



# SEMAPHORE



## January 2013

### *Happy New Year!*

The next meeting of LIST will be on **Friday, January 18th at 8:00pm** at the Christ Episcopal Church, South Carl Avenue and Prospect Street, Babylon, New York.

#### THIS MONTH:

Gene Collora is lined up for the January 2013 meeting. Don't miss this one... he'll be showing his slideshow:

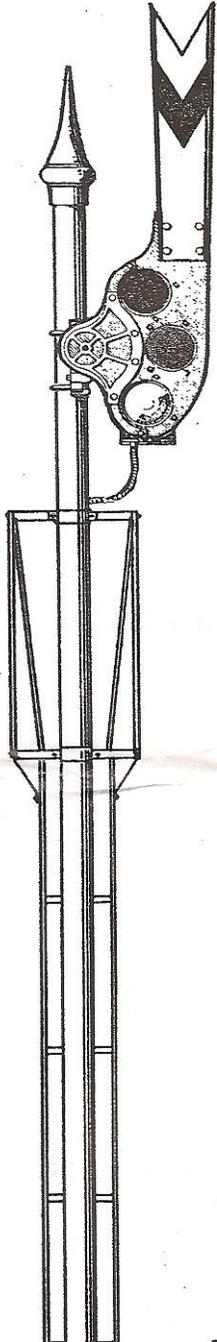
LIRR Freight Operations 1960 to End

In 1962 Gene began working full-time for the LIRR and over the course of his thirty seven year career, worked for the Transportation and Engineering Departments as well as the Station Department and Timetable and Scheduling Office. He held positions of Yardmaster, Trainmaster, and Supervisor of Train Movement.

He retired in 1999 as Manager, Operations Engineering, responsible for coordinating the track projects of the Engineering Dept. with the Transportation Dept. These career paths gave Gene many opportunities to be in the right place at the right time to catch unusual and hard to find images of the LIRR's operations and employees. He was instrumental in organizing many memorable fan trips on the LIRR for our Chapter.

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 2	LIST Order Form
Page 3	LIST Happenings
Page 4	LIRR / OBRM News
Page 5	LIRR Modeler



THE PUBLICATION OF THE  
LONG ISLAND-SUNRISE TRAIL CHAPTER  
OF THE  
NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY





The following price list is for LIST members only!



# _____ 2013 LIRR calendar	@\$8 each Total _____
# _____ LIRR 175 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary 60 page book	@\$10 each Total _____
# _____ NY Connecting RR Book	@\$27 each Total _____
# _____ Jamaica Station by Dave Morrison	@ 18 each Total _____
# _____ LIRR Stations by Dave Morrison	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____ LIRR in the Fairbanks Morse Era	@ \$20 each Total _____
# _____ The Long Island Rail Road, In color Vol. 1	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____ The Long Island Rail Road, In Color Vol. 2	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____ The Long Island Rail Road, In Color Vol. 3	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____ The Long Island Rail Road, In Color Vol. 4	@\$48 each Total _____
# _____ The Cast Iron Eagles of Grand Central Station by Dave Morrison	@\$5 each Total _____
# _____ Revisiting The Long Island Rail Road By David Keller & Steven Lynch	@\$18 each Total _____
# _____ NY City Electrified Railroads, In Color By Alfred E. Fazio	@\$48 each Total _____

Shipping for 1 calendar or 1 of the books, \$2.50

Shipping for 2 to 4 calendars, total of \$5.00

For more than 4 calendars or extra books, please call or e mail Steve Quigley for the shipping cost.

Each additional book, add \$2.50.

[NY State Residents, please add 8.625% tax to the total of the merchandise PLUS the shipping. For example, 1 calendar shipped to an address in NY State would be a total of \$11.41]



The Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society is a non-profit 501c3 Educational Organization. The Chapter was founded in 1966 to serve the Long Island area. The SEMAPHORE is the official publication of the Chapter. Articles appearing herein do not necessarily express the attitude of the Chapter or the NRHS. Please address all correspondence and membership inquiries to: LIST-NRHS, PO Box 507, Babylon, New York 11702-0507

Stephen F. Quigley, President

Steven R. Torborg, Editor

## List Happenings by Steve Quigley

I am very frustrated by the delayed delivery of our 2013 LIRR calendar and I apologize for the fact that our 2013 LIRR calendars have not been delivered to you. Everyone who has placed an order for a calendar will be shipped one as soon as we receive them. If you wish to cancel your order, the money you sent for it will be fully refunded. I thank you for your patience. Although our cost went up slightly, we have maintained last year's price which is \$8 for members. The enclosed order form reflects the 2013 calendar. I will endeavor to make sure that this delayed delivery will not happen in the future.

If any Chapter member is interested in purchasing a book published by Morning Sun Books Inc., please email or call me and I will try to purchase it for you. Go to [www.morningsunbooks.com](http://www.morningsunbooks.com) to view the selection and then send me an email or call me regarding the procedure to purchase. Naturally, Chapter members will receive a discount off the retail price. [If the retail price is \$59.95, Chapter members cost will be \$48 plus S +H and tax if applicable]

In anticipation of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jamaica Station which will take place in 2013, we are exploring various commemorative items. One of the items will be a chrome railroad spike. We will take a typical spike, have it polished to shiny chrome and then have it engraved with "Jamaica Station 1913 – 2013. The cost will be approximately \$100 per spike plus s + h. We will produce them only in the amount of the orders placed. If you are interested in ordering one, please call or email me.

By now, everyone should have received the dues renewal sent by National Headquarters in October. If you did not receive your renewal, please let me know so that can rectify this matter. Due to increased postage and printing costs, we will not be sending the Semaphore to anyone who does not renew their membership by March 1. The Chapter portion of the dues will remain at \$10. Please mail back your membership renewal as soon as possible to our Treasurer, Alan Mark. Alan's address is on the renewal notice. Please do not send your renewal to the Chapters PO box as I then have to forward it to Alan. Your co-operation in mailing back your dues renewal in a timely manner is greatly appreciated.

I regret to inform you of the passing of James "JJ" Earl on December 19<sup>th</sup>. JJ lived in Hicksville for many years and contributed several articles to the Semaphore and was a longtime member of LIST. "JJ," as everyone called him, was a retired freight conductor for the LIRR and he was a fan of the Shoreline Trolley Museum as well as the LIRR. Whenever you spoke with JJ, he always had some interesting stories regarding freight operations of the LIRR especially in and around the Hillside and Holban yards. JJ will be fondly remembered and missed.

We are always looking for new members. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining NRHS – LIST, please let me know and I will send them information on how to join us.

If you wish to write an article for the Semaphore, just let me know and I am sure that we will be able to print it. I have a few articles waiting to be printed but we can always use more. My e mail address is [csquigley@optonline.net](mailto:csquigley@optonline.net) and my telephone # is 631-487-4766.

**For regular updates and other important information, visit the Chapter website at:**

**<http://www.nrhs-list.org>**

**The Chapter mailing address is:**

**LIST—NRHS, P O Box 507**

**Babylon, New York 11702-0507**

## LIRR NEWS by Steve Quigley

The NY Daily News recently reported the following information.

An urban legend about a long lost 19<sup>th</sup> century locomotive rumored to have been buried under Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn may be not a legend after all.

Engineers have identified a large 20 foot long metallic structure under Atlantic Avenue and Hicks Street that could possibly be a locomotive buried in 1861. Engineers from the Brinkerhoff Environmental Group used tools to find a structure that had a great deal of magnetic energy.

Bob Diamond, founder of the Brooklyn Historic Railway Assoc., said that a single Planet steam locomotive was used by the LIRR in 1861 to pull dirt from one end of a tunnel under Atlantic Avenue in 1861 to fill it up and then close it. When the locomotive, which was obsolete by then, broke down, workers decided to bury it.

Officials for the National Geographic Society, who were considering doing a story on the locomotive, hired Brinkerhoff in 2010 to find out if the train really was sealed in the tunnel.

Bob Diamond, who first discovered the tunnel 30 plus years ago, said he wants NY City to unearth what he believes to be the locomotive. However, Mr. Diamond is suing the City due to the fact that his "abandoned underground tunnel tour" was shut down by FDNY officials in 2010 for being unsafe.

Stay tuned for further developments which will be relayed to you as they happen. This would make for a very interesting piece of buried treasure should it be real!

*Also in the news...*

I was able to obtain from the LIRR Public Affairs Department copies of a booklet titled "The Long Island Rail Road: From Many To One & The Leaders Who Made It So." This excellent booklet was written by Mike Charles, Manager Publications & Special Projects of the LIRR who is very well versed in the History of the LIRR. He has given lectures to among other groups, The Association of Public Historians of NY State.

This 15 page booklet was written in April of 2012 and we have been fortunate in obtaining copies. The cost of this booklet is \$4 per copy including postage and ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITY. Please make your check payable to LIST and send it to our PO Box. This booklet is well worth the price!

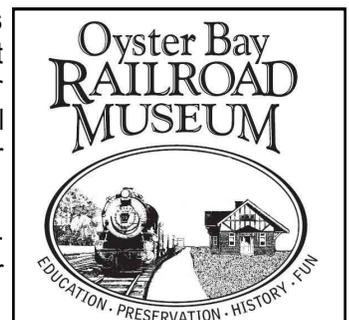
## Oyster Bay Railroad Museum Update by John Specce

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Oyster Bay Railroad Museum our best wishes to all for good health, happiness and a successful 2013!

As we wrap up the year, we look back at our accomplishments and make final plans for an exciting and productive new year. December is traditionally a "down time" at the OBRM, but we hosted our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Express event the weekend of Dec 8 & 9 at the Visitor Center. This fun-filled event featured horse-drawn carriage rides, Christmas-themed O scale layouts, a visit from Santa, traditional treats, hot cider and fabulous raffle prizes, including a Penn Flyer train set donated by Willis Hobbies Steve Ford. In spite of some rainy weather on Sunday, we had an excellent turn-out of kids of all ages. The money raised for admissions was donated to the Sandy Relief Fund of the American Red Cross. Our Board members and volunteers were on hand to make sure everyone had a great time.

Speaking of Sandy, the proximity of our display yard to Oyster Bay harbor gave us some anxious moments during the time of the "surge". Water from the Bay filled the turntable pit but luckily it did not reach the motor. Within 4 days the water had drained out, so we were lucky that there was no other damage to any of the equipment storage buildings or rolling stock. The display yard, as is our usual practice, will be closed to the public until mid-April. Neither the station nor the Visitor Center sustained any damage.

Suffice it to say, there are many projects on our list for the coming year and with the enthusiastic dedication of our volunteers I have no doubt they will be accomplished. In closing, I wish all of our friends the very best in the new year.



## *THE LIRR MODELER by Mike Boland*

### *This Month's Feature:*

## *Walthers PRR/LIRR Interlocking Tower...Part 5*

Happy New Year from the LIRR Modeler!

This month we will conclude our series on Long Island Rail Road brick interlocking towers as modeled by the Walthers kit in HO scale. We only hope that Walthers will bring this model out in other scales, such as "O" and "N."

As for assembling the kit, we followed the instructions and made our kit in a replica of OZONE or RK tower that controlled the turnouts on the Rockaway Beach Branch just east (geographic south) of the elevated Woodhaven station and not the underground subway-style station on the Atlantic Branch.

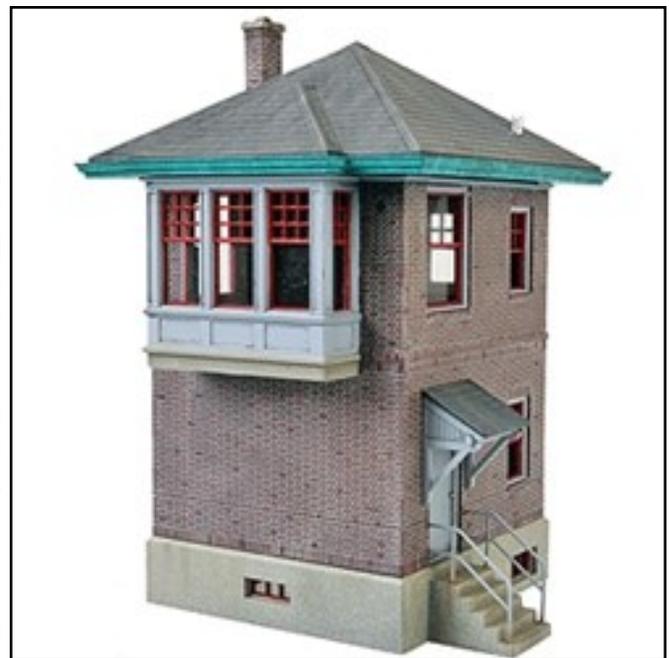
To make things much easier, we painted the various parts of the model before assembling it. We used Boxcar Red for the brick and then painted a coat of Light Oxide Red on top of the previous color. Next, we made a wash of concrete paint mixed in a 1:9 ratio of paint to distilled water. This really brings out the details of the mortar and brick and was described very well in Chapter 5 of Jeff Wilson's book "Basic Structure Modeling" published by Kalmbach. Two other books by him, "Basic Painting and Weather" and "Painting and Weathering Railroad Models" also offer insightful advice and instructions for painting model buildings such as this. We highly recommend these books for modelers who want their structures to look more realistic.

There is another way of detailing the brick and mortar lines on the tower's walls; it entails painting the mortar a concrete color first and then paint the brick. This procedure is also covered in Jeff's first book mentioned above but we elected to paint the brick first. We also lightened the dark gray molded tower roof and roof above the tower entrance. We did this by using Undercoat Light Gray paint by Polyscale. The concrete color we used was also by Polyscale. The windows were painted Caboose Red and much of the window areas was painted Reefer Gray. The gutters below the roof we painted Penn Central Green.

We hope to do some more features on JAY and HALL towers but these towers are larger than the Walthers kit so we need the "footprints" or measurements of both. We hope to get these numbers soon and then build them, since these two towers are more complicated. A future feature will also include VALLEY and ROCK towers since they lack the bay window and will need some work. For a painting guide of the Walthers tower, use the photo of it as it appears on the top of the kit as packaged by them.

You can use colored pencils, pastels, markers or crayons to color individual bricks a slightly different hue of brick red and make the tower look more realistic. We used Prismacolor pencils purchased at Blick Art Supply. Colors we used included Crimson Red, Tuscan Red, Terra Cotta, Pale Vermilion, Dark Brown, White, Poppy Red, Pumpkin Orange, Orange and Burnt Ochre. Color individual bricks here and mix each color well on each side of the tower.

Until next time, happy modeling!



Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter  
National Railway Historical Society  
Post Office Box 507  
Babylon, New York 11702-0507

---

*From your family and  
friends at LITS...*

*A very happy and healthy  
new year to you and your  
family!*