. Please dig out those slides you have hidden away and bring them along for all to enjoy. We have a stack loader for those of you who do not have your slides in carousel trays.

Please let Chris Hauf (381-8583) or Harold Russell (427-9159) know what you will be bringing by January 15th.

The conclusion of Harold Russell's article on "The Rome, Watertown and Odenburgh Railroad" is enclosed.

An enlarged copy of the map that was in Part 1 now lists the stations along this road.

Chapter Library

11 May Street (by OMID Tracks) in Webster

Hours: 2 to 5 PM

SUNDAY, January 18, 2004

Library Phone: 872-4641

Welcome - Come and

See you at the Party on the 10th!!

Saturday, January 3rd was a balmy day with over 60 degrees; next Saturday, January 10th is predicted to be much cooler. All the more reason to be at the Chapter's Year-End Party any time after 3 PM!

We will provide pizza (on a continuing basis), HOT coffee and cool punch (for the diehards)

You should bring a dish to pass

Also be sure to dress warmly as you make a dash between the various cars, depot and the train rides.

The cars and depot will be heated, and those with stoves will most likely have chili, stew (maybe the hobo variety) on the stoves. The Pine Falls should have hot cider, fresh pop corn and other items, including videos.

Although January 5 was the requested date for reservations, Dale may still accommodate late ones by calling him at 585-243-0139 or e-mail at dhartnet@foxrochester.com.



Don't adjust your set! Yes Virginia, there is a Christmas train in there amongst the snow flakes! Even though several inches of heavy snow fell throughout the day, the R&GV RR Museum's Christmas train rides kept running on December 14th. Here we see the train nearing the Remelt's boarding area near the NYMT with the heavy snow falling. *Photo and caption by Chris Hauf*

Christmas Tree trips successful

by Steve Huse

The Christmas Tree trips at Remelt's Tree Farm went very well. Thank you everyone for volunteering.

John Redden, Chris Hausler, Mike Roque, Joe Werner, Jesse Stallone and Steve Huse did an excellent and professional job in taking care of the mechanical problem on December 7th. I would also like to thank the people during the week who checked on our work and gave their approval to run the following weekend.

Jeremy Tuke, Rand Warner, Dave Luca and Steve Huse braved one inch an hour of snow to run on December 14!

Thank you every one again.

Thanks to Dick Barrett

by Jeremy Tuke

Last month long time member and former Chapter President Dick Barrett donated a beautiful locomotive bell to the Chapter. Museum managers are working to develop new displays for the 2004 Museum season and this will undoubtedly be part of one of these displays.

Dick included the following description of the bell and how it came to be in his collection:

"As a Kodak employee in the 1970s, I received a copy of the company newspaper *Kodakery* each week. Normally, there was a full page of classified ads from employees wanting to sell something. But imagine my surprise one day when I opened my *Kodakery* and saw an ad which read "For Sale steam locomotive bell". I immediately contacted the gentleman who has placed the ad and was told that the bell had been purchased by his father in the 1950s shortly before his father retired from the Lehigh. The father had since died and the son was tired of moving the bell from one apartment to the other. I then contacted Pete Gores, another Chapter member and good friend, and we went over there to look at the bell. The son said that his father had told him that the bell was off a Lehigh Valley 2000 series Pacific - the type of locomotive which powered most Lehigh passenger trains in the steam era. I purchased the bell that night and Pete and I brought the bell to my home where it has been in residence for about 27 years. Now I have donated the bell to the Chapter in hopes that it will have a good home for many years to come."

Thanks again to Dick for his donation of this fine steam-era artifact and his long-time support of the Chapter!

Otto Vondrak looking for Subway info.

Otto is doing another magazine article about the Rochester Subway, in particular, an article on making a model of one of the above ground stations. I am looking for any slides or photos taken of subway stations before or after abandonment. I have already exhausted the Chapter's archives, but I am looking for additional material, possible in color. Anyone who contributes material to this article will be compensated by the magazine.

I can be contacted at <ovondrak@yahoo.com> or (585) 820-2341.

Library Report

Charles Robinson, Chairman

The library will be open Sunday Afternoon from 2:00 to 5:00 PM on January 18, 2004. We have been given a large number of books and VCR tapes on all kinds of railroad subjects including model railroads. Come out and see what is available.

The library roof continues to give problems with the leak around the outside of the skylight becoming worse despite our extensive repair job this fall. The ceiling plaster is beginning to fall. Do not leave anything on the round table in the copier room.

Jerry Gillette has made a list of all our railroad timetables and brochures and has placed them in order in the Timetable File in the Periodical room. Thus if you are interested in particular railroad's schedules it will be easy to find them. Also we have a number of Official Guides for various years that contain timetables for US and Canadian railroads.

Bob Miner is working on our computer problems. Gale Smith is adding recently donated books to our catalog listing. The library chairman is going through our duplicate books and will soon remove surplus books from the shelves to make room for our new and different acquisitions. The plan at the moment is to retain three copies of Rochester related rail books, two copies of New York related books, two copies of important reference books and one copy of the remaining books. The library needs more shelf space and this is one way of obtaining it. The surplus books will be made available for sale with the resulting monies being used for the library.

We have been given a large selection of steam railroad video tapes by an anonymous donor that certainly many members will enjoy. [There are about 40 and most, if not all, are new to our collection!] We are deeply grateful for this generous gift. The tapes are currently available for viewing at the library and can also be checked out on loan once Gale assigns them a catalog number.

Hope you will start the New Year out correctly by visiting us on the 18th!

Roy Richards

Our condolences to Duncan, Val and Shauna Richards on the passing of Duncan's father, Roy, on December 20th.

Robert Nichols

Robert, of Websster, was a Chapter member from 1996 to 2003.

Membership Report

Janet Dittmer, Chairperson

Welcome to these new members:

Irene Szabo

6939 Creek Rd.

Mt. Morris, NY 14510 585-658-4321

Interests: Trips, Museum tour guide,

Writing and Library

John Barbera

4 Oakbrier Ct., Apt 3

Penfield, NY 14526 585-388-6402

John has been an Associate member.

New address:

Richard and Maria Anderson

107 School Road

Liverpool, NY 13088-6230 315-451-7320

Gerald Monnti add family members: Dave

Swilley and Chris Sommer.

Temporary addresses (snow birds)

Bobbie Corzine

1233 SE McFarlane Ave

Point Saint Luc, FL 34952-5307

Tom Ewart

7001 142nd Ave., Lot 287

N Largo, FL 33771

DeForest Mowers

#116 12760 Indian Rocks Road

Largo, FC 33774

Renewal notices were received Dec. 9 from the National and were forwarded to Chapter members on the 10th.

As of the end of 2003, 126 Chapter members have renewed. Membership for 2004 stands at 130 with the new additions.

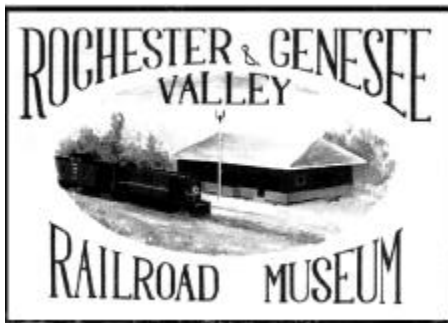
NOTE: the early renewal discount has **EXPIRED.**

Membership Rates:

National + Chapter membership:	\$. \$40
Above as Family membership \$52
Local* \$20
Local as Family* \$29
(* Holds National membership elsewhere)	
National only \$20
National as Family only \$23
Subscriptions only: \$8

Dick Barrett in hospital

Dick Barrett is in Rochester General Hospital and is expected to be there for several weeks. Friends may wish to send cards.



MUSEUM MUSINGS

by Dale Hartnett

It's 2004 and many of us have made (and probably broken) numerous New Year's resolutions.

I propose that those of us at the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum set some resolutions for the coming year. These are resolutions that need to be kept, not broken.

1. Be safe...always.
2. Make it interesting for our guests.
3. Keep it neat and clean.
4. Design it right. Do it once.
5. Learn from others. Everybody knows something you don't know.
6. Protect our collection.
7. Make it fun for others to join us.
8. Leave a legacy for the next generation.
9. Spread the word about all the neat things we do.
10. Be willing to do your share of the "dirty work." It has to get done.

Call them resolutions. Call them principles. Call them rules to live by. Whatever you call them, we need to make sure we're all on the same page and pulling in the same direction.

The results include happier guests, less work and more fun.

Will you join me in these resolutions?

Chapter to lease new copier.

For the past five years, the Chapter has leased a Xerox digital copier.

A new copier will be leased that has an interface to connect directly with a computer. This should make a dramatic improvement in the quality of the photographs in *The Semaphore*. (And present a challenge to your editor, who may have to update his software and scanner!)

Managers

Railroad: (Motive, Rolling stock, MOW, ROW)

Chris Hauf: 381-8583; crhauf@frontiernet.net

Infrastructure: (Buildings, grounds, shops, construction, communications, signals & power, heavy equipment)

Dave Luca: 288-0318; daveluca@frontiernet.net

Visitor Experience: (Visitor, Train & Track Car operations, 4-Q Vision, Special events)

Dale Hartnett: 243-0139; dhartnet@wuhf.sbgn.net

Get Out Your Sleeping Bag!

Reserve the night of Saturday, February 21 to spend at the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum for the annual Caboose Dinner and Sleepover (sleepover optional).

Things get underway at 5 PM with a steak dinner with all the fixings. We'll watch videos, swap stories and whatever else the participants want to do.

Then, we'll spend the night near the stove in a toasty caboose. The whole event is topped off by a scrumptious breakfast.

This event just seems to get better every year. Make sure you're on board this year!

Cost is only \$20 per person. Make your reservations by contacting Dale Hartnett (585/243-0139 or dhartnet@foxrochester.com).

Seeking P&L Junction History

by Chris Hauf

Recently, Chris Hauf was contacted by a new company that is located at P&L Junction on the Rochester & Southern Railroad. Since they will be using rail services, they were looking for some P&L Junction history and photographs to display at their new facility. The Chapter does not have many P&L Junction photographs in its collection, so Chris is looking for some help. If you can provide a written history or if you have photographs the Chapter can copy to give to this industry and maybe a copy to the Chapter's archives, please let Chris (crhauf@frontiernet.net; 381-8583) know. Again, all photographs will be copied and quickly returned to their original owners. Credit will also be given where applicable.

Remember —

Year-End Party Jan. 10

Events start at 3 in the afternoon and last until the last person locks the door!

Looks like the weather will be cooperating for us to ride the train and marvel the winter landscape!

'Young Railfan' Recruiting Night - Feb. 10

The Chapter's Young Railfan group is looking for new members!

"Young Railfans" is our term for our youth program chartered through the Exploring Division of the Boy Scouts of America.

Typically, Young Railfans participate in projects at the Rochester and Genesee Valley Railroad Museum alongside museum volunteers. The goal is for the youth to learn while developing their skills and interests.

Young Railfans are also eligible to participate other Chapter functions, including access to the Library, participation in Chapter social functions and volunteer on the Empire State Express excursion train set.

Membership is open to young men and women, ages 14 to 21.

The cost is \$10 per year. Each member is also required to have appropriate safety gear, including hard hat and safety shoes.

There will be an information night on Tuesday, February 10 (site to be determined). Prospective new members and their parents are invited to attend.

For more information, contact Dale Hartnett at 585/243-0139 or email at dhartnet@foxrochester.com.

Upcoming Anniversaries

by Rand Warner

75th Anniversaries of Abandonment of Rochester area Interurban Lines:

- ? Rochester & Sodus Bay: July 28, 2004
- ? Rochester & Eastern: July 30, 2005
- ? Rochester Lockport & Buffalo: April 30, 2006
- ? Rochester & Syracuse: June 28, 2006
- ? 50th Anniversary of Closing of Rochester Subway for Passenger Service: June 30, 2006

We have some time here to plan some significant and appropriate recognition events & Celebrations!!

Dreams & Visions

by Rand Warner

Now that 2003 is put away and 2004 is fast upon us, what are your dreams and visions for the New Year?

- For the
- Chapter
- Library
- Museum
- Excursions
- Special Events
- Membership
- Programs
- Newsletter
- Endowment
- Train Set
- Visitor Experience
- Publications
- Store
- Steam Operations
- Trolley Operations
- Etc.

Won't you please communicate your thoughts to our Chapter officers, Trip Committee, Museum Managers, Chairmen, and others as appropriate.

Surveying Equipment

by Rand Warner

Over the years our Engineering Dept. has accumulated a fair assortment of surveying equipment, to assist us with layout of railroad, construction and building projects, mapping, etc.

We now have the following items available for your use: -- Builders transit -- 2 extensions survey rods 100 foot -- Engineers hand level -- Precision compass -- 300-foot, 100-foot, 50-foot and 25-foot tapes -- Plumb bobs -- chalk line -- Fluorescent tapes -- Upside down spray cans -- Laser level on tripod -- Survey takes -- Engineers hammer

What we still need is a good engineers dumpy level with tripod.

Wanted - Videos

by Rand Warner

We would like to establish a library of video and audio tapes and CD's on railroad subjects, to play for our volunteers and visitors at R&GV RM. If you have any tapes or CD's you no longer play, or possibly duplicates, please contact Rand Warner or Dale Hartnett, or bring them out to the Museum on a Tuesday or Saturday when we are there.

First Aid Equipment

by Rand Warner

For the safety of our members, volunteers, and visitors, we now have first aid kits deployed as follows:

- Depot agent's room - large chest
- Depot engineering office - kit
- Tool car at Museum - kit
- Flexivan shop at Museum - kit
- Restoration Building - kit
- Red Erie Caboose #254 - kit
- Penn-Central Caboose - kit
- Track Motor car/Operator - kits
- Library at Webster - kit
- Excursion Train Set - kits in cars
- Excursion Train Shop Car - kit

When you are working as a volunteer or supporting our many visitor operations, please make it a point to know where the nearest first aid equipment is located.

Safety Committee

by Rand Warner

The following individuals give of their time and abilities to continually improve safety of facilities, equipment, procedures, and operations at R&GV RM:

- ? *Train Operations & Safety Training* - John Redden
- ? *Track Car Operations & Safety Training* - Jeremy Tuke
- ? *Heavy Equipment Safety & Training* - Art Mummery
- ? *Construction Practice Safety & Training* - Joe Scanlon
- ? *Outdoor Electrical Safety* - Scott Gleason
- ? *Indoor Electrical Safety* - Jim Johnson
- ? *Fire Safety & Training* - Steve Huse
- ? *First Aid Safety & Training* - Mike Byrne
- ? *Visitor Safety & Training* - Dale Hartnett
- ? *Buildings and Grounds Safety* - Dave Luca
- ? *Track & Rights-Of-Way Safety* - Rand

Buffalo's Central Terminal

This topic will be the program for the Niagara Frontier Chapter meeting on Friday, January 9th.

Web page for Central Terminal is:
www.buffalocentralterminal.org.

Thanks to ...

Matt Shumway of M&M Electrical Surplus, for donation of marsh Electric Stencil Machine and rail drill for signal bond wires.

Dan Waterstraat for repair of 12-volt yellow rotating safety beacon light, and design and fabrication of new temperature sensor system for EK #6.

Richard Barrett for donation of complete brass steam locomotive bell and yoke assembly from former Lehigh Valley steam locomotive.

Kenneth Arnold for donation of extensive collection of steel and tin metal working tools and fixtures.

Fred Trumbore for donation of sizeable collection of steam and diesel locomotive and rolling stock repairs training materials.

Contributors to fund for new set of batteries for diesel loco EK #6.

Fox Rochester for donating a high density shelf storage systems for our Restora-

Signal Dept.

by Rand Warner

Our operating signals at the Museum add a lot of railroad atmosphere and ambiance. You can see them lit up both day and night.

We currently have operating dwarf signals in the Depot yard and Hill yard, a semaphore signal along the hill, color target signals at the top of the hill going up, and color light signals at Switch #6 going south.

The next signal to be installed will be a color position light signal. This unit will display multiple, colored lights in any one of the three typical semaphore positions: three horizontal red lights for stop, the diagonal yellow lights for caution, or three vertical green lights for proceed. This one will really knock our soxs off!!

Thanks to Mike Dow and all his helpers for adding this dimension of railroading to our visitor experience.

D&H logo on local coal tower

Among Stephen Wagner's observations was remembering a D&H insignia on a tall coal tower near the downtown Rochester station. He remembered seeing it in past years from the *Lake Shore Limited*. However, on a recent trip to Rochester failed to find it.

A query to Rand Warner found that the said coal tower was demolished several years ago. It was located on Portland Ave. near (or in) the NYC's team track yards. [I sort of remember it myself; do you?] [Bridgeline Historical Society's *Bulletin*]



With a warm January day, our Construction Department attempted to start our Caterpillar DW 15 pan. Members Joe Scanlon, Art Mummery, Ryan Johnson and John McDonald came close to succeeding and managed to get the pan shown here with our Trojan front loader behind it started for a few brief minutes. More work needs to be done to get it running properly, but this sign of life was very positive for good things to come. *Photo and caption by Chris Hauf.*



Diggin' in the dirt! With the New Year starting off with a 60+ degree Saturday, Dale Hartnett and Randy Bogucki (pictured here) took advantage of the soft ground to work on some ditching and drainage work on the east side of Track #5. Here Randy loads dirt on the push cart. Once loaded, the cart was taken up on the mainline with TC-4 and off loaded to the west of the mainline adding some usable fill there. There is much more work planned as the weather permits. Please contact Dale Hartnett or Dave Luca if you are available to help. *Photo and caption by Chris Hauf.*

Steam Team Meetings Planned

by John Redden

Starting immediately, we will be scheduling the first Saturday morning of each month to work on our steam locomotives. The first meetings will, in part, be dedicated to planning for the work in the coming year. We will also start the hands-on work on our locomotives, as weather permits.

If you have an interest in our Museum's steam program, please contact Ron Amberger or John Redden. Or, you are welcome to drop by the depot on any first-Saturday morning and join the fun.

Off the Wires

B&O Western PA book available

The Potomac Chapter NRHS received an offer from the author of "Ex-Baltimore and Ohio Lines in Northwestern Pennsylvania" to sell to their chapter members at \$10.50 plus shipping. [Their newsletter sort of indicated the sale was restricted to their members, but inquire if interested.]

The book contains 140 color photos on the B&O's Buffalo division mainline from Ridgeway to Bradford between 1980 with Chessie System, through the Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad to 1998. Also includes the B&O branch line running South from Mt. Jewett to Knox, PA from 1978 through 1998 with Knox and Kane Railroad's steam powered excursion to the Kinzua Bridge.

Inquire from: Potomac Chapter Book Sale, c/o Clay Moritz, 2811 Plyers Mill Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20902. They indicated a deadline of December 24.

GE Transportation Systems absorbed by GE Aircraft

An announcement on December 5 stated that General Electric Transportation System, (GETS) the railroad division of General Electric will have its management functions merged with GE Aircraft Engines of Evendale, a suburb of Cincinnati, on January 1.

GE Aircraft employees 26,000 with annual sales of \$11.1 billion. GETS employees 8,000 with 2002 revenues of \$2.4 billion.

No significant changes are expected concerning GETS's Erie locomotive plant or other facilities worldwide. [*The Lake Shore Timetable*, December 2003; *Erie Times-News*

Interest in Model Trains Declining?

An article in the Scranton *The Times-Tribune* outlines the present situation with model trains.

During Christmas, the interest is high mostly because parents and grandparents bring out their stored train sets to display around the tree. At other times the younger generation is intrigued by computer games, airplanes or model cars.

The two hobby shops in Scranton are seeing good sales this time of year; one shop sold three Big Boys, each over \$2,000.

In general, societies devoted to model trains have seen declining membership. The Lionel Operating Train Society had 2,700 members in 1996, 2,300 in 2003. The Train Collectors Association, based in Strasburg, PA is also seeing a gradual decline in its membership of 33,000.

One aspect that briefly revived interest was Thomas, the Tank Train which attracts 2-to-4 year olds, because of the popular book series.

Some manufacturers are looking at new technology. MTH company has incorporated sounds, digitally recorded, at Steamtown of actual trains sounds including verbal sounds of the trainmen. They have also added remote controls.

A model train attraction in Scranton is a 16-by-32 foot layout set up each year by Don Clark, which he calls "Miniatures Memories" that depicts replicas of the Nicholson Bridge, the Clarks Summit United Methodist Church and other Scantron landmark buildings. [*scrantontimes.com* website, 12/23/03]

Richmond's Main Street opens

The Main Street Station in Richmond, VA officially opened on December 18 with Amtrak passenger service. The station originally opened in 1901 and closed in 1975. It has been renovated over several years. The website at: www.MainStreetStation.info. [*Highball*, December 2003]

Shows:

January 18: TTCS Show at Utica Union Station; Sunday, January 18 from 10 am to 3:30 pm.

April 24-25: The Cornell RR Historical Society, NRHS will be holding their annual Finger Lakes Railfan & Train Show on April 24-25, 2004. Hours: Saturday: 10-5; Sunday 10-4. *Place:* The Field, NYS Rte. 34, four miles north of Rte. 13. *Contribution:* Adult: \$5; Child 3-2: \$2; Family \$10.

March 27: Western New York Railpace Slide Show, Whistle Stop Inn, 1338 Exchange St. Alden, NY beginning at 7 pm. Prepaid admissions only. *Duncan Richards* to participate. [*Railpace*, Jan. 2004]

Solving a murder mystery while riding the rails.

Carbondale, PA -- On August 16, about 300 riders left Scranton at 11 a.m. to Carbondale for lunch. On arrival at the station, they were to see Max I. Million who was to present \$1 million for rebuilding the Irving Theater. But someone had met a foul end and absconded with the money.

Real-life detectives were on the scene, marked by a chalk outline of the imaginary corpse. Clues were available at the scene as well as at various city businesses. Visitors, while walking around the town, encountered costumed actors portraying characters and suspects, who would offer hints on whodunit

Everyone received a free sample of "black diamond", a piece of anthracite coal that promoted the area's early industrial growth.

The train returned to Scranton at 3 p.m. [*scrantontimes.com*, 8/15/2003]

[Ed. This sounds like something that the two museums could produce, since we have

Detroit's MC station may become police headquarters.

Detroit mayor' choice for a new police headquarters is the old Michigan Central depot. City aides and depot owners are working out a deal. The depot's office tower is 17 stories high and there is more than adequate parking space.

The depot was built in 1913 and vacated by Amtrak in 1988. It has been vandalized and almost every window has been broken. Choosing the depot would remove another landmark building from Detroit's list of derelict structures. [*The Michigan Railfan/Michigan Railroad Club*, Vol. 64, #6, page 10.]

[Though not as grand as Buffalo's Central Terminal, this use of MC's depot is an interesting application. Too bad Rochester's NYC station isn't around for similar ideas -- maybe a new jail?]

O. Winston Link Museum opens January 10.

This museum is housed in a renovated historic railroad passenger station in Roanoke, VA and will feature prints of this famed photographer photos of Norfolk & Western Railroad taken during the declining steam era. The 15,000 square foot museum will house 190 signed prints, 85 estate prints and all 2,400 of Link's negatives. Included will be the previously stolen prints. The Norfolk Souther Foundation and employees and retire of the NS Corp. contributed more than \$750,000 in support. [*American Rail Link*, Issue 137]

LS&I #21 steamer to be restored.

Of Lake Superior & Ishpeming Railroad in Michigan steam locomotives, a number still exist. From 1960s to about 1984, the Marquette and Huron Mountain Railroad, a short line, used several of these steamers to haul carloads of tourists. However, No. 21 was not used and remained on a siding in a yard. Mr. Michael Goodell, a Wisconsin railfan and real estate developer, recently purchased Number 21. Mr. Goodell estimates it will cost \$100,000 to restore the engine.

Among the remaining LS&I steamers, #18 and #29 are at the Grand Canyon Railroad, #33 was at Nelsonville on the Hocking Valley and is now on Ohio Central, and #34, now known as #734 is on the *Western Maryland Scenic RR at Cumberland, MD*. [*The Michigan Railfan/Michigan Railroad Club*, Vol. 64, #6,

Thermite welding

The December 2003 issue of Bridgeline Historical Society's *Bulletin*, page 9 contains an article on the history and process of thermite welding, which is used by railroads to join the ends of a broken rail. A present day concern is whether thermite welding techniques can withstand today's heavier cars and traffic.

Historical Events

12/23/1914: The New York Central Railroad became New York Central Lines

12/24/1875: The Niagara Falls Branch Railroad Company was incorporated

12/26/1969: The Hours of Service Act was amended. Train and engine service employees hours was reduced from 16 to 14, with a provision for a further reduction from 14 to 12 hours after two years.

[Phil Houle's Dispatcher's Web Site via *American Rail Link*, Issues 137, 138]

Model of canal lock with actual water in "N-scale"

Robert Woerpel of Rochester's G-N-O Model-n-Gineers has built a model of a New York State Barge Canal lock that uses real water, remotely controlled gates and a remotely powered boat that is displayed at the group's layout in Irondequoit Mall.

The model was displayed at the 2003 Big Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA last February and won an award.

Contributors to this issue

Janet Dittmer, Dale Hartnett, Chris Hauf, Steve Huse, Hugh Ratigan, John Redden, Charles Robinson, Harold Russell, Donovan Shilling Jeremy Tuke, Otto Vondrak, Rand Warner.

Train hits car; Car flees on 3 wheels

At a CSX railroad crossing in Fairview Township, a train took off the rear wheel of a 1990 Cadillac Seville sometime around 3:30 a.m. Police followed the gouge marks in the road for about two miles before locating the heavily damaged car parked in a driveway behind a house. They did not locate the driver. The car was towed to the Girard, PA police barracks and police looking for the driver. [GoErie.com website]

Two railroad-related deaths within a week in Wayne County

In the first, December 23, an eastbound Amtrak train traveling at 75 mph hit a car parked, with its lights out, at a crossing. The driver from Port Gibson, was killed and several passengers on the train were injured. Investigators determined that it was a suicide. The driver had failed to appear before a court to answer to a rape charge filed in Rochester. He had told friends that he would not go to jail. [Democrat & Chronicle, 12/24 & 12/25]

The second incident occurred about a week later. Again, an Amtrak train hit a man who was laying on the tracks. The engineer applied emergency braking but could not stop. This also was ruled as a suicide. [Democrat & Chronicle]

Erie's Union Station sold

The Union Station in Erie, PA was recently sold to Jim Berlin, chief executive of Logistics Plus for \$1.5 million. Logistics Plus is an Erie-based freight management company, which contracts with companies to arrange shipments of their products.

The company plans to occupy 16,000 square feet on the station's third floor.

The balance of the 100,000 plus square foot complex will be developed as a community gathering place. Current tenants, who will remain, are Porters Restaurant and Tap Room, Sabella's at Union Station, Amtrak and Y.W.C.A.

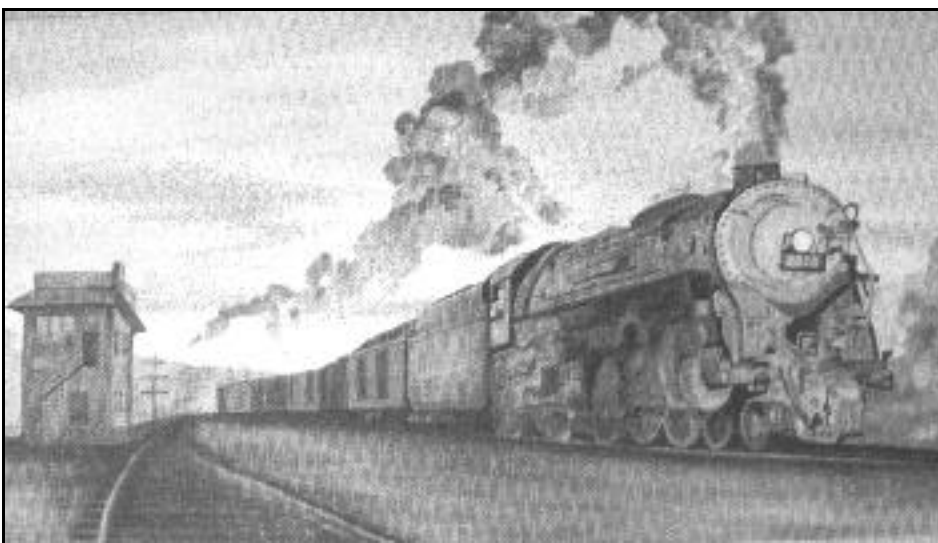
Other possible tenants are a newsstand, coffee shop, RR hobby shop and retail stores.

A 50' by 150' space overlooking the railroad tacks has been reserved for a railroad museum. The Lake Shore Railway Historical Society (an NRHS chapter) has been invited to participate. [The Lakeshore Timetable, November 2003, from Erie Times-News]

Ithaca explores use of Trolleys

Groups in Ithaca are exploring the 'pros and cons' of the use of trolleys, first between downtown and the campus. The area is hilly. (When trolleys were used in the past, students enjoyed 'greasing the rails' to stall a trolley on the hills.) [IthacaTimes.com, 12/15/03]

This mural is displayed at a pizza place in Churchville



Chapter member painted large mural in Churchville diner

Chapter member Hugh Ratigan painted this mural of a speeding New York Central's Hudson pulling a fast freight. He painted it on a 4x8-foot sheet of plywood using acrylic paints. It is displayed on the wall of Knony's Pizza in Churchville, which is located near the crossing on South Main Street.

Hugh states that the view is looking west at Attridge Road crossing in Chili. The tower is where his grandfather, Luke Ratigan, worked as a telegrapher and switch operator.

Meadville-Corry rail line receive attention

The Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad is now directing its attention to improving the Meadville to Corry PA segment.

It has seen growth on the WNY&P line between Meadville, PA and Hornell, NY. Two years ago, they started with one customer and 150 cars a year. Now they handle 2,000 cars annually and about a dozen customers.

John Brown, rail freight director for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, favors when a company switches from highway shipments to rail. Each full train car keeps between three and four tractor-trailers off the road, which leads to less congestion and a third less pollution.

To date, the railroad has invested \$17 million in rehabilitation work. WNY&P goal is for a 50 mph service. Presently, they wish to solidify the track's ability to hold 25-mph and bring more sections up to 40 mph. [Erie Times-News website; 9/29/2003]

Stourbridge rail line to run in 2004

Because of lack of money, this tourist attraction had to shut down. A \$75,000 federal grant will allow the line to operate in Honesdale, PA for 2004. Management want to have the railroad be self-sustaining. Ticket prices range for \$10 to \$23.50 depending on the tour. The line contributes to the economy of downtown businesses. [Scrantonimes.com, 12/8/03]

UP's "Challenger" to be at Super Bowl

No. 3985, the world's largest operating steam locomotive will travel through nine states and 3,500 miles on the way to Houston for the Super Bowl XXXVIII activities. [American Rail Link, #139]

Man shot in head, hit by train, survives

In Mesa County, Colorado, a man was shot in the head and left on a railroad track. A train came along and dragged the man 30 yards until the horrified engineers halted the train.

He shocked the engineers when he crawled from beneath the train. The 37 year-old man was in serious but stable condition at last report. A 42 year-old man is being held on suspicion of attempted first-degree murder and assault. [American Rail Link, #139]

Have a Happy and Prosperous
New Year

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Rochester, NY 14692-3326

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Happy New Year!

Chapter Meeting & Program:
**The Erie Canal - Its
History**
by **Donovan Shilling**
Thursday, January 15, 2004
40&8 Club
933 University Ave.

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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: (585) 544-6221. Contributors using a computer are asked to send their submissions on any MS-DOS diskette in ASCII or *.txt format, as well as a printed copy. Also can send by e-mail to: gale299@frontiernet.net. **Deadline: First Day of Each Month.**

Pouring the Restoration Facility Floor!

The Restoration Building is up and running! Now we need to provide it with a concrete floor. We raised the dust to finish the space. Now we've faced with dust all over the place. One hundred dollars will buy a batch of concrete. The estimate for the floor is \$25,000; we'll need 250 batches (!). Help "cement" together a great project. Maybe we'll even let you write your name and date in a slab! [Don Shilling] (Each block indicates \$1,000)

Suspension Bridge to Rochester:

Suspension Bridge	Carlton
Lewiston Heights	Brice
M.C. Tower	Kendall
Model City	Morton
Ransomville	Hamilin
Randall	Walker
Wilson	Hilton
Burt	Greece
Appleton	Ontario Beach
Barker	CD Tower-Charlotte
Millers	Windsor Beach
Lyndonville	Rifle Range*
Ashwood	Brinker Place*
Waterport	Rochester

* branch to Rochester

Windsor Beach to Pulaski:

Windsor Beach	Alton	Shops
Sea Breeze	North Rose	Oswego
Forest Lawn	Wolcott	East First
Webster	Red Creek	Paul
Union Hill	Sterling	Seriba
Lakeside	Old Y	New Haven
Ontario	Crocketten	Mexico
Williamson	Hannibal	Daysville
Sodus	Medclaf	Pulaski
Wallington	Furniss	

Other Stations

Sackets Harbor	Edwards
Cape Vincent	Philadelphia
Clayton	Newton Falls
Ogdensburg	Carthage
Rivergate	Lowville
Dekalb Jct	Remsen
Massen Springs	Utica
Gouverneur	

Rome to Watertown

Rome	Richland
Mufflogton ?	Lacona
Blossvale	Mannsville
McConnellsville	Pierrepont Manor
Camden	Adams
Westdale	Edison
Williamstown	Ricco
Kasoag	Watertown Jct.
Altmar	Watertown

Syracuse to Pulaski:

Syracuse	Great Bear*	Hastings
West Shore Station	Fulton*	Parish
Salina	Clay	Maple View
Liverpool	Brewerton	Fernwood
Woodard	Emmons	Pulaski
Three River Point*	Central Square	* branch off Woodard
Phoenix*	Mallory	