



"A fascinating bit of Rochester history."  
*Jack Garner, Gannett Newspapers*

# The End of the Line

## Rochester's Subway

SPECIAL EDITION DVD

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**Specs:** 90 minutes, including extras  
NTSC/Color/Stereo  
Suggested Retail \$29.95

## For the first time on DVD

"The End of the Line - Rochester's Subway" tells the little-known story of the rail line that operated in a former section of the Erie Canal from 1927 until its abandonment in 1956. Produced in 1994 by filmmakers Fredrick Armstrong and James P. Harte, the forty-five minute documentary recounts the tale of an American city's bumpy ride through the Twentieth Century, from the perspective of a little engine that could, but didn't.

## With 45 minutes of extras!

### • THREE ALL NEW FEATURETTES

#### • *The Steel Wheel*

Experience a round trip ride on the subway as it existed in the 1950s.

#### • *Prodigal Son - Rochester Car 60*

Video of the subway's last surviving passenger car and an all new interview with one of the last motormen.

#### • *Motherless Child - Remnants of the Subway*

A look at the subway as it exists today. Includes a "phantom run" through the abandoned Broad Street tunnel.

### • THE ARCHIVE

A massive library of photographs, artifacts and artwork.

### • OUTTAKES

### • CLOSED CAPTIONING

### • CHAPTER SELECTION

### • SUBWAY MAP INSERT

# The underground history of Rochester

Billed as the story of the smallest city in America to build and abandon a subway, "The End of the Line - Rochester's Subway" originally aired on **The History Channel** and **WXXI-TV, PBS Rochester**. It earned a **Bronze Telly Award** and was voted Best of the Fest at **The Rochester Independent Film Festival**. For twelve years it has taught young and old the history of New York's third largest city.

Now that Rochester has made the controversial decision to bury its experiment with rapid transit, filmmakers Armstrong and Harte have decided to re-master "The End of the Line" for DVD. This special edition contains forty-five minutes of extra features including:

- Over one hundred and fifty photographs
- Artifacts of the subway
- Original artwork
- A period motion picture and soundtrack
- Video of the subway's last surviving passenger car and one of the last men to operate it
- Unique footage of the subway's doomed remnants

This last feature stands out as the only safe and legal way to tour the subway's Broad Street tunnel before it is filled with dirt.

"This was a very important production for us," says Armstrong, owner of Animatus Studio and The Animation Workshop. Since making "The End of the Line," I've received letters from people all over the world telling me how much they enjoyed watching it. I grew up in Rochester and rode the subway when I was about four years old. I could hardly remember it. This project helped me recall an important part of who we are and where we're from. The letters are great because I know the film does the same thing for other people, even those who have never been here. Maybe that's because our experience is similar in some ways to that of other cities."

A transplant from New York City, Harte says, "Our job was to document the history of a subway, but we wanted to do more than that. We saw that the history of the subway paralleled the history of Rochester in the Twentieth Century. That gave us the opportunity to tell the story of a city using the subway as a vehicle. It was great for me because I'd just moved here a year or two before. The subway has a certain sadness to it, but I didn't want that to be the whole story. This place has a lot of heart and guts too. The greatest satisfaction I've had is hearing young people tell how it makes them appreciate what Rochester was and what it could be. I think it makes them proud. I know it does for me."

Collaborating on the Special Edition of "The End of the Line" are Mike Boas and Dave Puls of Animatus Studio and cinematographer Timothy Brown. Providing music are world-renowned composer **Philip C. Carli** and Rochester's traditional music duo, **The Dady Brothers**. The disc's suggested retail price is \$29.95.

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"A superb job of telling the story in a professional, quality work... describes the political and economic forces that resulted in almost 30 years of service, and accurately acquaints us with details of the line, equipment, operating problems, and human interest elements."

*Jim Dierks - New York Museum of Transportation*



# Bonus Features



## The Steel Wheel

This feature allows the viewer to experience a round trip ride on the subway as it existed in the 1950s. In early 1956, Leslie Edgcomb and Bob Messenger produced a 16mm short subject entitled "The Steel Wheel." For the DVD, this silent film has been combined with a re-edited soundtrack from "The Rochester Subway," a 1950 RIT masters thesis film produced by Vitaly V. Uzoff. Since no prints of "The Rochester Subway" are known to exist, Animatus Studio has decided to combine its sound elements with "The Steel Wheel" to preserve these unique records of the subway's operation.

## Prodigal Son: Rochester Subway Car 60

Rescued from scrapping in 1956, Car 60 was exhibited at Rail City, a museum near Utica, New York, before being moved to state property in Albany. In 1998, it returned home and is undergoing restoration at the Rochester chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. This featurette also includes an all new interview with one of the last motormen, Don Espenmiller.

## Motherless Child: Remnants of the Subway

A look at the subway as it exists today. Includes a "phantom run" through the abandoned Broad Street tunnel.

## Photo Archive

View the story of the subway in pictures, from the original Erie Canal to the subway's construction, its operation, and abandonment. Includes over one hundred and fifty archival photographs

## Artifacts of the Subway

A look at maps, schedules, tokens, and other items from the subway's operation.

## Original Artwork

Full color depictions of the subway by railway historian Tom Kirn.

## Outtakes

Proof that shooting moving trains in a dark tunnel can be dangerous. Plus, an interview takes an unexpected turn.

## Also included:

Subway Map Insert, Closed Captioning, and Chapter Selection



**"For this fan it is the most satisfying transit video I've yet viewed and purchased."  
John McCarthy, Trolley Talk**

# Filmmaker Biographies



**Fred Armstrong** (Producer, Co-director) is the owner of Animatus Studio. He has worked as an animation producer, director, and cameraman, as well as a key grip and an actor on television commercials, documentaries, and feature films. He is also founder of The Animation Workshop, which teaches the fundamentals of animation.



**James P. Harte** (Co-director, Writer), formerly of New York City, is a film editor, writer, and researcher. He has worked on a wide variety of motion pictures, including "American Dream," 1990 Academy Award Winner for Best Documentary Feature. He has also worked extensively in the use and preservation of archival film.

## What is Animatus?

Animatus Studio is Rochester's premiere animation company. Founded in 1989, the business specializes in traditional animation for film and video, but also handles web animation, 3D and 2D graphics, and video editing.

For shooting titles and animation on film, Animatus utilizes an Oxberry animation camera, but most work today is accomplished in the digital arena. Artists at Animatus are proficient in programs like Photoshop, After Effects, 3D Studio Max, Lightwave, and Macromedia Flash. All post-production is done in house on nonlinear edit systems. DVD projects like "The End of the Line" and the cartoon compilation "**It Came From Animatus**" were authored in house.

Animatus has created animation for companies such as Eastman Kodak, Xerox, Castle Chemical, Paychex, and World Kitchen/Corning.

Though primarily an animation house, Animatus Studio has also made forays into live action video projects. In addition to producing the documentary "The End of the Line," Animatus provided editing, post-production, and graphic design for **When Football Was Bigger Than Life - An All-American Story**.

Animatus is also home to The Animation Workshop where the knowledge and joy of animation is taught to students of all ages.

More information can be found online at [www.AnimatusStudio.com](http://www.AnimatusStudio.com).

