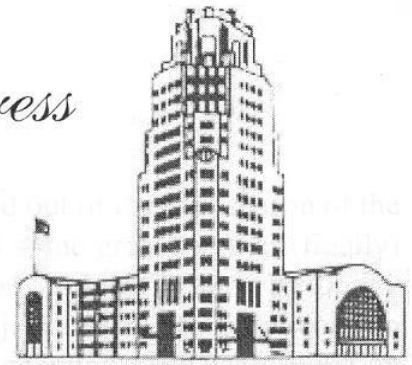


Empire State Express



February 2018

PUBLICATION OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER NRHS, INC.

Editor: John C. Dahl Email: newsletter@nfcnrhs.com

The meeting of the Chapter will be held on Friday, February 9, 2018 at 8:00 PM at the Degraff Community Center, 139 Division St., North Tonawanda, NY. Since January's meeting was cancelled due to the bad winter weather, the program originally scheduled for that night, will be viewed this month.

BIG STEAM IS BACK

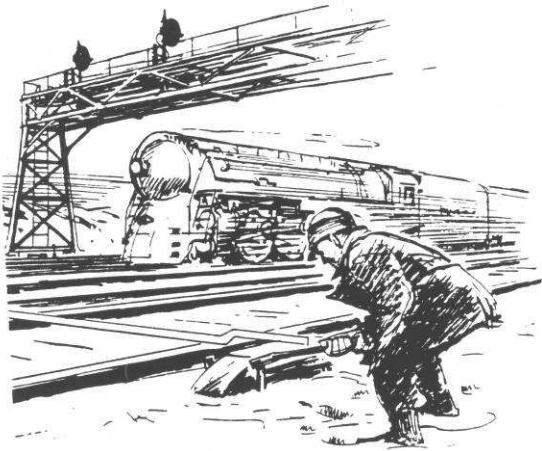
See how your favorite big steam locomotives are rebuilt and run — from Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum's Southern Railway 4501, to the big steam story of 2016: the return of Union Pacific 844. This must-see DVD includes popular steam locomotives from coast to coast.

This all-new production is a wonderful companion to the 100-page collectors issue of the same name. The 90-minute feature covers the early years of steam preservation through today's biggest restorations. This high quality professionally produced DVD is courtesy of Bob & Nancy Andrycha.



Eastbound out of Roanoke, Va. Norfolk & Western #611 is viewed from an overpass on the Blue Ridge Parkway. July 3, 2015 – JCD photo.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Here we are all hunkered down, just trying to make sense of the weather and looking at the calendar, waiting for spring. Our January meeting got wiped out because of nasty weather on the day of the meeting. Such is winter on the Niagara Frontier.

Lon Wilson, who has been providing the sound system that we use at the meetings, has made a find for us. A company that he has been doing business with had ceased operations and Lon acquired some quality sound gear including a top of the line microphone all for a great price. The Board approved the purchase and now we have our own sound gear. It will be stored with the rest of our presentation equipment at the station. It will then be available to us both for meeting night and any functions at the Museum or other location. Thanks, Lon!

The Urban Land Institute Report on Central Terminal is out and a copy is now in the Chapter Archives. While there is nothing in there that I think we would find exciting, it does provide some interesting reading.

The Chapter will be participating in the WNYRHS train show on February 17th and 18th. I am looking forward to seeing many of you there.

The annual Chapter Banquet will be March 24th. Look for the notice with all the details elsewhere in this issue. Please notice the new, earlier time of the event.

It's a little frustrating not to be spending Saturdays working at the Museum. Last year by this time we were already hard at it. As the weather permits, we will be there, more probably in March and definitely in April. The first order of business will be to survey our display areas and then decide what to do with each one. Some of them don't change, but there are a few that are evolving as we go and a couple are blank slates. We need to be up and ready by mid-May, so there is lots to do.

To our new members, I wish to welcome you. One of the benefits of your membership is the use of the Chapter Library. We have over six hundred titles and shelves of videos and DVDs. As a member you may borrow from the Library. This is one of the finest collections of rail history materials in the Northeast, so please enjoy.

On that note, the deadline looms and the editor awaits this column. So, I'll see you at the meeting.

Jim Ball

Dues Reminder from Chapter Membership Secretary Neal Kerin: Anyone that has not yet paid their CHAPTER dues, please do so ASAP or you may be dropped from the ESX mailing list and Chapter roster. NRHS National dues are paid separately and directly to the National organization.

ON THE TRACK AHEAD

We need program presenters for 2018. Several months still have openings; please contact Jim Ball to reserve a month. As of this writing, we have an immediate need a presenter for our March meeting.

DONOR HONOR ROLL

The Chapter wishes to recognize the following members whom have included donations along with their dues as of early January. **Thank you all for your generosity!**

Robert Scheib
Melvin Wise
Stephen Werenski
Fred Schaerr
James Szymanski
Tony Schill
Roy Davis
Anton Schwarzmuller
Lynn Bullen
Randolph McGhee
Charles Wallace
James Frank
LaMar Todd
Mark Kraus

Devan Lawton
Harold Douglass Jr
James restall
Duncan Richards
Bob & Nancy Andrycha
David Rogge
James Arcara
Fred Kerr
Steve Frey
Harold Lee
Daniel Sikorski
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Timothy Michaels
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John Slater
Roy Davis
Brett Kerr
Joseph Kroth
Jon Rothenmeyer
Bruce Becker
Jayne Kremzier
Richard Eastman
David Seitzer



It's a snowy winter scene that graced this cover of Railroad Magazine over seventy years ago. Railroaders will see this job through, no matter what the weather.

LAST RUN

Robert E. Wilson Jr.
1928 – 2017



A respected resource of railroad history, Robert E. Wilson Jr., age 89, died on July 9, 2017 in Avon, Indiana. Bob was a lifelong railroad enthusiast, with a special love for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Bob was a member to many railroad societies: The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Historical Society, Erie Lackawanna Historical Society, The Milwaukee Road Historical Association, The National Railway Historical Society (60 + years), also the Niagara Frontier Chapter (NRHS), New York Central System Historical Society, Nickel Plate Road Historical & Technical Society, PCHRRHS, Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society, also Philadelphia Chapter (PRRT&HS), Reading Company Technical & Historical Society, Shore Line Historical Society, and Railfans of Indianapolis. He was raised in Philadelphia, PA and grew a special interest in railroads, cinema and movie trivia, and wars, mainly the Civil War.

From 1951-1953 Bob served in the Korean War. Service to our country ran deep in his veins – his great grandfather fought in the Battle of Gettysburg. His father, Robert Sr. served during World War 1 as a Sharp Shooter.

Upon returning from Korea, he entered the University of Buffalo and subsequently went to work for LTV Steel as a sales manager for next 25 years. He briefly lived in Youngstown, OH then relocated to Atlanta, GA in 1979. Bob met many rail-fans and became great friends with them. He also took trips on rail-fan trains as well as taking trains during his time in the military. Bob wrote many an article about those trips.

Bob was very active in his community, serving in many positions at his church as well as the VFW Post 2681. He was also an avid reader. He loved railroads, world history and political satire. He loved going to the Library and devouring anything nonfiction he could get his hands on. He often joked that he was running out of things to read! Bob had an extremely keen memory. Since at a young age he read through Official Railway Guides he could tell you about every rail line, and all of its different railroad names, and what trains ran through there and at what time....all just from memory!

Bob became ill in 2014 and due to his declining health he relocated to Indiana to be with his daughter and her family. While he adjusted to his new surroundings after giving up his home in Atlanta, GA for 25 years, he enjoyed spending precious time with his grandson Chase. Always a fighter and never one to complain to the very end, he passed peacefully in his sleep.

Editor note: the above information was graciously provided by Barry L. LeFever, Bob's son-in-law. The Chapter extends its sincere condolences to the family. The above and following photo were provided by Fred Furminger, who along with Charlie Erler and Jim VanBrocklin were friends with Bob for many decades. Above: Charlie Erler & Bob Wilson pose with the mighty New York Central Niagara #6023 at Buffalo's West Shore roundhouse in the summer of 1953.



Left to Right: Charlie Erler, Bob Wilson, Fred Furminger, Jim Van Brocklin. July 20, 2009.

SCENE ON THE LINE



Amtrak's new Rochester, NY passenger station is now open. December 9, 2017. Jon Rothenmeyer photo

SCENE ON THE LINE – continued



Amtrak's impressive new Niagara Falls, NY station is also up and operating.
December 26, 2017. Jon Rothenmeyer photo



The Maple Leaf, eastbound to New York City, pauses at the new Niagara Falls, NY station.
December 26, 2017. Jon Rothenmeyer photo.

SCENE ON THE LINE – continued



Amtrak #514 rests at the former Niagara Falls station. The building was constructed for the Lehigh Valley RR as an express freight station during the early 1960's when Niagara Falls 'urban removal' relocated tracks out of downtown Niagara Falls. LVRR had trackage rights from Tonawanda Jct. to the Falls over NYC. *December 26, 2017. Jon Rothenmeyer photo.*



The former New York Central Wilson, NY depot is now a local Historical museum. The old Hojack railroad line is now mostly a rail trail. *December 26, 2017. Jon Rothenmeyer photo.*

CHAPTER CALENDAR

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|-----------|--|
| FEB 9 | Regular meeting, at Degraff Community Center, 8 PM. Program Big Steam Is Back! Professional DVD reviewing the return of Big Steam locomotives. |
| FEB 17-18 | Winter Train Show, Hamburg Fair Grounds, 10am-5pm, sponsored by WNYRHS. Chapter table needs volunteers |
| MAR 9 | Regular meeting, at Degraff Community Center, 8 PM. Program details are incomplete. |
| MAR 24 | Annual Banquet, Ilio DiPaolos Restaurant, Blasdell, NY. NOTE NEW FORMAT, 11:30 AM Dinner served at Lunch. See reservation flyer included with this issue of the ESX. |

The Niagara Frontier Chapter NRHS, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) publicly supported organization.

Contributions may be deductible for income tax purposes in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service.

***** IMPORTANT REMINDERS ***** If you receive hardcopy of the ESX and your mailing address changes, please send to the attention of Neal Kerin so that your Empire State Express can be addressed properly. Likewise, if your email address changes for any reason, please let Tony Schill know by sending it to the newsletter@nfcnrhs.com THANK YOU

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