

PENNDRAGON

The newsletter of the Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum PO Box 751, new Berlin, NY 13411 -- Spring 2010

UNADILLA VALLEY RAILWAY SOCIETY AND MUSEUM MONTHLY MEETINGS

Time: 7:00 PM

May thru September Meetings held at the Railroad Museum-Railroad Ave in New Berlin, NY

October thru April-meetings held at the New Berlin Library, Main Street In New Berlin, NY

May 3RD Meeting

Place: Railroad Museum

Time: 6:30 PM

Guest Speaker: George Wolfangle. Founder and Executive Advisor-UVRS&M. George will give us a tour of the heated part of the Museum and display some articles as well as answer questions.

Short Business Meeting Refreshments

MAY 8TH Wm. Young.

New Book signing from 12 to 3.

"UV THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A SMALL RAILROAD" HIS BOOK IS A Definitive Account of the Unadilla Valley Railway.

Come to the Museum on Railroad Ave. Books available for sale also FREE TOURS all afternoon

JUNE 7TH MEETING

Place: Railroad Museum

Time: 7 PM

Guest Speaker: Fred Lanfear, President Oxford Historical Society and Author of "Railroad Days"

UVR Society & Museum

Officers

President.....Ralph Scopo

Vice President.....Ernie Clemens

Recording Secretary.. Liz. Ryan

Treasurer Bonnie-Jean Bauer

Member At Large ...Bill Fleidner

Member at Large...Alan Fairbrother

Executive Advisor

George Wolfangle

Director.....Pat Gifford

appreciation was presented to him. Refreshments followed the business meeting. February 2009 meeting at the New Berlin Library was attended by 12 people and we welcomed Pat and Mark Spooner from Edmeston to our membership. A detailed financial Report was prepared and read by Bonnie Jean Bauer. A report was given about the excellent job Ralph Scopo did on securing and closing in the Half Car. Happy thoughts reported about the train ride attended by many of the members. The train went from Milford toward Cooperstown and back with many colorful sights of the Christmas season enjoyed by all. Weather was bad and the March meeting was cancelled. In April we missed Bonnie Jean who was attending to home repairs in her New Jersey home while George was vacationing in Florida. Bill Fliedner was ill but sent items for us to look over and discuss before we purchased them. Other topics discussed were; purchase of a safe, fund raisers reminding us that our insurance alone is \$1103.00. Ernie read the correspondence that included an e-mail from Bill Beardslee for an article to add to the publication he was working on. Bill is a former New Berlin resident and still maintains a large family home here noted for the Hop House and the general beauty of



Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum Photo by Vince Bauer

This past year has been a productive time at the Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum. The January 2009 meeting was held at Pat Gifford's home with 16 members attending. Election of officers and a tribute to George for his many years of creating interest and bringing the Museum up to this point. A nice plaque of

his family farm. Bill is a weekly Historian with publications in the New Berlin Gazette, along with others. A movie was planned but the VCR broke. Refreshments were served. The May meeting was attended by 17 people in the large float construction room of the Museum. Our guest speaker was Chris Lord who is employed at the Leatherstocking Railway Historical Society. Chris is a long time member of our Museum. He gave a very interesting talk about the history of the Cooperstown-Charlotte Valley Railroad and some other New York State Railroads. A few of the interesting highlights of his talk were; The Cooperstown and Susquehanna RR was organized in 1865; a Round House in Cooperstown was destroyed by fire in 1885; 10 to 14 trains a day in 1900 including 3 passenger trains came to Cooperstown; 43% of the load was coal followed by textiles and hops; passenger service was cancelled in 1936 because of the autos; and by 1947 there were only 3 freight trains a week. At this meeting Liz Ryan was appointed secretary; help moving the new train table to its present place was requested and memories of Milton Moore were discussed as Pat invited us to attend on May 12th his internment in a Norwich Cemetery.

In July we participated in the New Berlin Quilt Weekend with items donated by Ruth Gregory, Liz Ryan and Joan Barr. We made a few dollars. August is the New Berlin Youth Days and we

again got the first place trophy with our float that is in our main office with all the other trophies. Alan Fairbrother designed this float, instructed, constructed and proudly watched it go through the bad rain storm of that parade day! All riding on it got soaked! In September William Young was our guest Speaker. He sold and signed his new book "UV THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A SMALL RAILROAD". We had several visitors including members from the Utica & Mohawk Valley Chapter of the NRHS Inc. We still have Wm. Young's books available for sale. Come to a meeting or call 607-847-9484 to buy a book for \$20.00 and has over 100 pages, approximately 50 pictures. This is a great book with a Personal Name Index filled with about 700 names. If you do not have this book be sure to call for one today.

In October Ron Jenkins donated many artifacts of his that include two cases of Keys taken out of his grandfather's desk (Harry Brome) at the UV Railroad also many other items that can be seen at our museum. We had the privilege of hearing Ron speak at our November meeting. Ron lives in Worcester, NY. In December we joined other people from New Berlin, totaled 32 and went on the Christmas lights special train ride, mentioned before on page one. January this year had our election of officers as you can see on page one. In April we were honored with John

Taibi, author and speaker. His program was "The New Berlin Branch of the Old O & W that Became the Unadilla Valley Railway" or "Up the River" John sure presented a knowledgeable night of railroading. Thanks John Taibi.

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THE CORN POPPER

By Michael Holdridge

As a kid, The UV Railroad was an important part of my life and I always paid as much attention to it as I could...as long as I can remember.

When ever I heard the train coming from the South or the North, I always tried to get over to the crossing to watch the action, or if I couldn't make it, be on the porch at our store, and study what was happening from there.

One Sunday morning, I heard a train whistle blowing for the Yaw Bridge crossing about 2 miles south of town. It really got my attention because even though it was a train whistle, the sound was nothing like what I was used to hearing. It was a single tone, high pitched, toot toot, instead of the full tri-tone sound you'd hear coming from that "big" GE locomotive, UV #200.

As time passed and the train drew closer to town, I could start to hear the noises the locomotive was making...but some of the sounds weren't really familiar to me at all. The noises that this "New" locomotive were making, were as strange and different as the sound it's horn was making,

continued from page 2
when it "Tooted" it's warning at the Yaw Bridge.

I could now hear a distinctive pop pop pop pop sound coming from the exhaust stack of the locomotive pulling this train. It was all new and different to me.

All this curiosity had me dropping everything, and taking a quick run on over to the only railroad grade crossing we had in West Edmeston, which was to the West. It was located right at the edge of town, just across the bridge over the Unadilla River, in Madison County. The tracks crossed the county road between the long since closed UV railroad station on the south side, and the old ice house located between the tracks and the river and Sheffield milk station, just north of the county road and west of the tracks, sitting on the bank.

It turned out to be a really small locomotive, one that I had never seen before and it didn't seem real because the train was hardly moving. UV # 300, ever so slowly crept into my view....just crawling as it took the crossing. As I was looking it all over the movement at the locomotive's wheels caught my attention. I could see they were turning, but much faster than the train was moving. They were spinning on the rails. It was still pretty early Saturday morning and the dew was pretty damp on the ground and on the rails so this interesting situation was no doubt helped out immensely by the tremendous weight of this very

long train. There were over 12 cars that the little beast had to tow!

Now West Edmeston is a pretty small town, but on a Saturday morning in the early 50's it was a pretty busy place. The Sheffield milk station was just the other side of the crossing to the west with NY state route 8 just a little farther up the road, up the hill. The milk station was going full strong at this hour and had quite a string of farmer's trucks lined up to unload their cans of milk.

The GLF feed store, Robert's Hardware Store, Holdrigris's Grocery & Dry Goods Store, the US Post Office, Warren Belden's Gas Station, and Shirley Talbot's Restaurant were all on the East side of the track. Because of the grade crossing being blocked, the normal operations on this day got pretty tied up and while standing there I remember hearing some farmers with tempers flaring. The length of that train, the still damp rails from the dew, and that very small "I think I can", locomotive, took close to 20 minutes of UV #300's straining and struggling, to pull it's train across the West Ed. crossing. By now the farmers were really anxious to get across the tracks. To me the #300 Corn Popper really belonged on my "HO" layout instead of the UV tracks on that particular Saturday morning.

After the train got north of the crossing, it stopped and things again got pretty busy making up for lost time. The train crew took

some time off to let things dry up and remove one of the several nemeses that was trying to keep "Junior" from getting to Bridgewater.

Later I found out "Junior" was one of the names the crew called #300, the "Corn Popper" was another. Page 5 has pictures of the CORN POPPER.

*Editors note...Mike Holdridge stopped by one day and was sharing things he remembered as a young (very young) boy. Among other things he shared was remembering seeing the Steam Engines, the orange and cream colored diesels, tearing up the tracks and a ride on the train...Mike is a Life-Time Member of the UVR Society and Museum and has been an interesting guest speaker. Mike's dad and mom live in New Berlin and Williamsburg, PA. where Mike is devoted full time to their care.

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A NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

The UVRS&M is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. Checks payable to Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum may be sent to P O Box 751, New Berlin, NY 13411

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NEWS FLASH

Bring your children to see our new world of 0 gauge model trains as they run thru the picturesque layout of hills and villages. Join the Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum to keep the memories of yester-years alive for the future generations.

Free Tours

Tours are free on Saturday afternoons from 1 to 5 PM. This will fascinate children of all ages as you glimpse into the past. Lets keep the memories of Railroading alive in our Unadilla Valley for all generations.



Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum members, Don Elliott and Ruth Gregory. The shovel was given to Don by Bruce Harshbarger while the tracks were being taken up as the last train made its final run. Background are Mark and Harla Lazar, Waterville, NY

A recent tour of the UV Railway Society and Museum from left to right are George Wolfangle and Alan Fairbrother, New Berlin NY, Stan Hamlet, Under Hill Center VT, Samuel Senn, New Berlin, Las Scangas, Colchester Vt. John Taibi, Munnsville NY and Will Davis, Glenmont NY



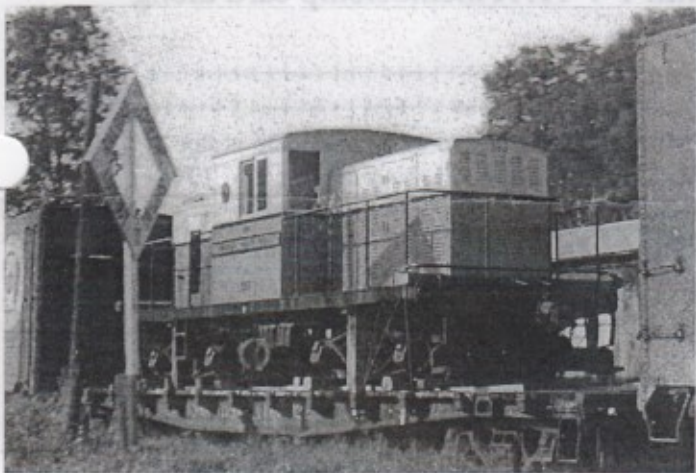
Alan Fairbrother-Ron Jenkins-George Wolfangle



Ralph Scopo, Our President Shoveling Snow in March



Too small for the UV, old GE switcher No. 300 was forever being sent elsewhere. Above, it awaits unloading at New Berlin after the Wellsville, Addison & Galetton sent it back. WILLIAM S. YOUNG



Left: The 300 on its way from the UV to the Southern New York. GORDON H. DAVIS

Below: At Binghamton in 1971, en route to the WAG for storage after the Southern New York went out of business. WILLIAM S. YOUNG

THE CORN POPPER
 Story on page 2 by
 Mike Holdridge with
 Permission from Wm.
 Young to copy his page
 From his recently published
 Book "UV The LIFE &
 TIMES OF A SMALL
 RAILROAD"

These pictures are the #300
THE CORN POPPER



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Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum
Membership Form
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Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____
Zip _____
e-mail address _____

Join the 141 people who are or
have been members and receive
our newsletters and enjoy our
many events each year. Family,
children and all are welcome to
join.

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Rates Single Member.....\$.15.00
Family Membership25.00
Life Membership.....250.00

Donations are always welcome
Please help keep our Railway
Museum open for future generations

All joining now or renewing will cover you until 1-1-11. A membership card along
with the Pendragon Publication will be sent to you.

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The UVRS&M is a 501 3 tax exempt organization chartered by the N/AS board of Regents and is tax
free. Send payment to Bonnie Jean Bauer, Treasurer of UVRS&M PO Box 751, New Berlin, NY 13411

From
UNADILLA VALLEY RAILWAY
SOCIETY AND MUSEUM
RAILROAD AVENUE
NEW BERLIN, NY 13411

To _____

