

Lehigh Valley Railroad
Historical Society



The Black Diamond

Official Newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society
December, 2007

Message From The Editor

Welcome to the December, 2007 edition of the "Black Diamond". Please send any Society news and/or historical articles about Finger Lakes area railroads to me by U. S. Mail at P. O. Box RR, Manchester, NY 14504 or by E-mail at dhalderman@rochester.rr.com Thank you for your contributions.

David Halderman, Editor/President

Wishing all our members and their families a joyous Christmas season, and a Happy New Year!

Train Excursion Update

On Oct. 13th & 14th, there were "Fall Foliage" excursions on the Finger Lakes Railway between Shortsville and Geneva, NY. Five trips were operated by the Fingerlakes Scenic Railway, and LVRRHS. All trips boarded at the museum site in Shortsville. The museum was opened for visitors, with many displays, including a N scale model RR layout. The Presbyterian Church provided refreshments, including hot-dogs and chili. Every trip was either sold out, or nearly sold out, for a total of over 1,000 passengers carried. In all, it was great weekend for a train ride.

Again this year, your Society ran "Santa Trains" between Shortsville and Canandaigua, on the Saturday immediately following Thanksgiving Day. Another very successful venture, as ALL of the five trips were completely sold out before the day even got started. We ended up with a total of 717 paid passengers for the day. Of course, Santa was aboard each trip, and was a big hit with both kids and adults. Once again, the Presbyterian Church provided refreshments. We certainly do appreciate their participation in these excursions.

Also a HUGE thank you goes out to all our volunteers, too many to mention here, that provided help for both excursion events. Ticket sales, parking attendants, gift shop, conductors, balloon artists, car assistants, etc. We could not run these successful trips without your help. THANK YOU ALL!

THE VICTOR HERALD

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Wednesday, December 5, 2007

All aboard!

Railroad on the fast track to make a comeback in Victor

STEVEN G. POYZER

The Victor Herald

Having disappeared long ago as an important part of Victor's economy, the railroad may be about to make a comeback if the Village Revitalization Committee has anything to say about it.

The Victor Local Development Corporation (LDC) board of directors could almost hear the distant sound of train whistles blowing and the call of "All Aboard" at its November 27th meeting as members of the Strategic Planning Committee for "Village Revitalization" presented its proposal for the "Inaugural Lehigh Valley Rail Town Festival."

Committee member co-chairs Warner Fisher and Sue Stehling and Meg CHaides came before the LDC board with an ambitious plan to renew Victor's history with the railroad with a two-day celebration of the grand re-opening of the Lehigh Valley Railroad main track line and to commemorate its 115th anniversary in Victor.

Fisher began the committee's presentation by citing the importance of the railroad in Victor's history, and explained that the reason the village did not sit atop Boughton Hill

was because of the railroad.

Fisher also revealed that Finger Lakes Railroad, (FLRR) recently purchased controlling shares of Ontario Railroad and has expressed interest in not only hauling small amounts of freight on the line, but in rebuilding the Victor spur for off-loading to alternative transport methods - and running passenger excursions to Victor.

Fisher said that Victor would be the furthest west the rail line would run. The tracks are not currently acceptable for passenger travel, but FLRR has expressed the desire to upgrade the tracks and include Victor as a key point for its passenger excursions. Fisher also alluded to some interest from the Lehigh Valley Historical Society in having a railroad museum in Victor, which could also serve as a tourist attraction for Victor, Fisher said.

With that background laid, Fisher elaborated on the committee's vision for the proposed August 9, 10, 2008, weekend festival, explaining that Adams Street and Mead Square Park would be the focal point of the weekend with vendors lining Adams Street against a back drop of train cars.

Mead Square would provide the area for music venues and other activities. Events and activities according to a

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Cover Story

All aboard!

Railroad on fast track for comeback in Victor

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sample listing read by Fisher, could include VIP train excursions, guest engineers, chicken BBQ, community dance, mustache contests, (although it was noted that LDC President and Village Mayor John Holden had a slight advantage), political dunking games, model train shows, historical enactment, train movies and perhaps "Thomas the Train."

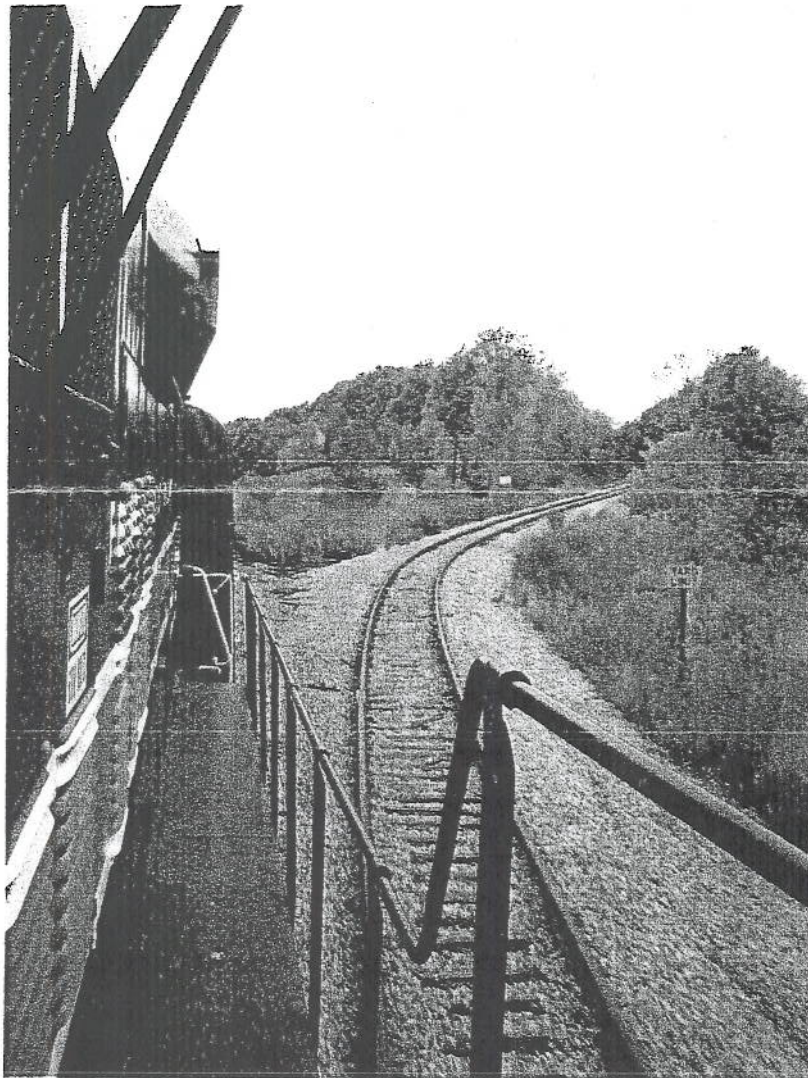
Opened to questions from the LDC board, Holden suggested that a special meeting be held with FLRR to ensure they were on board with the concept. Noting that this was a multi-faceted opportunity, Victor Town Supervisor and LDC Director Leslie Bamann, offered that this could open up opportunities for tourism and school curriculums.

LDC Executive Director Kathy Rayburn and Holden both expressed concerns regarding the LDC's role in the event, but both agreed that it was a "neat event."

Sue Stehling concluded the presentation by commenting that these were just ideas and "it doesn't have to be this ambitious, but the main component is the train is coming to Victor."

Above is a copy of a recent news article from the "Victor Herald" newspaper. As you can see, there is a plan afoot to bring the railroad back to Victor, NY, in the form of train trips originating in Victor, and heading east to Manchester and Geneva. The Fingerlakes Railway has purchased controlling interest in the former Ontario Central RR which runs from Victor to just east of the old Manchester freight yards, and interchanges with the FGLK just outside of Manchester. So far, the idea is in the planning and approval stages only, but FGLK has expressed definite interest in the project.

Time will tell how well the project progresses, but the LVRRHS and FGLK are working with the Planning Committee to get things in motion for a possible August, 2008 inaugural run.



View from the cab of FGLK #1751, looking west up the old LVRR track about a mile east of Manchester. This track heads into the old Manchester yards and eventually ends just west of Victor, NY.

Photo by Dave Halderman

Society Meetings and Open Houses

Society meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month, at 3:00 PM, at the LVRRHS Station Museum, located at 8 E. High St., Shortsville, NY. Our open houses are being held on those same days, from 1:00 to 3:00PM. Open houses are normally held during the summer only, except for special requests.

All members are encouraged to attend our monthly meetings.

2008 Membership

As always, membership renewal and new memberships are welcome. 2008 is going to be a busy year for the Society, with a large deck project coming up, a possibly needed new roof and gutters, display work, and the (hopefully) addition of a “branch” museum in Victor, NY, along with new train trips.

So please remember to renew your membership, and remind anyone who may be interested, to join the Society and pitch in for a worthwhile and FUN cause.

Also, please remember to cast your votes in the upcoming election and return your ballot as soon as possible. Thanks!

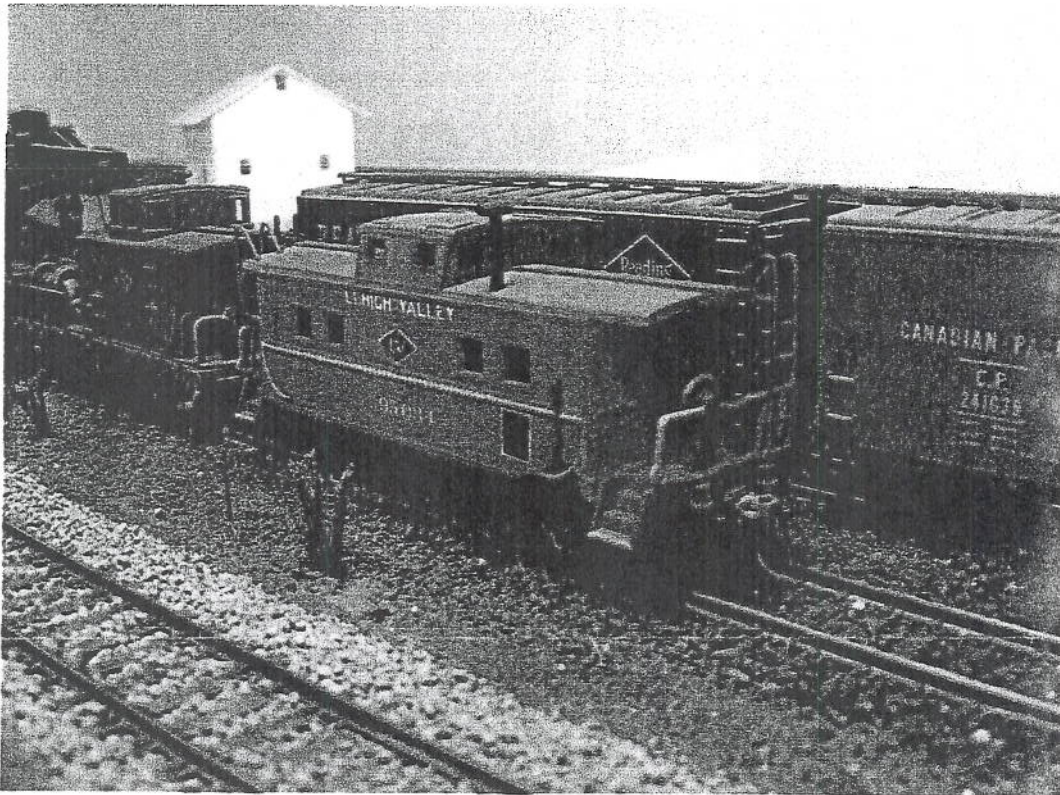


Photo of a Life-Like HO scale caboose, custom painted and detailed to represent a Lehigh Valley “Northeastern” style caboose. Caboose and layout by Dave Halderman.

THANK YOU!

A big "Thank You" to P & J Lawn Kare of Shortsville for providing lawn mowing and snowplowing services during 2007. "Thank you," too, to George Whittaker for cleaning the museum prior to the excursions and for providing paper products, etc. for the restrooms. Your support of the Society is greatly appreciated!

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Vice-President:	Roger Halderman	12/31/2008
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**Please visit the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society website at:
www.lvrrhs.org for information, updates, and future excursion plans.**
