

"THE THOUGHTS OF YOUTH ARE LONG, LONG THOUGHTS" — Young John Doucette in a pensive mood as he inspects the model railroad layout of his father, Arthur Doucette, Yard Brakeman, Waterville, and one of the Messenger's best correspondents. Will John be a railroad man like his dad? Only time will tell. Johnny will be eleven in June and is active in the Cub Scouts. A fifth grader at Pleasant St. School, Waterville, he is his father's "right hand man" in model railroading.

## Bingham Branch to Continue

Maine Central Railroad has announced that several months of negotiations initiated with principal shippers and receivers on its Bingham Branch have made possible continued operation of the entire line.

A. M. Knowles, vice president of the railroad, said increased traffic and revenues anticipated from the five largest firms using the line will enable Maine Central to withdraw the application to abandon a portion of the branch filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission in November.

Participating in the negotiations were: S. D. Warren Company, division of Scott Paper Company; Oxford Paper Co.; Allen Quimby Veneer Corp., a division of Nutone Corp.; North Anson Reel Co.; and Andrew Redmond Inc.

Knowles praised executives of the five concerns for "their cooperation and statesman-like efforts to maintain rail service in the area, for the benefit of their communities as well as the companies they represent."

He added "the purposeful action of these businessmen has proved their belief in the efficiency and economy of railroad service and their faith in the future of the areas where their operations and plants contribute so substantially to the economy."

## E. S. Miller

### Named to AAR

### Executive Committee

President E. Spencer Miller has been selected as a member of the Executive Committee of the Association of American Railroads, representing the Eastern region railroads.

The AAR Executive Committee was expanded recently from a membership of six to nine.

In 1968, Miller was elected as New England's representative on the Association of American Railroads' board of directors.

He is a director of the First National Bank of Boston, the Great Northern Paper Company, the Keyes Fibre Company, the Maine National Bank and Maine Development Credit Corporation.

## 700 BOX CARS JOIN MEC FLEET

Maine Central's freight car fleet will be augmented by 700 modern box cars during the coming year under lease agreements having a value of more than \$8,000,000.

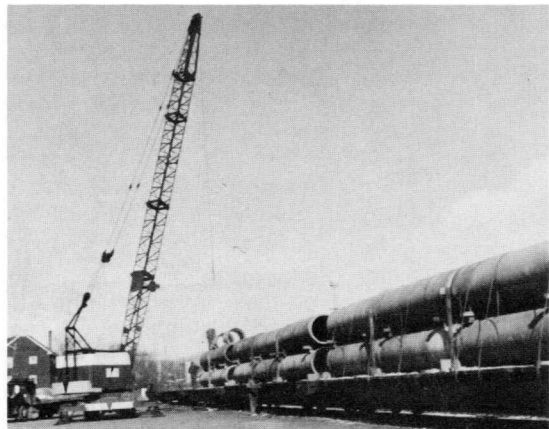
Included in the inventory are 250 new fifty foot 77-ton capacity ACF cushion underframe cars, 250 rebuilt forty foot 55-ton capacity box cars and 200 forty foot 55-ton capacity box cars being reconditioned for the lessor at Waterville Shop.

The first of the new cars are expected during July and August, with the rebuilt 40 foot cars due to start arriving in May; seventy of the reconditioned 5000 series box cars from Waterville are now in service.

The new cars are single sheathed box cars with outside post, and Evans DF-2 belt rails. The sides have a waffle-like construction so that the rails do not project into the car's interior. Equipped with roller bearings, the units feature ACF center-of-car cushioning. They will be MeC yellow with green doors and numbered 27100-27349 inclusive.

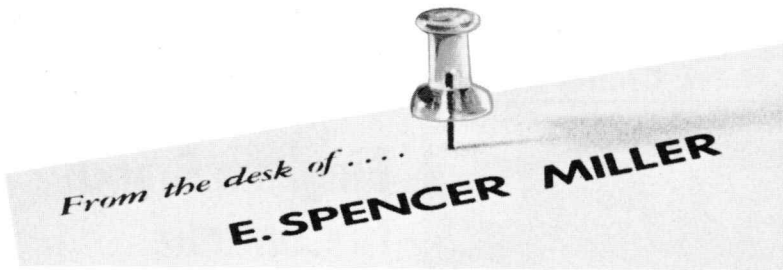
The 250 rebuilt cars will be wood-lined steel cars equipped with roller bearings and will be rebuilt to AAR specifications. These will be green with yellow doors, numbered 6000-6249 inclusive.

The reconditioned cars from the Waterville Shop are equipped with new floors and linings and upgraded mechanical features, including wider doors. They are green with yellow doors and numbered 5000-5199.



A large crane unloads carloads of prestressed 36" concrete cylinder pipe shipped by MeC from Interspace Corporation of Perryman, Md., to the Kennebec Water District, Waterville. The pipe will be used for water mains in the Waterville-Fairfield area to be installed by J. P. Griffin Company Inc., general contractor of Portsmouth, N. H.

**NOTICE**  
**MAINE ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD VETERANS**  
The Annual Waterville dinner-meeting will be held this year on **April 26, 1970** at the Grange Hall, Benton, Maine. Dinner will be Roast Beef. The price is \$1.90 and the time is 1 P. M.



TO MY FELLOW EMPLOYEES:

### The 1969 Annual Report

Maine Central Railroad's Annual Report for the year 1969 has now been released.

We take pride in the fact that long hours of work and cooperation by many officials have once again produced an interesting and informative report and that it has been designed and written wholly within our regular organization.

The theme of Maine Central's transportation service from the woods and seacoast of rural Maine through highly industrialized urban centers and through our several gateways to the west is captured in the colorful covers of the report. On the front cover, an air view shows Train DR-2 crossing the Lewiston-Auburn bridge on its daily run from Rumford to Rigby, its 100 cars carrying paper and allied products.



A scenic area at East Machias is shown on an early autumn afternoon as CB-2 moves from Calais toward Bangor, loaded with paper destined to printing centers in the East and Middle West and pulp and pulwood for the mills of Maine.

The beauty of our State is clearly depicted in both color photographs as is its transportation life line of steel.

In the 1969 report, department heads have been faithful to the task of presenting as clearly and comprehensively as possible all significant developments, plans and accomplishments of the past year.

The financial results are deeply disturbing. While revenue ton miles increased for the seventh straight year through the aggressive efforts of Maine Central's Marketing Department in an area of stable industrial activity, our loss figure was more than a million dollars. Contributing chiefly to this deficit were drastic increases in wage and material costs for an industry with a relatively rigid price structure. As noted in the report, the figures indicate the need of substantial increases in pricing, which have been held down and often reduced in past years for the benefit of the paper and pulp industry, the animal and poultry industry and others, but which now must be raised to restore Maine Central and connecting lines to a healthy operating condition. Despite the obvious need of rate increases, general and specific, our strongest thrust will be directed to improvement of our earnings through increased tonnage from industrial expansion. Shippers can aid in keeping rates at a minimum through increased use of the railroad at no extra cost to them.

Further, large scale new car acquisition and equipment modernization programs will place two hundred and fifty 50-foot 70-ton box cars, two hundred and fifty 40-foot 50-ton box cars and two hundred 40-foot box cars rebuilt in our Waterville Shop on line in the next year and a half. These programs are being undertaken to make an effective and direct assault upon the car shortage problem plaguing us and our shippers and hurting earnings in 1969. We shall also press the ICC to continue to order home Maine Central cars which it has done for the month of March with good effect via car service Order No. 1037.

On the plus side, Maine Central met its long-term debt obligations by the payment of approximately 1½ million dollars in spite of its income loss figure.

Of considerable interest to the employees and others who read the Messenger are annual report figures concerning wages and retirement benefits. The report shows that average Maine Central wages have climbed from a figure of \$6,050 in 1960 to \$8,564 in 1969, an increase of \$2,514 or 42%.

Railroad retirement taxes for the year totalled \$1,044,954, an increase of 11% over 1968 and an increase of 61% over the 1960 figure.

Our company in 1969 contributed up to a maximum payment of \$744.90 per annum per employee and the employee contributed up to a maximum payment in the same amount, a total contribution to the Railroad retirement tax system of \$1,489.80 per employee per annum.

This compared with maximum payments during 1969 of other industries to the social security tax system of \$374.40 for the employer and employee alike or \$748.80 on maximum taxable earnings per employee. Thus it is apparent that our transportation competitors pay approximately one-half of what railroads pay per employee to create federal retirement benefits. And this is just another example of how government hobbles and handicaps the only real national common carrier—the railroads.

*E. Spencer Miller*



The Maine Central MESSENGER is published monthly at Portland, Maine, by employees of the Maine Central Railroad Co., and the Portland Terminal Co. It is circulated without charge to active and retired employees of these companies, and to customers and other friends throughout the Nation.

#### EDITOR

Nathalie J. Alward, Director of Public Relations

#### ASSISTANT EDITORS

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Horace Rodrigue    | Augusta                |
| Kay Jameson        | Eastern Sub-Division   |
| R. S. Thing        | Brunswick              |
| Harold R. Keniston | Retired Workers        |
| Albert B. Wetmore  | Rigby Shops            |
| Joan Green         | Rigby Yard             |
| Christian Nielsen  | Engine and Train Crews |
| W. B. Lewis        | Rockland               |
| W. G. Shea         | Sports                 |
| G. K. Stevens      | Waterville Shops       |
| Arthur Doucette    | Waterville Yard        |
| Beverly Cook       | Waterville Station     |
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| Mary Morse         | General Offices        |
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| Karen Regan        | General Offices        |
| Dorothy Proctor    | General Offices        |
| Marion Stevens     | General Offices        |







Owen Thompson, retired Waterville Shops blacksmith, checks the squirrel population in the cozy home he built them on his property. Insert, four furry friends enjoy the hospitality.

## Meet The Thompsons

The late and great Albert Schweitzer, renowned theologian, musician and medical missionary, lived a life reflecting the philosophy he called "reverence for life." To Schweitzer, all created beings had worth and deserved love.

Many railroaders around the system are reminded of Schweitzer when they meet Owen Thompson, retired blacksmith of the Waterville Shops.

He worked on Maine Central nearly 23 years as a blacksmith and toolmaker, serving as a foreman from 1945 to his retirement in 1961.

Thompson is a gentle man who loves animals. That feeling is shared by his wife Eleanor. The grounds around the rambling Thompson home are a squirrel's paradise. He has made two houses, each insulated, expressly for them.

For seven years the animals have enjoyed the Thompson's hospitality. One year a mother left a brood of babies behind and the Thompsons prepared lime water and milk

and formula-fed the tiny animals, until they could fend for themselves.

Retirement has been enjoyable for the Thompsons despite a decade of serious health setbacks for him. A pacemaker installed in 1968 has saved his life many times, he says. He is grateful for the railroad insurance and Medicare benefits which he says have helped so much.

The Thompsons have a wonderful garden. Last year they raised 23 bushels of potatoes and loads of summer vegetables.

His downstairs toolshop features the best of both worlds. An old black iron stove gives plenty of comfort as Thompson turns out a variety of wood products including cedar chests, baskets of all shapes and sizes and novelty items for his friends.

Adjacent to his cozy workshop is a cold cellar for the garden vegetables and jars of Mrs. Thompson's preserves are testimony to the fact that she is a busy lady.



By Jerry Shea

Congratulations to team #1 for winning the second half in the Men's Bowling League on Monday nights. Condolence to same team for losing the roll-off with Data Processing, first half winners. Team #8 came through like true champs making up the nineteen pins they were behind going into the final string of the roll-off and winning the total by two pins. Team #8 made up of fellows from Data Processing had a five pin advantage after the first string with the help of their eight pin handicap per string. Team #1 came back in the second string in spite of the handicap to go ahead only to lose the last string and total.

Team #8 made up of Ralph Gordon, Bill Trefethen, Clyde Luce, John McAnallen and Gary Bondeson were awarded 1st place trophies by the league commissioners, Bill Welch and Jay Welch, at the award dinner at Carolyn's, Cape Elizabeth, March 9.

Team #1, led by Linny Forest, took home second place trophies. Other members of the runner-up team were Al Bowen, Frank Garland, J. Campbell and Skip Matthews. High team single was won by Team #12, Joe Copozza, Lenny MacDowell, Mil Cook, Don Andrews, and Jerry Shea. High team three-string total was awarded to team #9, Lenny King, Percy Coombs, Bob Brewster, Bill Wilcox and Bob Woodill.

High individual average for the year was won by Lenny

Forest, with a 111. High single string was rolled by George Phillips with a new alley record high of 176. Although Lenny Forest won high three, it was awarded to Mil Cook with 353 because of the ruling that no person could take more than one individual award.

Don't forget April 11 at Bangor-Brewer Lanes for the Maine Central Bowling Tournament. Think golf and the snow will go away. Maine Central and Portland Terminal Golf League should be getting started on or about April 28.

Contact Clyde Luce or Johnny Broderick if you plan to play at Willowdale this year.

### RETIREMENTS

Elliott, Harrison W., Clerk, Portland, February 25. Entered service June, 1923.

Jordan, Frank, Loco. Engineer, Portland, February 9. Entered service, February, 1945.

Lane, Robert E., Sec. Foreman, So. Windham, February 18. Entered service, May, 1926.

Touchette, Peter, Trackman, Riley, Me., February 18. Entered service August, 1923.

### DEATHS

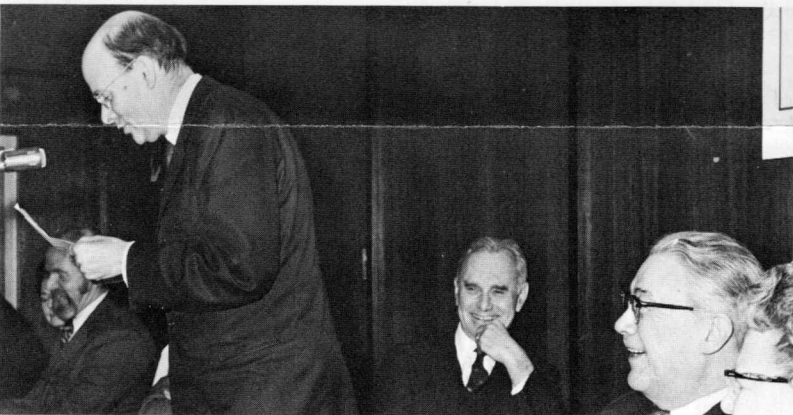
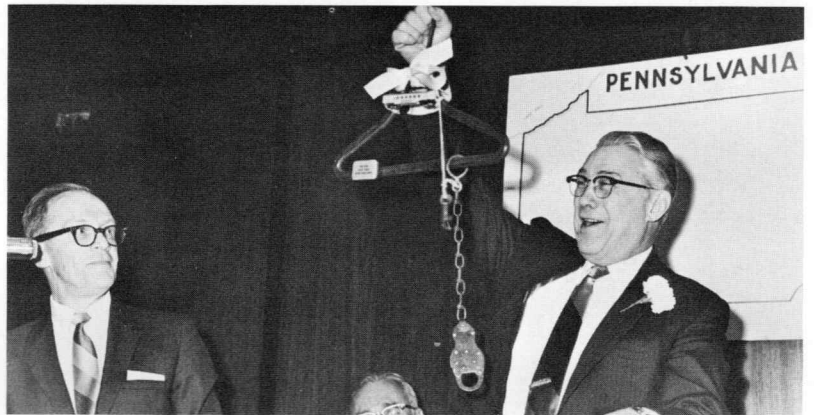
Conley, Patrick J., Clerk, Portland, February 13. Entered service August, 1929.

Dunifer, Charles A., Rd. Conductor, Bangor, February 19. Entered service April, 1926.

Peabbles, Walter C., Carman C., Cumberland Mills, March 1. Entered service April, 1920.



WINNERS ALL — Bill Welch, commissioner, beams after handing out trophies to the winners of the second half in the Men's Monday night Bowling League, members of Team #1, l. to r., Welch, Al Bowen, Lenny Forest, Skip Matthews and Jack Campbell. Absent from the picture is Frank Garland.



More than 185 friends and associates honored retiring Vice President—Special Projects—Roy E. Baker at a testimonial dinner at Valle's Steak House, Portland, February 26. In the picture story, TOP ROW, left, the guest of honor is greeted by an old friend, C. F. Crowell of Timken Roller Bearing Co., Philadelphia, Right, the Baker family gathers around the special train cake prepared for the occasion; from the left, Mr. and Mrs. Donald T. Taylor (the Bakers' daughter, Gene) of Reading, Mass.; James R. Baker, North Syracuse, N. Y. (their son), the guests of honor, Roy and Marian Baker and Mr. and Mrs. Edward N. Dodge of White Bear Lake, Minn. (daughter Tessibell). Left, the fun begins as Roy is surprised to see a Deering Ice Cream waitress, Mrs. Frances Faunce on "special mission" to Valle's with a serving of his favorite, ginger ice cream. Right #4, left, K. W. Phillips, Manager—Purchases and Stores and Baker Dinner Committee Chairman watches for

the gag to take effect after presenting a special gift made in the Waterville Shop. It's a metal coat hanger with lock and key for Roy, who once had his coat stolen, hanger and all. Left #5, MeC Poet Laureate Eric P. Smith receives cheers of approval and smiles from President Miller and the Bakers with his personal greeting to Roy. Right #6, left, Mr. Miller has words of praise and respect as a gift is presented. Left #7, Roy begins his "swan song," a colorful and clever "I remember when and I forgot" speech, and right, the crowds wait for a chance to greet the Bakers as Rev. and Mrs. W. Harper Welch express good wishes and Ken Phillips beams approval. Special messages from the Mayor of Roy's home town of Meyersdale, Pa. and several others including old friends John Paul Scully, retired Executive Assistant and Public Relations Consultant Herb Baldwin were highlights of the evening.





**U. S. SAVINGS BOND AWARDS** — Four of the eight Maine Central department chairmen who received awards for outstanding achievement in the 1969 U.S. Savings Bond Drive are shown with Thomas W. Eddy, State Director, U.S. Savings Bond Division, U.S. Treasury Department. E. P. Smith, 1969 Chairman was presented a special award. Pictured, l. to r.: Stephen J. Conley, general systems analyst; Smith, Miss Arlyn T. Whitney, secretary to A. M. Knowles, vice president and general counsel; Mr. Eddy, Thomas J. Foley, chief clerk, Operating Department and James R. McFarlane, assistant to chief engineer. Also receiving awards but absent from the picture were: John W. Dresser, Hugh, F. Flynn, Martin E. Moore and Forest C. Ryder.

# The Grapevine

## RIGBY SHOPS

Car Department Clerk, "Tom" Foley is back at his desk after a heart attack.

Mrs. Lucien Carignan, wife of retired Machinist "Louie" Carignan, has been a very sick lady, having been confined to the hospital for treatment but is now on the road to recovery.

Welder "Al" McCann served on the supper committee to benefit the Saint Christopher Catholic Church of Peaks Island.

The Knights of Columbus at Thornton Heights had a steak supper at which Stores Department Clerk "Frank" Mathew Kane, and Machinist "Lou" Carignan were present.

Signalman Charlie Chamberlain tells me his department has a new lightweight truck to transport equipment and tools.

Foreman James Brice II, 3rd trick, has been absent with a touch of the "flu." Machinist "Joe" Nalbach covered his job in the interim.

Stores Department employee Charles Guptill of antique bottle fame has opened up a shop at 173 Congress Street, entitled "Guppies Antique and Bric-a-brac Shoppe." He has on display his bottle exhibit, as well as other items of antique value, including a life-size bust of Benjamin Franklin, which he knows to be at least 75 years old. He plans to buy or sell any item he has on display.

Carman and Mrs. Charles Audett visited one of the islands in the Caribbean Group while on vacation.

Carman John Murphy spent some time at one of our ski resorts, and succeeded in getting back without any injuries.

The Stevens Avenue Congregational Church supper committee put on the usual annual roast-beef supper. Engine house employee Asa Worcester served as chairman of the group as in the past years.

The Terminal Electricians Ray Ryder, Jim Small, and Bert Wetmore will soon move into their new home or workshop located at Rigby administration building, necessitated by the taking over of their former shop at Wharf #1 by the Lion Ferry Terminal. "Red" Baker and his crew of Bridge and Building carpenters are doing the renovating work for the new shop at Rigby.

Mrs. Harry Cousins, wife of a former Sheetmetal worker at Thompsons Point and Rigby shops was in charge of a silent auction under the auspices of the Fox Bible Class of the West End Congregational Church.

Car Department Clerk "Pat" Conley, 59, died quite suddenly after a short illness. "Pat" was a member of the Railway Clerks, holding offices in that organization. A floral tribute was sent to the funeral.

Mrs. Iva Ringrose, 86, mother of Mrs. Arnold Sturtevant of Freeport, died in February. Arnold is a member of the Maintenance of Way Crew.

Albert McCann, Junior, son of Welder McCann was awarded the

"Jack" McGee Trophy for the third consecutive year when he won the 1000 yard run in the record time of 2.222 minutes. The event was held under the direction of the A.A.U. Field Track.

"Joe" Martel, recently retired Car Department Helper, is keeping himself occupied at one of the Shaw's Markets as a bundle-boy.

Carman Percy Tomlin has been acting Foreman in place of "Bob" Mulkern during his absence due to sickness. "Bob" visited the shop recently, and may be on the job soon.

Lawrence McKenney, son of Machinist "Bob" McKenney is doing a tour of duty in Viet Nam with the U. S. Army. Hopes to be released soon.

Stores Department employee "Phil" Cook is back on the job after a long layoff due to a broken ankle.

Westbrook Junior College recently honored students taking health courses. Among students who were awarded their caps in the Dental Hygiene division was Roberta Wetmore, daughter of Electrician and Mrs. Albert Wetmore, Jr.

Machinist "Bob" Casey is anxiously awaiting the spring weather so he can get out his golf clubs, and get a workout on the fairways. Hopes he might repeat his record of 1968 among the railroad men.

Carpenter Merle Cook took a Florida vacation trip in early March with his family and accompanied by Yard Conductor Charles Bates. They visited Saint Petersburg and surrounding area.

General Foreman "Don" Russell and Foreman "Charlie" Tetreault attended the testimonial dinner for Vice President Roy Baker at Valle's Steakhouse upon his retirement.

Engineer Walter Stanton, one of our well known employees, 82, died after a long illness.

Retired Engineer Aage Kelson visits the boys at the Dispatcher's office to talk over old times. He is enjoying good health and wishes to be remembered to all the men.

Leland Gildard, father of Roland Gildard, one of our engine house employees, died. Interment took place at East Hodgdon, Maine on February 23. Sympathies were extended to Roland and a floral tribute was sent.

Reverend Monsignor Vincent Tatarczuk, Chancellor of the Portland Catholic Diocese, with other religious authorities met at the Roma Cafe to plan and discuss Catholic Charities Organization for 1970. Vincent is the cousin of Blacksmith "Brownie" Tatarczuk and son of Machinist William Tatarczuk, retired.

James McDonough, 84, employee at Union Station for many years in various capacities, died after a long illness. He was an uncle of Lucien McDonough, former Steamfitters Helper. He retired 10 years ago.

Retired Electrician "Chet" Freeman is confined to one of our local hospitals for treatment. His friends on the Terminal wish him a quick recovery.

Former Carman Walter Peabbles, 77, died on March 1st after a long illness. Walter retired in 1962 after 41 years of service as a Car Department employee. A floral tribute was sent to the funeral.

Foreman Maurice "Johnnie" Weeks' brother Hermon was on from the state of Oregon to visit him. Hermon is the operator of a walnut and pecan grove or ranch and no doubt brought some samples of this produce with him.

Gordon Densmore, a Portland Terminal employee, and son of Former Machinist Elmer Densmore and nephew of retired Hostler Guy Densmore, died after a long illness.



**ENGAGED** — Miss Mary Iva Lowell, daughter of George R. Lowell, PTCO. bookkeeper and Mrs. Lowell will marry James Miller Ross, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Ross of Belfast this summer. A graduate of South Portland High School and the University of Maine, she is employed as a special education teacher by the Winslow School system. Mr. Ross is a graduate of the University of Maine and is employed as a nuclear start-up engineer by General Electric at Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Ill.

## GENERAL OFFICES

A new car owner is Richard Severy who purchased a 1970 MGB in bronze yellow. "Dick" is working in the Comptroller's office on the job temporarily vacated by Ken Austin. He has just completed a hitch in the Navy where he saw a lot of the world including Japan where he was last stationed. He is the son of the late George C. Severy who was a railroad employee at Rigby and Mrs. Severy of Gray. The new car had to be left behind on a recent weekend when Dick had a "cruise" to Boston with the Naval Reserve.

Colleen Bimpson, stenographer in the Comptroller's office, thoroughly enjoyed a long weekend in New York which included shopping, shows and a tour of Greenwich Village and its "scenery."



**ALL SMILES . . .** are Chesley E. Robie, assistant to the auditor, revenue, and his wife Mary on the occasion of a surprise party given by son Paul and daughter Jane on the Robies' 25th wedding anniversary. This photo was taken as they came home after going out to dinner with Paul. Fifty-four friends and relatives were waiting at the Robie home on Mussey Street, South Portland to greet the happy couple. A big treat for Chet was seeing his brother, Gordon from Springfield, Mass. for the first time in more than a year and his sister, Mrs. Kenneth Chapman, No. Stratford, N. H.

Marty Holmes, Assistant to the Comptroller, has moved his family from Falmouth Foreside to 14 Oakley Street in Portland. Son and daughter, Michael and Jeanne, are both students at UMP and son Kendall is an 8th grader at Lyman Moore School.

Topping our ski enthusiasts is Scott Scully, General Attorney, who has returned well tanned from a fabulous ski trip to Aspen, Colorado.

Tom Perry, Clerk-Messenger in Car Accounting Office, spent a recent weekend skiing Saddleback in the Rangeley area.

Also enjoying late-season skiing was Alice Allen, secretary to Comptroller, and her young son Keith who favor King Pine ski area at Purity Springs Resort in E. Madison, N. H.

We hear that Dick Severy has also been hitting the various ski trails for his first Maine winter in a few years.

Well! One simply can't diet these days, especially when Dick Aylward's Williston Church on Thomas St. held their annual family style clam dinner

during February, catered by Conora. Dick, Debbie and Steve attended kitchen duties, and wife Nathalie waited on tables, as did many of the family groups belonging to their church.

It would be easier to mention those who escaped the flu this winter than the ones who got it! This little germ really had strength and fortitude—with his green antennae and ten thousand legs. Glad to see everyone better!

The latest treatment for that feeling of burning the candle at both ends, is not to rest more—but to buy more wax!

Harold J. Murray, retired Asst. to Auditor Revenue, was a recent visitor in the General Office Building. This was the first time he had been back since his retirement in 1960.

The Murrays and their daughter, Dorothy Parker (formerly employed in the Machine Room) and her husband are presently enjoying a trip by train to El Paso, Texas, where their son is a civilian employee at Biggs A.F.B.

George Marcroft, chief clerk in the General Superintendent's office and his wife Faye had a delightful evening at the Statler-Hilton on a recent weekend with friends from Providence, dining in the "Hungry Pilgrim," prior to attending the Ice Follies. They topped off the evening with a nightcap at Trader Vic's at the Hilton . . . a real nice party of eight, blizzard and all!

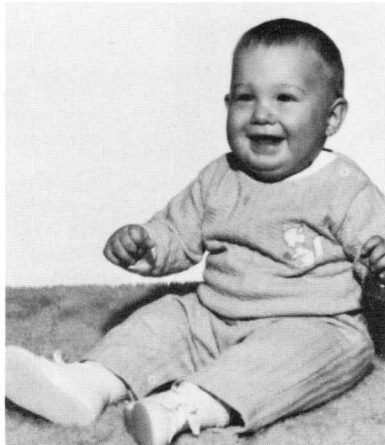
## WATERVILLE STATION

Greetings were received from retired Work Equipment Maintainer C. R. Mitchell of Brunswick from St. Cloud, Florida where he is living for the winter months. Mitch says it has been a little cold, but they have enjoyed some warm weather also.

Track repairman Gid Veilleux who is on disability pension underwent surgery on his other eye recently and it is coming along fine.

Trackman Lionel Roy who recently underwent brain surgery, is recovering very well and has been in to visit at the Engineering department.

Newcomer to the Work Equipment Department at Waterville is Charles Alden, who is Asst. Work Equipment Maintainer. This job was formerly held by David Worcester who has now bid off position of Work Equipment Maintainer at Portland.



**JEFFREY MASON, 8 months old son of Clerk and Mrs. Conrad Mason, Waterville Yard & Engine House.**

Clerk Larry Ridley is sporting a new Buick LeSabre.

Car Clerk-Stenographer Beverly Cook enjoyed an early vacation from her work the last week of February.

Peter Touchette, trackman, Livermore Falls Section, age 65, retired February 18, 1970 after nearly 42 years service, working most these years in the Canton area.

Returning from sick leaves are trackmen Robert Bennett and Ted Brown.

Charles W. Jamison, Trackman since 1964, resigned recently.

## ROCKLAND

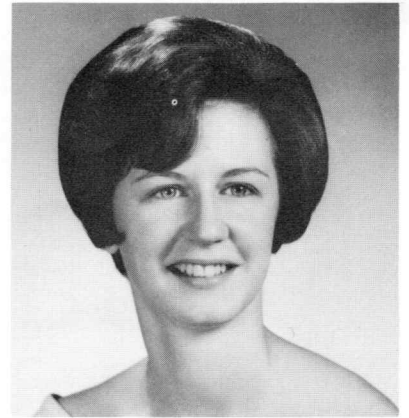
Our congenial car inspector "Monty" Montgomery's injured finger making apparent good progress healing, although there is some stiffness in the hand, and it will probably be another month or so before it's well enough to allow Monty's return to work. In the meantime he is raring to go, same as usual. He keeps Duncan's market in an uproar as well as around home, and when not doing that is up here haunting the switcher crew and us. Of course he makes Engineman Charlie McLain a good fireman on the Rockland Yard switcher, especially now that the boys at the cement plant have made him a charter member of the "rocking chair club."

Car cleaner Fred LaBranche passed the car inspector's exam and now set up and working Monty's job until he gets back. Fred, ably assisted by Paul Harding, busily oiling journals, changing springs and brake shoes, as well as inspecting pulpwood loading, finds when the day is done, he is ready to go home for a rest. Says he would like to loan Monty a finger to get him back. Wonder why?

Machinist "Jakey" Walker busily planning his spring activities in the flower garden, as he is usually discussing various fertilizer formulas, such as 5-8-7 and 5-10-10, so can see he is anxious to get the "green" thumb active. His indoor assortment of African violets and azaleas under plant lights are something to see.

Sorry to report that Section Foreman Earl Miller had to have surgery on the tendon of his hand to correct a problem in healing. Hope this does the trick and the hand heals so he will be able to get back to work before too long.

Got a nice letter from retired General Agent Frank Carsley in St. Petersburg, Florida reporting the temperatures in the 70's, and that he had visited with retired Foxcroft Agent Claude Jenkins, as well as hearing frequently from retired Agent Dom Pomerleau. Sorry to hear that Mrs. Carsley had not been well and required hospitalization. Hope by now she is well and home again. Frank also inquired for "Father" Fred Snowman, but the "Snow" man is just as elusive as the snow has been this winter in this area. Probably he has melted and washed away or else been so busy riding around in the new "clam," that no one has seen him.



**ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED** — Assistant Superintendent and Mrs. Royce G. Wheeler of Hermon have announced the engagement of their daughter, Kathryn Joyce, to R. Gary Forbis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis L. Forbis of Brewer. Miss Wheeler is a 1968 graduate of Hermon High School and is a bookkeeper for the Epstein Clothing Co. of Brewer. Mr. Forbis graduated from Brewer High School in 1963 and is employed by the General Electric Company in Bangor. He is the grandson of Mr. Robert West, a former REA employee.

## BANGOR

Yard Conductor A. P. York is scheduled to appear on TV Candlepin bowling soon. One of eight contestants to qualify, York placed fourth for the TV roll-off from a field of 62. He scored 1183.

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Road Conductor C. A. Dunifer who died February 19th, after a brief illness. Charlie was senior Eastern Sub-Division Conductor and worked the First Bangor-Bucksport and Return Extra prior to his illness which occurred in November, 1969.

Road Conductor M. F. Tucker has been hospitalized at Eastern Maine Medical Center and is now convalescing at home. Best of luck for a speedy recovery.

Asst. Cashier Mrs. Alfretta Sullivan has been confined on account of surgery and is now recovering rapidly and will be back on duty by the time this item is being read.

Favorable reports are being received on the progress of Chief Clerk, Mechanical Dept., James Pope, who is recovering from surgery and is expected to resume duty in near future. His assignment has been covered by Mrs. W. S. Carroll from Bangor Freight Office.

Two new conductors on the Eastern Sub-Division, T. S. Pappas and C. E. Rancourt. These men will be seen running trains in the territory frequently.

Retired Yard Conductor E. J. Corbett and Mrs. Corbett are enjoying the winter months in California with their daughter. We expect spring weather will bring them to Maine soon.





Miss Kathryn J. Spellman, daughter of Conductor and Mrs. John Spellman of Bangor became the bride of Peter A. Vance of Presque Isle. The bride is a 1967 graduate of John Baptist High School and is employed by the credit bureau of Bangor. The groom graduated from Presque Isle High School in 1962. Following a wedding trip to Quebec, the couple will reside in Bangor.

## WATERVILLE YARDS

L. K. Powers, currently doing spare work, says that "Ridge Runner" Lee Miller, has changed his title to "Deputy Dog," as he has been deputized as a legal dog catcher in China and Vassalboro. From what we hear, Lee is doing a good job of stopping dogs chasing deer, which of late has been a menace in his neighborhood.

Seems Don Giberson, Conductor of WE-1 and EW-2 went to the hospital for a checkup. After all the required steps were partly over, he told the nurse that if he lived through it, he figured he's healthy enough.

Ken Fitton of Switcher #2 says someone told him a story that went like this. Seems an engineer went for a checkup and was quite a heavy smoker. With the cancer danger so closely connected to the cigarette, his wife was kind of leery, so she told the doctor to make him stop his smoking as it would probably help him stop his coughing and gagging in the morning. Anyway, the doctor said, "No mam, that's the only exercise your husband gets." So be it, only Ken told Galen Wheeler, Conductor of WS-1 and SW-2 the same story when he caught him coughing while smoking.

Our old "Sea Captain," Phil Mesier, Conductor of Relief Switcher #1, says that his job will be vacant in a year and two months on account of going back to sea duty. He'd like to take along his right hand man, Leo Bujold, and teach him to be a fireman, as Leo hasn't been doing too well with keeping the caboose stove going.

Charlie "Honko" Richardson, Engineer of Switcher #5, was amazed recently while reading a flying magazine. Seems Lindbergh soloed at Southern Field, Georgia, where Charlie also learned to fly during W.W. 2.

Raleigh Williams, upon returning from vacation had bunting rights, and bunted the Conductor's position of Switcher #4.

Four roadmen entered Yard service recently; they are Allen Edwards, Joe Gallant and Jerry Dessent, and Don Barry. Seems they want to be where the action is.

## WATERVILLE SHOPS

Checker and Mrs. Roy McCommie have spent two weeks vacation in Florida recently.

Foreman Nubert and Betty Estabrook have recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

Mill laborer Armand Rossignol has recently purchased a new Ford with dual controls for use in his driver training program.

Carman Frank Gravel has been a recent visitor and is making good recovery from major surgery at the Maine Medical Center in Portland.

Retiree visitors have been Painter Charlie Lowry and Foreman Bill Otis. Both are in good health and enjoying life.

Carman Clyde Dow is a patient at a local hospital.

Carman Louis Ambrose and Miss Josephine Dancereau were married March 7 at the North Vassalboro Catholic Church.

Carman Helper Ken Richardson has traded a couple of vehicles and is momentarily expecting delivery of a new Jeep.

Carman George Burgess has returned to work after a very lengthy disability.

Karl, son of Supt. and Mrs. Alden Finimore, and a senior at Waterville High, has been accepted as a freshman at the Maine Maritime Academy.

A son has recently been born to Carman and Mrs. Dale Coats.

## ENGINE & TRAIN CREWS

Engineer Charles Adams, Eastern Subdivision, is sporting around in a new pickup truck. She's a beauty. Conductor Timmy Robinson (re-



**PRIZE HOMEMAKER**—Valma Brown, a senior at Winslow High School, has been named the school's 1970 Homemaker of Tomorrow on the basis of her score in the home-making knowledge and attitude test taken by senior girls in December. In addition to receiving a silver charm from General Mills, sponsor of the program, Miss Brown is now eligible for one of the 102 college scholarships. Miss Brown is the daughter of Foreman and Mrs. Sidney Brown, Waterville Shops.

tired) seems to look and feel good; however, his wife is recuperating from a heart attack.

Cpl. U.S.M.C. Peter F. Nielsen, son of Eng. and Mrs. Christian G. Nielsen, has returned home from Viet Nam after serving for one year. He is now enjoying a month's leave before returning to South Carolina.

Sympathy is extended to Engineer E. R. Plourd and family in the death of his father.

Bangor Yardmaster Ed De Grass had a little hard luck last month. His car was looted in front of his home of two pairs of barbers shears and a watch.

Conductor Leo Goodin, Jerry Standhope and Brakeman R. J. Landry and H. Bredgreem and Switchman Larry Woods went on an ice fishing trip to Half Moon Pond which turned out to be a dud. They dug 25 holes and after five hours, no fish. The fish just were not hungry.

Two days later, Switchman Woods and Brakeman Landry went to Hopkins pond and Larry caught a togue 9½ lbs. and 29 inches long and talk about luck, the following Sunday he went to Beach Hill pond, caught another one and won first prize in the Kiwanis Derby and was awarded a trophy.

Conductor M. Tucker of B.C.I. is off sick. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Conductor Joe Hafford bought a pony from Car Checker Nelson Violette of Bangor Yard for his young daughter. Joe is having a good time with him in his training.

Engineer Lindy Brown of Calais is looking forward to spring so he can get a bunch of boys out playing baseball in the little league.

## NOTE OF THANKS

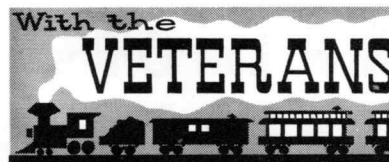
To the employees of the Maine Central Railroad Company and the Portland Terminal Company, I wish to express my thanks and appreciation for your cooperation and assistance during the many years of my association with you.

It has indeed been a real pleasure to have worked with some of you since as early as 1933 and upon my retirement, I will surely miss such contacts.

Sincerely,  
ROY E. BAKER

## NOTE OF THANKS

Earl I. Miller of Waldoboro, section foreman, wishes to express his thanks and appreciation to those who contributed to the purse for him while he was off due to an injury.



By Harold R. Keniston

Our regular monthly meeting was held at Howard Johnson's Restaurant in Thornton Heights Sunday, February 22 with 57 members in attendance.

It was announced at the meeting that the annual meeting held in Waterville will take place at the Benton Grange Hall April 26 in Benton, Maine.

Get your tickets from the following members:

### Waterville

Kenneth E. Reed, Chairman  
Elec. Shop  
Arnold A. Dow, Stores  
Simon M. Karter, Shop Office  
Richard A. Delano, Car Shop  
Ralph J. Laliberte, Yardmaster  
Cornelius J. Begin, Retirees

### Portland

John I. Briggs . . . . . 774-4128  
Harold R. Keniston . . . 775-1244  
Theodore J. Cote, Sr. . . 854-5204  
Leonard E. King Sr. . . 774-2517  
Melville L. Davis . . . . . 799-3658

The Patsy's High Steppers of Waterville will provide the usual first rate entertainment.

Tickets **Must Be Purchased** by Tuesday, April 21, 1970.

Join the crowd — You will have a whale of a good time, not to mention the excellent dinner.

We recently voted into membership Leland Garland of Bingham, Maine. He is now confined in the Reddington Hospital in Skowhegan and would no doubt appreciate a card or two from this membership.

Angelo E. Wells, Portland, retired MeC engineer and former state representative of the B of LE, has been seriously ill for some weeks in the Maine Medical Center and was recently moved to the State Hospital in Augusta as a medical patient. His relatives note that he would be happy to receive some cards and letters from old friends.

Purdy Robinson observed his 84th birthday on February 22. A retired MeC engineer, Mr. Robinson has been ill for some time and would appreciate hearing from his friends.

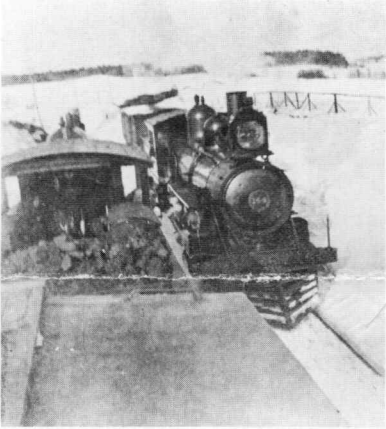
His address is c/o Gaylon Dow, 20 Edwin Street, So. Portland 04106.

## N. H. Law Officers Hear R. L. Baker

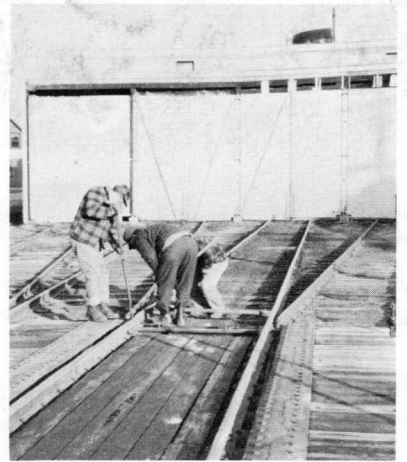
A course on crossing accident investigation with special emphasis on snowmobiles was conducted for New Hampshire law enforcement officials recently by Robert L. Baker, MeC chief special agent.

The request for the course came from the New Hampshire State Fish and Game Department following several serious snowmobile accidents in that state.

Baker also distributed to the class of Coos County Law Enforcement officers copies of a report compiled by his department on New Hampshire statutes relating to railroads.



**HELP WANTED:** In identifying the location of the siding where the two local freight trains met in this month's mystery photo taken about 75 years ago. It is believed the siding is probably between Gardiner and Brunswick. Harry Treat, retired MeC dispatcher, who borrowed the picture for our use from Percy Libby of Gray, identifies the trains as Nos. 28 and 41, Lower Road trains which ran between Waterville and Portland. The engines are 71 and 144, renumbered in May 1900 to be 231 and 242. It is known that the photographer was looking north because No. 28 (as shown in the headlight) operated from Waterville to Portland. 28's train rounds a curve to the right. Last month's photo was from the collection of Bangor Engineer Everett Farrell's dad and was, of course, Mt. Desert Ferry terminal.



Bridge and Building crews have had a busy winter, converting various car houses on the system from coal to oil heat at sixty locations and rehabilitating several buildings. Left, the Lisbon Falls car house was completely refurbished with a new floor installed and the building insulated. Center, MeC crews move the Cumberland Mills section car house to a new location adjacent to the station, in order to utilize the steam heat system available there. Right, workmen at the Vanceboro enginehouse site, where considerable work was done, including rebuilding a new roof.

## April = Total Involvement

TOTAL INVOLVEMENT as Laugh-In's Artie Johnson would say is a VERRRRRRRY INTERESTING idea.

But what does it mean? And why is it being used by the Association of American Railroads as an approach to Perfect Shipping?

The AAR says a total involvement represents good old-fashioned teamwork and they are asking member roads to cooperate as the 34th birthday of the Perfect Shipping concept is celebrated this month.

A joint review of major factors contributing to damage will be made during April involving railroaders, shippers and receivers.

An AAR checklist will make possible firm, purposeful on-the-spot judgments of major factors affecting PERFECT SHIPPING and a joint on-the-ground review is aimed toward stimulating improvements where factors causing or contributing to damage are uncovered.



Pretty Elinor Shuman, clerk-stenographer in the office of C. G. Rivers, is a busy mother of four youngsters who is able to take homemaking and her job in stride and look slim and fashionable as a model. Ellie has, in fact, served as a model in several fashion shows. The roses complement the lady, but are not an everyday occurrence. Ellie's thoughtfulness in remembering the birthdays and special happenings of those who work in the offices near her own was remembered in a special way on her own birthday recently. Sixteen associates contributed to the cost of a dozen long-stemmed roses and a birthday cake prepared by Mrs. Sue Curry.

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