



# Tunnel work hits \$1M tag

**NORTH ADAMS** — The Boston & Maine Railroad is in the midst of a six-month, \$1 million renovation project in Hoosac Tunnel.

tunnel's western end have spurred the railroad to line sections of the arched roof every few years.

The project, part of a major overhaul of tracks on the railroad's Ayer to Mechanicville, N.Y., line, includes installation of galvanized steel liners through a 300-foot section of the 4.75-mile tunnel.

The repairs are one of several projects the privately-owned railroad is undertaking on its main line with the aide of a \$26 million federal road.

The tunnel, built over a 22-year period during the mid-19th Century, is considered an engineering triumph that cost 197 lives and \$17 million in Civil War era dollars to build.

The B&M bridge and building division is supervising the tunnel work, which began in April and is expected to be completed in October.

However, in recent years, the tunnel has needed repairs. A cave-in five years ago and ground water leaks through the 13 layers of brick and century-old mortar that line the

The steel liners are transported by a railroad vehicle that can run on ground or track. The sections are bolted together to form an arc, and cement is poured between the arc and the ceiling to fill the spaces.

Other work done in recent years has included lowering the track to accommodate taller locomotives.

**TUNNEL VISION**—A burst of light illuminates the western portal of the Hoosac Tunnel, where work is now in

progress to add steel liners to the roof of the century old railroad tunnel. (Transcript-Noyes)

Sand 125 loads at Ossipee on DO-2 all  
Nothing at Rigby for Seabrook

Cement 11 loads on JR2 figure late inc

*Gloria*  
*Vin T*  
*7/27*