



NRHS News

National Railway Bulletin No. 1

October 2003

Barry Smith appointed NRHS Vice President



Barry O. Smith has been elected by the Board of Directors to the position of Vice President of the NRHS, replacing the late Robert A. Pinsky. Barry is a member of the Cumberland Valley Chapter in Chambersburg, Pa, and he continues to serve as their National Director.

Barry brings a wealth of professional and outside experience that will benefit the Society. He is recently retired from an Associate Professor position in educational administration at Shippensburg University, and he continues to serve as a hearing officer with the Office of Dispute Resolution for the Pennsylvania special educational system.

During his professional career, Barry also served as a high school teacher and held various administrative posts, including ten years as Superintendent of Schools in Middleburg, Pa. He received his Ed.D. degree in Educational Administration from Temple University in 1979.

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2003 Heritage Grants Awards

Since 1994, the National Railway Historical Society has been awarding annual grants for projects which preserve, research, educate, or publish railway history. Example projects include railroad structure and equipment stabilization, mechanical repairs, preservation and restoration, book publication, cataloging of archival materials, and oral history productions.

The program is open to NRHS Chapters as well as other organizations. The maximum award is \$5,000.00 per year per project. Applications are typically due in late April and the winning projects are announced at the summer Board of Directors meeting, which usually coincides with the NRHS Convention. The amount of money available each year is announced when the call for applications is mailed out to those who have expressed interest in the program.

To date the NRHS has given away a total of \$220,880 as part of the Railway Heritage Grants program.

At the summer Board of Directors Meeting held during the 2003 Convention in Baltimore, the NRHS announced the winners of its 2003 program. The NRHS received 59 Grant Applications totaling \$235,500 from 12 NRHS Chapters and 47 other related organizations. For 2003 the NRHS has awarded 18 grants totaling \$30,000 to the following organizations:

B&O Railroad Museum, Inc. - Baltimore, Md. - \$3,000 for the preservation

and management of artifacts resulting from the snowstorm of February 16 & 17 that collapsed the museum roof.

Cape Cod Chapter, NRHS - West Barnstable, Mass. - \$1,700 for the Authoritative Assessment of West Barnstable Station by a professional historic preservation consultant.

Colorado Railroad Historical Foundation (Colorado Railroad Museum) - Golden, Colo. - \$1,000 towards the restoration of D&RGW No. 50, a narrow gauge diesel locomotive.

Connecticut Electric Railway Association, Inc. - East Windsor, Conn. - \$2,500 towards the repair of four electric motors from streetcar No. 1326 built in 1910 and is still in operating condition.

Crawford County Historical Society, Meadville, Pa. - \$1,000 for the purchase of archival quality acid-free boxes to store Erie Railroad records in the Society's collection.

Feather River Rail Society - Portola, Calif. - \$1,800 towards the restoration of a 1943 Pullman Troop Sleeper car.

Heart of Dixie Chapter, NRHS - Calera, Ala. - \$1,000 for the purchase of archival quality storage materials for the timetables, papers and photographs in the Chapter's collections.

Kentucky Central Chapter, NRHS - Lexington, Ky. - \$2,000 towards the purchase of heating and air-conditioning for a portion of the Paris, Ky. L&N depot for archival storage of 5,000 video tapes of railroad and trolleys from all over the world.

Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society - Scranton, Pa. - \$2,500 "towards the purchase of flexible Staybolts estimated to cost \$25,000." This is the restoration of Boston & Maine No. 3713 steam locomotive at Steamtown National Historic Site.

Northstar Chapter, NRHS - Minneapolis/St. Paul Minn. - \$1,500 towards the

cosmetic restoration of GTW No. 8327 steam locomotive.

Medina Railroad Museum - Medina, N.Y. - \$2,500 to facilitate the replacement of the museum roof. This is a priceless building that was constructed by the NYC&HRRR Company in 1905 and houses over 6,000 historic artifacts.

New York Central System Historical Society - Erie, Pa. - \$2,000 to digitize additional drawings in the Society's collection of approximately 50,000 drawings.

Niagara Frontier Chapter NRHS, Inc. - Lockport, N.Y. - \$2,000 towards the preservation of a New York Central Railroad interlocking, EL-2. "This very unique tower was built by the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad in 1911 and is owned by our Chapter."

The O. Winston Link Museum - Roanoke, Va. - \$1,000 to facilitate the scanning and digitization of 2,400 original O. Winston Link negatives.

Reading Company Technical & Historical Society, Reading, Pa. - \$1,000 to purchase archival materials for storage and cataloguing of railroad photographic negatives.

Rockdale Historical Society - Rockdale, Texas - \$1,000 to purchase professional electric modifications for the continued restoration of Rockdale's International & Great Northern Railroad passenger depot into a museum.

Southern Oregon Chapter, NRHS - Medford, Ore. - \$1,000 towards the restoration of Southern Pacific caboose No. 1107 built in 1942 at the Los Angeles shops.

Waymart Area Historical Society - Waymart, Pa. - \$1,500 towards the restoration of Delaware & Hudson Canal Company gravity railroad car No. 43 built in the 1870s.

Niagara Frontier Chapter Railroad Museum Dedication



Greg Molloy (NRHS President), Becky Gerstung (National Director), Dick Dutton, George Maziars N.Y. State Senate), David Burgio (Mayor of North Tonawanda), and Charles Swanick (Erie County Legislative Chairman) are present for the dedication of the Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier Chapter of the NRHS.

On June 1, the Niagara Frontier Chapter celebrated the Grand Opening of the Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier. The members of the Niagara Frontier Chapter have worked for years to stabilize and restore the station and to organize the displays inside.

The opening ceremony was well attended by chapter members and friends. Speakers included Niagara Frontier Chapter President Jim Ball, NRHS National President Greg Molloy, New York State Senator George Maziars, Erie County Legislature Chairman Charles Swanick, and North Tonawanda Mayor David Burgio. After the ceremonial ribbon cutting, former chapter president Neal Keirn had the honor of climbing the ladder and removing the "Future" sign from the museum's new home.

The museum is located in the former Erie freight station in North Tonawanda, New York, between Buffalo and Niagara Falls. The brick depot was erected in 1920 on the Erie's Falls branch. The Erie discontinued their passenger service on the line in 1918 but continued a busy freight service to numerous local businesses for many years afterwards. In addition to the depot, Niagara Frontier Chapter owns the former New York Central interlocking tower EL2 directly across the street.

Chapter members are enthusiastic about plans to continue restoring and improving both structures as the museum grows. Initially the new museum will be open to the public on Sunday afternoons. Current information is available on the chapter website at www.nfcnrhs.com.

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In addition to his career as a professional educator, Barry continues to be active in the management of several non-profit organizations outside the rail history preservation field, serving a board member and in various officer positions.

Barry and Ida Jeanne Smith have been married for 38 years, and they have two grown children. Son Jeffrey Smith (no relation to the Bulletin Editor) works at Weis Markets, while daughter Cynthia Smith is at Arizona State University in a post doctoral program in developmental

psychology.

Barry was a Counselor at the 2003 RailCamp and plans to continue active involvement with the RailCamp program. His initial duties also include a new Chapter Operations Manual to improve access to Society services.

Barry is not taking over the two appointed positions that Bob Pinsky also held. Michael Bettiol has been appointed the new Director of Membership Records, and Dan Larkin will serve as Editor of the NRHS News.

THE FINE PRINT

- Preregistration fee is \$35 for the member, their spouse, children, or other household members living at the same address; **IT IS NONREFUNDABLE.**
- Preregistration fee entitles member household to one registration package.
- Preregistration forms must be postmarked by January 31, 2004. After that date, the member registration is \$45.
- One address only per form please.
- Preregistrants will receive the registration package for ticket ordering in advance of all other registrants. Preregistered members may only purchase tickets for those persons listed with their registration.
- Hotel reservation information for discounted convention rates will be sent with the registration package.
- Convention events are not yet finalized and subject to change.
- A fee will be assessed for checks returned by the bank for insufficient funds.

Mail completed form to:
Northstar Historical Society
PO Box 23088
Richfield, MN 55423-0088



**RAILS TO
 THE
 NORTHSTAR
 MINNEAPOLIS, MN
 2004**



Tuesday June 29th through Sunday July 4th 2004

- ❖ New Territory, First National Convention in the Upper Midwest
- ❖ Mainline Excursions
- ❖ Minnesota Transportation Museum Tour
 - Restored Great Northern Roundhouse
 - Lake Harriet Streetcar Line
 - Lake Minnetonka "Streetcar Boat"- only one of its kind
- ❖ Night Photo Session
- ❖ Seminars by noted railroad historians and authors
- ❖ Convention accommodations at the Minneapolis Hilton, heart of downtown Minneapolis
- ❖ Annual national board and membership meetings and banquet
 - Restored Milwaukee Road Station and ice rink
 - Walk the historic Great Northern Stone Arch Bridge
 - Newly completed light rail line
 - Shopping at Mall of America
 - Baseball: Minnesota Twins and St. Paul Saints
 - Taste of Minnesota Celebration
 - Twin Cities Model Railroad, Bandana Square former NP Shop buildings
 - Spectacular fireworks

For more information see: www.northstar2004.org

RAILS TO THE NORTHSTAR, MINNEAPOLIS 2004 PREREGISTRATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ **Country:** _____

Phone: Day: _____ **Evening:** _____

E-mail address: _____

NRHS Member No. _____

Associate or Home Chapter: _____

Payment Method: Check for \$35 payable to the Northstar Historical Society

Please charge \$35 to my credit card as checked below:

Visa **Master Card** **Discover Card**

Name on credit card: _____

Credit Card no. _____ **Exp. Date** _____

Signature: _____

(Required for Credit Card Payment)

Additional Registrants attending with member (Spouse, children or other household member living at the same address):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

No, I don't want to preregister; mail me registration package when available. Registration packages will be sent not less than 15 days after being mailed to preregistrants; ticket order will not be filled until 30 days after preregistrant mailing; full membership registration fee of \$45 is required with order.

Bulletin Update

Many members have been asking why the *Bulletin* is running so far behind schedule. There are several reasons for this.

The *Bulletin* ran into several major obstacles in the past few years. Frank Tattall stepped down in 2001 after many years of service which required a period of transition. Hank Morris was appointed as the new editor. Shortly after, Hank took ill and was unable to continue to serve as editor due to his ongoing health problems. I stepped into the role of editor during the 2002 Convention in Arizona.

As if this wasn't enough, there were major staffing changes at our printer. Many of the folks who had been working on our account left the company, resulting in a multitude of problems that degraded the overall quality of the *Bulletin*. Late in 2002, we felt that it was best to find new vendors for our prepress, printing and fulfillment work.

By the middle of 2003 we had transitioned the pre-press work to Technographics in Lehigh, Pa. and the printing and fulfillment work to Grit Printing in Montoursville, Pa. Both companies have a reputation for doing excellent work in the railroad publications arena, and the NRHS membership need only take a cursory look at the photographic reproduction in Volume 67, No. 5 to see the vast improvement that the new vendors have brought us.

Much of my effort in the past year has fallen into two categories. First, getting the quality problem straightened out. Second has been the complete overhaul of the process by which the *Bulletin* is produced. We now produce the *Bulletin* completely electronically. This transition was somewhat painful and took some time, but it allows the staff to work more efficiently and on multiple issues at the same time.

When will the *Bulletin* be back on schedule? I will not put a hard and fast date on that because there are too many variables in producing the *Bulletin*. However, I will say that we have the opportunity to put out several issues rather close together in the upcoming months. Volume 68, No. 1 is enclosed with the issue of the *NRHS News* that you are currently reading. Volume 68, No. 2 is in the final stages of pre-production and should be mailed in late October. The 2003 Activities Issue is in the final stages of pre-production and will also be mailed in late October. Volume 68, No. 3 and 4 feature in-depth coverage of the history of the Cuban Railway system and the American influence on it. These two issues are currently in pre-production and it is hoped that we will have one or possibly both published by the end of 2003. Volume 68, No. 5 will contain 2003 Convention coverage as well as a feature on the Rutland Railroad; it is expected that this issue will be published in the first two months of 2004.

I hope that members will understand the difficulties the *Bulletin* staff has faced in the past several years. We are focused on catching up and hope you are enjoying the improvements we have made along the way. Please keep in mind that the *Bulletin* is produced with an all volunteer staff and also involves no less than two dozen people from six different companies. The production of each magazine consumes several hundred hours of *Bulletin* staffers time.

Please feel free to contact me at bulletin@nrhs.com should you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Jeffrey Smith, Editor

2003 Bulletin Cover Contest deadline is October 15, 2003

See the NRHS website for details at:
www.nrhs.com/nrhsconv/2003conv/bulletin_cover_contest.htm

Western Connecticut Chapter Dedicates SoNo Switch Tower Museum

On a beautiful Saturday morning, May 3, 2003, Western Connecticut Chapter, NRHS dedicated its SoNo Switch Tower Museum at South Norwalk, Conn. The tower restoration was one piece of the revitalization of South Norwalk's downtown, nestled alongside the harbor of the Norwalk River, just off Long Island Sound.

The tower was built by the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad in 1896 as Signal Station 44, and as such was the 44th interlocking station coming out of New York City. The three-story high tower, as restored, contains a 68-lever Johnson (or "Armstrong") interlocking machine installed in December, 1919.

The tower, renamed "Berk" by Penn Central after its absorption of the New Haven in 1969, remained in continuous service until 1984, when a modern new tower was constructed on the north side of the Shore Line at its junction with the line to Danbury, Conn. and Pittsfield, Mass. The tower is one of only two remaining examples of a manual interlocking tower in Connecticut.

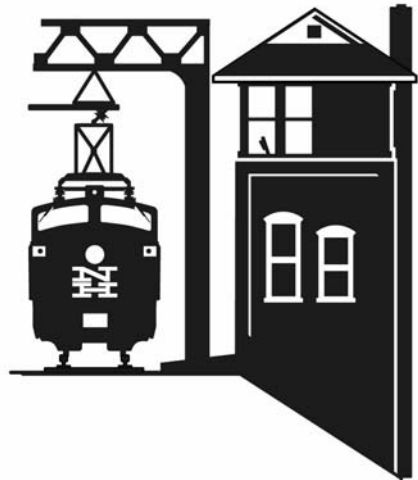
Western Connecticut Chapter President Anthony Fitzherbert, Chapter National Director Tony White, Norwalk Mayor Alex Knopp and NRHS Senior Vice President Larry Eastwood presided over the ribbon cutting ceremony, at which the museum was dedicated to the memory of two departed Chapter members, James L. Rawley and Edward V. Wadhams. As part of the ceremonies, Eastwood recognized the golden anniversary of the Chapter by presenting Chapter officers with their 50-year certificate from NRHS.

In a short prepared talk, Eastwood noted that while there is strong emphasis on

equipment and station preservation, it was equally vital to insure that "behind the scenes" facilities such as "S.S. 44" are also preserved so future generations may learn the complete history of railroad operations.

Following that, the public was invited to tour the impeccably restored building. The Chapter has constructed a gift shop in the basement of the building, while the upper floor with its ever-present levers offers a wonderful viewing area for passing Metro-North and Amtrak trains.

The SoNo Switch Tower Museum, located at 77 Washington Street, is about two blocks from the Metro-North commuter rail station at South Norwalk on the New Haven Line. The Museum is open from 12 Noon to 5 PM on weekends from May through October. Members interested in visiting this facility are asked to phone the Chapter at 203-246-6958 or visit the Chapter website www.westct-nrhs.org.



The *NRHS News* is published six times a year by the National Railway Historical Society, as a supplement to the *National Railway Bulletin* - Dan Larkin, Editor. Please send all items to:

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