

The Black Diamond

Official Newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society

APRIL, 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the April, 2006 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/Trustee

"The Black Diamond" is published by the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society, P. O. Box RR, Manchester, NY 14504-0200. Displays and archives are located at 8 E. High St., Shortsville, NY. Hours by appointment. Contact Deb Halderman, Treasurer, at (585) 289-8022.

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK. YOU WILL BE MISSED !

We regret to announce that our President, Ken May has resigned, effective March 31, 2006. Ken's job with the United States Department of Defense has recently transferred him to Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Ken was instrumental in getting the Society involved in running passenger train excursions over the past four years. We sponsored our first Fall Foliage excursions in Sept. 2002 and have sponsored Santa Trains, Easter Bunny trains, a Railfan Day trip from Geneva to Syracuse, and numerous other events since that time.

As President, Ken also handled the marketing and public relations aspect of the Society. Our meeting notices are published in many local newspapers, as well as on web sites for the area's TV stations, and in several railroad magazines.

Ken was also the driving force behind the clean-up project at the Manchester roundhouse site. He enlisted volunteer help to clear away brush and trees that were blocking both the roundhouse and the turntable.

Ken will be sorely missed as a valuable asset to our Society. We wish him well with his future endeavors, and hope he will stay in touch with us.

2005 LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

2005 was another good year for the Society. Membership numbers remained stable, our finances were healthy, and our excursion program continued to make money. A list of our major achievements over the past year follows:

- In terms of membership, there was a total of 144 paid members for 2005, compared with a total of 151 paid members for 2004.
- In financial terms, we started the year with a cash balance of \$16,993.76 and finished the year with a cash balance of \$15,004.51. During 2005, we were able to meet all monthly owner financing payments and operating expenses. The Society marked a major milestone in October when we paid off the station mortgage in full.
- Our passenger train excursion program continued to be profitable. The LVRRHS sponsored five excursion events in cooperation with the Finger Lakes Scenic Railway during 2005 – Easter Bunny, Finger Lakes Railway Tenth Anniversary, Dinner Train Ride (with Depot Restaurant), Fall Foliage, and Santa Claus. Total profits in 2005 were \$10,538.92.
- We held six public open houses at our station museum on the first Saturday afternoon of each month between May and October. Attendance ranged from 10 to 24 visitors per open house.

We also held a special open house in late October for the track speeders group. A program on Lehigh Valley Railroad passenger trains was given by Sheldon King at the June open house.

- We updated the Society web site (www.lvrrhs.org) on a monthly basis with assistance from Technical Services of New York. We have utilized the web site to advertise our excursions and recruit new members.
- We reprinted the Society membership brochure in the fall and have distributed hundreds at Society events, regional train shows, hobby shops, and other museums in Central and Western New York State during the year.
- We became more involved in the community by belonging to the Shortsville/Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce and attending their meetings.
- We staffed a display promoting the Society at the RIT train show in March. Members have brought our membership brochures and excursion flyers to other train shows throughout the year.
- We advocated preservation of the LVRR roundhouse in Manchester by organizing two work parties in April and November to clean up the site.
- We received many generous donations of time, labor, and materials from Society members and the community for maintenance of our station museum.
- Our members and the public donated additional railroad memorabilia and artifacts to our museum.
- Our officers, trustees, and members made many individual contributions of their time and talents that helped the Society to succeed in 2005.

These achievements of 2005 are a result of the hard work and dedication of our membership. 2006 will bring more challenges and opportunities for our Society. I look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead. Thank you for your support of the LVRRHS.

Ken May, President
January 15, 2006

STATION MORTGAGE PAID OFF IN OCTOBER 2005!

The LVRRHS marked a major milestone in October 2005, when the final mortgage payment was made on our station building in Shortsville. Thanks to the profits from our train excursions on the Finger Lakes Scenic Railway since the Fall of 2002, we have been able to pay off the mortgage.

Much work still needs to be done at the museum sight, and volunteers are needed to help out with a variety of projects. Among these are:

- Organization and assembly of our many artifacts and other memorabilia.
- Repairs and maintenance issues with the building, such as improved roof and attic venting, deck improvements and repair, landscaping, etc.
- Interior improvements, such as painting and minor maintenance issues.

Any help and/or donations of materials would be greatly appreciated.

TRAIN EXCURSION UPDATE

For the foreseeable future, all train excursions originating at, or traveling to the Station/Museum are on hold. This is because, due to its deteriorating condition, the track between Clifton Springs and Canandaigua, NY has been outlawed for passenger use by the FRA.

However, your Society is hoping to arrange for a possible "Railfan Trip", which would originate at the Fingerlakes Scenic Railway headquarters in Geneva, NY. If we can make arrangements with FGLK, we hope to run a trip sometime this summer. Details will be posted on our website at www.lvrrhs.org, and will also be advertised in the local media.

ANOTHER RAIL FAN TRIP

Sunday, April 16, 1939

\$2.00
Round Trip

Sponsored By
The Cornell Railroad Club
for men and Women

\$2.00
Round Trip

*Rate Includes Cost of Chartered
Bus For Use In Binghamton.*

- This time we go to the Lackawanna East Binghamton Yard and Roundhouse, also to the D and H Roundhouse in Binghamton.

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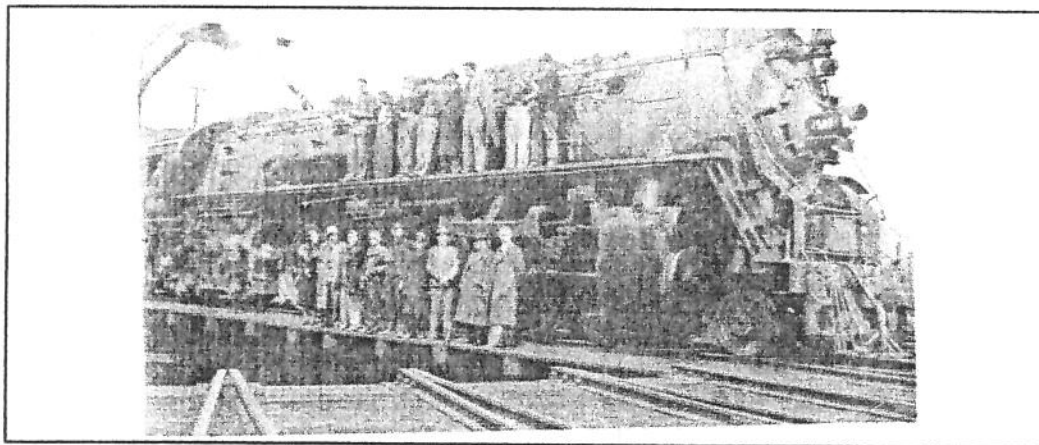
LV. ITHACA	8:10	LACKAWANNA DEPOT
AR. BINGHAMTON	10:45	
LV. BINGHAMTON	3:15	
AR. ITHACA	5:05	LACKAWANNA DEPOT

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- For information call Mickey Beck 3351 ext. 639 or obtain circular at Willard Straight Desk, College Book Shop, Men and Women's Dorm office.

Downtown

Mayer's Smoke Shop, High School Office, Lackawanna Depot.



Flyer and photo donated by Mr. Craig McMillan, LVRHS member, who attended a railfan trip from Ithica to Binghamton, NY on April 16th, 1939. Trip was sponsored by the Cornell RR Club.

Photo shows Lackawanna 4-8-4 #1645 on the D&H turntable in Binghamton, NY. Mr. Mc Millan is standing in the 1st row, 2nd from left, and his cousin Floyd Kyte is at the far right, not wearing a hat.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Society meetings are now held on the third Sunday of each month at 3:00p.m. (Previously at 6:30pm) at the LVRRHS Station Museum, 8 E. High St., Shortsville, New York.

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

This year, we are going to hold our Station Museum open houses on Sundays, beginning at 1:00 PM and ending at 3:00 PM, when we will then hold our monthly meetings.

The Open House/meeting schedule for this summer is as follows: May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, and October 15. The museum will open for visitors at 1:00 PM, and the meeting will be held at 3:00 PM.

We are hoping that this new schedule will allow for better attendance at the open houses, AND at the monthly meetings.

SHELDON KING TO SPEAK AT JUNE OPEN HOUSE

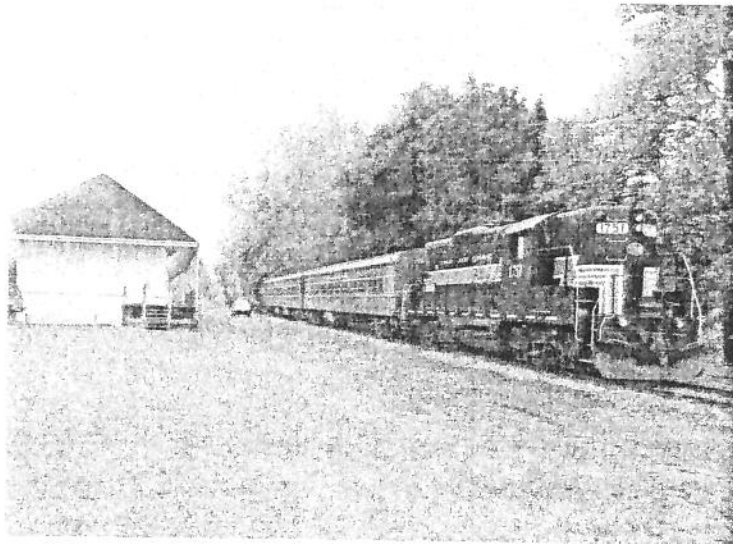
Local rail historian Sheldon King of Lyons will again be the guest speaker at our open house on Sunday, June 18th, 2006.

2006 MEMBERSHIP DUE

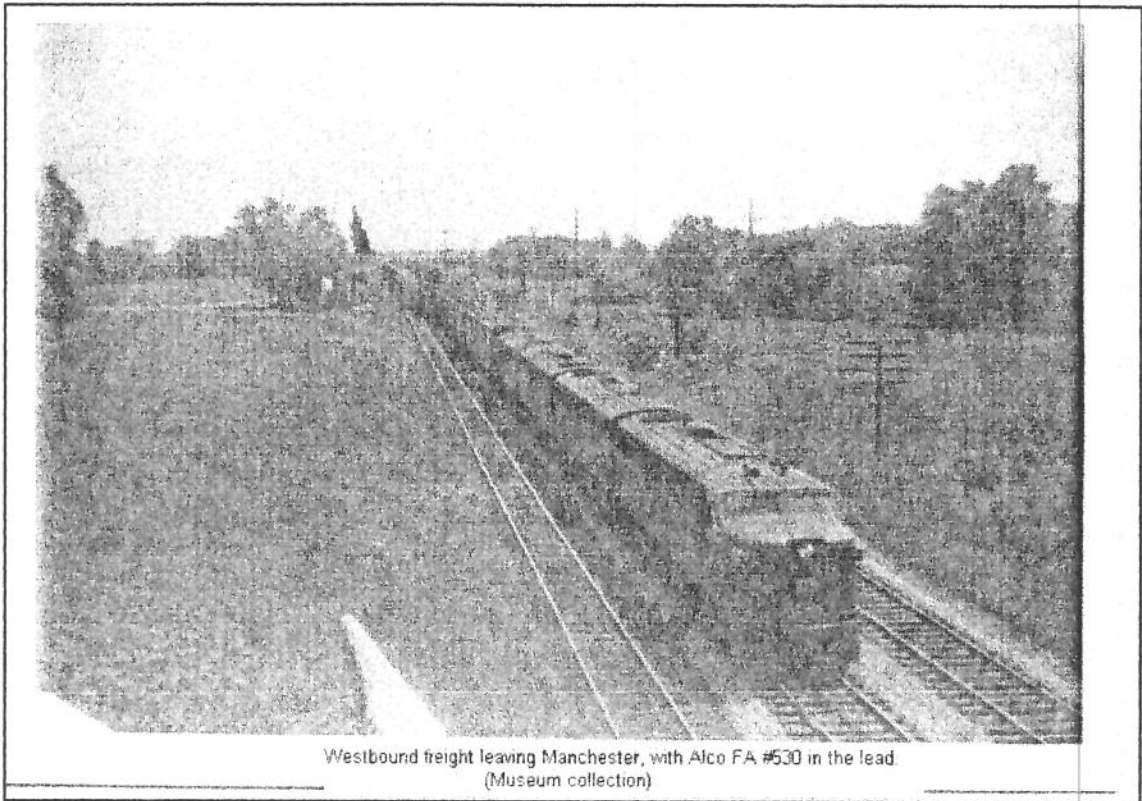
2005 was an exciting year for the Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society. A huge milestone was reached when we made the last payment on the mortgage for the museum in October 2005.

The year 2006 brings new challenges for us. While the mortgage has been paid off, we still have the ongoing responsibility of paying the building utilities and making needed repairs.

We need the help of each and every member of our society to keep going. If you have not already renewed your membership to the Society for 2006, won't you please do so now?



LVRRHS/FGLK Excursion train, shown next to our museum building.



OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Acting President:	Roger Halderman	12/31/2006
Secretary:	Rita Gurewitch	12/31/2006
Treasurer:	Deborah Halderman	12/31/2007
Trustees:	David Fleenor	12/31/2006
	Jack Tuttle	12/31/2006
	Bill Young	12/31/2006
	David Halderman	12/31/2006
	Joseph Dickson	12/31/2007
	Emma Halderman	12/31/2007

These dates indicate the expiration date of the present officer and trustee terms. Nominees and a ballot will be mailed to all active members in November.

Lehigh Valley Railroad Historical Society web site: www.lvrhs.org

LVRRHS
Membership Rates

_____ Individual	\$15.00
_____ Individual + 1	\$25.00
_____ Family	\$40.00
_____ Contributor	\$100.00
_____ Corporate Sponsor	\$125.00

All of above membership classes
correspond with the calendar year.

_____ Ind. Lifetime Membership \$350.00

_____ Donation

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip Code: _____

email
address: _____

_____ Please mail me a Railroad Employee
Identification form to complete and
return for myself or a friend or
family member.

My check is enclosed for : _____

Please mail completed form and check to:

LVRR Historical Society
P.O. Box RR
Manchester, NY 14504-0200