

THE SEMAPHORE

The Newsletter of
**ROCHESTER CHAPTER - NATIONAL RAILWAY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
Vol. XXXII No. 4

December 1990

PROGRAM NOTES

By: Ron Amberger

"EXPLORING CHINA BY RAIL 1990"

Our program for the December 20 meeting at the 40&8 Club will be presented by Chapter Member Ron Amberger. In June of this year, Ron led a small party of intrepid rail travelers to remote regions of China in search of steam locomotives of all types. In their travels, the group found such exotic species as 2 foot gauge Baldwin 0-10-0's built in 1925, the very rare Renmin (peoples') class Pacific, some plithed French built, meter gauge 2-8-2's, and the ubiquitous Polish inspired, 760mm gauge 0-8-0's. Of course, the group also found plenty of QJ's (2-10-2) and JS's (2-8-2). There was also a visit to the Tang Shan Locomotive and Rolling Stock works. Some visitors also got a chance at running a steam locomotive as part of a glorious picnic outing. There also were visits to the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and other scenic locations.

They traveled in narrow gauge sleeping cars, hard seat coaches, and enjoyed a fabulous lunch aboard a narrow gauge dining car while negotiating the scenic gorges along the Kunming-Hanoi line. One afternoon was spent aboard an express pulled by doubleheaded 2-10-2s through mountainous territory. Other interesting items included an interurban line, the Beijing subway, industrial electric lines, industrial steam lines, main line electric and diesel traction and finally, a boat cruise on the Wanpu River at Shanghai.

HARRY DODGE FILM LIBRARY RE-OPENS IN PHILADELPHIA

After films were removed from Washington, DC to the NRHS headquarters office in Philadelphia and examined by professional curators, it was announced at Owensboro by President Wood that the Film Library was open for business again. This very important service to Chapter activity programs has been utilized well in the past under the guidance of William D. Gray - Bill did an excellent job with the Film Library and was elevated to Honorary Life Membership by President Wood and named to the position of Chairman Emeritus of the Library. All requests should be mailed to NRHS DODGE FILM LIBRARY, P.O. Box 58153, Philadelphia, PA 19102. [NRHS News]



ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM STORE

-Operation Supt. Tom Bauman - 458-4289

New books in the Chapter Store:

Lackawanna Railroad in Color	\$45.00
New England Rails 1948-1968	\$45.00

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

Special thanks to George Bauerschmidt and Mike Dow for their help at the Alexander Train Meet. Also, thanks to Dan Cosgrove and Mike Dow for their help at the Batavia Train meet.

ROCHESTER CHAPTER - NRHS CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 15 - Santa Claus Train Ride - Sodus**
- 16 - Edgerton Train Meet - Rocheser**
- 20 - Chapter Meeting - 40&8 Club**
- 22 - Santa Claus Train Ride - Ontario**
- 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

JANUARY

- 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
- 3 - Trustee Meeting - 40&8 Club**
- 10 - Operations Meeting - Industry**
- 17 - Chapter Meeting - 40&8 Club**
- 18-20 - Passenger Car Alliance Meeting - Buffalo, NY**
- 20 - Gratwick Meeting (TTOS) - North Tonawanda, NY**

★★★★NOTICE★★★★

Chapter Member Chris Hauf is planning a night photo session again this year at the Year-End Party. If you are interested in participating, he asks that you bring a tripod and a cable release in addition to your camera equipment. His plans are to set up the shots to utilize 50mm lenses.

.....

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY MUSEUM WORK PROGRESS REPORT

-Chmn. Rand Warner - 248-8889

.....

General

Outreach

- Steve Huse has donated and delivered copies of "The Water Level Route" to friends and benefactors of the Chapter and our Museum.

Steam Locomotive

- Our Steam Committee has had several meetings to review options for locomotives, financing, operations and support of various types of steam powered trains.

Publicity

- Mike Byrne has developed a new combination brochure for our chapter, its activities, excursion trips and Museum. It will soon be available in quantity for distribution to outlet points.

Acquisition

- Our Acquisition Committee met Thursday, November 29 in the PINE FALLS to review and share available data on opportunities for improvement of our Museum Collection.

Operations

- Our Operations group is meeting the second Thursday evening of the month at the Depot to plan and prepare for passenger operations in 1991 and beyond. The next three meetings will be December 13, January 10, February 14.

Where we could be five years from now...

- Busloads of tourists disembarking to visit our view restrooms and orientation center before visiting our Museums and riding our trains...
- A chunky 0-6-0 steam switcher blasting up the hill north and out of sight through the cut, trailing our open air Erie Stilwell coach, and three cabooses, filled with over a hundred passengers...
- The air horn of MU Power Car #4628 blows for the Rt. 251 crossing before heading south past our shops, storage yards, engine facility, turntable and roundhouse...

- LV#211 diesel idles at the head of a three car passenger set awaiting clearance to leave Industry station with a local excursion train...
- A trolley from the New York Museum of Transportation drifts downgrade on the hill, the 600 volt overhead wire singing and shining in the sunlight...
- Signal lights glow and radio, telephone and telegraph chatter fills the interlocking tower at Midway Station where train meets take place at the siding...
- A work train whistles for yard clearance, the semaphore raises, and the motor cars and trailer cars rumble by as the crew comes in for lunch...

WE REALLY CAN MAKE THIS HAPPEN WITH
YOUR HELP!!!

.....

TRACK & RIGHT OF WAY

-Supt. Bill Reid - 589-1214

.....

Rain and mud have slowed, but never stopped, track construction at the north end of the line. Tie and rail placement has continued and track is safety spiked all the way - to permit ballasting and other M.O.W. equipment to operate to end of track. Culverts have been improved with flares to prevent erosion, extension of pipes under added fill, and new cribbing to permit better roadway for heavy equipment and truck access. One lost culvert (buried) has been relocated and extended, saving us the trouble of installing a new one. Ballast stone and trucking have been ordered to complete ballasting under ties from end of NRHS track to end of NYMT track. Soft ground is holding up delivery. Drainage ditching to divert water to existing culverts has been improved using borrowed LeCesse grader. All track has been levelled with blocking in readiness for final ballasting and tamping.

The work ahead includes:

- Extending culvert at Manhole #15 beyond the embankment.
- Adding culverts as necessary south of MH#15 and north to NYMT end of track.

- Deliver and spread ballast on subgrade (after ground freezes) from NRHS end of track to NYMT end of track.
- Continue tie and rail replacement after ground freezes from on-site supplies using our heavy equipment.
- Spot tamp low sections in track.
- Repair low switch ties at yard throat.
- Continue pursuit of additional ballast material donations ties and switch timbers.
- Plan details of location, grading and excavation for siding #6 from switch #6 at top of hill.

FREIGHT EQUIPMENT

-Supt. John Myers - 334-3498

Equipment stored in Erie Milk car is continuing to be reorganized by Mike Dow and Jeff Carpenter. Chris Hauf has cleaned the interior of the Erie Caboose, and started interior refurbishment prior to painting. Bill Reid has cleaned the interior of the NYC Caboose. Rand Warner has cleaned the interior of the BR&P Caboose. The "Great Flat Car Shuffle" is complete and all items stored on the flat car have been removed.

We plan to get the cabooses ready for the Year End Party on January 5. The interior refurb of the Erie Caboose will continue. Grab iron hand rails will be added to the Erie Milk Car doors to improve safety when entering from the ground. Exterior refurb of the NYC caboose will continue, weather permitting. The power line from the BR&P Caboose to our new ground power distribution system will be tied in.

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

-Supt. Steve Huse - 381-1012

All equipment is being winterized - radiators, batteries, crankcase, fuel tanks and hydraulic tanks. The outdoor 5,000 lb. towmotor forklift is operational, but we're adding chains to help with the muddy season. Neil Bellenger has gone over the chain saw donated by Dick Tickner and has it all tuned up and ready for

work. The fully operational equipment includes Euclid Loader, Huber Grader, Balmar backhoe, International dump truck, Rand Air compressor, Bay City Shovel, Towmotor forklift, and the Gradall ditcher. Seasonal operational equipment includes Ford boomtruck. Non-operational equipment includes Link Belt crane, Rome road grader, and the Ferguson tractor.

Future work plans are:

- Complete work on the new hydraulic pump lash up for Rome road grader.
- Complete proper fitting of chains to Towmotor fork lift and arrange for propane tank fuel servicing.
- Complete all winterizing preparations for all equipment.
- Arrange for tune up of Ferguson tractor.
- Arrange for sale of Link Belt crane.
- Arrange for overhaul/replacement of boom truck / motor.

THANKS TO

- Steve Huse for donation of copies of "The Water Level Route".
- Jim Johnson for copying engineering data on MU Power Car.
- Bill Reid for the blocking used to level new track for ballasting.
- Charlie Harshbarger for fuel for backhoe tractor.
- Dick Holbert for fuel for hi-rail truck and for arrangements with RG&E to borrow metal detector.
- Lynn Heintz for data on ties and switch timbers.
- Joe Scanlon for data on outdoor fork loader, and for continuing loan of road grader through LeCesse Co.
- Chris Hauf for donating materials to refurb Erie caboose interior.
- Tom Barry, Tom Meahan and Bud Lang of General Crushed Stone for setting up Museum discount rate on crushed stone.

- Norm Shaddick for donation of winter tarpaulin for Kalmazoo speeder.
- Mike Dow for parts for signal and telephone system.
- Neil Bellenger and Jim Johnson for electrical parts.
- Dave MonteVerde for information on signals.
- Thanks to Dave Shields, Chuck Reidmiller and John Redden for locomotive information.
- Bob Cowan for parts and labor on new pre-lube pump.
- Thanks to Dick Holbert, Rick Ashmead, Dean Steiner, Joe Scanlon, Charlie Harshbarger and Rand Warner for helping on equipment repair, maintenance and servicing.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

-Supt. John Kernan - 671-8719

The Chapter library is currently a moderately sized somewhat organized collection of books, periodicals, photographs and miscellaneous items, the majority of which reside at the New York Museum of Transportation. Other storage locations include the Depot and at various members residences.

Under my chairmanship, I intend to develop our library into a research facility specialization in the railroads that served Rochester and the Upstate New York area. Obviously, railroads will be the primary interest, though I foresee other forms of land transportation also being included.

Two activities must be simultaneously pursued in order to develop our library:

- 1) Complete organizing and cataloging of our holdings.
- 2) Soliciting of new donations to the library.

A number of logistical matters must be worked out regarding the first activity. However, let me personally ask that any chapter member who has past or present library work experience and time to donate to a chapter activity, please contact me at 671-8719 (evenings).

Regarding the second activity, as a result of the content of past donations, the library must become

selective towards all future donations. The primary reason for this is simply due to a lack of "quality" storage space. Effective immediately, all donations of the following periodicals will be politely refused:

Model Railroader - post 1970 issues.

NMRA Bulletin - post 1980 issues.

Railfan/Railfan & Railroad - post 1980 issues.

Railroad Modeler - all issues.

Railroad Model Craftsman - post 1970 issues.

Trains - post 1980 issues.

NRHS Bulletin - post 1980 issues.

This position is necessary due to the proliferation of the indicated periodicals at the Depot in past years. There is simply no place to store them all! (Also, please be reminded that it is up to the person donating anything to the Chapter to determine the fair market value for income tax purposes, though I'll gladly assist.

Now then, library donations which would be gladly accepted include:

- Any periodicals from special interest groups (SIG) or historical societies for the following railroads: B&O, DL&W, Erie, LV, NYC, PRR.
- Any employee magazines for these same railroads.
- Any issues of Locomotive Quarterly, Railpace, Rails Northeast, Locomotive & Railway Preservation and Trains Illustrated.
- Simmons-Boardman Car, Locomotive, and Car & Locomotive Cyclopedias.
- Both public and employee timetables for all railroads that ever served Rochester and the Upstate area.
- Railroad History/Bulletin published by the R&LHS.

This is my first contribution to the Semaphore discussing the chapter library, and may well be the first article ever which specifies the mission and scope of our library. As a result, I'm sure many of you will have comments, suggestions or criticisms. Please let these be known at the monthly chapter meetings, at which I intend to provide status updates on a regular basis.

PUBLICITY REPORT

-By Mike Byrne

Well, we survived another season of train rides and museum openings. It looks like we have taken over 7,000 people on our summer and fall train rides, plus another 1,500 on our charters. That's not bad for a 2 year old business. Did you know that 80% of our trips were completely sold out? Did you know that we had less than a hand full of concerns or complaints? Did you know that now the Chapter can afford to hire professionals to do work around the museum? Well, now you do, and it's a result of everyone's hard work. A special thank you to all of the guys and gals in the parking lot, in the ticket office, on the phone, under the cars, directing people on the ground, working in the store selling refreshments, selling hats, and cleaning cars. Without all of you, it wouldn't have happened.

If anyone is looking for a fun way to spend some time helping out, contact Mike Byrne, 225-5659 or Bob Miner, 671-3589.

We just received a thank you note in the mail from Pat Cocquyf who is the co-chair women of the Fairport Girl Scouts. Pat was thanking the Chapter for showing her 303 Girl Scouts and Family Members a great time on their Sunday, October 28 Charter ride from Webster to Sodus and return. It was a cold day (app. 35°F) but the girl scouts warmed up the cars and had fun. Pat felt it was very important that kids get a chance to ride a train, and learn a little history.

Another important item is from WXXI Channel 21. If you remember, I asked the membership to write WXXI to get them to show the TV show "On Track". Well, they listened, the show has been renamed and is now called "Tracks Ahead" and will be shown for 13 weeks and began on Sunday, November 3 at 3:00 p.m. Watch, and let them know what you think.

THE LEHIGH STATION - Honeoye Falls, NY

This is the title of an article submitted by Paul Worboys for the Semaphore. Our plans are to include this in the January and February issues. Paul is seeking additional information on the railroads around Honeoye Falls. Please send any correspondence directly to Paul at 9708 Barlow Road, Fairfax, VA 22031.

ERIE'S CLOSING HITS INDUSTRY STATE SCHOOL*

Institution Left Without Means of Transportation

Suspension of Erie Railroad passenger service in the Genesee Valley has left the State Agricultural and Industrial School "high and dry," the Board of Visitors learned from Superintendent Clinton W. Areson yesterday.

Thus, fathers and mothers who come to visit their sons are forced to find private transportation to come to the school, he pointed out.

Nearest bus service is 1 1/2 miles to the east and 2 miles to the west, he said. The Erie had a station at Industry and its service is now supplanted by the Valley Bus Line which operates between Avon and Rochester on the West Henrietta Road, east of Industry.

Areson admitted that the staff of the school infrequently used the Erie passenger service but claimed that travel to the school was fairly heavy because of parents who visit their sons on visiting days, the first Saturday of each month and the other weekends.

It was his suggestion that the Valley Bus Line operate two trips daily into Industry as a sort of spur line off West Henrietta Road, using Route 251, the Rush-Scottsville Road.

The Board of Visitors then named a committee composed of Thomas F. Trott, Eugene Raines and Secretary Norman A. O'Brien to ascertain whether the Public Service Commission would give its approval to the establishment of the spur and whether the Valley Bus Line would undertake the service.

All officers of the Board of Visitors were re-elected unanimously at the annual meeting. Frederick D. Lamb will head the board for the ninth time. Other officers are: First vice president, Dr. W. Eugene Powell; second vice president, Mrs. Anna Brewster Wells; secretary, Norman A. O'Brien; treasurer, Areson and assistant treasurer, Peter Tettlebach.

*This newspaper article was found in a scrap book belonging to Pete Gores and submitted by John Redden. Unfortunately, no date was attached to the clipping.

Membership Committee Report

Thomas A. Way, Chairman

November 18, 1990

Current Statistics

National Members held through Rochester	212
Local Membership (National affiliation elsewhere)	12
Family Memberships	30
TOTAL:	254

.....

New Members

John Michael Camerota
48 Lake Road
Stillwater, NY 12170
Phone: 475-4596
Membership: Regular

George & Ruth Hoffman
99 Saint Casimir Street
Rochester, NY 14621
Phone: 342-5427
Membership: Family

Karl R. McKinney
P.O. Box #1393
East Arlington, MA -2174
Phone: (617) 861-7836
Membership: Regular

Peter & Danna Tierson
7025 Tuckahoe Road
Williamson, NY 14589
Phone: (315) 589-8566
Membership: Family

.....

AC LOCOMOTIVES TEST THE TRACK SYSTEMWIDE

September 4 was a big day for Amtrak's Ed Lombardi. After 14 months at the Association of American Railroad's test center in Pueblo, Colo., Amtrak's two AC (alterating current) F-69PH locomotives began their Amtrak revenue service testing by hauling the Southwest Chief between LaJunta Colo., and Chicago. The locomotives began making their way across the country for a 30-day evaluation on September 11.

Three years ago, Amtrak ordered the two F-69 prototype locomotives from a partnership of General Motors' Electromotive Division (EMD) in LaGrange, Ill., and Siemens AG of Erlangen, West Germany. The two AC locomotives - which are the same size and horsepower as F-40 DC (direct current) diesel locomotives, but have a sleeker, more modern design - were released from General Motors for testing in Pueblo in July 1989.

According to Lombardi, locomotives with AC traction motors are superior to locomotives with DC traction motors for a few reasons:

- Lower maintenance - AC traction motors need less service because of their simplicity of design. DC traction motors need frequent inspection and are especially susceptible to moisture damage in snowy, cold climates.
- Improved fuel economy - AC locomotives can operate at lower engine speeds than DC locomotives when supplying electrical power for passenger car heating and cooling. Also, AC locomotives can supply more power from the traction motors while braking, which reduces the load on the main engine and saves fuel. DC locomotives can't do either.
- Less pollution - Because of lower engine speeds and the production of power while braking, fewer pollutants are released into the air.
- Less noise - If you've stood next to a roaring DC locomotive, you know what we're talking about. AC locomotives produce comparable power at lower engine speeds. Locomotive engineers will appreciate the noticeably quieter cab, which has sound-deadening material in the floors and walls.

[September 1990 Amtrak News]

ROCHESTER CHAPTER
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 664
ROCHESTER, NY 14603

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROCHESTER, N.Y.
PERMIT # 826



THE SEMAPHORE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE: NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ROCHESTER CHAPTER

ROCHESTER CHAPTER NRHS OFFICERS:

President - Ted Miller
Vice President - Dave Luca
Treasurer - Dan Tomlinson
Recording Secretary - Bob Fitch
Correspondence Secretary - Dan Cosgrove
National Director - Phil Schulp

THE SEMAPHORE STAFF:

Editor - Dave Luca, acting
Typing - Theresa Grevell
Layout & Printing - Dave Luca

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS:

Ron Amberger, Tom Bauman, Mike Byrne, Steve Huse, John Kernan, John Myers, Bill Reid, Rand Warner, and Tom Way .

SEMAPHORE DEADLINE:

Deadline for the January issue is December 31.
Please send your articles to Dave Luca at 983
Winton Rd., N., Rochester, NY 14609.

CHAPTER MEETING:

December 20, 1990 - 8:00 p.m.
40&8 Club
933 University Avenue
Rochester, NY

