

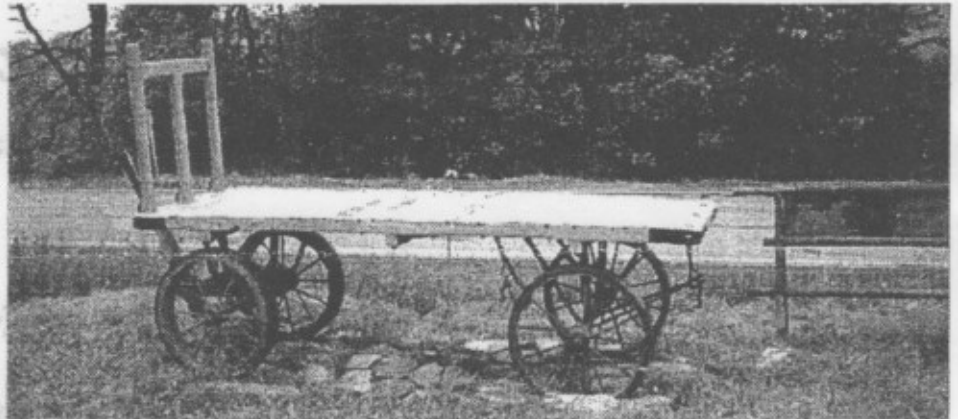


Railroad artifacts on display in New Berlin

In July and August the Society staged its first public presentation of artifacts with a two-window display in the NBT Bank in the center of New Berlin. Many photographs of the Unadilla Valley Railway were on view.

Afterwards, a new display was set up in the New Berlin Village Library. Included here are a number of UV artifacts, some donated, others on loan to the Society.

Shown at right is one of the Society's recent acquisitions, a railway baggage cart obtained in Bridgewater.



A letter from the president

By George R. Wolfangle

When first asked, "Why start a railroad society?" I said, "Why not?" Railroads have played such a big part in the life of this nation that they deserve to be recognized. The move westward, the development of agriculture, the nation's industrialization—all have been augmented by our country's railroads. Many people live where they do because of the coming of the trains.

The part of central New York which includes Chenango, Madison, and Otsego counties is no exception. The Lackawana Railroad swung around to the north and west of this area and the Delaware and Hudson went to the south and east. The Ontario and Western Railroad stabbed its way into the heart of it from the south, and the little Unadilla Valley Railroad tied them all together. Coal and supplies came in on the railroads, and milk went out. Our economy depended on the railroad. More specifically, our life's blood traveled along these railroads.

But now that we have a railroad society, what are we going to do? Are we going to sit around and talk about the "good old days" of the railroads? Yes, we must talk, because we *must* remember where we came from and we *must* preserve this memory. And no, we most definitely *must not* sit around, but rather col-

lect, record, and assemble as much we can of our railroad's history and whatever artifacts remain. And we must make it available and interesting to the general populace of the area.

My dream is to acquire and preserve railroad structures at the very center of this complex—in New Berlin, Edmeston, and South Edmeston; to acquire access to the right-of-way between these locations; and one day run vintage railroad rolling stock on tourist runs from and to these places. Deep down, I don't think I am alone in this dream.

Some people have said, "You're dreaming the impossible. We could never afford to lay that much track." But I say we cannot afford *not* to dream this big. Remember—and this has been proven—you will never grow greater than your dreams. It may happen that you fall short of a dream, but without your dream you will not even reach for your goal. So please be with me on this: dream big, think big, do big.

We have already begun. We have a building in New Berlin (albeit more a liability than an asset as it now stands) and we are negotiating for a prime one in Edmeston. Let us keep the ball rolling. Let us accomplish our goal. This done, the future may not remember me and it may not remember you, but it will remember the railroad and the part it played in making us what we are. Let it be so.

New officers elected at railroad society's first annual meeting

George Wolfangle was elected president of the Unadilla Valley Railway Society during the first annual meeting held Tuesday, September 9. Also elected were William Fliedner, secretary, and Carl Carpenter, treasurer.

The Board of Trustees for 1996-97 are George Wolfangle, president; William Fliedner, vice president/secretary; Carl Carpenter, treasurer; Michael Schowe, trustee; and Floyd Reeser, trustee.

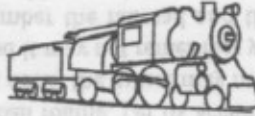
Plans are underway for several special programs and activities during the coming year. Watch newspapers for announcements of special activities.

The Department of Education is now reviewing the Society's application for a provisional charter. An answer is expected within the next few months.

Regular meetings were set for the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Pittsfield Firehouse, located on State Route 80.

About our masthead

Why is this newsletter called The Pendragon? That was the name of the UV Railway's first locomotive. The Pendragon's next scheduled stop at your station is the month of December, when we'll relate some of the locomotive's history.



UNADILLA VALLEY RAILWAY SOCIETY & MUSEUM
 PO Box 791 • NEW BERLIN, NY 13411

MEETING SCHEDULE

Regular meetings will be held the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
 in the Pittsfield Firchouse (State Route 80 just east of County Route 18).

— 1996 —

October 3 • November 7 • December 5

— 1997 —

January 2 • February 6 • March 6

April 3 • May 1 • June 5

July 10 • August 7

September 4—Annual Meeting

October 2 • November 6 • December 4

*Watch area newspapers for announcements of special programs through the year.
 In case of bad weather, call (607) 847-6435 to check for cancellations.
 If the weather is really bad, meetings will be called off.*