

# THE SEMAPHORE

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

December 1991

## PROGRAM NOTES

By Jack Matsik

This month's general membership meeting will take place on Thursday, December 19, at the 40&8 Club. The December program will be titled "Putting Dansville on the Railroad Map". Chapter member, David Monte Verde, will present a program covering 100 years of railroad activity with slides, talk and movie. A native of Dansville, David will describe what the Phoebe Snow meant to the community, what the Lackawanna Dansville Hill was like, the romance of the Dansville and Mt. Morris, and a smidgeon of the Pittsburg, Shawmut and Northern.

We welcome and need volunteers or suggestions on presenting monthly programs for the '91-'92 season's 40&8 meetings. Please contact any of the program committee members.

Jack Matsik (Chairman)	(716) 442-6269
Bill Limburg	(716) 586-9470
Dan Cosgrove	(716) 352-6931
Roy Wullich	(716) 426-5619
Dave Luca (Board Liaison)	(716) 288-0318

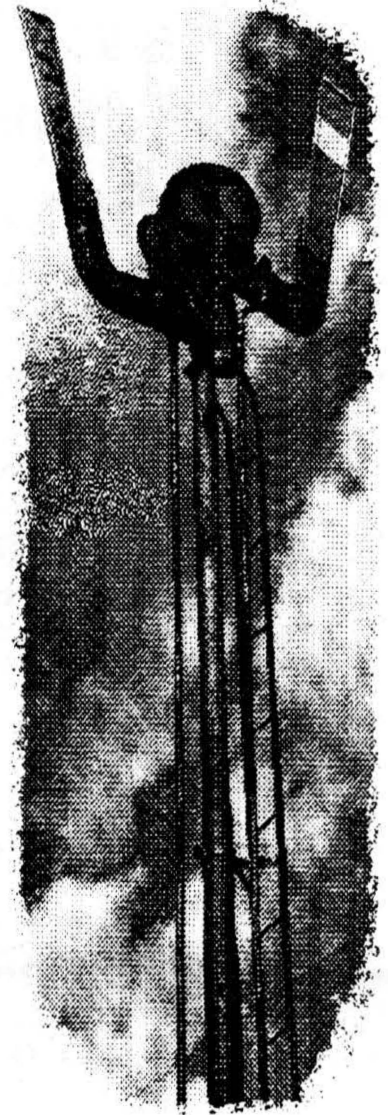
## TRIP COMMITTEE REPORT

By Bob Miner

Unlike our spring trips, over the Ontario Midland, the fall trips did make a nice profit. Almost all of the runs sold out in advance. There were a few problems but as a whole things went very smooth. Mike Byrne told everyone in Monroe, Wayne, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca Counties about the trips and over 4500 of them came to ride. Jim East rounded up and scheduled the car hosts and ground crews. With 3 years of practice Jim Muller and the ground crew packed them in as smooth as silk. The Dittmer, Luca, Wullich team sold lots of food and drinks at the concession area with the profits going to the chapter. Tom Bauman and his people added the profits from hat etc. sales to make the effort of running this fall worth while. Marie and I filled advance ticket orders by mail and answered telephone requests for information. The car hosts helped the passengers on and off the train, picked up trash and watched over the safety of all.

Some of the chapter members came out to help with parking etc. even when they were not scheduled. That kind of dedication is great. Thank you.

The trip committee feels that running spring trips from Webster is not worth the effort. There is a rumor that spring rides from Lakeville may be worth a try. I for one am not willing to give up another May and June to run spring trips. I requested that everyone give one Saturday this spring and come out to Sodus to clean the outside of



the coaches and the loading area. Only one member and the Empire State Railcar people showed up.

Mike Byrne hosted a coach for the Rochester Museum and Science Center. The money he received from them he donated to the chapter. Thanks Mike. Mike has a new position at Kodak. He will not be able to handle all the work he has done in the past as the Chapter's publicity person. We need someone to fill his shoes. Get up, call now to volunteer to do publicity. Mike will help you.

Jim East has a trip to NYC and Radio City Music Hall for the Christmas show. It is sold out. That means more cash in the till. Thanks Jim. Jim has retired from Kodak. Next time you see him, congratulate him.

#### WHAT TO DO NEXT TO THE NYC COACH?

Winter cold slows us down but we can trace wires, polish windows, install intrusion alarm, install 120 volt plugs for plug in power to use while working in coach and make new seat covers for the seats. Want to help? Call 671-3589.

#### WHAT TO DO NEXT FOR THE OTHER PASSENGER EQUIPMENT?

You have heard of the Stillwell Coach? We need someone to take charge and get it serviceable. Weld up the steps, etc. so it can be used for the rides between the museums. There are other restoration tasks, just ask Rand.

Watch for the quiz.

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

### DECEMBER

- 12 - Operations/Planning Session - Industry
- 14 - Santa Claus Train - Omid RR - Sodus, NY
- 19 - Chapter Membership Meeting - 40&8 Club
- 21 - Santa Claus Train - Omid RR-Ontario, NY
- 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

### JANUARY

- 2 - Trustees Meeting - 40&8
- 4 - Year End Party - Industry
- 9 - Operations/Planning Session - Industry
- 16 - Chapter Membership Meeting - 40&8 Club
- 19 - TTCS Annual Meet - Utica Station

### FEBRUARY

- 2 - TTOS Meet - Logan's Party House
- 6 - Trustees Meeting
- 13 - Operations/Planning Session - Industry
- 20 - Chapter Membership Meeting - 40&8 Club

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

-Chmn. Rand Warner - 425-8586

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Looking Back on the 1991 Year

It certainly has been a bang-up year, thanks to our volunteers, support from our Board of Trustees, and you our members. Outstanding accomplishments include:

- Over 1000 feet of track has been constructed and preparations have been made for the last 1000 feet.
- New concrete platforms and drains have been installed all around the Depot.
- RG&E 45 ton GE side rod diesel engine has been added to our motive power fleet.
- HEP wiring has been installed on our Chapter NYC coach and the rest of our excursion car fleet.
- Major collection of semaphore signal equipment (Erie RR) has been brought in from southern tier.
- 200 Amp wiring service to Depot and underground power distribution system has been completed.
- Bay City Shovel and Ford Industrial fork lift tractor have been added to construction equipment.
- Extensive refurbishment has been completed on Jackson Tamper and Chevy Hi Rail maintenance-of-way equipment.
- Depot/Museum facility was manned for Jun-Oct season plus assorted weekday tour groups.
- Extensive media publicity was achieved through television, newspapers and radio, plus 10,000 flyer brochures.

Looking Ahead to the 1992 Year

- Completion of track connection from NRHS to NYMT.
- Beginning use of operational block signal system.
- Operational use of all four diesel locomotives.
- Acquisition of box car(s) for storage capacity.

- Refurbishment of Erie Stillwell coach for open air ride service.
- FRA type inspections for all revenue service cars.
- Operational use of offices in north end of Depot.
- Freight and passenger train operation on our line.
- Acquire or operate a piece of steam powered equipment.
- Provide power source for operation of MU Power Car.
- Begin end-to-end/museum-to-museum operation of speeders.
- Establish design for expansion south of Rt. 251.
- Acquire land for current and future expansion.

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**TRACK & RIGHT-OF-WAY**

-Supt. - Bill Reid - 589-4388

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All final ballasted track has been blocked and tamped. The 250 ties (10 bundles) delivered from A&K Railroad Supply by Morgan Grain Service have been laid on fresh ballast from General Crushed Stone. Rail from our CONRAIL salvage job at Caledonia has been final spiked and gaged and leveled ready for top ballasting, an addition of 500 feet of new track, which brings our track north to manhole #15. Final grading has been completed the rest of the way north to the old NYMT end of track. Stone to go under the next batch of ties has been put down on this section and is ready to be graded. Necessary fill has been added to the west side of right-of-way and ditching is proceeding on the east side of right of way. Additional grading has been accomplished south of switch #6 on top of the hill, to permit construction of badly needed yard storage tracks. Switch #6 has been extended south as the yard lead. All turnouts have been inspected and frogs are being repaired as needed. Thanks to Jeff Baxter, Dave MonteVerde, Bill Reid, Rand Warner, Larry Fennessy, John Redden, Joe Scanlon, Jeff Carpenter, Charlie Harshbarger, Jeff Bochman, Jim Johnson, Neil Bellenger,



Dave Luca, Bob Miner, Mike Dow, Norm Shaddick, and Dick Holbert. Chapter and private equipment used included Euclid Loader, Bay City Shovel, Huber Wabco Grader, international Dump Truck, Ford Boom Truck, Ford Tractor Loader, Rand Air Compressor, Balmar Backhoe, EK#6 Loco, Chevy Hi Rail, Jackson Tamper, LVRR pushcar.

Our future plans include:

Extend the culverts as necessary in vicinity of Manhole #15. Complete grading of ballast to go under next batch of ties. Bring in another tractor trailer load of ties from Manchester. Complete ditching of east side of right of way north and south of Manhole #15. Lay out curves for rework of NYMT trackage to meet NRHS trackage. Repair turnout frogs as necessary for safety and reliability of train, hi rail and speeder operations. Weather permitting, extend final grading north to new connection point for NRHS and NYMT trackage. Investigate additional sources of rail, plates, ties and switch timbers to complete northward track construction in 1992.

## CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT

-Supt. - Joe Scanlon - 865-7668

Progress made during the last three months include:

- Euclid loader brakes have been fixed and transmission checked by Bernie Doran. He has also restrung cables for Gradall boom so we now have two critical pieces of equipment back in operation. Last month Bernie fixed the steering on the Ford forklift and right now he's working on the pinion assembly for the RG&E locomotive.
- Larry Betler has fabricated new pins and bushings for the bucket linkage on our backhoe tractor which was severely worn.
- Hydraulic hoses have been replaced on Euclid loader and Balmar backhoe by Rand Warner.
- Running maintenance and lubrication for all machines has been provided by Charlie Harshbarger, Dick Holbert, Norm Shaddick, Joe Scanlon and Rand Warner.
- Antifreeze protection has been checked by Joe Scanlon and Rand Warner.

Future plans include:

- Fix leaky control valve for horizontal swing on Balmar Backhoe bucket boom.
- Tighten engine mounts on Gradall ditcher and International dump truck.
- Check battery charging circuit and generator on Balmar backhoe.
- Refurbish out second jackhammer for use in power spiking rail to ties.
- Troubleshoot our Miller welder generator electrical system.
- Replace muffler and weak battery on Rand air compressor.
- Repair hood and front clip assembly on Ford boom truck.
- Check generator and battery charging circuit on Ford fork lift.

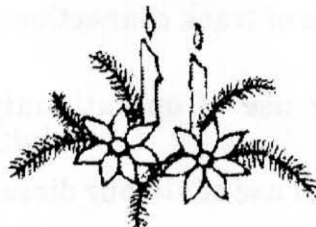
## FREIGHT EQUIPMENT

-Supt. - Vacant

Our Erie Caboose "SWAT TEAM" consisting of Neil Bellenger, foreman, and assisted by Duncan Richards, Chris Hauf, Mark Poppalardo, Chuck Riedmiller and Jamie Riedmiller has been discussing interior and exterior restoration plans for this most often used piece of rolling stock. Locomotives, freight and passenger car spare parts and consumables are being consolidated and inventoried for ease of use.

Future plans include:

- Finalize plans for Erie Caboose #C-254.
- Work out arrangements for relocation of Pennsy hopper car onto our museum trackage.
- Refurbish and install kerosene caboose interior lantern donated by Ed VanHorn.
- Prepare all cabooses for use in conjunction with annual Year End Party.



*Happy Holidays*

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**WANTED**  
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- Brooms, any type, for cars and buildings to maintain cleanliness.
- Contractor's wheelbarrow, heavy duty type, for hauling dirt, stone and construction debris.
- Bulldozer D-2/D-3/D-4/D-5 size for general construction excavation and land clearing.
- Ballast regulator equipment - use of or loan of - to regulate our trackage when completed.
- Tie Inserter/Remover for refurbishment of old track on NYMT trackage.
- Semaphore blades for Union switch & Signal signal from Southern Tier Erie line.
- Sheet metal repair person for PINE FALLS car repairs to exterior side sheeting.
- Welding fabricator/installer person for repair of vestibule areas on Erie Stillwell coach.
- Carpenters to install wood siding on BR&P and NYC cabooses and decking on NYC flat car.
- Flooring for north waiting room in Depot so we can provide for installation of offices.

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**THANKS TO**  
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- John Kernan for making arrangements for dumpster for trash removal.
- Joe Scanlon, Charlie Harshbarger, Dick Holbert and Rand Warner for gasoline fuel donations.
- Marge and Rand Warner for donation of 12 HP John Deere tractor and 47" mower for grounds maintenance.
- Ed VanHorn for donation of interior kerosene burning caboose lantern for BR&P caboose.
- Jim Deane for offer of large office desk.
- Dave MonteVerde for logistical support to track construction.
- Jeff Baxter for inspection of all turnouts and recommendations for corrective action.

- Jim Johnson for Monroe County contacts.
- Ted Strang and New York Museum of Transportation for temporary storage space for staging furniture into Depot offices as they are constructed.
- Rick Israelson for cash contributions to the LV#211 and Steam Preservation Funds.
- Mike Byrne for donation towards NYC Coach Maintenance.

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**OFF THE WIRE**  
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Amtrak's "Executive Sleeper" Service between New York and Washington was named one of the "20 best rail rides in the world" by International Railway Traveler Magazine in its May/June 1991 issue. (Newsbreak, via Cinders)

Morrison-Knudsen in a letter dated August 3, told 164 employees of its Mountain Top, PA, plant about its plans to close the facility. M-K plans to retain 12-15 workers at the plant as part of a maintenance staff. M-K hopes the closing of the plant will only be temporary. In 1989, M-K paid \$1.7 million for the former Foster-Wheeler plant on 102 acres in Mountain Top. (Southern Tier Rail Fanning)

Norfolk Southern is reported to have retired all former Nickel Plate Road GP30's (NS 2900-2909, ex-NKP 900-909). One and only former NKP GP35 (NS2910, ex-NKP 910) has been stored out of service, along with former Wabash GP35's 2914 and 2918; the latter unit has been donated to National Museum of Transport at St. Louis. (Danville Flyer via Lakeshore NRHS Timetable)

Office Car 10000 in for repairs. Office Car 10000, which has been leased by Amtrak from owner Bill Kratville for a number of years, is currently shopped in Oakland, CA for some repairs and improvements. The work is scheduled to be completed and the car returned to the East Coast later this year. (The Call Board)

Amtrak retired P30CH's nos. 700-704, 706, 708-710, 714, 718, 719 and 722-724 on August 19. The remainder of the GE fleet will continue to run on the *Sunset Limited*. (Narragansett Newsletter via Lake Shore NRHS Timetable)

# ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM STORE

-Operation Supt. Tom Bauman - 458-4289

Following are some of the new books we'll have available at the November meeting (Rochester Chapter NRHS members subtract 20%):

All Aboard Amtrak .....	\$50.00
Wabash in Color .....	\$45.00
EL in Color, Vol. 1 .....	\$45.00

We also hope to have copies of Sheldon King's reprinted book "The Route of the Phoebe Snow!" Sheldon is planning to be at the meeting so you can even get him to autograph a copy of the book!

Due to low sales, we have discontinued selling "Locomotive & Railway Preservation" magazine.

## Membership Committee Report

Thomas A. Way, Chairman

November 21, 1991

<u>Current Statistics</u>	
National Members held through Rochester	221
Local Membership (National affiliation elsewhere)	11
Family Memberships	26
TOTAL:	258

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## New Members

J. Franklin Pineo  
3742 Newton Road  
Odessa, NY 14869  
Phone: (607) 546-8496  
Membership: Regular

Nicholas C. Russo  
364 Warrington Drive  
Rochester, NY 14618  
Phone: 256-1999  
Membership: Regular

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## LIONEL OFFER

In response to numerous requests for their 1991 advertisements, the Lionel Corporation is offering a set of six ad posters available directly from the company. They are 11x14 inch, printed on heavy poster board and are ready to frame. Included are Santa Fe F3 diesels, Pennsy S-2 turbine and semi-scale freight cars, Madison and interurban cars, Accessories, Classics #1-408E and racing set, American Flyer Mopac set and New Haven EP-5.

To order: send a check or money order made payable to Lionel Trains Inc. for \$24.99 plus tax, which includes shipping, to: Lionel Trains Inc., 26750 Twenty Three Mile Road, Mt. Clemens, MI 48045.

Quantities are limited, so order early. Allow four weeks for delivery.



# **ANNUAL YEAR END PARTY**

**Saturday January 4, 1992  
5:30 p.m. til 10:30 p.m.....**

**Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum  
282 Rush-Scottsville Road (Rt. 251)  
2 Miles West From Exit 11 on I-390**

- Dress warm and please bring a snack dish to pass. We'll provide pizza, hot & cold drinks, and table service.
- Assorted train operations, subject to weather limitations. Hope we don't lose anyone at the far, far north end of our rail line to New York Museum of Transportation. Video movies in Pine Falls. Hot cider and soup in the heated cabooses.
- See your friends. Have some fun. Bring a friend. Night photo possibilities (bring your tripod and cable release). Lighted signals and lanterns. Lighted motive power and rolling stock. Night photo run-by's.

**Adults \$4 each. No children please.**

**Reservations to Rand & Marge Warner, 425-8586, 58 Park Circle  
Drive, Fairport, NY 14450**



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



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## THE SEMAPHORE

*PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE: NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ROCHESTER CHAPTER*

### ROCHESTER CHAPTER NRHS OFFICERS:

President - Ted Miller  
Vice President - Dave Luca  
Treasurer - Roy Wullich, II  
Recording Secretary - Bob Fitch  
Correspondence Secretary - Dan Cosgrove  
National Director - Phil Schulp

### THE SEMAPHORE STAFF:

Editor - Vacant  
Typing - Theresa Grevell  
Layout & Printing - Dave Luca

### THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS:

Tom Bauman, Dave Luca, Jack Matsik, Bob Miner, Bill Reid, Joe Scanlon, Rand Warner and Tom Way.

### SEMAPHORE DEADLINE:

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

### CHAPTER MEETING:

December 19, 1991 - 8:00 p.m.  
40&8 Club

