

# **THE SEMAPHORE**

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The Newsletter of  
ROCHESTER CHAPTER - NATIONAL RAILWAY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Vol. XXXII No. 9

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May 1991

## **PROGRAM NOTES**

By: Ron Amberger

The program for the May meeting held at the 40&8 Club on May 16, beginning at 8:00 p.m., will be presented by Chapter Member Stan Setchell. During his long career with the American Gas Association, Stan Setchell had the opportunity to travel all over the U.S. and to Europe as well. Being a railfan with a particular interest in traction he rode and photographed electric lines whenever the opportunity presented itself. Stan will draw material from his huge slide collection for his presentation. Part one of his show will focus on the Shore Line Trolley Museum's operation over the Branford Electric Railway at East Haven, CT. Stan visited the museum several times in the period from 1952 to 1975 and we will be able to see the changes that occurred at the museum in almost 25 years.

The second part of the program will be a glimpse at U.S. electric railroading in the early 1950's. Stan will show us electric lines from New York City to the mid-west. Included will be New York subway lines of the BMT and IRT as well as the last trolley lines in the city. Trolleys in Philadelphia, Atlantic City, Baltimore, Washington, Detroit, Pittsburgh and Chicago. The famous mid-western interurban lines are also included; the South Shore, the North Shore, the CA&E, the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City, and the Illinois Terminal. There are several other lines included in this comprehensive display of electric railroading at mid-century.

## **1991 BANQUET REPORT**

By: Mike Byrne

A combination of events led to a stunning success of this years NRHS Banquet. We were fortunate to have private accommodations along with excellent food (chicken cordon blue, roast beef, salads, fruit and dessert), and a great speaker (Kevin Keefe from Trains Magazine).



The Banquet started off with an invocation by Rand Warner, followed with opening remarks by myself, followed by a dedication to the memory of Doug Foote, John Henry and Richard F. Tickner. Additionally, a special dedication in the memory of Dick Tickner was offered by the Chapter who officially named the Chapter's former NYC Empire State Express Car the "Richard F. Tickner". Mary Lou Tickner was on hand to witness this dedication.

As dinner was served at tables of 8, many friendships were rekindled among members, spouses and guests.

The awards ceremony was conducted by Rand Warner and Dave Luca. Awards were presented to the following:

Presidents Award: Marie Miner - for her hard work as ticket agent for the Summer Fun and Fall Foliage Trip Excursions

Keystone Award: Tom Bauman - for work on the retail stores and Chapter Museum.

Fairmont Cup: Mike Byrne - for work on Publicity and Trips advertising.

**Certificates of Appreciation:**

Jan Dittmer

Joe Scanlon

Mike Dow

Jim East

Jim Muller

Jim Johnson

Tom Mundrick

Theresa Grevell

Dick Holbert

Our Guest of Honor presented a very interesting and educational perspective of how Kalmbach Publishings Trains Magazine puts together a story for publication [Kevin Keefe (Associate Editor)] took an article that was published in February's Trains on the Central Vermont and showed the slides that were presented and how the selection process went to determine what was published. Kevin also had slides of all of the employees at Trains along with photos of the new and old Trains facilities. The most interesting portion of the program was Kevin's explanation of how the cover sheet was selected, after the photographer was sent back out to the field to obtain a different perspective.

Kevin arrived on the Lake Shore at 6:25 a.m. and was greeted by Mike Byrne and Jim Muller, after a quick shower and breakfast, Larry Fennessey gave a great tour of the Rochester Subway which included the Broad Street Aquaduct. The group headed for Platt St. and a overview of the tracks over the Falls and the RW&O trestle downstream. Quite on cue as we stood on Platt St., the 9:30am Niagara Rainbow passed over the Falls. Next stop for Kevin was a stop for lunch and then a trip to Attridge Rd. where 6 railfans gave Kevin an indepth review of the days activities.

Kevin was quite impressed as 5 Conrail Freights passed during the next 60 minutes, including 2 with Conrails Safety Cabs (look for them in Trains).

Next stop on the tour was the Rochester and Genesee Valley RR Museum which included a tour of the grounds and a trip to the end of track by Dick Holbert in the Chevy hi-rail.

To say Kevin was impressed by Rochester was an understatement. Included in his busy schedule was a tour of Erie Canal Lock 62 in Pittsford and a trip down scenic East Avenue. Kevin who is a lover of history and definitely wants to come back to Rochester to tour the museums says we should be proud of Rochester and especially proud of the Rochester and Genesee Valley RR Museum.

Kevin left the banquet and was driven back to the Amtrak station to catch the 2:27am Westbound Lakeshore. As I left, I looked over my shoulder and saw a relaxed man laid back in an Amtrak waiting room chair waiting for the Lakeshore. As I stopped for a second and looked across the room, I noticed a smile across his face. I think he had a great time too.

## **ROCHESTER CHAPTER - NRHS CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **MAY**

- 3-12 - Railfair 91 - Sacramento, CA
- 9 - Museum/Operations Meeting - Industry
- 10-12 - AAPRCO Eastern Region Meeting - Pittsburgh
- 16 - Chapter Meeting - 40&8 - Elections
- 23 - Car Host Session - Industry
- 25-27 - BR&P/P&S Private Car Excursion - CANCELED

### **JUNE**

- 2 - Summer Fun Trips - Omid RR, Webster, NY
- 6 - Trustee Meeting - Industry
- 9 - Summer Fun Trips - Omid RR, Webster, NY
- 13 - Museum/Operations Session - Industry
- 15 - NS 611 or 1218 Lakeshore NRHS - Conneaut, OH - Buffalo, NY
- 16 - Summer Fun Trips - Omid RR, Webster, NY
- 20 - Chapter Meeting - Industry
- 22 - NS 611 or 1218 Rochester NRHS Co-Sponsor, Buffalo, NY - Albion, PA

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# **ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY MUSEUM WORK PROGRESS REPORT**

-Chmn. Rand Warner - 248-8889

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## General

All our work areas are now going full speed ahead for the 1991 season opening preparations: Grounds cleanup and landscaping; Improvement of parking areas and walkways; Increased electrical service capacity for buildings and display areas; Spring startup of motive power stored over the winter; Cleanup of car interiors for our summer visitors; Training of our museum guides; Conversion of our Chapter coach for head end power (H.E.P.) connections; Restoration of Erie caboose; Excavation and grading of right of way now that ground is drying up; Bringing in of track construction materials; Continued repair and refurbishment of construction and maintenance-of-way equipment; Preparation for block signal protection and lineside telephone lines; Improvements in two way radio communication capabilities.

## Training

Training sessions were held this past month by Bob Miner for our excursion train car hosts and other related personnel, and by Don Schilling for our museum tour guides. John Redden and Rand Warner have been hosting train operations planning and museum volunteer meetings on the second Thursday of the month at the Depot.

## Funding

Mike Byrne is in contact with various public, private and industrial grant services trying to match up requests for our Museum needs with the right type of sponsors for approach.

## Outreach

Our Historian, Keith Blackall, has been given names for county, town, city and village historians in our surrounding areas. Hopefully, this will lead to a good network of research and interchange contacts and references.

## Technical Library

Books, data and vendor literature appropriate to our eight museum subcommittee areas of responsibility have been collected and sorted, by responsibility, for use by our museum volunteers.

## Interfaces

We are continuing to work to develop and strengthen interfaces and interactive program efforts with our neighboring organizations on State property - New York Museum of Transportation, B.O.C.E.S. I/East, Oatka Residents Center, and State Agricultural and Technical School. Tight budgets are limiting these efforts currently. We would appreciate your suggestions for projects at our Museum or projects within the host group's facilities.

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## **MAINTENANCE OF WAY EQUIPMENT**

-Supt. Norm Shaddick - 865-2773

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Overhaul of the Jackson Tamper workhead hydraulic cylinders has begun, after which tamping of the line north of switch #6 will commence.

Engine problems are making operation of our Hi-Rail truck increasingly more difficult. Investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the trouble.

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## **POWER, SIGNALS & COMMUNICATIONS**

-Supt. Neil Bellenger - 359-9985

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During the month of April, our Depot has seen significant progress on the electrical wiring. On Saturday, April 13, the day of the Chapter Banquet, our electrical contractor, master electrician, Jim Hassler, and his helper Bill Collins, pulled our electric meter, disconnecting all power to the Depot. For the rest of the day, work proceeded at three different locations to accomplish the changeover for the new electric service. Mr. Hassler and crew proceeded to remove the old safety switch and meter box on the South side of the Depot, and the existing wire from the mast on the roof down to the meter box.

Inside the building, Jim Johnson, our chapter electrician, supervised removing the wire supplying the panel in the agents office and reconnecting the box as a subpanel from the new main panel in the baggage room, assisted by Charlie Harshbarger, Mike Dow and Neil Bellenger. As the new meter



box, supplied by Niagara Mohawk, was being installed on the front of the building, our inside crew relocated the supply to the Tool Car so that it is also a subfeed from the main panel. During the work the lights and receptacles in the Tool Car were kept powered by our portable welder-generator. The work proceeded with the installation of a new weatherhead and roof brace on the mast and new wire down the mast to the meter box. The conduit that had been installed previously by our chapter electricians was connected to the meter panel and new 200 Amp capacity wire was pulled and place.

Finally, near the end of the day, all the connections were made up and the meter reinstalled. The Depot was lighted up again with the 200 Amp service in place. The work described so far took the better part of a ten hour work day, and was accomplished by a dedicated group of very talented people.

On Friday, April 26, the underwriters inspector approved the work, put the inspection sticker in place, and notified Niagara Mohawk to install a 200 Amp meter. That has been accomplished and the new meter is in place and sealed.

During the coming months, we will continue to add and rearrange circuits. All exposed wire in the baggage room and attic will be run in conduit to meet commercial standards for a museum, and to provide a safe and fire resistant electrical supply to the depot and grounds.

A big thank you for a superb job to Jim Hassler, Bill Collins, Jim Johnson, Charlie Harshbarger, and Mike Dow.

Also in April we received a donation of a complete semaphore signal from Mrs. Robert Hagen. This signal is operable and in excellent condition, and will be installed on the depot grounds. A sincere thank you to Mrs. Hagen for this generous donation.

During the next two months, in addition to electrical work, we will be installing insulated rail joints and rail bonds. We also expect to be picking up additional signal equipment from Conrail for installation on our rail connection to the New York Museum of Transportation. So far, we have a small number of rail bond wires but we are still in need of more. If anyone can help, please call Neil Challenger.

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT

-Chairman John Kernan - 671-8719

Our collection of RAILROAD MAGAZINE was organized and cataloged on Sunday, April 21, and the NYMT. I'd like to thank chapter members Ira Cohen, Rick Israelson and Dave Luca for their assistance. Also, on hand was Shelden King, who shared helpful hints regarding library organization.

Our first issue of this publication dates to January 1930, when it was entitled RAILROAD STORIES. Unfortunately, being printed on pulp stock until 1971, many of these early issues are extremely frail and the pages literally crumble in your hands! The following is a list of issues that are needed for a complete collection from 1930 through the first issue of RAILFAN and RAILROAD in May, 1979 (RAILROAD MAGAZINE began as RAILROAD MANS MAGAZINE in 1906):

<u>Year</u>	<u>Month(s)</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Month(s)</u>
1931	05 & 06	1958	08,10,12
1932	04-12	1961	04
1933	01-03,05,09-11	1962	10
1934	01,02	1963	04,08,10
1935	04	1964	06,08,10-12
1936	01-11	1965	01,04-06,09
1937	01-06,08,09,11,12	1966	01,02,05,07,09-11
1938	03,04,06-08,10-12	1967	01,04,09
1939	01,02	1968	02,03,06,07
1940	01-05,07-12	1969	01,03,04,10,11
1941	02,05,07-09	1970	01,06-10,12
1942	10,12	1971	01,07,08
1944	01,11,12	1972	08,11,12
1948	10	1973	01,03,06,08
1949	01	1974	06-08,12
1954	11	1975	01,11
1955	01	1976	06
1957	02		

Many duplicate issues are in our collection. I plan to offer these for sale to the membership in order to generate funds for library purchases. A listing of RAILROAD MAGAZINE issues for sale is planned for the June Semaphore.

Also planned for sale are the model railroading oriented magazines in our collection. These include MODEL RAILROADER, RAILROAD

MODEL CRAFTSMAN, NMRA BULLETIN and a few others. Again, my intent is to generate funds for library purchases, though in the case of these publications, they just don't fit into the strategy of our library. A listing of these is planned for a future issue of the Semaphore.

Thanks to Chapter Member Ed VanLeer for donating Baldwin Locomotive Works employee magazines from the '40's & '50's. This is the type of material desired for the library.

Finally, I am the sole individual belonging to the library committee - Anyone out there wanna keep me company?

## PASSENGER EQUIPMENT

-Supt. Bob Miner - 671-3589

Hooray! Hooray! The first of May outdoor training starts today. Outdoor work on our excursion coaches at Sodus has started and we only have a few days to get ready for the Spring trips. I am writing this on May 1st. By the time you read this, we will have run our first charter on May 4. I hope most of the wiring for the head end power will have been installed. Jim East will be calling people to support the excursions from Webster to E. Williamson.

At this writing, we still have not decided where we will be boarding the train. We have verbal permission to use Xerox parking lots and can load there, next to San Jose Dr. The owners of the Hojack Yards are working on a new area East of the buildings so we may be able to park there. Each location has advantages and disadvantages. We will have decided by the time you read this as we must send a map along with the tickets. Come to the chapter meeting and get the latest on the spring fling.

I have spent so much time getting ready for the trips on OMID that I have no information to report to you at this time on our other passenger equipment. Would someone like to organize a chapter sponsored trip to Conrail's Selkirk Yards or to the Knox, Kane, Kinzua RR? Give me a call if you are interested in organizing a trip to anywhere.

A good question came up the other day about members riding on our OMID trips. Members do not get a discount but they can ride free if they are a car host, ground support person (parking etc.) or

work the snack or souvenir table. See you on the train!

## WANTED

- 4-Barrel carburetor for Chev. 350
- Good used Chev. 350 engine
- Wisconsin V-4 engine w/electric start
- Light-weight air operated hand tamper
- Good sets of relay grade switch timbers for expansion of yard tracks at NRHS and NYMT.
- Source of good usable telephone & power poles for our overhead trolley wire and phone and signal lines.
- A.R.E.A. No. 3A stone ballast for ballasting R.O.W. north of end of track, and for ballasting newly constructed track north from top of hill.
- Sources of additional 80# Dudley rail, plates, bars and switches for expansion of trackage north and south of Rt. 251.
- GP-38 rectifier assembly for production of 600V dc trolley power from 480V ac three phase input.
- Set of new or nearly new crossing planks.
- Good 16 ply tubeless tire 18.00x25 for Euclid loader spare.
- Cash donations towards safety glass/lexan replacements for locomotives, passenger cars and cabooses as necessary.

## THANKS TO

- Charles Harshbarger for gasoline fuel for backhoe, Gradall, Chevy Hi-Rail boom truck and dump truck.
- Jim Johnson for prints of depot drawings for structural, electrical and plumbing data.
- Norm Shaddick for ordering seal kits for tamper cylinders and light bulbs for rolling stock.
- Rand Warner for rental of sewer auger equipment and purchase of valve stem extension adaptors for Euclid loader tires.

# ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM STORE

-Operation Supt. Tom Bauman - 458-4289

Following are some of the new books/videos in the Chapter store, along with their retail price (NRHS members subtract 20%):

More Classic Trains .....	\$76.00
Cajon Pass/Tehachapi Loop Video .....	\$60.00
Kansas City Southern Video .....	\$40.00
Montana Rail Link Video .....	\$40.00
Eastern Kentucky Coal Mines Video .....	\$40.00
Sacramento Railfair '91 Video .....	\$25.00
1991 Steam Directory .....	\$9.00

I'm in the process of finding one or more persons to help me with the Chapter Store on the upcoming train trips. If you're comfortable working with the public - selling caps, videos, etc. - and you're interested in helping out on the train trips, give me a call.

Special thanks to Mike Dow for his help at the Batavia train meet.

## Membership Committee Report

Thomas A. Way, Chairman

April 18, 1991

### Current Statistics

National Members held through Rochester	195
Local Membership (National affiliation elsewhere)	10
Family Memberships	23
TOTAL:	228

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Department of Corrections

William W. Limburg  
66 Clearview Drive  
Penfield, NY 14526  
Phone: 716-586-9470  
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1991 NRHS NATIONAL CONVENTION - HUNTINGTON, WV - AUGUST 7-10

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## THE SEMAPHORE

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ROCHESTER CHAPTER*

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Ron Amberger, Tom Bauman, Neil Bellenger, Mike Byrne, John Kernan, Dave Luca, Bob Miner, John Redden, Norm Shaddick, Rand Warner, and Tom Way .

### SEMAPHORE DEADLINE:

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

### CHAPTER MEETING:

May 16, 1991 - 8:00 p.m.  
40&8 Club  
933 University Avenue  
Rochester, NY

**ROCHESTER CHAPTER**

