

# PENDRAGON

The Newsletter of the Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum

FALL 2008

P.O. Box 751

New Berlin, New York 13411



UVRS&M

Photo/Artwork by Vince Bauer

Don Rickard in New Berlin Youth Days Parade 2006

## UVRS&M Treasurer, Donald Rickard, Named Life Paid Member

by Bonnie Jean Bauer

At the Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum (UVRS&M) meeting earlier this year, members were saddened to learn that Treasurer, Donald Rickard, is resigning due to health issues. He will be greatly missed.

Don has been an ever present entity in and around the UV Railway Depot and Engine House since 1996. He has worked on many depot and train society related projects including cutting the grass with the mower he brought with him each time from his home in Unadilla. Members of UVRS&M wish Don renewed health and a very happy future and have named him, by a unanimous vote, a Life Paid Member. Voted in as the interim treasurer was Bonnie Jean Bauer who began serving in the position of recording secretary at the beginning of 2008.

Regular work days at the depot and engine house will be Wednesdays. Projects to cleanup and renovate both areas continues as weather permits. If interested in helping call Ralph Scopo at 847-9910 to let him know of your availability to help or to find out if a work day is currently planned. He and Sam Senn spend much time making good progress on these projects.

Railway Museum Tours are from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays during the warm months or by appointment anytime. To arrange tours call any officer or George Wolfangle at 847-8581.

Anyone interested in Railroad History of the Unadilla Valley is welcome to attend meetings that are held the first Monday of each month at the New Berlin Library October through April and at the Depot on Railroad Street, May through September.

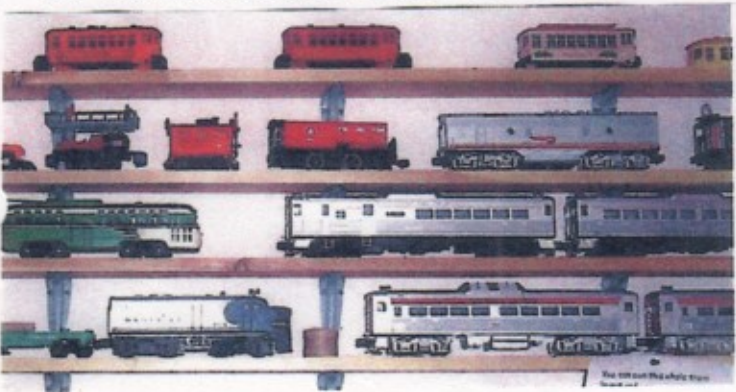
**Which man may be Elected for our New Position of Executive Advisor?**



On January 5<sup>th</sup> at the Business Meeting a very important election of officers will be completed. The nomination committee has proposed the following for consideration at that time for a two year term.

- |                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Executive Advisor-      | George Wolfangle  |
| President --            | Samuel Senn       |
| Vice President--        | Ralph Scopo       |
| Recording Secretary-    | Bonnie Jean Bauer |
| Corresponding Secretary | Ernie Clemens     |
| Treasure-               | Chris Lord        |
| Member at Large         | Bill Fliedner     |

**CLUE TO THE BIG NEWS COMING SOON TO THE UNADILLA VALLEY MUSEUM**



**LOOKING BACK AT HOW WE GOT THE SIGN BELOW**



A Field Trip to northern New York State found George Wolfangle, Sam Senn, Pat Gifford and Milton Moore taking down the "Rail-Road Crossing Look Out for Cars" sign that had graced this spot for many years. The old track and a caboose were recently removed and the land owner let us have the sign. The sign seemed to grow a bit when it was put on top of Pat's car, but proudly they got the sign home to the Unadilla Valley Railway Museum and recently it was displayed on the float that placed first in the New Berlin Youth Days Parade. Like the other trophy won for non commercial category it is now on display at the museum.

Dear members of the Unadilla Valley Railway Museum and Society, here are bits and pieces from the active members.

It has been a long busy summer getting our Museum into fine shape. When you enter our museum show room you will see the carefully placed signs explaining the many new items. Many artifacts that have been in storage are now properly placed on display, along with newly purchased and generously donated memorabilia. Many volunteer hours of cleaning, restoring, and arranging are visible to our guests. The doors are open with free guided tours every Saturday afternoon from 1 to 5 pm and by appointment when the weather is warm. The main museum rooms have been polished up and the displays were carefully cleaned and some new glass show cases have been added to our museum. Joan Brownell made it possible for us to have them thru the generosity of her business that recently closed. Thank you Joan.

\*\*\*Items available for sale at the Museum are: orange

plastic train key chains with UV printed on for \$1.00, Orange Caps (adjustable size one fits all) with our emblem and name for \$6.00, Orange tee shirts that match the hats, in various sizes for \$12.00, Great books on railroads by several writers from \$3.00 up to \$45.00. This last book "DAYS ALONG THE BUCKWHEAT & DANDELION" ...The Unadilla Valley Railway" by Fred Pugh has around 200 pages and over 100 pictures, truly a treasured book by all who purchase it.

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\*\*\*From our September meeting minutes:  
Excitement that we won first place in the annual New Berlin Youth Days Parade. Workers on the floats (a Car and a Wagon) both decorated to look like a train carrying passengers, were Ernie Clemens, Bonnie Jean Bauer, Sam Senn, George Wolfangle, Dorothy Padget, Milton Moore, Ralph Scopo, Pat Gifford and Hezekiah Welch. The trophy will be placed by our 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy won a couple years

ago. Recent Fire Inspection has been completed and the results were read. Possible fund raising events were discussed and a field trip to West Burlington Pizzeria and Deli Restaurant was discussed and a date next month set up for breakfast and a tour of the elaborate model train display.

Railroad Bingo game and refreshments followed.

\*\*\*Complete minutes available at meetings.

\*\*\*From the October meetings minutes: Meeting was held at the New Berlin Public Library with a general meeting at 7 pm followed by a board meeting at 8 pm.

George reported several visitors to include 6 on one Saturday. Bonnie Jean said people had mentioned seeing the sign at the corner by the light. General work that needs to be done around and in the building was discussed as well as changing the meeting day to better accommodate our Vice President Ralph Scopo but a final decision was to keep the first Monday of the month. Plans to meet at 9:30 on 10-24 to have breakfast and tour the model

railroad at the West Burlington Pizzeria and Deli was finalized. Following this meeting the Board met, minutes read by our Secretary, Bonnie Jean, as well as the Financial report, Correspondence by Ernie included a letter from Roger Chase inviting us to participate in the 2009 Youth Days Parade. The Fire Inspection done during the month left a few things to do so volunteers are taking care of those. Plans on our holiday celebration will be at Pat's home again this year during our January election of officers meeting. \*\*\*From our November meeting. Postponed until November 7<sup>th</sup>. The Nominating Committee met and have recommended the following for the 2009 and 2010 years slate of officers to be voted on at the January meeting: Executive Advisor, George Wolfangle; President, Sam Senn; Vice President, Ralph Scopo; Recording Sec'y, Bonnie Jean Bauer; Corresponding Secretary, Ernie Clemens; Treasurer, Chris Lord; and Member at Large, William Fliedner. This is with the

idea that the people serving in the various capacities will "move up" every two years to the next office while the new people are brought onto the board from the general membership. After the Secretary's and Financial reports were read by Bonnie Jean, a discussion about paying the electric bill in advance was approved and the half-car that needs to be sealed for winter was decided that Ralph will put plywood over the open parts to be purchased at Curtis Lumber. The homemade cinnamon bread made by Bonnie Jean was served and enjoyed by all. We welcomed a first time guest Stosh Sapinsky who is the father of two current members, Stan and Steve.

\*\*\*\*\* Did you know the first fatal accident on the road occurred at Bridgewater on November 26, 1910, when Thomas Sanford, an 85 year old man was struck by a coal car while walking on the track. Mr. Sanford was deaf and did not hear the train.

\*\*\*\*\* On January 24, 1911 an employee named Hobart Moore came to superintendent Perkins home at 3 a.m. and nearly scared to death, delivered the

message that the roof of the engine house had caved in on both engines 1 & 2. The north trusses and six timbers that supported rafters had caved in due to the spreading of the side walls caused by weight of the heavy snow. Nothing was found to be damaged on the engines, but a bent hand rail on engine 2. Mr. Perkins, Harold Caldine, and men by the names of Johns, Risley and Calder went to work and had No. 1 out of the engine house by 6 a.m. and ready for the morning run. It was unfortunate that on April 29, 1913 a tremendous fire destroyed the old engine house. A new Building was built on the same location which had three stalls. This building was 80 feet long and 77 feet wide. A newer addition to the engine house still stands today. One can see this at the entrance to the Trailer Park off Academy Street in New Berlin. New Berlin sure had it's share of problems.

### ***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 P.O. Box 751, New Berlin, NY 13411.

## COMING EVENTS



### Christmas Lights Train Ride 11-29-08

Our next outing will be on November 29<sup>th</sup> when folks will gather in the evening to travel by car to Milford to enjoy an evening ride to see Christmas lights from **The Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley Railroad** which is owned and operated by the Leatherstocking Railway Historical Society and the Leatherstocking Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. The Society purchased the Railroad in 1997 and began passenger operations in 1999. Hot cocoa and snacks will be included in the cost of the ticket. Call 607-847-9747 to make reservations.

### Monthly meeting December 1<sup>st</sup>

A regular general membership meeting is scheduled for 7 PM, followed by a business meeting at 8 PM. To be held in the New Berlin Public Library on So. Main Street in the lower level. All are welcome to join us. Our meetings are informative and fun. Join us to see and hear about the BIG NEWS happening at the UVRS & M.

### New Year's Party 1-5-09 7PM-to ???

January is election of officers for the coming two years. A regular general meeting followed by a business meeting, games, films and food. This meeting will be at Pat Gifford's home at 9 Lake Street in New Berlin. Come early and stay late.

### AUTHOR WILLIAM YOUNG WRITES:

"The writing of the Unadilla Valley book is now complete and I'm about to start laying out pages for the publication in 2009."

Editor's note-Bill's book title is *THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A SMALL RAILROAD: A Definitive Account of the Unadilla Valley Railway*. For more information please check our next PENDRAGON for details of price and publication date. His address; William S. Young  
8353 Starrucca Creek Road Susquehanna, PA 18847-8060

## RECENT EVENTS

Eight members and friends of the Unadilla Valley Railway Society drove to the Pizzeria and Deli at 5364 State Highway 51, West Burlington, NY recently. They enjoyed helping themselves to coffee and eating a variety of well prepared breakfasts. They were amazed at the splendid display of a working model train owned and operated by host, Vinny Cerece. Many of the components are from the mid and late forties with timely additions over the years. The collection included video tapes and DVD's about trains, wall and cases displays as well as other memorabilia. Vinny said, "coffee is free on Fridays", and it was very good coffee. This was one of several outings planned for the membership. Up coming plans will be announce a the regular meetings.

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GEORGE WOLFANGLE ACCOMPANYING  
OUR FLOAT THAT WON FIRST PLACE IN 2008



See page 6 for a picture of one of the two parts of the float in the New Berlin Youth Days Parade designed and built by members of the UVRS&M.

# Unadilla Valley Railway Museum and Society Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Join the 119 people  
who are or have been  
members and receive  
our newsletter and  
enjoy our many events  
each year. Families &  
children are welcome.

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

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

Life membership...\$250.00

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

*All renewals will cover you for a year. A membership card  
along with the Pendragon publications will be sent to you.*

The UVRM is a 501 © 3 tax exempt organization chartered by the NIAS board of Regents and is tax free.  
Send To: Bonnie Jean Bauer, Secretary-Treasurer, of UVRM PO Box 751, New Berlin, NY 13411.

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**New Berlin Youth Day Parade. UVRM Float on board left to right are  
Office Mascot Charlie, Melissa Bache, Bonnie Jean Bauer, Benjamin McVey, & Milton Moore.**