

THE SEMAPHORE

The Newsletter of
ROCHESTER CHAPTER - NATIONAL RAILWAY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXXII No. 3

November 1990

PROGRAM NOTES

By: Ron Amberger

"ELECTRIC RAILWAYS OF WESTERN NEW YORK"

Our program for the November 15 meeting at the 40&8 Club will be presented by Chapter Member Sheldon King. Sheldon is the author of several books on upstate electric lines as well as two books about the Lackawanna Railroad. He has a wealth of knowledge about the electric railway lines in this region and an extensive collection of trolley photographs and momentos. Sheldon will focus on the electric lines of Rochester and the counties and cities to the west of Rochester so his program will in no way duplicate the October program on Wayne County railroads. This promises to be a very interesting program with historical information and very interesting photographs.



NEWS FROM MARYLAND

Buffalo Creek and Gauley 2-8-0 #14 arrived by flatcar from the Wilmington & Western on September 6 at Gaithersburg. It will take some time to complete the cosmetic restoration of the locomotive and the POTOMAC CHAPTER is interested in information anyone can supply them with regard to location of bell, whistle, headlight, builder and number plate which were stolen prior to the engine's departing Dundon WVA. [Potomac-NRHS..P.O.Box 235..Kensington, MD 20895].

The former Gaithersburg B&O freight house was dedicated on September 16 as part of Olde Towne Day festivities. A B&O wagon-top boxcar and ex-Army kitchen car are undergoing restoration at Gaithersburg and the Chapter is currently assisting the city in developing a master plan for the area around the freight house. [NRHS News]

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM STORE

-Operation Supt. Tom Bauman - 458-4289

New/reordered books in the Chapter Store:

Alco PA Diesels on the Southern Pacific	\$25.00
Rock Island Recollections	\$29.95
1948 Railroad Atlas	\$8.95
Diesel Builders - Fairbanks/Morse & Lima/Hamilton	\$34.95
Galloping Geese on the RGS	\$9.95
Growing Up with Trains II	\$12.50
PCC - The Car That Fought Back	\$39.95
Ticket to Silverton	\$9.95
Railroads in Early Postcards (Upstate NY)	\$11.95
Conrail, Vol. 2	\$39.95

Rochester Chapter NRHS members receive a 20% discount on all books and videos ordered through the chapter store.

Our latest volunteers out at the depot were: Ira Cohen, Frank Crawford, Kevin Kleve, Ed Maslyn, Charlie Petersen, Joe Scanlon, Norm Shaddick, Jim Strout, Fran Teahan, Rand Warner and Dick Wersinger. Thanks for your help.

ROCHESTER CHAPTER - NRHS CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 8-10 - AAPRCO National Convention, Galveston, Texas
- 15 - Chapter Meeting - 40&8 Club
- 18 - Rochester Riverside Convention Center Train Meet
- 22 - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

DECEMBER

- 6 - Trustee Meeting - 40&8 Club
- 15 - Santa Claus Train Ride - Sodus
- 20 - Chapter Meeting - 40&8 Club
- 22 - Santa Claus Train Ride - Webster
- 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

JANUARY

- 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- 3 - Trustee Meeting - 40&8 Club
- 17 - Chapter Meeting - 40&8 Club

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY MUSEUM WORK PROGRESS REPORT

-Chmn. Rand Warner - 248-8889

General

- This has been a very busy and productive Fall season for your Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. Very substantial progress is being made in all areas of our many endeavors. Track and Right of Way work is continuing at a rapid pace despite rainy weather, and we expect to continue through the winter. Buildings & Grounds is showing visible improvement in appearance and potential. Construction Equipment has been kept operational during this critical time and our fleet is expanded. Maintenance of Way Equipment has been kept operational and in constant use and is now being upgraded for production efficiency. All Motive Power is operational and is now getting detailed attention to maintenance, which was much needed. Our Passenger Rolling Stock NYC coach has been operational for every trip on the OMID this season. Freight Rolling Stock has been spruced up for visitor appeal. Signals, Communication & Power systems are being expanded in all directions, literally.
- We are standing at an exciting threshold now, as we look ahead to passenger operations, steam loco operation, broader land utilization, capital fund drive, creation of expanded endowment fund and formation of Friends of Museum Organization.
- You, our members and volunteers, can/will/are making all this happen. Through your support, leadership and participation, a small plot of ground containing an abandoned and badly vandalized station twenty years ago has been transformed into a substantial Museum complex of facilities and support systems today.
- The future is limited only by our imagination, creativity, vision and energy. Think of where we could be in another twenty years from today at our present rate of ever increasing progress, activity and accomplishment!!

Please keep your ears and eyes open for possible leads and hot tips pertaining to potential acquisition, disposition or trade of

equipment, tools, supplies, artifacts or motive power/rolling stock. We may be able to strike a WIN/WIN deal to everyone's advantage for our Museum. Safety

- Safety is absolutely paramount to our survival. Safety for our visitors and safety for ourselves as volunteers.
- One serious incident can negate 20 years of hard work by shutting down our Museum and jeopardizing our Chapter.
- We must bootstrap ourselves on operating safety for rail operations, M.O.W. operations, construction equipment and shop & welding equipment.
- Train operations cab and ground crews must observe safety through education, training, procedures, practice, qualifications, certification and periodic updates.
- Maintenance of Way and Construction Equipment operators should follow a similar approach.
- Safety is a serious business and safety is everyone's business - all the time!

Thinking of You

- Dick Tickner has relocated to St. Mary's Hospice located at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester (Bull's Head). He and Mary Lou would love to hear from you. There's a VCR in Dick's room if you want to share a tape.

SIGNALS & COMMUNICATIONS

-Supt. Neil Bellenger - 359-9985

The two way radio system is being improved further by Dick Holbert. Trackside telephone system installation has been started by Mike Dow and Dick Holbert. The generator and field exciter brushes have been checked and replaced on all locomotives by Jim Johnson. New 200 Amp depot electrical service contractor materials have arrived and installation is proceedings by Neil Bellenger and Jim Johnson. The block signalling system installation is continuing by Mike Dow. MU Power Car propulsion system and power alternates are being investigated by Neil Bellenger, Mike Dow, Jim Johnson, Rand Warner, Jeff Carpenter, Bud Meech and Bob Miner. Underground power

distribution systems installation is proceeding by Jim Johnson, Charlie Harshbarger, Dick Holbert and Neil Bellenger. Telephone, telegraph, radio and signal equipment has been collected, consolidated and inventoried.

Future work will include obtaining propulsion schematics for MU Power Car from New Jersey Transit or other equivalent source. Continue 200 Amp service installation and switch over at Depot using Hassler Electrical Contractor. Continue investigation of options for 250V dc and 600V dc propulsion power source for MU Power Car. Extend and Expand block signal and track side telephone systems. Continue electrical checkout of diesel locomotives for relays, contactors, reversers, motors and generators. Terminate underground power distribution runs at outlets on wooden posts beside each display track. Complete 120V ac wiring terminations on north and south ends of PINE FALLS car exterior. Protect temporary electrical service to tool barn on hill against winter weather damage.

MAINTENANCE OF WAY EQUIPMENT

-Supt. Norm Shaddick - 865-2773

The hydraulic oil was replaced in the Jackson Tamper. Transverse hydraulics were made operative on Tamper for the first time since it has been in our possession - Thanks to the G&J Redden Foundry & Machine Works!

The carburetor on the Kalamazoo track car was removed, cleaned and reinstalled. New plugs were also installed.

As soon as our fresh ballast is spread and track leveled, the Tamper will be put to work on the hill between switch #5 and the retaining wall. Applications are being accepted for operators.

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

-Supt. Steve Huse - 381-1012

The Huber road grader was loaned from LeCesse Construction and is operational and being heavily used by Joe Scanlon. Rome road grader is being repaired by Dean Steiner with replacement

hydraulic pump and drive. The Ford boom truck back in service on our property and we have finally discovered how to operate the out-riggers! Bay City Shovel (1937) owned by Joe Scanlon has been painted by Rick Ashmead and Joe has the dip boom on site, delivered courtesy of Wayne Morrison's boom truck. International 10-Wheel dump truck is in heavy use for hauling ballast to new R.O.W. extension. The Euclid loader is in heavy use for loading ballast and is being maintained by Charles Harshbarger. Towmotor outdoor forklift and Hyster indoor forklift was provided by Rand Warner and is being worked on by Rick Ashmead. Dean Steiner has located replacement cab and fender sheet metal and motor for boom truck. Rand air compressor made ready for operational usage by Rand Warner.

Future work plans include:

Get Towmotor outdoor forklift operational for handling ties and rail. Complete essential repairs to Rome road grader, begin refurbishment of Ford boom truck so as not to impair current usage. Mount air compressor on 4 wheel track car to support spike driving with jack hammers. Acquire additional jack hammers for spike driving.

THANKS TO

- Dick and Mary Lou Tickner for a nice Homelite chainsaw and heavy duty outdoor extension cord.
- Bud Sherry of Genesee Valley Antique Car Society for railroad track jack.
- LeCesse Company for continuing loan of Huber-Wabco road grader as arranged by Joe Scanlon.
- Roy Wulich for 1:1 scale lettering guide for PINE FALLS and Lackawanna Railroad posters of Phoebe Snow.
- Wayne Morrison for offer to do bulldozing or loan bulldozer for our right-of-way excavation.
- Charles Harshbarger for surveying supplies and tool car supplies.
- Rand Warner for electrical and mechanical hardware and supplies.

TRIP COMMITTEE REPORT

-By Bob Miner

Another year has past and the last public excursion run by the Rochester Chapter is over. We carried 6,962 passengers on the Spring and Fall trips. We also ran several charters. Do you know how much cash that put in the Chapter's treasury? I would like to list the name of each person who helped. I do not take time to keep accurate records, so if I did list them, I would miss someone. I thank everyone who took time to help us make the trips a success. Marie Miner spent every day in June, September and the first 3 weeks of October working on ticket reservations. Mike Byrne spent almost every day on publicity. Dave Luca and Jan Dittmer organized and spent every Sunday of the trips on the train selling refreshments. Tom and Diane Bauman were there every trip selling souvenirs. Jim Muller was there every Sunday to oversee the parking. Bob Cowan was there on all his days off to oversee the coaches. Jim East scheduled all the car hosts and parking people. He also was there on his days off to help clean the coaches and act as car host. Bob Fitch, Ed Maslyn and Rand Warner did more than their share of car cleaning. Then there was John Weber. He was there almost every Friday to clean the coaches. John and Jeff Carpenter even came out, without being asked, on a couple of Sundays just to help out with parking.

When I joined the Chapter, a little over two years ago, I looked at what I could do to help the Chapter with its projects. They had track to move from Caledonia to connect the Museum of Transportation and the Genesee Valley Museum. I saw that and restoring the Oatka Depot as very worthwhile projects. Then someone told me the Chapter had access to five coaches and someone was needed to run excursions on the Ontario Midland. I saw that there were several dedicated members working on the rail laying and museum restoration so I took on the passenger excursions. I was interested in what made passenger cars tick. I found myself spending most of my time begging for help and cleaning coaches. Jim East took over lining up car hosts and Jim Muller took over coordinating the parking. That left me trying to keep the coaches clean and in good repair. The Empire State Railcar folks keep their cars in repair and help with the chapter car. I also help them

with repairs. That's as it should be as the chapter benefits from the use of ESR coaches. However, what disturbs me the most is when I put a note in the Semaphore or pass a sign up sheet around at meetings and I only get two or three members out of over two hundred to volunteer, and they are the ones who also work on other projects. Therefore, next season, I plan to hire a cleaning service and free those members up so they can spend more time on their other projects.

At present, the coaches must have their batteries recharged after a day of use. Depending on the use of air conditioning, this recharge can take up to ten hours per coach. I have devised a system where two coaches can be charged at the same time. Charging requires coordination with the Railroad to spot the coaches near the plug. That ties up their main track in Sodus and has caused me to spend all night there on Sunday to get the job done. I cannot do that next year, so we plan to equip all the coaches for head end power. I hope I can count on you for help in the conversion.

Thanks again to the people who did help. You have contributed to a major source of income for the Chapter.

Our Amtrak trip to NYC and Radio City Music Hall, hosted by Diane and Jim East is sold out.

REFURBISHED EXHIBIT CAR

Fashioned from a baggage car in 1979, the Santa Fe has refurbished this rolling museum with artifacts spanning the 121-year history. Included in the new exhibit is the railroad's corporate art collection, a history of locomotives used in the past 120 years and a collection of antique railroad timepieces. Chapters most likely can obtain detailed information regarding the car's display schedule from Public Relations..AT&SF RY CO..80 East Jackson Blvd...Chicago, IL 60604. On September 15-16 it was spotted at the Amtrak station in Temple, TX as a part of the city's annual TEXAS TRAIN FESTIVAL. It was accompanied by a so-called "Fuel Foiler" [skeletal intermodal car], welded rail innovations, and the OPERATION LIFESAVER safety program. [NRHS News]

WHAT WE REALLY NEED TO MAKE US HUM

Materials

- 80 lb. Dudley rail joint insulation.
- Rail bond wires.
- 5/4 T&G fir siding for caboose.
- 5/4 T&G maple flooring for depot.
- Good set switch timbers.
- Overhead catenary parts.
- Track ballast and fine crushed stone.

Tools

- Bench top belt/disc sander.
- Small table saw bench top.
- 60 lb. jack hammer.
- Electrical conduit tools.

Money

- Funds for trolley restoration.
- Investors for Steam Locomotive.
- Contributions towards heavy steel work.

Leadership

- Capital Fund Drive.
- Endowment Fund.
- Friends of Museum.

Equipment

- Rail bonder.
- 100-200 KW diesel generator.
- Heavy 6 wheel cab and chassis.
- Small bulldozer.
- Cummins L-601 Prime Mover for EK#6.

Professional Skills

- Advertising.
- Marketing.
- Promotion.
- Fund Raiser.
- Tax Attorney.
- Real Estate.

Trade Skills

- Heavy equipment repair.
- Plumbing.
- Heating & Air Conditioning.

Support

- Steel refurb for turntable.
- Steel refurb for Erie Stillwell.
- Steel refurb for PINE FALLS.

Membership Committee Report

Thomas A. Way, Chairman

October 18, 1990

Current Statistics

National Members held through Rochester	213
Local Membership (National affiliation elsewhere)	10
Family Memberships	29
TOTAL:	252

New Applicants to be Voted in as Members

Roy J. Wullich II
11 Bending Creek Road
Rochester, NY 14624
Phone: 426-5619
Membership: Regular
Sponsor: Thomas A. Way

George and Ruth Hoffman
99 St. Casimir Street
Rochester, NY 14621
Phone: 342-5427
Membership: Family

NRHS ROCHESTER'S CHAPTER FIRST ANNUAL HOCKEY NIGHT

For Members & Family

ROCHESTER AMERICANS vs. BALTIMORE SKIPJACKS

Friday, February 22, 1991

For tickets, please send self-addressed stamped envelope to:

MR. JAMES P. MULLER
46 RIDGE MEADOWS DRIVE
P.O. BOX 213
Spencerport, NY 14559
(716) 352-1549 - after 7 p.m.

Make checks payable to: NRHS Rochester Chapter

Deadline for ordering tickets is January 25, 1991

ORDER BLANK

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

of Tickets: _____ @ \$8.00 each = _____

ROCHESTER CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 664
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THE SEMAPHORE

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ROCHESTER CHAPTER

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Ron Amberger, Tom Bauman, Neil Bellenger, Steve Huse, Bob Miner, Norm Shaddick, Rand Warner, and Tom Way.

SEMAPHORE DEADLINE:

Deadline for the December issue is November 30.
Please send your articles to Dave Luca at 983
Winton Rd., N., Rochester, NY 14609.

CHAPTER MEETING:

November 15, 1990 - 8:00 p.m.
10&8 Club
933 University Avenue
Rochester, NY

