

**April 15**

**Steve Koenig will be presenting  
a program on shortline  
Buffalo Creek Railroad.  
Don't miss it!**



AN "ERIE" EXPERIENCE: Gas-electric motor car 4070 prepares to depart the Erie Station on Court Street in August 1941, near the end of regular passenger service on the branch. See page 6 for more details! PHOTO BY ROBERT GERLING - COLLECTION OF PETER GORES

# Spring Training

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OPENING DAY! Those words bring images of fresh cut grass, stands full of cheering fans, and your favorite team taking the field. A new baseball season is upon us, and it won't be long until we once again welcome visitors to our museum. They may not be cheering in the stands, but come May 15 the grass will be cut and we will once again "take the field" as start a new operating season.

We have a fair amount of work ahead of us, too. All of our various departments are working hard to get our railroad ready for the public once again. In a way, it is like a sports team getting ready for competition. Fortunately, we have "home field advantage" and host every Sunday.

Some good news on the passenger car front. The Board of Trustees recently resolved to have our former New York Central passenger coaches relocated to our new West Siding by July 1, and by August 1 to have all outstanding work completed in anticipation of operation. We certainly have our work cut out for us in order to meet that goal! As one of the most active railway preservation groups in New York State, I have few doubts we will meet that goal.

Spring is in the air... Can you feel it? Come on down to the depot and catch "spring fever" and help us get ready for teh big game! PLAY BALL!

—Otto M. Vondrak



[www.rochnrhs.org](http://www.rochnrhs.org)

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# TRAIN BULLETIN

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ROCHESTER CHAPTER NRHS

#### CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Elections are coming in May! Please contact Mike Dow ([mdow@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mdow@rochester.rr.com)) if you are interested in serving on the board. At the April Chapter Meeting the official ballot will be announced, and any additional nominations will be called for from the floor. May's edition of The Semaphore will include the ballot, with the election being counted during the May Chapter Meeting.

#### UPCOMING CHAPTER PROGRAMS

We have many interesting and varied programs scheduled throughout the year as part of our monthly membership meetings. If you are interested in giving a presentation on any railroad subject at an upcoming chapter meeting, please contact Harold Russell at [haroldrussell@juno.com](mailto:haroldrussell@juno.com).

**April 15, 2010:** Steve Koenig will be presenting a program on the Buffalo Creek Railroad. It will cover some of the highlight of one of Western New Yorks most successful shortlines and unique facts that were not well known by most people. He will also cover some interesting facts on their massive boxcar fleet. He will also have Z scale Buffalo Creek Boxcars available for purchase to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Buffalo Area Railfans Association.

**May 20, 2010** - Members' Slide Night & Elections

#### CHAPTER LIBRARY REPORT

The chapter library will be open on Monday, March 8 from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm. It will be a great time to stop by and check out our thousands of railroad books and videos. Also available are 12 scrapbooks that Charles Robinson put together, with many one of a kind photos, post cards and newspaper clippings from the Richard Barrett collection. For more information please contact Bob Fleck, Library Chairman at: [Rcfleck@rochester.rr.com](mailto:Rcfleck@rochester.rr.com).



#### 2010 BOOK OF RULES CLASSES

New for this year, we will have joint Rule Classes for Train, Trolley and Track Cars. If you plan on participating in the operation of trains, trolleys, or track cars in 2010, you are required take this class. We are have two more sessions of the same class on April 18th and May 9th. You are only required to attend one of the classes. The next two sessions will be held in room A-400 (basement) of the RIT Wallace Library (Building 5). Best parking is in nearby U Lot. Class runs from 9:00AM to 12:30PM. The Air Brake and Train Handling class will follow from 12:30PM to 5:00PM, and is required for anyone whom wants to be a Conductor, Fireman or Engineer.

#### 2010 TRACK CAR OPERATIONS

All track car operators are required to attend the Book of Rules class, which will be held at RIT in April and May. The "Hands-On" portion of your training will be held at New York Museum of Transportation. The times are as follows: Sunday, April 18 from 1:00-4:00 PM; Saturday, April 24 from 9:00-3:00 PM; and Sunday, May 2, from 1:00-4:00 PM. Since RIT and NYMT are only minutes away, you can take your Book of Rules class and your Hands-On class in the same day. As in the past, you will be required to successfully demonstrate your operating skills before you are issued your 2010 operator's license. The track car operating season begins on May 17, 2010.

—Harold Russell

**This could be your last issue: CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL**

**JOIN ROCHESTER CHAPTER NRHS**

**Annual Dues: \$57.00**

**Rochester Chapter NRHS**

**P.O. Box 23326**

**Rochester, NY 14692-3326**

**PLAN AHEAD: Next Meeting:**

**May 20**

**7:00 PM at 40 & 8 Club**





## ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: [WWW.RGVRRM.ORG](http://WWW.RGVRRM.ORG)

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### MOTIVE POWER DEPT.

**RG&E 1941:** A tremendous amount of progress has been made on this locomotive over the past month. The new exhaust bowls have been welded in place on both sides of the locomotive. The welding was performed by Corky Shaw. The exhaust stacks were then installed with all new gaskets. New fuel return lines were also fabricated and installed on both ends of the locomotive. Before an attempt was made to start this locomotive, Jim Johnson cleaned debris and dust from both main generators and cleaned up their corresponding ground wires. After some battery servicing and lots of engine preheating, RG&E 1941 was fired up for the first time in almost two years! The locomotive was moved out the south door of the restoration building under its own power. With the exception of a small oil leak in one of the oil lines, everything performed very well. Once the oil line is repaired the motive power team will focus on making governor adjustments on both prime movers. Look for paint and body work to begin soon! New windows will also be installed before this locomotive is returned to service.

We've decided to move our motive power meetings back to the original day and time of the month. Starting in May, the motive power meetings will take place at 9:30am on the first Saturday of every



**ALL FIRED UP!** Rochester Gas & Electric emerged from the Restoration Building under its own power on Saturday, March 27. PHOTO BY JOE NUGENT

month. As always, we meet at Industry depot. We hope to see you there!

— Ron Amberger and  
Joe Nugent, Motive Power Supt.

### CHAPTER SPONSORED AMTRAK TRIPS

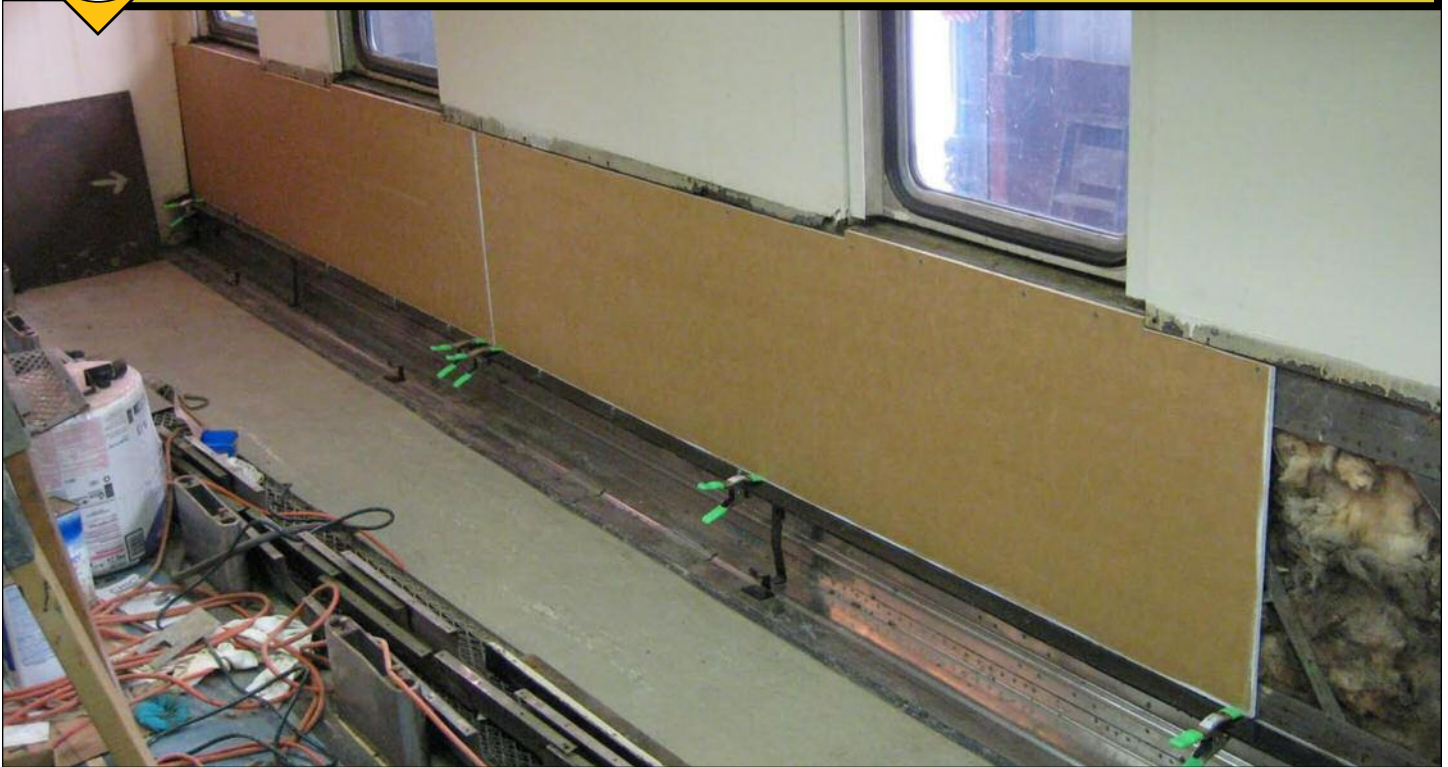
**Fall Foliage in the Adirondacks and Vermont (Thu. Sep. 30-Sun. Oct. 3):** Take Amtrak from Rochester to Port Kent. Includes motorcoach tour of Burlington and Lake George, tour of Shelburne Museum, Maritime Museum and more.

**Pre-Christmas Trip (Thu. Dec. 2-Sat. Dec. 4):** Take Amtrak to New York City for a weekend of shopping, dining and Broadway shows. Includes tickets to the Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall.

**Pre-Christmas Trip (Fri. Dec 10-Mon. Dec. 13):** Take Amtrak to New York City for a long three-day weekend visit, allowing you more time on your own. Includes tickets to Christmas Show at Radio City Music Hall. *(continued)*



# MUSEUM NEWS CONTINUED



Interior panel installation continues on ex-NYC coach 2567 and part of the interior restoration and general clean up. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAUF

Anyone who has NOT traveled with us before will have to send us a \$75.00 per person advanced deposit on the 2-night trip NYC trip and \$100.00 on the 3-night trip to New York City in order to hold space. A \$50.00 advanced deposit is required for our fall foliage trip. If you are interested in any of these trips please telephone us at (585) 377-5389. Please be aware that most of our trips sell out quickly so if you are interested, please call right away to avoid disappointment.

—Jim & Dianne East,  
Chapter Tour Guides

## EMPIRE STATE EXPRESS CARS

More progress has been made on Empire State Express coach 2567. The second lower wall panel was installed during the March 27 volunteer work session at the museum. On March 30 we completed installation of the sixth piece of wall panel. The process is getting easier as the work progresses. Three more full 4x8ft. sheets of material have been purchased. This will give us six more wall panels to start to install during the upcoming Tuesday evening work session. We also have received donations for seven of the sixteen panels we need to complete the job.



Thanks to all those who donated so far! Would you please consider becoming of our "Partners In Panels" and help us get to the sixteen panels we need to finish the job? As a part of our 2010 Annual Fundraising campaign, we are starting a new fundraiser called Partners in Panels to aid in the interior restoration of ex-New York Central Empire State Express coach #2567. We have been actively working on the interior of the car over the past several months in the museum's restoration building. A portion of the work includes the total replacement of the lower interior wall panels on both sides of the car which had been damaged by some water infiltration and simple wear and tear from forty plus years of service.

At their April meeting, the Board of Trustees resolved that the excursion set of

five coaches and the Railway Post Office "Alonzo B. Cornell" be relocated to the new West Siding by July 1. By August 1, these cars shall be ready to run including the final installation of windows, have the brakes COTS (cleaned, oiled, tested and stenciled), and address any other issues to make these cars ready for service. Stay tuned for more developments!

## WATER WORKS UPDATE

March 20 was a busy Saturday as we installed the foundation for the water treatment building, as well as the necessary conduit to tie it to the restoration building for power and communication. A frost free hydrant was installed next to the south man door on the shop. On March 30, we took delivery of our pre-built wooden building from Wood Tex. By the time you read this, the building should be on its foundation, and windows and doors will be installed! Once done, our contractor will be able to install the chlorination treatment equipment. Many thanks to all involved including Jerney Tuke, Chad Timothy, Bob Mader, Scott Gleason, Dan Watterstrat, Jim Johnson, Rand Warner and the others I cannot recall!

—Dave Scheiderich



# THE SEMAPHORE

*National Railway Historical Society*



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

APRIL 1974  
Vol. XV, No. 8

Compiled By:  
OTTO M. VONDRAK

We continue our look thirty-six years back into our past with a recap of the April 1974 membership meeting, held at the Rochester Museum & Science Center. Ed Blossom gave a talk about the Magee Transportation Museum in Bloomsburg, PA. Ed Blossom was the former master mechanic at the MTM before Hurricane Agnes wiped out the fledgling operation in 1972. The later acquisition of materials and the hiring of Ed Blossom were instrumental to the successful startup of the New York Museum of Transportation in 1975. He had moved on to other projects by 1981, but continued to offer advice and consult with NYMT until his passing in 2004. Several cars from MTM made their way to NYMT, including Rochester & Eastern 157; Elmira, Corning & Waverly 107; as well as an early horse-drawn Rochester car.

We mentioned earlier the acquisition of former B&O caboose C-2631 by the Chapter. By April the car had been delivered to the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville. Routing was B&O to LeRoy, then Erie Lackawanna to Avon (if only THAT piece of track was still in place today)! The Chapter was negotiating with NYS-DOT for the donation of track materials to construct a proper display track for the caboose at Industry depot, as no additional tracks existed at the time.

It was also reported that 80 souls took part in the Annual Chapter Banquet. After dinner entertainment included the serenades of the "Melo-Wives of Webster" as well as several professionally produced 16mm films about railroads. Some hearty folks stayed late into the night.

Bob Zimmermann provides a recap of railfanning around the Rochester area in the spring of '74: "Lehigh Valley's single track main to Buffalo carries westbound trains from morning until late afternoon when the direction changes to eastbound."

Furthermore, "Rochester Branch now terminates at U of R, near Elmwood Avenue." While it appears LV had vacated their South Avenue terminal, the EL maintained a presence downtown for many years. "The EL freight terminal is located along Exchange St., near the War Memorial." Apparently EL was handling quite a bit of coal traffic in those days, "transferred to Penn Central via the old PRR line to help feed the RG&E BeeBee and Russell power stations." The EL-PRR connection was located at Violetta St.

The B&O remained a fan favorite due to the amount of traffic hauled by first-generation EMD's. It was suggested that fans wishing to photograph the morning northbound Train 94 telephone the Brooks Avenue yard office for info. "You can watch switching at the Brooks Ave. yards... Check out the interesting collection of steam pictures inside the yard office, which include BR&P engines and B&O Mallets." Oh, if only we could!

The roundhouse at Lincoln Park seemed to tolerate photographers and railfans. "A locomotive mechanic on the 3-11pm shift, Leo Pasierb, is agreeable to picture taking... And if he isn't busy, he doesn't mind conducting tours through the diesels." Mr. Pasierb had a long career that began in steam days.

Of course, Penn Central provided the most action despite its bankruptcy and decaying physical plant. Besides the many trains on the mainline, the West Shore and the Falls Road were still very active lines. "There is also a daily run to Niagara Falls, headed by an Alco RS-32 shortly after 3:00pm." The Charlotte Branch remained quite active with coal and general merchandise. Traffic on the venerable Hojack was down to a trickle in those days.

\*\* Thanks to Jim McClennin for sending in old copies of The Semaphore so that we may share them with you in the coming months. \*\*

# Visit us online: [www.rochnrhs.org](http://www.rochnrhs.org)

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 29, 1940



# ERIE RAILROAD

(Robert E. Woodruff and John A. Hadden, Trustees)

## TIME TABLE

EASTERN TIME

Travel by Train in  
Safety and Comfort

EASTBOUND Read Down					ROCHESTER—AVON WESTBOUND Read Up				
N.B. 420 Ex. Sun. & Hol.	N.B. 440 Daily	N.B. 416 Ex. Sun. & Hol.	N.B. 428 Ex. Sun.	N.B. 468 Ex. Sun.	Eastern Standard Time	N.B. 401 Ex. Sun. & Hol.	N.B. 403 Daily	N.B. 467 Ex. Sun.	N.B. 409 Ex. Sun. & Hol.
PM	PM	PM	PM	AM	ROCHESTER	AM	AM	AM	PM
6.15	5.15	4.15	1.25	11.55	South Park	7.45	8.45	11.25	1.05
f	f	f	f	f	Westfall	f	f	f	f
f	f	f	f	f	Crittenden	f	f	f	f
6.25	5.25	4.25	1.35	f	Mortimer	7.30	8.27	f	12.52
f	f	f	f	f	Baileys	f	f	f	f
f	f	f	f	f	Fenners	f	f	f	f
f	f	f	f	f	Brooks	f	f	f	f
6.32	5.33	4.34	1.43	12.09	West Henrietta	7.22	8.18	11.06	12.44
f	f	f	f	f	Martin	f	f	f	f
f	f	f	f	f	Blair	f	f	f	f
6.38	5.40	4.42	1.50	12.15	Industry	7.15	8.12	11.00	12.37
f	f	f	f	f	Gannett	f	f	f	f
f	f	f	f	f	Golah	7.10	8.07	f	12.32
6.43	5.45	4.47	1.55	f	Meadow-wood	f	f	f	f
f	f	f	f	f	Elm Place	f	f	f	f
f	f	f	f	f	Wards	7.02	8.00	10.48	12.25
6.57	5.55	5.00	2.04	12.25	AVON	AM	AM	AM	PM

FORM 15

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## CORNING—ROCHESTER

READ DOWN

READ UP

5- 463 Sat. only	7- 467 Ex. Sun.	Miles	Eastern Standard Time	468- 8 Ex. Sun.	464- 8 Ex. Sun. only
PM	PM		Lv. NEW YORK Times Square Motor Coach Term. 260 W. 42nd St. be- tween 7 and 8 Aves. .... Ar.	PM	PM
a 7.25		0.0		a 11.45	a 11.45
7.10	d11.55	0.0	Lv. N. Y., W. 23d St. ....	11.55	11.55
7.30	h12.00	0.0	" N. Y., Chambers St. ....	11.54	11.54
7.45	12.25	1.0	" Jersey City Sta. ....	11.30	11.30
Sun. only AM	Ex. Sun. AM			Ex. Sun. only PM	Sun. only PM
1.27	6.12	215.1	Lv. Binghamton .... Ar.	6.15	6.15
2.38	7.45	0.0	" Elmira ....	5.10	5.10
3.07	8.18	17.4	Ar. Corning .... Lv.	4.39	4.39
3.30	8.22	17.4	Lv. Corning .... Ar.	3.54	3.50
3.39	8.29	19.3	" Painted Post. ....	3.44	3.40
3.43	8.34	22.6	" Cooper's ....	3.36	3.30
3.53	8.43	26.9	" Campbell ....	3.10	3.01
4.02	8.52	31.5	" Savona ....	3.04	2.54
4.16	9.04	37.7	" Bath ....	2.54	2.44
Mixed Train					
4.23	9.11	41.4	" Kanona ....	2.39	2.29
4.30	9.18	45.1	" Avoca ....	2.28	2.08
4.35	9.24	48.0	" Wallace ....	2.16	2.03
4.45	9.33	52.8	" Cohocton ....	2.06	1.53
4.52	9.41	57.2	" Atlanta ....	1.52	1.38
5.02	9.51	63.2	" Wayland ....	1.42	1.28
5.10	9.59	67.9	" Springwater ....	1.32	1.20
5.26	10.05	70.7	" Websters ....	1.13	1.09
5.34	10.12	74.5	" Conesus ....	1.07	1.02
5.43	10.18	78.3	" South Livonia ....	1.01	1.01
5.51	10.25	81.9	" Livonia ....	12.55	12.30
5.56	10.30	84.5	" South Lima ....	12.49	12.24
6.15	10.48	93.5	" Conesus Lake Juno ..... Avon	12.31	11.50
	11.00	97.7	" Golah ....	12.15	
	103.3	100.1	" Industry ....	12.09	
	107.0	103.3	" West Henrietta ....		
	112.1	107.0	" Mortimer ....		
AM	AM	112.1	Ar. Rochester .... Lv.	11.55	AM

N. B. Will not carry baggage.

a Motor coach connection is to and from Rutherford, N. J.

b Stops to discharge passengers from East of Avon

c Does not run from W. 23rd St., on Saturday night.

f Stops on signal to receive and discharge passengers.

h Does not run from Chambers St. on Saturday night.

HOLIDAYS—The term "Holidays" refers to the observance of New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

J. W. O'HARA  
Division Passenger Agent,  
ELMIRA, N. Y.

J. H. HAGENS  
City Ticket Agent,  
ROCHESTER, N. Y.



THAT'S ALL, FOLKS: Fulton Darrow, a conductor for 36 years, shakes hands with Joseph I. Skelly, an engineer for 42 years on the occasion of the last Erie passenger train to depart Rochester on September 30, 1941. ROCHESTER CHAPTER ARCHIVE

September 30, 1941. Apparently there was a mixed train service between Avon and Corning that held on for a few years after the end of regular service. —Otto M. Vondrak

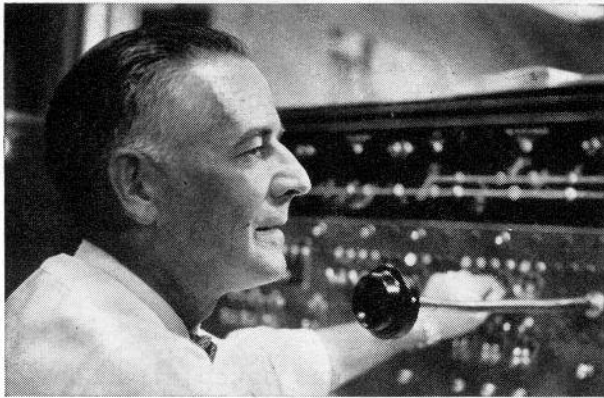
## Erie's Rochester Branch

The Rochester Branch of the Erie Railroad has its roots in the original Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad. Chartered in 1851, the R&GV managed to construct an 18-mile railroad from Rochester to Avon. After a series of convoluted lease agreements and partnerships, the R&GV was acquired by the Erie in 1871. As it was a leased property, the R&GV continued to exist on paper into the 1960s, with a regular board of directors and annual stockholders meetings.

In 1907, the Erie electrified its line from Rochester to Avon, and thence to Mt. Morris with A.C. overhead catenary. On Sunday, May 12, regular service started with thirteen trains a day serving Avon from Rochester.

The first gas-electric cars ran on the Rochester branch on June 23, 1930. This was not just a local run, these gas-electrics provided service all the way to Corning. A single steam train continued to run, but most service was covered by the gas-electric cars. All electric service ended on November 29, 1934. Regular Rochester-Avon-Corning passenger service continued, but the last passenger train left Avon for Mt. Morris on January 21, 1940.

Tran service was gradually reduced through the Depression years. The last Erie passenger train departed Exchange Street on



... Mark of **PROGRESS** in Railroading

It's the men who  
make the Erie

# DEPENDABLE!

We've added the word "dependable" to this familiar Erie phrase because we know that's what you, as a shipper, are most interested in—*dependable* freight service!

And every Erie man shown on this page, plus a lot more, know that safe, on-time delivery of your shipments is their common prime responsibility.

Whatever his immediate job—running the trains that carry your shipments, maintaining the equipment that makes it possible, or any one of dozens of other jobs—his interest is focused on building Erie's established reputation for service and dependability!

Yes, it's the men who make the Erie. And one of them—your local Erie representative—is anxious to introduce you to the services they all provide. Call him on your next shipment and "Route it Erie!"

# Erie Railroad

DEPENDABLE SERVICE FOR THE HEART OF INDUSTRIAL AMERICA





# THE **SEMAPHORE**

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Chapter Meeting:

**April 15**

7:30 PM at The 40&8 Club  
933 University Ave., Rochester

*Next Chapter Meeting:*

**May 20**

7:30 PM at The 40&8 Club  
933 University Ave., Rochester

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## **WATER WORKS**

Rand Warner helps prepare the site of the small outbuilding that will house our new water purification system. The pre-fab building was delivered on March 30. Please see page 4 for more information.

PHOTO BY DAVID SCHEIDERICH

[WWW.ROCHNRHS.ORG](http://WWW.ROCHNRHS.ORG)