

ERIE VETERANS ENJOY REUNION AT LAKE RESORT

By FRANK M. AMERICA



*W. O. Eggleston, veteran
of Huntington, Ind.*



*Veteran W. E. Nichols,
80, on day of outing.*



VETERANS from all parts of the Erie system met again at Conneaut Lake Park, Meadville, July 18th, for what proved to be their most enjoyable reunion. With their families and friends they came in four special trains to pass the day mingling and chatting with their officers and fellow workers, to swap stories of earlier days on the railroad and to prove by their presence their steadfastness, loyalty and devotion to the railroad game and to the Erie. It was a big day for the veterans and they thoroughly enjoyed it.

Old-timers met for the first time in years. There

was the chance meeting for the first time since they went to the Philadelphia Centennial together as youngsters in 1876, of two old-timers of 74 years each, Bradford Russell of Orangeville, O., and C. S. Decker of Cleveland. Veteran Russell was telling a veteran of his Centennial trip. "Who did you go with?" asked the other. "I went with a young fellow named Decker," he answered. "Well, don't you remember me?" said Decker, "I was that young fellow," and they laughed heartily.

One of the happiest in the crowd was W. E. Nichols, veteran engineer of Meadville, whose 80th

birthday fell on the picnic day and who was given a birthday cake by the hotel chef.

But what was most pleasing to the old-timers was the presentation by the railroad of gold watches to three of the oldest veterans. One went to Thomas Brennan, crossing watchman at Avon, as the oldest employee still in service. He began in 1865. Another was awarded Charles A. Gunn of Hornell who was longest on the company's payroll. He began in 1863. The third went to A. G. Oakes of Meadville as the oldest Erie veteran. He is 85 years of age. The presentations were made by President C. E. Denney who also congratulated the veterans on their healthy organization and thanked them for sending in traffic tips. Incidentally, Mr. Denney had a good time in the baseball game, twirling for the Eastern district nine which lost to the Western crowd by 11 to 6 in a spirited contest umpired by Vice President R. E. Woodruff and C. L. Edinger, Mayor of Stroudsburg.

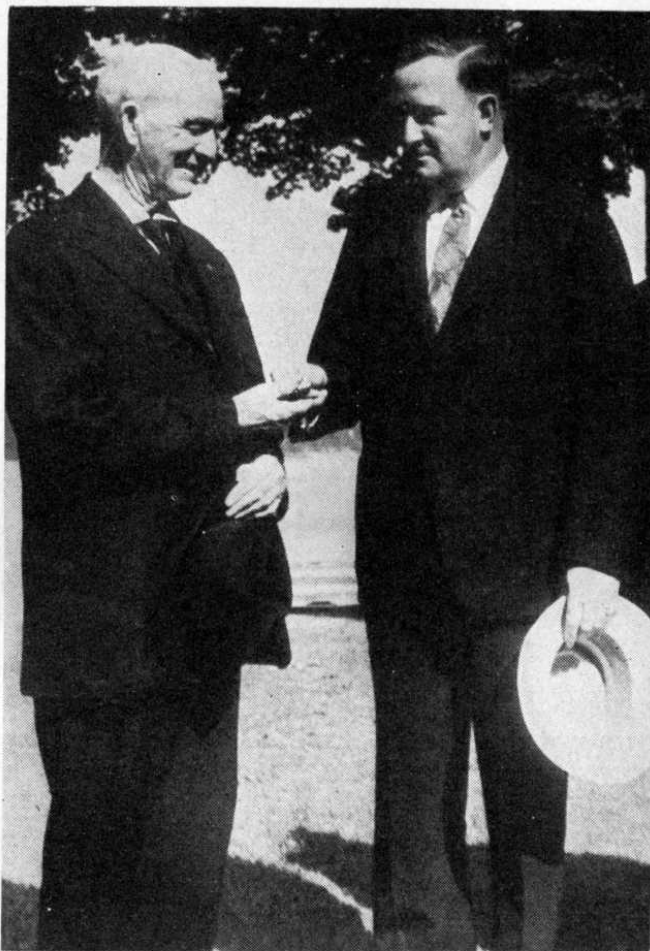
One of the interesting reunions of the day was the meeting of Vice President Woodruff and Weed Frost, section foreman at Leavittsburg for 27 years, who was all smiles relating how they met 25 years ago when Mr. Woodruff was just a member of the section gang at Warren and Frost was his boss when the two gangs often worked together. They were posed for a photograph which Mr. Frost said he would prize highly.

Thomas O'Connor, former yardmaster at Kent, O., who was born in 1849 and began with the Erie in 1869, had a happy meeting with Harry Adams, now assistant general manager at Hornell. Among the interesting old couples present were W. O. Eggleston, former master carpenter of 703 Guilford street, Huntington, Ind., whose father built the Meadville station, and Mrs. Eggleston, both looking younger than their years, and rooting for the Erie. Mrs. Eggleston is an active business-getter for the railroad.

Engineer C. E. Correll, presided at the business meeting which elected Robert Quinlan of Cleveland, second vice-president and moved up R. G. Lewis of Youngstown to the presidency. After an amusing talk by the Rev. Dr. Davis of the Washington Sq., M. E., church, New York, the

drawing for the door prize of a washing machine took place. It was won by Mrs. Genevieve McCleary of Hornell with No. 4493.

The red-uniformed band of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Warren, O., met the crowds as they left the trains and paraded them up into the park. Vice President Woodruff headed a group of Erie officers who were at the station to greet the veterans and wish them a good time.



Thomas Brennan, 85, receiving from President C. E. Denney a gold watch awarded to each of the three oldest veterans present.

President Correll, Vice Presidents, R. G. Lewis and R. M. Forrester and members of the various committees carried out a program that won the praises of an appreciative crowd who came away eagerly looking forward to next year's outing. The fact that President Denney found time to be with them was pleasing to the veterans and they liked his talk to them.

"I am very glad," he said, "to be able to attend this annual meeting which is the fourth since I have been connected with the railroad. I have enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting others of your organization for the first time. I am more impressed each year by the interest of the veterans in the chapters and the annual meeting and am certain that this interest will continue to grow to the benefit of the individuals and the Company.

"The business of our railroad is much below normal although not as low, relatively, as that of many of our competitors." Mr. Denney expressed the appreciation of Vice-President Gray for the able assistance which Erie employees, and in many instances those who have been retired, are giving toward securing new business and serving satisfied customers.

"I will not attempt," he added, "to forecast when there will be a material increase in business but the general feeling throughout the country is better than it has been and many men of experience believe that the total business of the country will be materially better beginning with September. I want to repeat two statements that I made heretofore: first, the management of this railroad is interested in every employee who is interested in the railroad; and second, we all have a selfish interest in securing business and handling it better than our competitors. Increased traffic means more work for the employees and more funds available for maintenance and improvement of the property."



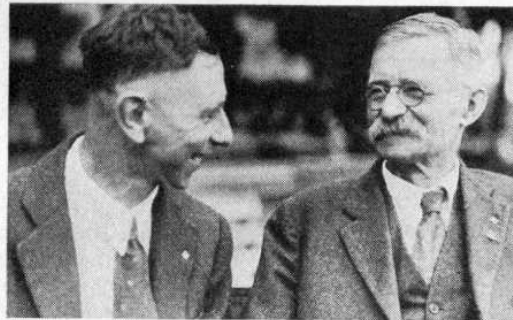
Veterans of 50 years or more service in a group at the Conneaut Lake reunion.



Thomas Brennan, crossing watchman at Avon, who is 85, and wife at the outing in a happy mood with a bevy of friends.



Weed Frost, veteran section foreman at Leavittsburg, and Vice-President R. E. Woodruff who worked with him as a member of the Warren section gang 25 years ago.



Joseph P. Worzel, 57, track foreman at Port Jervis, and Christopher Ray, 72, laborer, Port Jervis, enjoyed every minute of the big outing.



ERIE VETERANS IN A



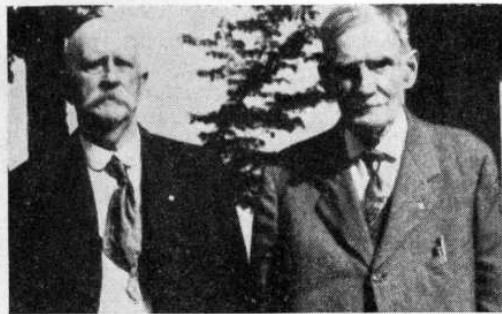
Part of the crowd of Erie veterans and their families who enjoyed the sixth annual reunion at Conneaut Lake Park near M



man at Avon, who is 85, and won a prize as one of the oldest veterans in a happy mood with a bevy of pretty young friends.



Members of the reception and other committees were distinguished in their ten-gallon hats.



Charles A. Gunn of Hornell and A. G. Oakes of Meadville who won gold watches for their long records in Erie service.



Harry Adams, assistant general manager at Hornell, enjoys a chat with Thomas O'Connor, former yardmaster at Kent, who is 82 and began with the Erie in 1869.



IN ANNUAL REUNION



at Conneaut Lake Park near Meadville, Pa., on July 18. Outing article and additional photographs on pages 14 and 15.