

UVRS&M Holds Chinese Auction



Saturday, May 2, 2015, dawned as a beautiful summer-like day, perfect for the UVRS&M Chinese Auction held at the First United Methodist Church, 51 South Main Street, New Berlin. People bought tickets and placed them in the various item bags from the starting time of 11:00 AM until the drawings for winners started at 2:00 PM while munching on pizza and talking with friends.

The pizza lunch raffle for a \$50 gift certificate from Price Chopper was won by Laurie Hotaling (who donated it back to the museum). The 50-50 raffle (value \$38) was won by Bonnie Jean Bauer. Then the drawings started for the roughly 100 items and continued until all were complete at about 3:15.

Many thanks go out to many people for their help in making this a very successful event. These include Dorothy Pierce, chairperson and organizer, and the other committee members who planned and organized the event, (to page 2)

Psst. Want to double the power of your money AND get a tax deduction? We're almost to \$1000 — extended to July 15th... An anonymous member of our organization has offered to match all donations to the UVRS&M Roofing and Remodeling Fund made between now and July 1st, up to a total of \$1000. Write your check to the UVRS&M and send it to PO Box 751, New Berlin NY 13411. Be sure to note 'roofing and remodeling fund' in the memo. Our thanks go out for this great offer.

Laurie Hotaling and the kitchen crew for the pizza lunch, the people who solicited businesses in the area for donations of gift certificates and items, all of the great businesses and individuals who donated those gift certificates and items, the folks who organized the items, Gladys Slentz and Dorothy Pierce for doing the drawings, Ralph Scopo and Peter Iorio for delivering items to the winners, and to all of the people who attended from New Berlin and up to a couple of hours away. Besides winning some neat stuff, it was fun to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones.

Thanks to everyone for making this a very successful event to benefit the Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum.

Up and Down the Tracks

***Among recent gifts donated to the Museum: a large glass framed picture recreating the charm and beauty of upstate New York and its people. This painting, done by Jim Parker, is of the Town of New Berlin from 1807 to 2007. It was purchased by Vince and Bonnie Jean Bauer during the New Berlin Bicentennial and donated this month for the Museum to have and display for years to come. The water-color painting is nicely done with insets of Chenango Lake, South New Berlin, and Holmesville with the major picture being the local homes and railway tracks going through the actual township of New Berlin in the 1870's. Our most appreciated thanks to life-time members Vince and Bonnie Jean Bauer for this outstanding gift.

***George and Beverly Wolfangle have donated a scrapbook of older pictures nicely arranged in a photo album for permanent display at the Museum. Thank You George and Beverly.

***The very busy Saturday, May 2nd, found many members enjoying the people who came to participate in the Chinese Auction. With 89 drawings from many donors (some donating 2 or 3 items) and tables full of extremely nice gifts our day's events made several hundred dollars which will surely help with our many projects this spring at the Depot building. Dorothy Pierce was the organizer and worked very long hours on all the details. We cleared about \$500.

***The Pendragon does travel far away. Today a call came from Hazelton, British Columbia, Canada, ordering 2 "T" shirts from the page of things we sell. A former New Berlin person, Ann Marie Beardslee Lorenzen, wants them for her and her daughter. Ann will have eye surgery in June in Vancouver.

***Peter Iorio and his family are moving soon to the New Hartford area where he plans to still be our faithful PR/Fundraising Officer. He is grateful for the computer closeness we all have. At our May business meeting Peter was voted to have a lifetime Membership in the Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum. Congratulations, Peter, and thank you for all of your hard work.

*** We had the privilege of showing our museum to Mr. Mark Hines (to page 3)

from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina May 30th. He was a Science Teacher at New Berlin for many years, and I'm guessing a short time before moving on. He is retired now. He came with two other family friends. We had wonderful visit about our displays. He mentioned doing a project, with students, on the UVR&M but had never been to the museum. And since he was passing through and saw the signs he decided to stop in. We talked of Mr. Morris, whom he knew of and of the PATH train in NJ, that went under the Twin Towers in NY. This he recalled about an acquaintance in the area (Twin Towers) at the disastrous time. Thank you Mr. Hines for your visit and sharing. (Submitted by Bev. Wolfangle).

*** We had many visitors for the May 16th open house at the museum. Our thanks go out for all of the pizza given to us by the New York Pizzeria on South Main Street that we provided to our guests.

*** We had a very successful Salute to Veterans last month. This effort was headed up by Dorothy Pierce and we had many attendees (cake pictured at right).



*** If anyone knows how to contact Vincent Cecere please let Pat Gifford know.

*** Mark your calendar today for July 18th. Our guest speaker is Robert Miller, historian, train expert and author who will have an informative presentation about the photo of the Lincoln Funeral Car.

>>>> Your Help Is Needed <<<<

We have received a grant to paint the front of our museum. We need lots of help to do some repairs and painting. The plan is to work on it June 18-19 with rain dates of June 25-26. Many hands make light work. If you can help, please contact Peter Iorio at 315-765-8181 and let him know.

Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley Railroad

The Leatherstocking Railway Historical Society owns and operates the Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley Railroad which runs scenic train rides through the warmer months from Milford NY to Cooperstown and back. Rates range from \$12 for children to \$15 for adults. This year regular trains run on Thursdays at 10:00 AM from June 4th through September 3rd from their depot at 136 East Main Street, Milford NY 13807. They also have a number of other special event trains scheduled at various times. For more information, see their web site at www.lrhs.com or call them at 607-432-2429 or 607-286-7805.

Rainer Morgan Speaks at April Meeting

Presenting a Certificate of Appreciation at the April 18, 2015, meeting of the Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum to featured speaker, Rainer Morgan (right), is Gladys Slentz (left), president.



Rainer took those gathered on a journey through her homeland, Wales, which is one of the most ancient and beautiful countries in Europe and known as the "Land of Castles" with its most imposing group of such structures left from the Middle Ages and the "Land of Song" a reputation gained during the 19th century for wonderful choral singing of hymns familiar the world over.

She described the relatively small country, about the size of Massachusetts, as a place with "something to offer every tourist taste from the mountains of Snowdonia in the north to its capital city of Cardiff overlooking the Bristol Channel in the south".

Of special interest to local Railroad enthusiasts was learning about the "Great Little Trains of Wales", such as the Ffestiniog Railway (at right), a 1-ft 11-1/2 inch narrow gauge heritage railway, located in Gwynedd, Wales. It is a major tourist attraction located mainly within the Snowdonia National Park and runs about thirteen and a half miles from the harbor at Porthmadog to the slate mining town of Blaenau Ffestiniog, traveling through forests and mountainous scenery. The line is single track throughout with four intermediate passing places.



The railway company is properly known as the "Ffestiniog Railway Company". It is the official title of the company that created the railway in 1832. It is the oldest surviving railway company in the world although not the oldest working railway which is the Middleton Railway also a heritage railway, near Leeds, UK which has been in operation since 1758. The narrow gauge track allows trains to interwork through to other Welsh Highland Railways.

Our thanks go out to Rainer Morgan for this presentation.

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everything
that counts®**



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The Last Days of the UV

West Edmeston had been embargoed effective September 16th [1960], and on the bright afternoon of the 17th a clean-up train ran from New Berlin to return an accumulation of cars. Per-diem charges, always viewed as something to be avoided, had piled up while the only locomotive was being overhauled. Seventy-six-year-old Maisie C. Stratton, who had succeeded Paul Stillman as agent/dispatcher, wrote out the train order, making lots of extra copies to give away. No more would Stratton entertain visitors to the station with stories about Tim, the talking dog he had once owned. In the final train were six empty boxcars, five gondolas of scrap, and caboose 101. A boxcar would be picked up at Leonardsville's feed mill, and three gondolas of scrap added at River Forks.

Roy Reidenbach and Ray Calman sat on the edge of the freight platform and watched as the train was made up. Ray and one or two other witnesses took photographs. Allen Gilmore, the creamery superintendent at New Berlin, rode in the engine cab with his young son and daughter, Martin and Geri. Carl Schmermerhom was conductor, Joe Graham the brakeman, Bruce Harshbarger the engineer. No 200 returned from Bridgewater with only the caboose. There would be one more inbound revenue car, a load of feed for I. L. Richer's at West Ed. It came a week after the embargo date.

There was a delay in resuming the rail ripper's march toward the Lackawanna. Local boys who had worked on the salvage crew that summer were now back in school, and there were all those yard tracks at New Berlin to be pulled up. The track across Genesee Street that had once joined the UV to the O&W was removed on October 2nd. A railroad that took four and a half years to build in the 1890s would require only forty days to dismantle in 1960. Caboose 102 and 103, flanger R-240, and the old Lackawanna single-track plow were tipped off their trucks along New Berlin's wye and burned. Also scrapped were the last dump car and the Lackawanna double-track plow; they had been set out on the tail of the wye years before. Caboose 101 stayed with the salvage train until the end. Then its body was trucked to Silver Lake below New Berlin to be made into a summer cabin.

No. 200 left New Berlin for the last time on October 12th. On the 21st the rail ripper reached South Ed. There the heavier rail was being stacked by a hired truck-crane with an electromagnet. A smaller truck, rigged with twin derricks, was on hand from the Salzbergs' Fort Dodge. Des Moines & Southern in Iowa. Now the train tied up each night near a road. By November 1st it was at Yaws Bridge.

Even as the UV's life was ebbing that fall, its connections were undergoing changes of their own. The Erie and Lackawanna railroads merged as the Erie-Lackawanna on October 17th. The Railway Express Agency adopted the trade name REA Express on November 13th.

Paul H. Jones, an Erie-Lackawanna ticket agent at Endicott, New York, wrote to Roy Reidenbach to ask about paying the UV a final visit. (Jones had been given a trip pass to ride the line in 1956.) Roy by this time was writing out his own train orders and typing his own letters. On November 3rd he made (to page 7)

out an order for the crew at River Forks. That same day he wrote Jones:

"We are not operating for revenue freight except at River Forks and Bridgewater which stations have been kept open for billing out rails and ties. We have taken up all the rails except for 11 miles south of Bridgewater. Would be glad to have you visit us but you better make it soon as we will be out of business in about another 15 to 20 days".

Eighteen days later, on November 21st, the train crew did its last work and left No. 200 at the Erie-Lackawanna interchange. The UV was done. That winter there would be no plow stuck in Scott's Cut, no little band of veteran railroaders hand-shoveling a path toward Bridgewater.

(Text from *The UV, The Life and Times of a Small Railroad*, by William S Young. Picture from Mary S. Gilmore, submitted by Tom DeForest).



Allen, Martin and Geri Gilmore,
Bruce Harshbarger
(at the controls),
Carl Schermerhorn (conductor),
Joe Graham (brakeman)

Our Board of Directors for 2015

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A Visit to Strasburg PA, Train Town USA

If you want to take the grandkids or that special someone on a railroad-themed vacation, you should check out Strasburg PA, also known as 'Traintown USA'. Strasburg is located about 250 miles south of New Berlin just outside Lancaster PA. Allow at least 4 hours to get there. Coupons are available online by searching for STRASBURG COUPONS. Disclaimer: While I have visited many of these venues, I have not been to all of them. I have no financial interest in any of them. Below are some ideas of what to see and do.



National Toy Train Museum, located at 300 Paradise Lane, off route 741 east of Strasburg PA, 717-687-8976. This museum contains one of the most extensive collections of toys and toy trains in the world. It has a large number of static displays about most aspects of toy train history from Lionel and many other toy manufacturers. It also has five operating layouts in G, Standard, O, S and HO gauges which the visitor can help operate. The museum has a gift shop and an extensive research library which is open to all visitors.

Red Caboose Motel, Restaurant and Gift Shop, located at 312 Paradise Lane, off route 741 east of Strasburg PA, 717-687-5000. This is a very unique motel in which the rooms are built in a total of 38 restored cabooses which are painted in their original colors. The restaurant is housed in 2 dining cars with the kitchen in a box car. While I have not stayed here, my daughter has, and her family loved it. It appears that their rates are not for the budget-minded.

Strasburg Railroad, located at 301 Gap Rd, on route 741 east of Strasburg PA, 866-725-9666. The Strasburg Railroad is the oldest continuously operated short line in the country. The major point of any visit is a 45-minute train ride through the Amish countryside with a narrator to point out all the interesting things along the way. Train ride admission starts at \$14 for adults and \$8 for children. Dining is available at an additional cost. Some themed trains are available including a Train Robbery, a day out with Thomas and Christmas trains. A shop tour is also available. At the station, you'll also find a cafe and a gift shop.

Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, located on route 741 east of Strasburg PA, 717-687-8628. The original collection was assembled by the Pennsylvania Railroad for the 1939-1940 World's Fair. The roster of equipment has been greatly expanded to include 42 locomotives from a Baldwin 2-6-0 built in 1875 to a GE Amtrak locomotive built in 1976. Also on display are 21 passenger cars, 25 freight cars and 14 other various types of cars. This is a HUGE museum, part of it outdoors. A combination ticket with the Strasburg Railroad is available.

Choo Choo Barn, located at 226 Gap Rd, on route 741 east of Strasburg PA, 717-687-7911. This is a 1700-square foot privately owned train (to page 9)

layout which contains numerous villages, 150 animated figures and 22 operating trains, many modeled after local landmarks. There is a miniature circus, a burning building with firefighters and lots of cars, trucks and trains.

Strasburg Train Shop, located at 226 Gap Road on route 741 east of Strasburg PA, 717-687-0464. This store has everything that the railroad modeler would ever need including books, starter kits, buildings, material for landscapes, and of course lots of locomotives and rolling stock in all gauges.

Strasburg Station, located at #301 in the Rockvale Outlet Mall, at the intersection of PA-896 and US-30, Lancaster PA, 717-290-1151. This contains a number of types of souvenirs, many books and clothing related to real trains, a large selection of model railroad items and two operating train layouts.

While in Strasburg, also consider a stop at the Strasburg Country Store and Creamery for some lunch, ice cream or to look around in their gift shop. It is located on route 741 at the main intersection in the middle of Strasburg.

The Lancaster area also has many other non-railroad things to see and do including many Amish-related tours and attractions, smorgasbord restaurants, outlet stores, quilt stores, furniture stores, the Dutch Apple and Rainbow dinner Theaters, The American Music Theater, The huge Sight & Sound Theater and the Dutch Wonderland Theme Park. In addition, there are a number of small towns in the immediate vicinity, each with a number of interesting shops to look through including Strasburg, Lititz, Paradise and Intercourse. (Submitted by Tom DeForest).

Ask about Advertising in the Pendragon

Timetable — Schedule of upcoming events			
May 30—Aug 29	1-5PM	Free Saturday Tours	UVRs
Tue, Jun 2	2 PM	Board Meeting	UMC
Thu-Fri Jun 18-19	Painting, Your Help Is Needed, see Page 3		
Sat, Jun 20	10-2	Work Day	UVRs
	2 PM	Richard Palmer	UVRs
	(Historian & writer on Local Railroading)		
Thu-Fri Jun 25-26	Rain Date for Painting, see Page 3		
Tue, Jul 7	2 PM	Board Meeting	UMC
Sat, Jul 18	2 PM	Bob Miller	UVRs
	(The Lincoln Funeral Car Photo)		
Notes:			
UMC: First United Methodist Church, 51 South Main			
UVRs: Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum, 3 RR St			
BB Ch: Berean Baptist Church, 18 Genesee St			
(all addresses are in New Berlin NY 13411)			

Merchandise Available

CLEARANCE SALE: T-Shirts, size child to XL (out of L), \$12, a few Hats left, \$5, Bumper Stickers, \$1, Key Chains, \$0.50



Cat's Meow figure of the UV #200 locomotive. Wood, 7" wide, 3.5" high, brand new, Was \$20, **ON SALE at \$15.** (NOTE: this is not related to the Cat's Meow store in Sherburne).

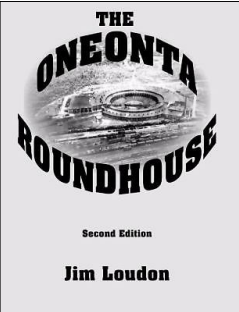
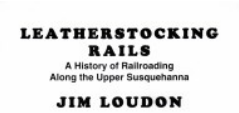
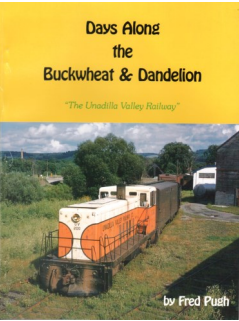
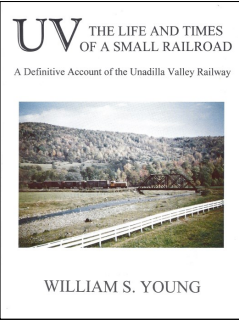
UV—The Life and Times of a Small Railroad, by William S Young, 2009, 120 pages. A definitive account of the UV Railway. Get yours now . Was \$30, **ON SALE at \$20.**

Days Along the Buckwheat & Dandelion The Unadilla Valley Railway, by Fred Pugh, 3rd Printing (1997), 142 pages plus 44-page addendum. Includes a number of color pictures, only a few left, \$45.00.

Leatherstocking Rails, a History of Railing along the Upper Susquehanna, by Jim Loudon, 1st Edition (2005), 258 pages. A detailed book about every railroad and trolley line that was ever built -- or planned to be built -- in Otsego County NY. Only a few left, \$39.95.

The Oneonta Roundhouse, a definitive account of the birth, life, and death of the world's largest railroad roundhouse, by Jim Loudon, 1st Edition, 1993, 100 pages. Only a few left, \$19.95.

These are available at any meeting of the UVR Society, contact any officer, or call Pat at 607-847-9484.



Unadilla Valley Society & Museum Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone () _____

email address _____

Membership levels:

☐ Single Member, \$20 / year ☐ Life Member (Single), \$225

☐ Family, \$30 / year ☐ Life Member (family), \$250

☐ Donation Only \$ _____

Make payable to UVR&M, PO Box 751, New Berlin NY 13411

We now have 184 members on our mailing list, with some Life Members, many Single Members and an increasing number of Family Members.

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Dues are payable on January 1st of each year. Keep your membership up to date to receive copies of our Pendragon newsletter and invitations to all of our meetings and special events.
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Copyright 2015 by The Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum

The Pendragon is the official publication of the Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum. This newsletter is published quarterly by and for the membership. Correspondence on regional railroad history is welcomed. Articles will be considered for future publication in these pages. If you have received this newsletter as a courtesy, please consider joining. Inquiries should be sent to the UVR&M, PO Box 751, New Berlin NY 13411 or by email to sunshinepat@stny.rr.com.

The Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum was founded in 1995 with headquarters in New Berlin, New York. Since 1995 the organization has held a provisional charter under the New York State Education Department. The Society is a non-profit organization under 501 (c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Contributions of funds and items, as well as volunteer mileage, may be deductible on your income tax depending on your tax situation.

The Unadilla Valley Railway Society and Museum depends on your support as members, contributors and helpers in other ways. We very much appreciate all of your contributions.

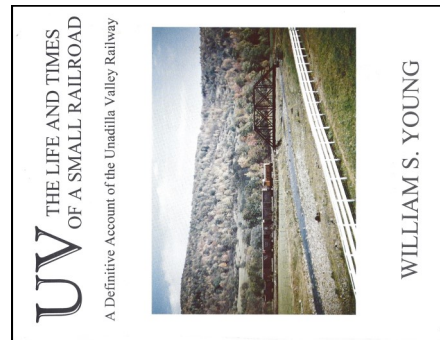
<p>From: Unadilla Valley Railway Society & Museum PO Box 751 New Berlin NY 13411</p> <p>Happy Railing ++++++</p>	<p>To:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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ON SALE For a Limited Time

UV #200 Cat's Meow
Figure. Was \$20.00,
 now **\$15.00** (25% off)



UV—The Life and Times of a Small Railroad, by William S Young, 2009, 120 pages. A definitive account of the UV Railway. Get yours now. Was \$30, now **\$20.00** (33% off).



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