

PENDRAGON

The Newsletter of the Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum PO Box 751, New Berlin, NY 13411 -- Fall 2011

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A NOTE

TO CONTRIBUTORS

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



Otsego County Fair First Place Winner

Again this year the Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum won first prize for the best float at the Fair.

After winning first place in the Otsego County fair, we entertained at the Youth Days Celebration in New Berlin, NY. Alan Fairbrother, our Parade Director/Engineer, designed and built this great float pictured above. The Museum has had the privilege of winning first place under his direction for the past 3 years.

Meeting Schedules

The regular Monthly meetings are held at 7 pm on the first Monday of each month. October through May we meet at the Public Library on Main Street in New Berlin, NY. June through September the meetings are held in the Unadilla Valley Railway Depot on Railroad Street. Meetings are open to all members, friends and guest are also welcome.

On November 7th our meeting will feature our Executive Advisor, George Wolfangle as Speaker followed by a short business meeting, games, prizes and refreshments. This November meeting also includes the nomination of next years officers for election during our December 5th meeting.

Reminder all dues are due on January first. If your dues expire this year, 2011 please keep active by renewing today. The new membership card along with the Pendragon will be mailed to you. A Single member is \$15.00, Family one year is \$25.00 or join the many who are Life-Time members. For a Life Time single membership it is \$225.00 while the entire Family Life Time Membership is only \$250.00. If you would like to participate in all the many programs and enjoy receiving the information about each monthly meeting and activity to include the News Bulletins (PENDRAGON) send your dues today. A special note please include correct mailing address and an e-mail address if you have one. Thank you and have a great holiday.

THE GREAT CHOCOLATE TRAIN FESTIVAL

A sweet celebration of History!

Some of our members attended on Saturday, September 24th at Hamilton, NY. There was a re-enactment of the "Great Chocolate Train Spill". The activities commemorated a bizarre September 1955 accident in which a southbound NYO&W freight rolled down the track erroneously (or purposely?) lined for the Leland coal trestle, flying up on the trestle and 120 feet through the air off the elevated end. The train was carrying Nestlé's chocolate from Fulton, NY which was dispersed along the right of way, much to the delight of the neighborhood kids.

At the festival, there was a reenactment of the spill, model train displays, specialty chocolate vendors, chocolate train carving demos, O&W artifact and memorabilia displays, chocolate mousse eating contest, chocolate dessert contest, and a live performance by Grammy Award Winner Tom Chapin. There were also kiddy train rides and wreck site tours. See at www.greatchocolatetrainfeast.com.

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From page 4 of the Summer 2011 edition of the Pendragon under News from Lance Erickson... the long awaited Saratoga & North Creek Railway has begun operation. On Saturday, July 23 it had its inaugural run from Saratoga Springs to North Creek New York. Public operation is scheduled for Thursday through Monday with two trains, the Hudson Express and New York Express operating round trips between the two places with a third train, the Merganser, running a round trip between North Creek and Thurman. Intermediate stops are scheduled at various places with a full breakfast, lunch or dinner menu offered in the coach and upper level. Ski train to Gore Mountain (near North Creek) will be timed to connect with Amtrak's Adirondack at Saratoga Springs.

The TOWER TOPICS News Bulletin from the Utica & Mohawk Valley Chapter states that "It's an order of magnitude more complex and sophisticated than its predecessor Upper Hudson River RR, and time will tell what measure of success it will attain."

Thanks to Lance Erickson, we agree it is an interesting operation and shall keep you informed from time to time as it develops.



Lorie Hotaling and Bonnie Jean Bauer at the UVR Museum

UVR&MUSEUM CHRISTMAS IN JULY 2011

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One of our biggest events of the year will be remembered as interesting and successful. On Saturday July 16th the Museum was filled with Christmas decorations and trees decorated for a contest. The first prize winner was Laurie Hotaling for her Memory Tree of Hope decorated with pink roses and ribbons

with names of those who have lost the battle with cancer. She won a gift certificate to New York Pizzeria along with tickets to the Baseball Hall of fame game. Second prize was awarded to Bonnie Jean Bauer who beautifully dressed her tree with hand crocheted bells, angels and snowflakes. She won a gift certificate to Remember When. Phebe Bassett not only was third place winner on her decorated Christmas tree but was the first person to attend the Museum for a free tour on the big day. She was awarded a Unadilla Valley Railway "T" shirt and a gift certificate to Stewart's along with Cooperstown baseball Hall of Fame Game tickets.

Approximately 50 people went through the museum and all enjoyed refreshments and being among the first people to see our new model trains run.

THANK YOU ERNIE CLEMENS

Our Rev. Ernest Clemens and his wife Elrina have moved to be with their son in Pittsburg PA. We will certainly miss them both and wish them many blessings and great happiness in their retirement.

They have donated many interesting railway books to our museum. We will make them ready for lending and in our lending library soon. Many books are of great value and very important to the railroad history. In front of your editor at this writing is UNION STATION Utica New York 1978 Historic Structure Report and update to 2001. We have members from the Utica area and attend picnics and meetings occasionally with members of the Utica Mohawk Valley Chapter of the NRHS Inc. The book has great detail of the restoration of this historic structure from 1836 to the current structure in 2001. Location is between the Mohawk River and the site of Fort Schuyler in 1760 just north of the main street of Utica. Over the years the first Utica Station built was in 1836 and the second Utica Railroad Station 1869-1912. The current station construction was opened for service on May 24th 1914. The name of the new station was changed to Union Station on January 6, 1915 when the three railroads entered into an agreement to share the station for passenger service. The three railroads were the New York Central and Hudson Railroad, the Lackawanna and Western railroad and the New York Ontario and Western Railroad.

Very exciting reading, and all 83 pages with lots of pictures has taken me from my original Pendragon Newsletter focus to realizing I have been reading for 3 hours. If you have not been in this most delightful historic building, UNION STATION please take time to go to Utica and take time inside, you will be amazed.

The books that were donated by Rev. Ernie Clemens will be listed in a future Pendragon so you can come to our lending library and find them. Plan on having this book Library opened back up by May in time for our opening of the UVR Society & Museum for the 2012 year. We close during the winter months but will open for special tours on request just contact any office and they will make the arrangements for you.



Alan Fairbrother with Trophies

Our guest speaker, Alan Fairbrother, gave his presentation to a most interested audience of members and friends at the October meeting held at the New Berlin Library. Alan told of his interesting entries in the famous "Spartathlon" races in Greece.. These historic races trace the footsteps of Pheidippides, an Athenian messenger sent to Sparta in 490 BC to get help against the Persians in the Battle of Marathon. Pheidippides, according to an account by Greek historian Herodotus in the Persian Wars, supposedly arrived in Sparta the day after he departed. In 1982 British RAF Wing Commander, John Foden, and four other RAF officers traveled to Greece on an official expedition to test whether it was possible to cover the 246 kilometers in a day and a half. The race that begins at the foot of the Acropolis is usually run starting at 7 a.m. the last Friday in September. This race has been run every year since 1983 and often with Mr. Fairbrother among the runners invited because of his famous world class running. He gained much fame as he came in third when out of 50 runners only 14 finished within the time limit. It was a very hard race

and Alan said it took him 27 hours and 39 minutes. When Alan ran in 1983 he was 20 years older than most of the other competitors. He has since run the race 6 additional times and finished four of them. Alan is a noted long-distance marathon runner.



The Victorian Village

The Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum has recently been given an opportunity to add a valuable acquisition to our holdings.

Six Victorian Miniature buildings completely furnished with hundreds of hard-to-find items of the Victorian Era between 1850's and about the 1890's made by our Chaplain Rev. Ernest Clemens. He offered his many years of hobby building these Victorian village houses to the museum for a fee of \$3,000. As the members feel that they would really like to have them in our show room, for all to see, they do not have the extra funds now to purchase them. Included thru this Pendragon are pictures of some of the buildings. We hope that you will all consider the value of these in our historic

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capacity to keep the past alive for future generations to enjoy. Like the trains and railroading that have been taken out of our area, so have the buildings changed from this era enough that viewing these 6 buildings will bring back memories and give an education to the younger folks for years to come. Ernie let us put some of them on a float a few years ago and in the middle of the parade the sky opened up and rain came so suddenly that the village got wet. Minor damage was done so they are currently being restore by our members.

The village consist of a Blacksmith Shop, a horse and carriage barn, family home, a tenant home, a Church, and a Country Store. The Two story Family home has an open stairway to the second floor with five rooms up and five down all fully furnished to the finest detail. This includes wrap around porches, A child's room with miniature children's toys, even an old fashioned out house, a tiny Sear's catalog and mice and ever so much more. Every item could have been found in that period.



The Victorian Church

The church, pictured on the bottom of page 3, stands proud with it's pulpit and pastor, pump organ and organist, pews and people all of different ages, offering basket and mini money plus much more.

The Blacksmith Shop has the traditional forge with all the tools that would have been found then, including a wagon, scattered tiny horse shoes, anvil, pump, block and tackle and again too much to mention here.



Outside Looking In the Country Store

It would take too much time to count all the items in the Country store. I counted the boxes and canned goods in one-half the store on the shelves and stopped at 100. I noticed in this half a counter with scales for weighing dry goods, a pot belly stove, a coal pail or ashes bucket?, a bag of grain and a mouse beside it, a traditional checker board on a barrel in the middle for folks to play on, and in the other half is another stove for heat, saws, leather items, step ladder, glass

baked goods case the old cash register and the apron on the grocery store owner standing beside the tiny toys and tools. The front porch is filled with many items to include the Indian on a cigar box marked 5 cents See Below



Front Porch of the Country Store

There is much to say about the hand carved pigs, chickens with eggs and the horses, the buggy wagons, real clap boards on the sides of the buildings and matched lumber on the floors, tiled ceilings, working windows, hinged doors, and roofing shingles. He said there are over 5,000 shingles on the main house alone.

Before we can add these most valuable items to our Historical Society, we need to raise some more money to finish paying for them. The first people from our membership who stopped by to see them have donated \$100.00 each and as I am writing this a life member from Maine sent \$250.00 as well as a new life family member has donated another \$250.00 to this project. We have added this to the pledges we have received and are

grateful for the great response so far. If you can donate something toward this project please make the donations marked Victorian Village and indicate if you need a tax exempt letter for the donation. Let us know as well.

Donations should be mailed to the attention of Ralph Scopo, President. Our mailing address is UVR Society & Museum, PO Box 751, New Berlin, NY 13411. As of 10/18/11 the funds raised to pay for the Victorian Village has reached \$700. Thank you to those who have donated thus far! Our balance owed now is \$2,300.

+++++ Denny and Linda Hoxie have recently joined us with their purchase of a family lifetime membership. Paul and Edna Straney and family have renewed their membership for a lifetime. A list of renewals and new joining members will appear in our next Pendragon.

+++++ Coming Events

*****November 7th Unadilla Valley Railway Speaker Meeting New Berlin Library at 7pm with Speaker George Wolfangle followed by games, prizes *****The Toy Train Meet Holiday Special Broad Street Methodist Church Hall, 74 North Broad St., Norwich, NY. Saturday, Nov. 26th at 10 am to 3 pm. This event is really nice to attend. They have running layouts, door prizes, food and train sales. It is sponsored by the Bullthistle Model Railroad Society, Inc. They have a repair person there who can do minor repairs free. If you make a purchase while you are there you can test it out before you leave. For more information, contact the museum, located at Route 23, 33 Rexford Street, Norwich, NY, (607) 336-4166. **** Don't forget the 32nd Annual Toy Train Show on Sunday, January 15th, 2012 at the Union Station, Main Street, Utica, NY. For more info, contact Adam Brunet, Chairman, at (315) 725-2889.

Coming Events continued from Page 4

***Keep track of the web site activities you may see what Paul Straney has had time to work on as he volunteered his knowledge and finances to create a new sight for us. Our railroad web site has not been updated in years. Thank you Paul for this huge offer.

***Plan on attending the November 7th meeting as many changes are going to be important, like changing our Monday nights meetings to Saturday afternoons, making travel easier in daytime at least during the winter months, also nominations for officers for 2012.

***The bright Orange bumper stickers are a bargain at \$2.00 each and we hope all will have them on their bumpers soon. This helps raise interest in our Museum. If you do not have one let us know so we can get some to you. The sale of these is used to help raise money to pay our expenses, including insurance and building improvements, our monthly water use and electric bill. Some members took a hand run to see, if you have not turned in the money please do so at the next meeting.

***Nov. 5th New Berlin Fire Depart. Harvest supper 2pm - 6pm.

***Nov. 7th Speaker meeting of the UVR Society and Museum 7pm with speaker George Wolfangle at the public library on Main Street in New Berlin, all welcome.

***Nov. 12th Milford Academy Falcons has a home game on Fish Field 1 pm "Good Luck Falcons with the season now standing at 7 and 0GO FALCONS!!!

***November 21, Board of Directors meeting for the Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum at 2 pm. 9 Lake Street.

***December 5th Speaker Meeting UVR Society & Museum is a voting meeting for the coming year of officers and other business. This meeting is scheduled for the public library in New Berlin at 7 pm.

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***Our condolences to member Debbie Pugh who lost her mother this month. Debbie's husband, Fred Pugh wrote the book "Day's Along the Buckwheat & Dandelion". We still have a few of his famous book for sale. Contact Pat Gifford for availability and price.

***Get well wishes to Laurie Hotaling, our secretary who is recovering from surgery. Her address is 6486 State Highway 12, Norwich, NY 13815.

***Mrs. Ernest Clemens is recuperating from a recent hospital stay. Our prayers and good wishes go to her. Their new address is, Rev. and Mrs. Ernest Clemens 114 Walker Street, Oakdale, PA 15071.

Unadilla Valley Railway Museum and Society Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

e-mail address _____

Single member.....\$15.00 per year.....()

Family Member...\$25.00 per year.....()

Life Member (Single) ... \$225.00 ()

Life Member (Family)\$250.00()

Donation only.....\$ _____ Thank You!

Join the 167 people
who are or have been
members and receive
our newsletter and
enjoy our many events
each year. Families &
children are welcome.

All joining now or renewing will cover you until 1-1-2013-A membership card along with the Pendragon publications will be sent to you.

The UVRM is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization chartered by the N/AS board of Regents and is tax free.

Send To: Gladly Slentz, Treasurer, of UVRM&M PO Box 751, New Berlin, NY 13411.

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The South Edmeston Railroad Depot at new location in Norton Park

The Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum representatives attended a Town of Columbus meeting on May 12th to ask for the depot to be part of our growing museum. At the meeting it was decided that the Town of Columbus Norton Park would be the final resting place for the depot. Pictured here is the historic train depot in it's new location. Congratulations to Chobani's South Edmeston manufacturing plant for making the move possible and caring to preserve this historic building. The South Edmeston Depot dates back to 1893 when the Unadilla Valley Railway Company actively ran from New Berlin to Bridgewater. Our museum is in the New Berlin Depot, the starting point of the Unadilla Valley Railway line. When you come in to visit you will find rooms filled with hundreds of interesting railroad artifacts and memorabilia.



Unadilla Valley Railway Museum and Society Membership Form

Unadilla Valley Railway
Society & Museum
P O Box 751
New Berlin, NY 13411

Join the 107 people
who are or have
members and receive
our newsletter and
enjoy our many events
each year. Families &
children are welcome.

TO:

- Single member.....\$15.00 per year.....()
- Family Member.....\$25.00 per year.....()
- Life Member (Single) ... \$225.00
- Life Member (Family) \$250.00
- Donation only.....\$..... Thank You!

All joining _____

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Send To: Gladys Sienitz, Treasurer, of UVRM PO Box 751, New Berlin, NY 13411.

