

# THE SEMAPHORE

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The Newsletter of  
ROCHESTER CHAPTER - NATIONAL RAILWAY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Vol. XXXI No. 12

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August 1990

## PROGRAM NOTES

By: Ron Amberger

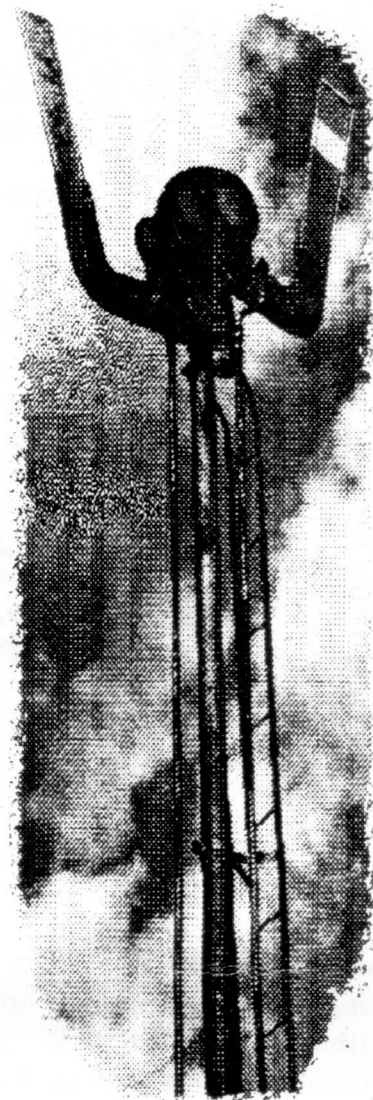
The August 16, 1990 program will be presented by guest presenter Bob Morgan from Attacker, New York. You will recall the very interesting program that Bob presented to us last year on the Adirondack Division of the New York Central. The slides that Bob will present were taken while he was in engine service on the New York Central out of Utica. He brings a wealth of memories of the NYC and its operations with him, so bring your questions about the Mohawk division. As all of you know, the Mohawk Division is famous for passing through some of the best scenery on the Water Level Route.

This month's meeting will be the last one to be held at our Rochester & Genesee Valley Museum for the summer. Next month's meeting will be back at the 40&8 Club, so if you haven't been out to see the progress at the Depot, LV#211 and the Right-of-Way to the north, this will be an excellent opportunity to do so.

## Jared Daniel Turrel Honored

The descendants of Jared Daniel Turrel (1810-1894) honored his memory and the role of Attica in the history of the New York Central Railroad by dedicating a bronze plaque mounted on the former NYC Station at 196 East Main Street, Attica, NY on Sunday, July 8, 1990 at 2:30 p.m.

Copies of the July 1990 Wyoming County Historian carrying the article "Jared Daniel Turrel - The Man and his Train" were available at the dedication. Interested persons are invited to contact the Attica Historical Society Museum.



# ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM STORE

-Operation Supt. Tom Bauman - 458-4289

Videos for sale in the Chapter store:

The New York Central Collection .....	\$39.95
The Water Level Route (NYC) .....	\$39.95
Mainline USA .....	\$19.95
Thundering Rails .....	\$19.95

Rochester Chapter NRHS members receive a 20% discount on books and videos ordered through the chapter store. If you have a book or video you'd like me to order, give me a call.

Thanks to our latest round of Sunday volunteers at the depot! They are: Curt Boyer, Ira Cohen, Steve Huse, Ed Maslyn, Jim Morrow (twice!), Norm Shaddick, Jim Strout (twice!), Lloyd Sugden, Dan Tomlinson, and George Wallace.

## ROCHESTER CHAPTER - NRHS CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### AUGUST

- 11 - Steam Excursion (611 or 1218) - Buffalo, NY to Albion, PA and return - Niagara Frontier - NRHS
- 11 - Summer Work Session - Oatka Depot
- 16 - Chapter Meeting - Oatka Depot
- 18 - Steam Excursion (611 or 1218) - Erie, PA to Bellevue, OH (return by Diesel) - LSRHS
- 18 - Summer Work Session - Oatka Depot
- 25 - Summer Work Session - Oatka Depot

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 - T.T.C.S. Toy Train Meet - Oneonta, NY
- 3 - Labor Day
- 6 - Trustees Meeting - 40&8 Club
- 9 - Chapter Picnic - Oatka Depot
- 20 - Chapter Meeting - 40&8 Club
- 22 - Railfan Extravaganza - Omid
- 30 - Fall Foliage Excursions - Omid

### OCTOBER

- 4 - Trustee Meeting - 40&8 Club
- 7 - Fall Foliage Excursions - Omid
- 14 - Fall Foliage Excursions - Omid
- 18 - Chapter Meeting - 40&8 Club
- 21 - Fall Foliage Excursions - Omid

# Membership Committee Report

Thomas A. Way, Chairman

August 1990

## Current Statistics

National Members held through Rochester	215
Local Membership (National affiliation elsewhere)	10
Family Memberships	26
TOTAL:	251

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## New Applicants Voted in as Members At the July 19 Meeting

Ida C. Henry  
30 Packet Boat Drive  
Fairport, NY 14450  
Membership: Retiree

John E. (Jack) Matsik  
112 N. St. Regis Drive  
Rochester, NY 14618  
Membership: Regular

## National Director Notes

By: Phil Schulp (924-5092)

### Election of National Officers:

Nominations for all elected positions will remain open until September 15. All nominations must be sent to the National Secretary in writing. No nominations will be accepted after September 15 to allow adequate time for notification and absentee voting. The positions of Editor, Historian, General Counsel and Chaplain are now appointed by the President and confirmed by the Board. Nominations will be accepted only for the positions of: Chairman of the Board, President, Senior Vice President, Vice President, Vice President-Foreign Services, Vice President-Public Relations, Secretary and Treasurer. A candidate for Regional Vice President must be either a member in good standing of a Chapter in that region or an Associate Member residing in that region. A person nominating someone for Regional Vice President must meet the same qualifications. Rochester Chapter is located in the Northeast Region and is presently represented by Don Jilson, Lowman, NY. If you are interested in or know of anyone that should be nominated for the Regional Vice President, please contact me as soon as possible.

The Fall 1990 Board of Directors Meeting will take place November 9-11 in Owensboro, Kentucky. Due to a prior commitment, I will be unable to attend this meeting. An alternate director to represent our Chapter can be appointed by the Chapter President. Anyone wishing to attend this meeting as the Chapter's Alternate Director should contact me as soon as possible.

### Schedule of future NRHS Meetings

Fall 1990	Owensboro, Kentucky <u>November 9-11</u> [Owensboro Chapter]
Spring 1991	Bethlehem, Pennsylvania <u>May 3-5</u> [Lehigh Valley/Hawk Mountain Chapters]
1991 Convention	Huntington, West Virginia <u>August 7-10</u> [C.P. Huntington Chapter]
Fall 1991	Sharon, Pennsylvania <u>November 8-10</u> [Shenango-Pymatuning Chapter]

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## ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY MUSEUM WORK PROGRESS REPORT

-Chmn. Rand Warner - 248-8889

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- We really have a beehive of activity going this summer, with member volunteers out working weekdays, evenings, Saturdays and Sundays.
- Major progress has been made on Depot foundation, cleanup, painting, and repair and clearing of concrete aprons.
- Our new Signals, Communications & Power group is going hammer and tongs on new wiring, dwarf signal system installation, radio hookups, and now a telephone system.
- Major progress has been achieved on location, cleaning, purging and repair of sewers and sewer manholes paralleling our track right-of-way.
- LV#211 has been prepared for sandblasting, priming and painting by an outside contractor, which should be achieved by the time you read this.
- Profits from excursions and other Chapter activities are allowing us to solicit bids from excavating contractors to help accelerate our track laying.
- The total complement of passenger equipment available for Chapter excursions is being increased through efforts of the Empire State Railcar group.
- We have been actively looking at possible equipment additions in areas of motive power, freight cars, passenger cars, steam & diesel locos, maintenance of way and construction equipment.
- All our M.O.W. equipment is now functional for the first time - two speeders, tamper and high rail - and all are being used.
- We are looking at hiring out some repair work on our beleaguered fleet of construction equipment - all of which is being used heavily.

- Plans and budgets have been submitted and approved towards depot and grounds landscaping with help from an outside landscaping firm.
- Lawns and parking areas have been trimmed and mowed, Depot interior waiting room has been cleared and general sprucing up of entire area is showing.

### Outreach

- Our museum has been active with special tour groups this past month.
- We have hosted two groups of 50 students from BOCES/East on July 30 and August 3.
- Students from Turtle Pottery Summer program were toured on July 12 from City of Rochester.
- Students from Growing Place Child Care Nursery were hosted on July 10.

Sharing the railroad heritage through our Museum with current and future generations is what we're all about.

Thanks to our tour hosts Dan Cosgrove, Bob Phelps, Cal Bulman, Bob Cowan, Neil Bellenger, Norm Shaddick, Victor Parmenter, Rand Warner, Earl Brickley, Stanley Swackhammer, Curt Boyer, Ed Maslyn, Charles Petersen, and Don Aspenmiller.

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## TRACK & RIGHT-OF-WAY

-Supt. Bill Reid - 589-4880

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Track route is staked out for right-of-way grading as far as Manhole #16. The sewer manholes have been staked out and surveyed from #1 to #23. Grading contractors have been identified, interviewed, walked over job site and given bid packages for responses. Right-of-way crossings over sewers for siding #6 and NYMT end-of-track have been staked out for contractor bids. Sewer crossing technologies have been reviewed with several contractors, professional engineers and engineering firms. Backup sources for railroad ballast have been located and priced. Brush and weeds were cleared along right-of-way and around manholes and stakes in preparation for contractors.



Thanks to Bill Reid, Charles Harshbarger, Joe Scanlon, Ted Strang, Rand Warner, Dick Holbert, Jeff Carpenter and Larry Fennessey.

## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

-Supt. Dave Luca - 288-0318

In the past few months, a lot of progress has been made with the Depot. After GRW Contractors, Inc. completed the foundation renovations, the painting crew consisting of Don Aspenmiller, Curt Boyer, Dave and Matt Luca, Norm Shaddick, Stan Swackhammer and Rand Warner attacked. When the dust settled, the Depot emerged in a two tone green paint scheme resembling that which was found in a turn of the century photo.

Inside, Curt & Company have emptied out the south waiting room and are attempting to recreate the original appearance instead of the storage room look it's had over the past year or so.

Neil Bellenger, Jim Johnson and Company have been spending a great deal of time upgrading our electric service to 200 amp service. They have had several discussions with Niagara Mohawk, electrical consultants, etc. and the plans are starting to gel. I'll report on this in more detail in the next report.

Plans for the upcoming months include installing drainage around the building, pouring new concrete aprons and painting the building overhang. Inside, we hope to begin making floor repairs, continue with the sort, pitch & clean routine, and complete the plumbing repairs started last year. What is needed are people. If you have experience working with concrete, plumbing, flooring, or painting, give us a call. If you don't have experience but you want to help out, give us a call! We train!

## MAINTENANCE OF WAY EQUIPMENT

- Supt. Norm Shaddick - 865-2773

Over the last few months, several chapter members have worked on our M.O.W. equipment. Dick Holbert has been making steady progress on the electrical system of the Jackson tamper. Dick and Gene Redden also carried out a much needed clutch

adjustment on the tamper. Rand Warner and Norm Shaddick fashioned and painted new wood covers for the tamper. Finally, Bob Mader has continued with the tune-up work on the Kalamazoo track car. Thanks to anyone I might have missed who has had a part in keeping the M.O.W. equipment rolling.

Work which needs to be accomplished in the next few months includes replacing the sheet metal on Hi-Rail truck, resolving the leaky fuel pump on Jackson Tamper, removing, inspecting and cleaning the carburetor on Kalamazoo track car and changing the hydraulic oil on the tamper.

## THE MAIL CAR

Gentleman:

I am doing research on the history of road racing at Watkins Glen, New York. The first race there was held in September 1948 and the event grew in popularity each year until the present. During one year, 1951, there was a special rail trip from Rochester to Watkins Glen. An ad for such appeared in the Democrat & Chronicle on September 9, 1951 on page 4, section "D". The ad indicates a diesel powered train with a pleasant ride along Seneca Lake. The NYCRR train left the Rochester depot at 8AM and returned at 9PM that evening. Cost was \$5/person.

I'm wondering if anyone from your group was part of that trip, has memories of such, photographs of the trip, races, flyer for the trip, etc.? I'm not sure where the people were let off the train, but I think it may have been a small station west of the village & Watkins Glen State Park on the hill high above town.

If you have a newsletter, I would appreciate it if you could publish my interest in this matter and request anyone with information to contact me. Although I'm especially interested in the train trip, if anyone in your group ever attended the early races and would be willing to share information, photos, etc., I'd appreciate hearing from them too. Thank you.

Regards,

Alan Isselhard  
(716) 638-6994

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## THE SEMAPHORE

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ROCHESTER CHAPTER

### ROCHESTER CHAPTER NRHS OFFICERS:

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### THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS:

Ron Amberger, Tom Bauman, Dave Luca, Phil Miller, Bill Reid, Phil Schulp, Norm Shaddick, Rand Warner, and Tom Way.

### SEMAPHORE DEADLINE:

Deadline for the September issue is September 3.  
Please send your articles to Dave Luca at 983  
Winton Rd., N., Rochester, NY 14609.

### CHAPTER MEETING:

August 16, 1990 - 8:00 p.m.  
R&GV Railroad Museum

