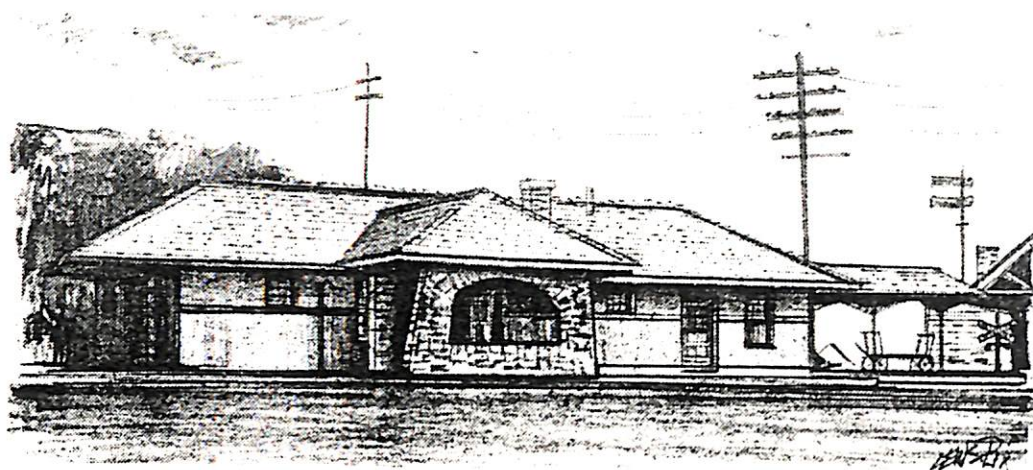




The Chester Historical Society
invites you to the

Grand Opening

Saturday, June 12th 1999
10:00 am



of
the
1915 Erie Railroad Station

in Historic Downtown Chester

19 Winkler Place

Chester, N.Y

RSVP

914-469-4405

914 469-2558

The Chester Historical Society



Notes

The Chester Historical Society was formed and chartered in October, 1964 by the Education Department of the State of New York. The Society members work on a number of projects and invite all who are interested in the history of the Town and Village of Chester to become members. Help is always needed and restoring the Chester Depot is the most current project.

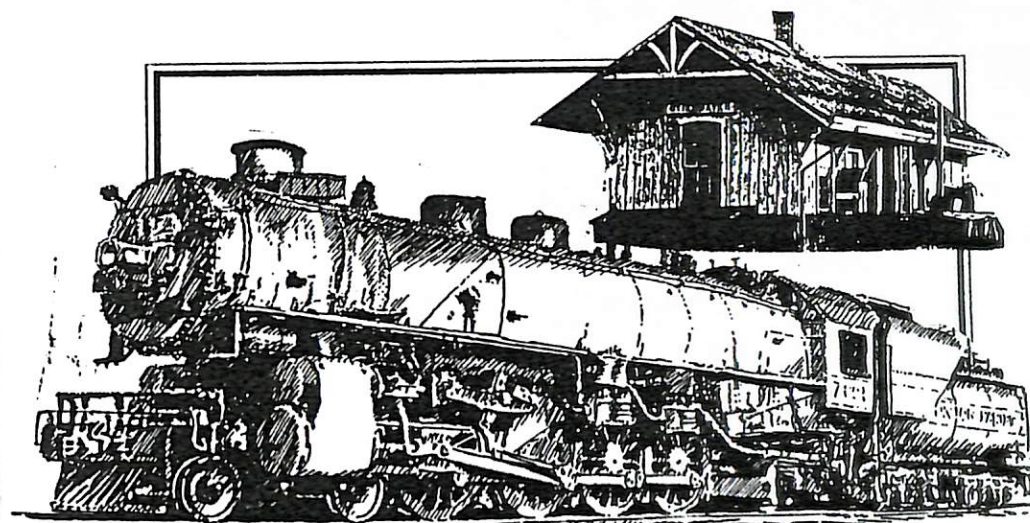
Since 1985 the Society had sought permission- first from ConRail; later, from the County of Orange - to preserve Chester's Erie Railroad Station. In 1991 the County leased the station to the Society with a 99 year lease at one dollar a year. Restoration is presently in process.

The Erie Railroad was a prime contributing factor in the 100 year development of Chester. It carried the farm products of the rich Chester area to consumers in New York City. Residents travelled to cultural events, concerts, plays and the shopping facilities in the city and used the railway to Goshen and Middletown to work and shop.

As time passed and city dwellers sought the atmosphere of the country to live and raise their families, the railroad became a commuter line carrying them to work in the metropolitan area and bringing them home in the evening to the quiet homes of Chester they so valued. The trip became a daily part of life for many.

In the spring of 1983 the final commuter train made its trip through the Village of Chester just as it did for the more than 100 years marking the end of, not only a powerful industry in the area, but a powerful influence in the residential and commercial development of the area. The tracks were pulled up with work completed on November 28, 1984.

The 1915 station is presently being restored by the Chester Historical Society. One of the restored building's future uses will be as a museum featuring railroad memorabilia. It is one of the seven original stations of the Erie-Lackawanna line, which connected Orange County residents and freight with the rest of the country.



from The Village of Chester 1892-1992 Centennial Journal

— In Appreciation —

Since 1991, the Chester Historical Society has received a number of substantial government grants for the restoration of the railroad station, as well as numerous smaller grants from community organizations. We appreciate the help of:

Chester Village (with very special thanks to Mayor Joseph F. Battiato and the Village Board and staff for their outstanding help and for providing office space for the Historical Society).

Community Development Office of Orange County (Federal Grants Administrator).

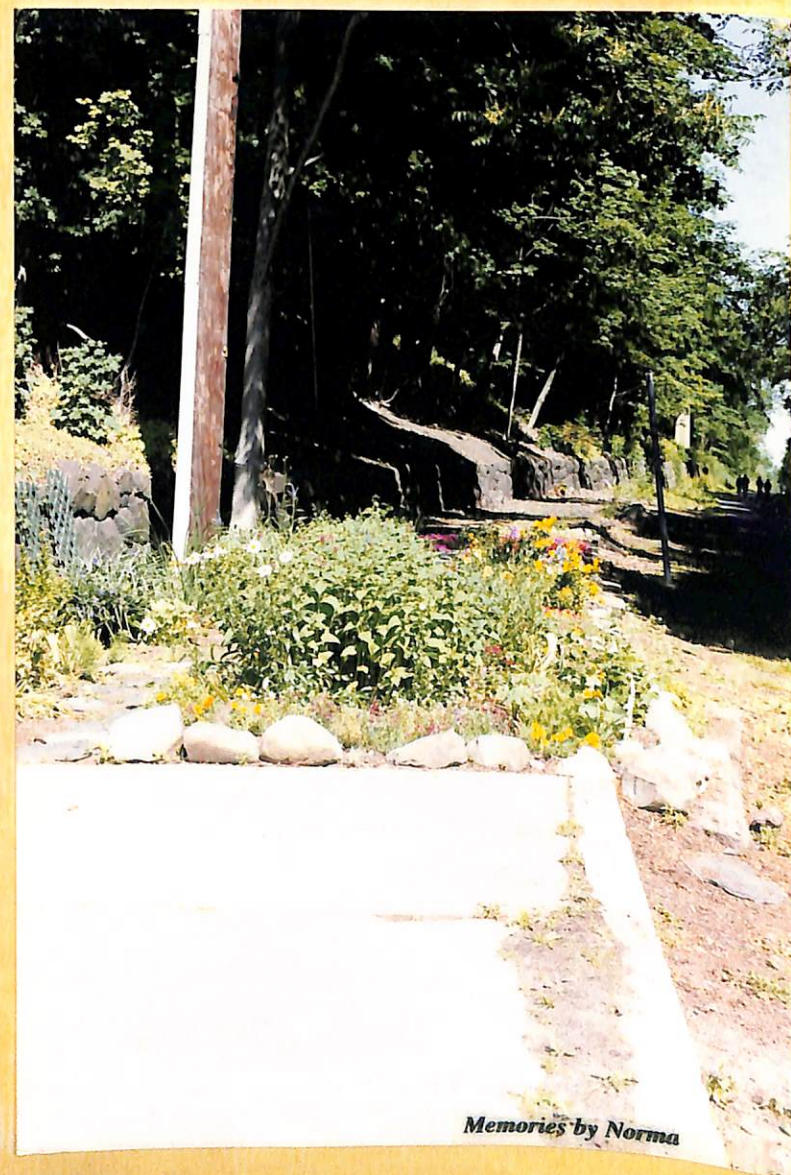
Federal Government Grant - ISTEIA (Intramodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) Administered by the NYS Department of Transportation.

Office of Senator William J. Larkin Jr. (Member item administered by the NYS Department of Parks & Recreation).

Orange County Historian's Office.

Chester Historical Society Fundraisers.

Individuals, organizations and businesses, too numerous to list here, gave many donations of time and/or money. Volunteer work on the station cannot be counted in dollars and cents, but all the hard labor, craftsmanship, clerical, administration, engineering and architectural help that was so generously given maximized the grant monies and made this restoration possible.



Memories by Norma



This restored railroad station is a testimony to the wonderful volunteer spirit of this community and the support of officials of our Village, Town, County, State, and Federal Government. The Chester Historical Society is deeply appreciative of the tremendous help it has received from individuals, organizations, and businesses as it strove for more than a decade to restore this historic building to an important role in our region.

Loretta Winkler

Loretta Winkler, President
Chester Historical Society





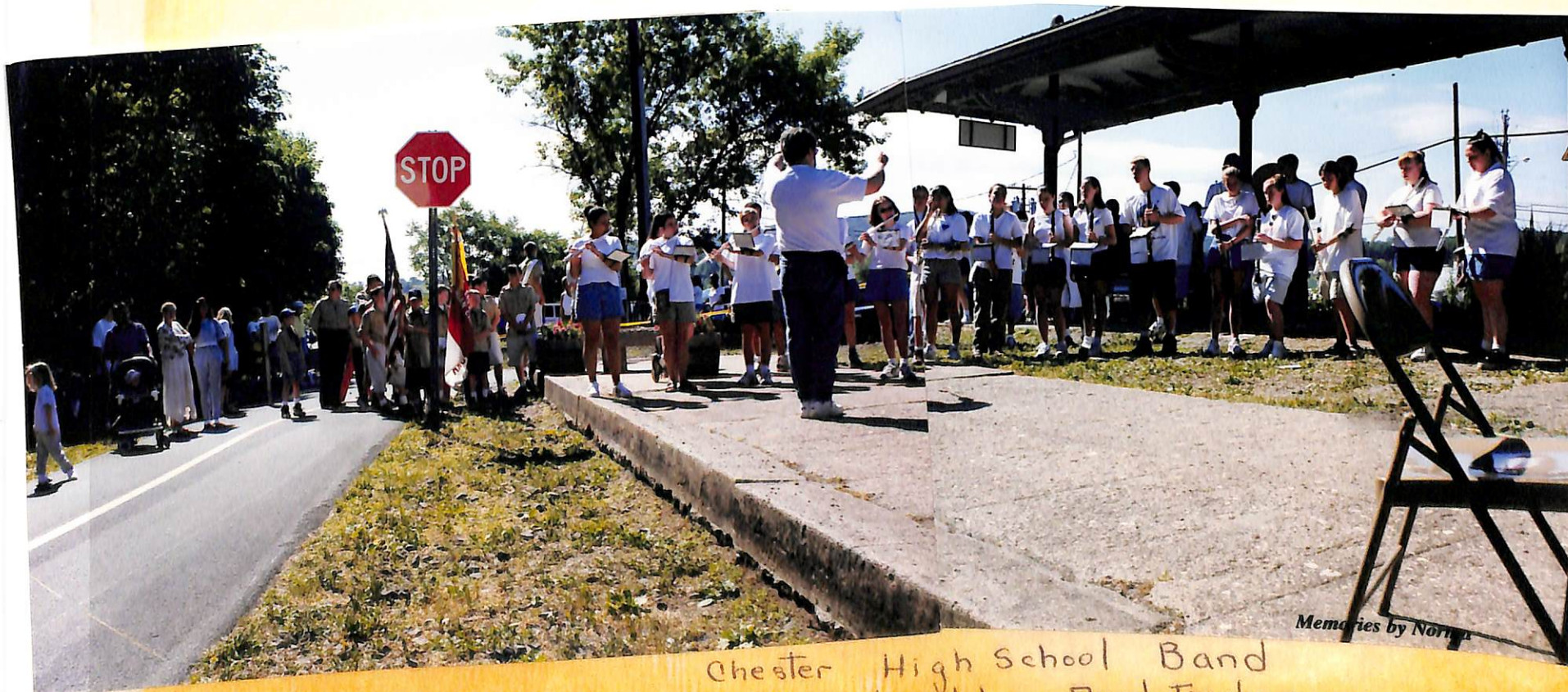
Marjory Nehrich

Officers of the Chester Historical Society

Loretta Winkler, President
 Clifton Patrick, First Vice President
 Lorraine Johanson, Second Vice President
 Frederick Kronk, Treasurer
 Norma Stoddard, Corresponding Secretary
 Marjorie Nehrich, Recording Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Committees and Chairpersons

Mary Altobelli - Historic Designation Research
 Rita Bahren - Volunteer Coordinator
 Rita Bahren & Marjorie Nehrich - Yard Sales & Penny Social
 Judith Cavacini - Raffles
 Bernard Hom & Leslie Smith - Operation Depot
 Lorraine Johanson - Oral History
 Marjorie Nehrich - Newsletter Editor
 Clifton Patrick - Computer Records
 Robert Pioselli - Organization Historian
 Jane Rabinowitz - Community Calendar
 Leslie Smith - Membership
 Edward Stoddard & Loretta Winkler - Grants & Fundraising
 Norma Stoddard - Telephone Tree
 E.J. Szulwach & Ellen Shortess - Beautification



Chester High School Band
Mr. Venable - Band Teacher

Memories by Norma



Chester High School Band

GRAND OPENING PROGRAM

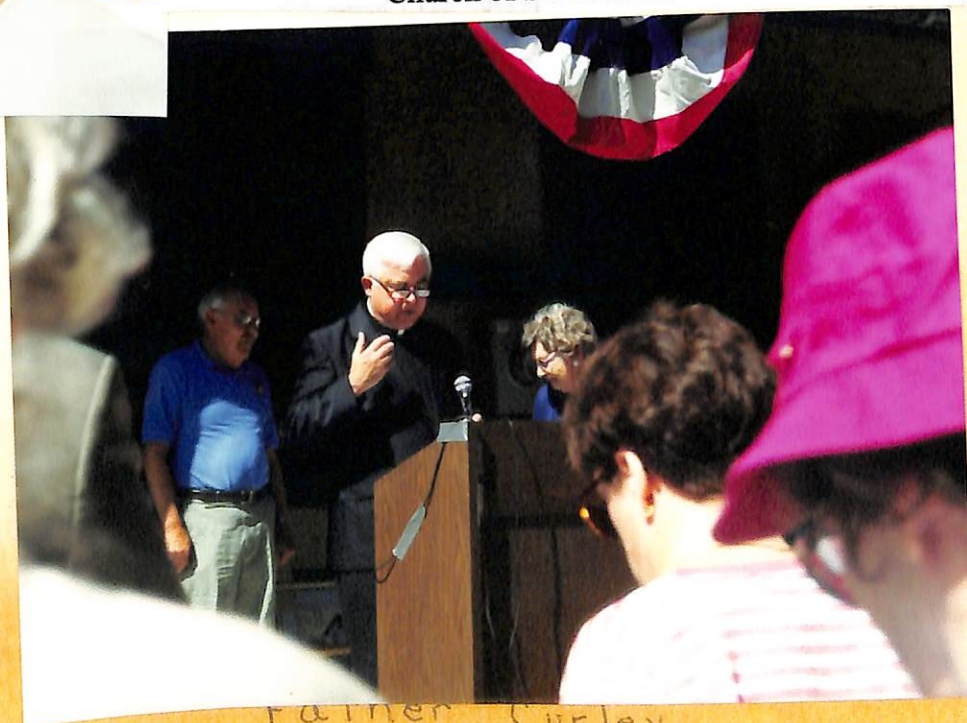
National Anthem — Chester High School Band, Thomas Venable, Director. Singing led by representatives of four local churches: Pat Lindau (*St. Paul's Episcopal Church*), Maggie Johnson (*First Presbyterian Church of Chester*), Harold E. Haslam (*Sugar Loaf United Methodist Church*) and Susan Bahren (*Church of St. Columba Church*)

Pledge of Allegiance

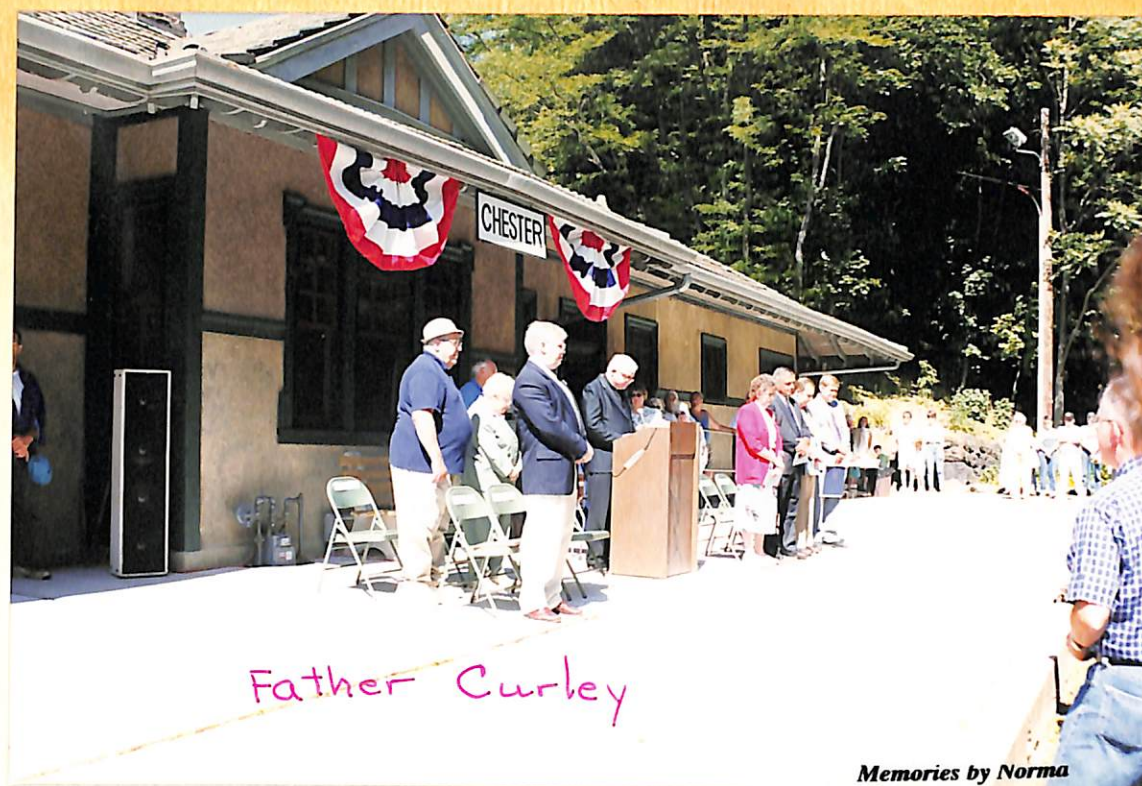
Invocation — Rev. Thomas J. Curley, Pastor Church of St. Columba



Clark Holbert
Marjory Nehrich
Bill Tully
(Supervisor)
Father Curley



Father Curley



H.W. Burger
Audio



Welcome — Loretta Winkler, President
Chester Historical Society

Rev. Karen
(Patricia) Green



Congressman Gilman's rep
Richard Mayfield

Memories by Norma

Remarks — U. S. Congressman Benjamin A. Gilman
Joseph G. Rampe, Orange County Executive
Graham Skea, Parks Commissioner



Legislator Michael Farrell



Memories by Norma

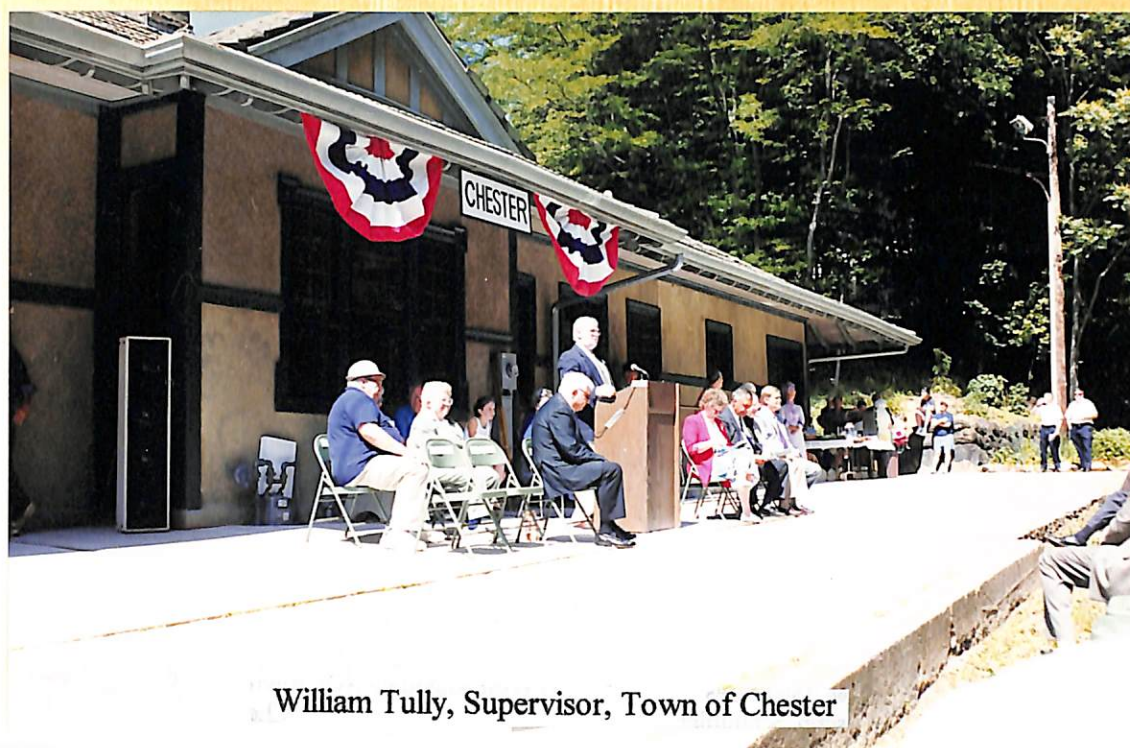
Graham Skea - his talk dubbed Loretta
as the "Sparkplug"



Marjory Graham Loretta Winkler Rev. Karen Green



Father Curley
Contemplating what he could do, with
Loretta's talents of her fund raising of
almost \$1,000,000.00 for downtown
development.



William Tully, Supervisor, Town of Chester





Mayor Joseph Battiato
Memories by Norma

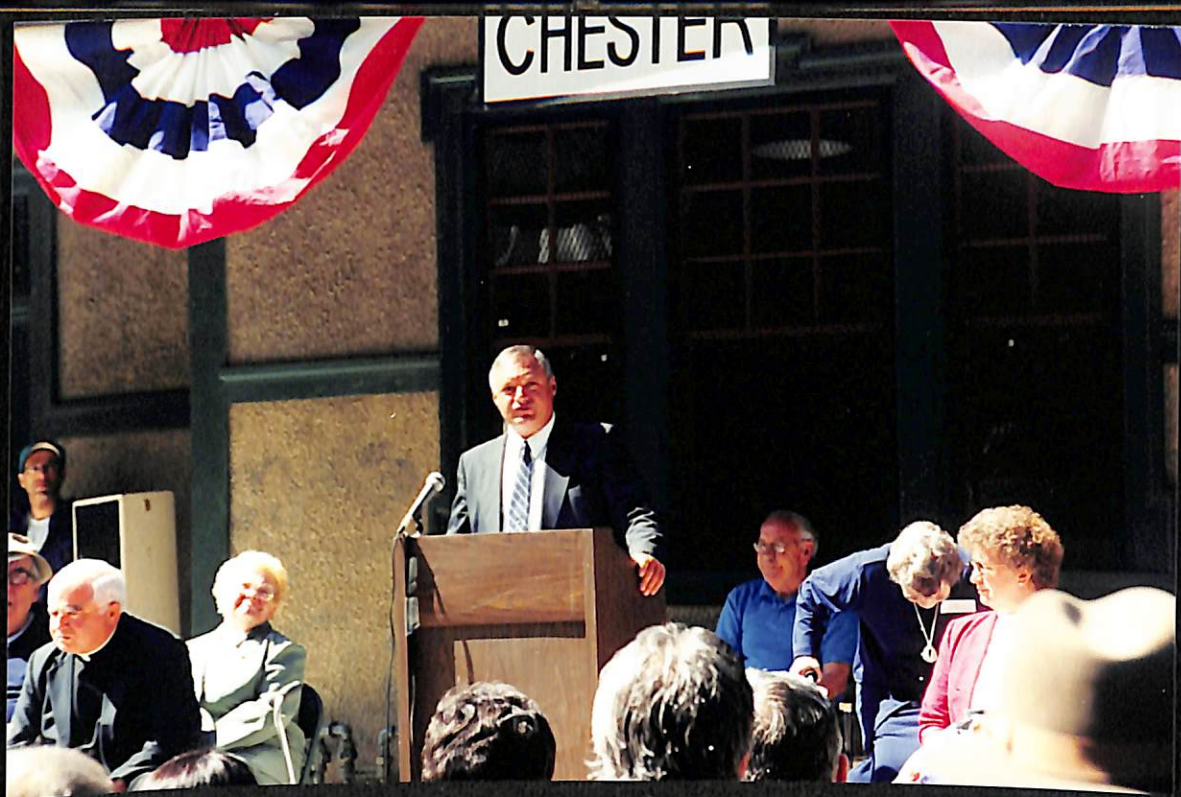


Memories by Norma



Joseph F. Battiato, Mayor, Village of Chester












CHESTER



Representing

New York State — State Senator William J. Larkin

Tania G. Werbizky, Preservation League of NYS









Rev. Karen (Patricia) Green

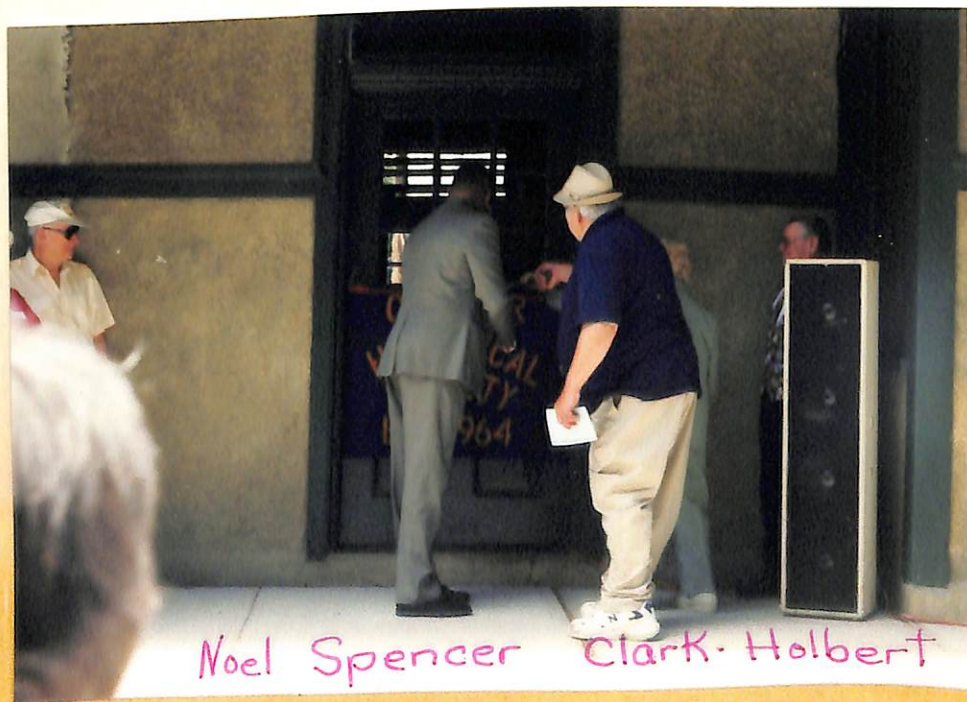
Closing — Rev. Karen N. Green, Pastor
First Presbyterian Church of Chester

Memories by Norma



Ribbon Cutting — Clark Holbert, Town Historian
Marjorie Nehrich, Village Historian

Memories by Norma



Noel Spencer Clark Holbert



Phyllis Battiato



Watch the gardens grow.





E.J. Szulwach



Father Curley & Rita Bahren





Painting of Washington at Yelverton Inn
on loan for Grand Opening
by William (Bill) Durland



John Martin
Edwards

Phyllis
Battiatto



Olif
Patrick

Irving
Rabinowitz



Christine
Collins

Brenda
Hicks

Irving
Rabinowitz

Eugene
Collins



Lorraine
Loiacona

Clark
Holbert

Fred
Kronk

ALL ABOARD AT CHESTER'S ERIE STATION!

The Erie Railroad was a major factor in the 100 year development of Chester. In the mid-1800's having access to a railroad was a vital asset and Chester was fortunate to be on the Erie's route. The Erie was an innovative line with many firsts to its credit:

- ◆ First to dispatch trains by telegraph
- ◆ First to use a bell cord
- ◆ First to use a hole punch for tickets
- ◆ First to run a cattle train
- ◆ First to run an emigrant train (from Goshen, NY, September 27, 1841)
- ◆ First to run a freight train (from Goshen, NY, July 4, 1842)



Phyllis
Battiato

Jack
Deshler

Jane
Rabinowitz

◆ **FIRST TO RUN A MILK TRAIN
(FROM CHESTER IN 1842)**

In the mid-1800's Orange County had an expanding and profitable dairy industry, and butter was king. But Thaddeus Selleck, the Erie station master in Chester, was developing his own brainchild -- the shipping of fresh milk to New York City by rail. In the spring of 1842 he convinced a Chester farmer, Phil Gregory, to ship 240 quarts to the city. (Actually, it was on the train just to the Erie terminal in Piermont, then went down the Hudson to Manhattan by boat.) That was the equivalent of six cans and it was nowhere near enough to meet the demands of the families who gathered at 193 Reade Street, Orange County's first milk depot in New York City. Shipments quickly grew larger as farmers saw there was more money in shipping milk at two cents a quart than in making butter at 15 cents a pound, and soon almost every farmer in the county was sending his milk to the city on the train. (*Facts from "Make Mine Milk" by Tony Knipp*).





"Here's your ticket, Betty Lou"



John Martin Edwards taking his father's role as Ticket-master.



What a great day!



Jack
Deshler

Betty
Kreher

Loretta
Winkler-
(most relieved)



Norma
Stoddard

John Martin
Edwards





Prof.
Richard
Hull

Men's
Waiting
Room



Flossie Roe
Lorraine Hom

John
Martin

Phyllis

Jude N
Martuscelli

D
R
M
A

Elynnis Jack
Jorgensen



John Martin Edwards Phyllis Battiato Jude Norma Glynnis Jack Deshler



Glynnis Jorgensen Jude Martuscelli Lorraine Loiecone



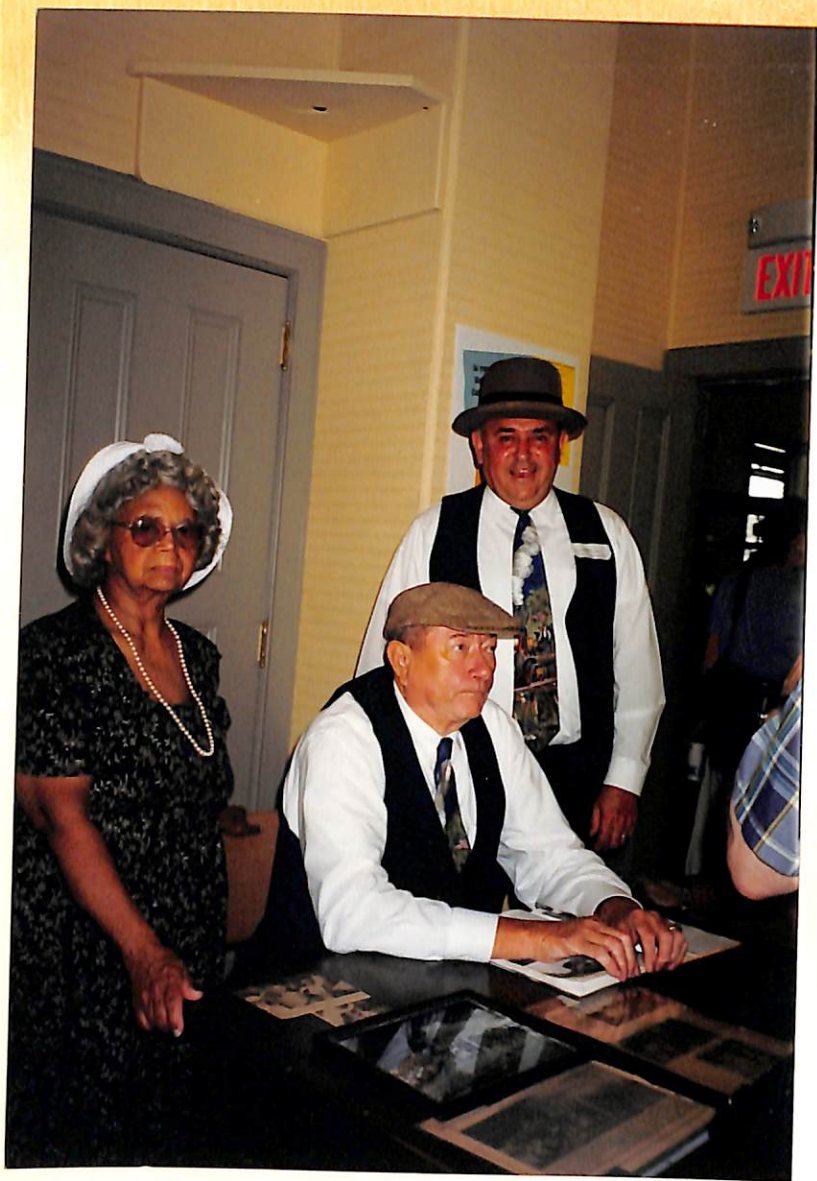
Bill Durland

Clark
Holbert



Joe
Michitsch

Jack
Deshler



Gloria
Hicks

John
Martin
Edwards

Jack
K
Deshler



Gerry
Blauvelt

Marjory
Armes

Norma
Stoddard



Bill
Durland

Jack
Deshler

Sugar Loaf
Diorama



Loretta Noel Spencer



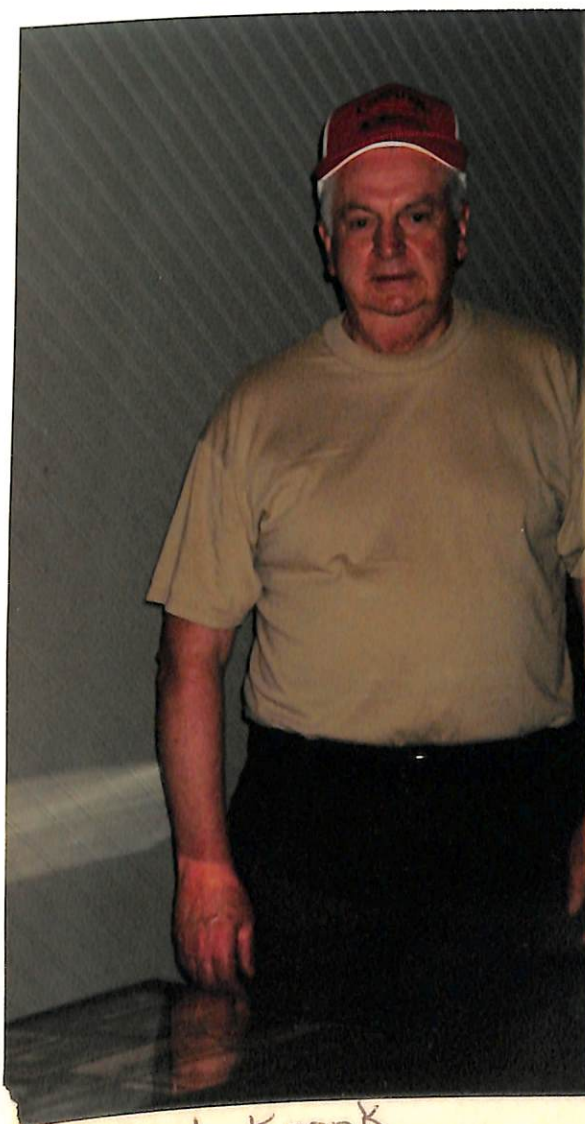
Loretta Georgina e Richard
Robillard



Lorraine
Johanson



Brenda Hicks Irving Rabinowitz



Fred Kronk
our "salesman"



Lorraine
Johanson

Christine C. Eugene
Collins
Village Trustee

The Chester Historical Society
Town and Village of Chester
47 Main Street
Chester, New York 10918

Presents Program:

Rails to Trails

by

Craig Della Penna

of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy



Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is a 13-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching America's communities and countryside by creating a nationwide network of public trails from former rail lines and connecting corridors.

2 PM Sunday November 21, 1999

Senior Center

1784 King's Highway, Chester

(Entrance is at the rear of the Chester Library building)

For information: 914-469-4405.

A Short Bio about Craig Della Penna

- Graduate of the Academy of Advanced Traffic & Transportation Management.
- Over 20 years experience in the railroad industry and is currently the manager of Railroad Distribution Services Inc. RDS is southern New England's largest railroad-owned transloading/distribution company.
- Author of 3 books with 4 others under production
- New England Representative for the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy which is a national non-profit, member supported organization with over 85,000 members. (about 4500 in NY.) Duties there include:
- Testifying at legislative and other public hearings as an expert with first-hand experience having cataloged in a detailed way, over 150 abandoned railroad corridors and Rail-Trails in the Northeastern U.S.
- Presented papers and ran workshops at national and international conferences on various themes surrounding rail-trails and community and downtown revitalization.
- Member of the committee operating under the aegis of the Federal Highway Admin. which is producing the definitive study on the subject of Rails-with-Trails or dual use corridors.
- Accomplished and energizing public speaker with over 200 lectures in 12 states.

The Chester Historical Society is a non-profit organization as qualified under Section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS code. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

The Chester Historical Society

Town and Village of Chester

47 Main Street

Chester, New York 10918

Spring, 1999

Dear Chester Friend:

Your name has been suggested to us as someone who has a great interest in our historic town and village of Chester. As such, we hope that you will join the Chester Historical Society. Our organization is dedicated to keeping Chester's rich heritage alive, preserving historic places and documents and providing free educational programs about our local history. New members are very welcome. As you can see on the enclosed membership application, dues are low: \$10 for individuals; \$15 for families and \$30 for associates (businesses).

We are happy to announce that the Society will be holding the grand opening of the restored 1915 Chester Railroad Station, 19 Winkler Place, at 10 AM, Saturday, June 12th, with prominent speakers, band music and special exhibits. We hope that you will be able to attend. A souvenir program for the grand opening will include the names of sponsors. There are four sponsor categories:

Engineer: \$100

Conductor: 50

Brakeman: 25

Passenger: 10.

If you would like to make a contribution toward our Society's projects, make your check payable to CHS/RR Sta and mail it to the Chester Historical Society, 47 Main Street, Chester, NY 10918. In order to make certain that your name is properly printed in our souvenir program, we need your commitment no later than Tuesday, June 1, 1999. Please use the coupon below to send in with your check. For more information please call the Society's office at 914-469-4405.

Thank you for your interest in historic Chester and for any help you can offer.

Sincerely,

THE CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Loretta M. Winkler
President

I would like to be a sponsor: Engineer (\$100)___ Conductor (\$50)___ Brakeman (\$25)___ Passenger (\$10)___
List my name or organization as follows: _____
You may contact me at tel. _____
Address: _____

