

Rochelle Tourism partners with Railroad Relics

ROCHELLE — The Rochelle Tourism & Visitor's Association and Railroad Relics have formed a partnership to enhance the Rochelle Railroad Park gift shop. The gift shop, operated and managed by Rochelle Tourism, will now sell merchandise from Railroad Relics which will include items such as railroad timetables, dining car china, engineer data books, logoed items, books, commemorative spikes, railroad employee clothing, model train items, and many more railroad related items.

Railroad Relics is owned by Larry and Sue Bunce of Brooklyn, Wisconsin, who travel all over the United States selling railroadiana items at various shows and conventions.

"Railroad Relics will be a great addition to the Rochelle Railroad Park and the gift shop" says Tour-

ism Director Ross Freier. "Over the past few months we have had many railfans who have requested that the gift shop sell railroadiana merchandise, so we are extremely pleased to be able to once again offer these items for sale."

Rochelle Tourism has managed the Rochelle Railroad Park for the City of Rochelle for three years now, but since last October has been operating the gift shop as well. "We have added several new features to the Rochelle Railroad Park in the last few months, but we are extremely excited to have formed a partnership with a railroadiana business" says Freier. Since last October, Rochelle Tourism has reinstalled the ATCS viewing display in the gift shop, added a radio frequency so that guests are able to listen to the dispatchers from a radio or their vehicles, and added free wireless



The Rochelle Railroad Park gift shop is located on site at the Rochelle Railroad Park. (Staff photo)

internet access. The gift shop also has Rochelle Railroad Park t-shirts, mugs, wooden whistles, and conductor caps for sale. Other items for sale include magazines, books, disposable cameras, bat-

teries, ice cream, snacks, candy, and beverages.

Freier stated, "We have plans to continue to add new amenities and features to the Rochelle Railroad Park, as well as form new

partnerships in the future. We are always striving to improve upon the Rochelle Railroad Park, but to do so with the original intent of the park in mind, which is that it is a park for fans of the rails."