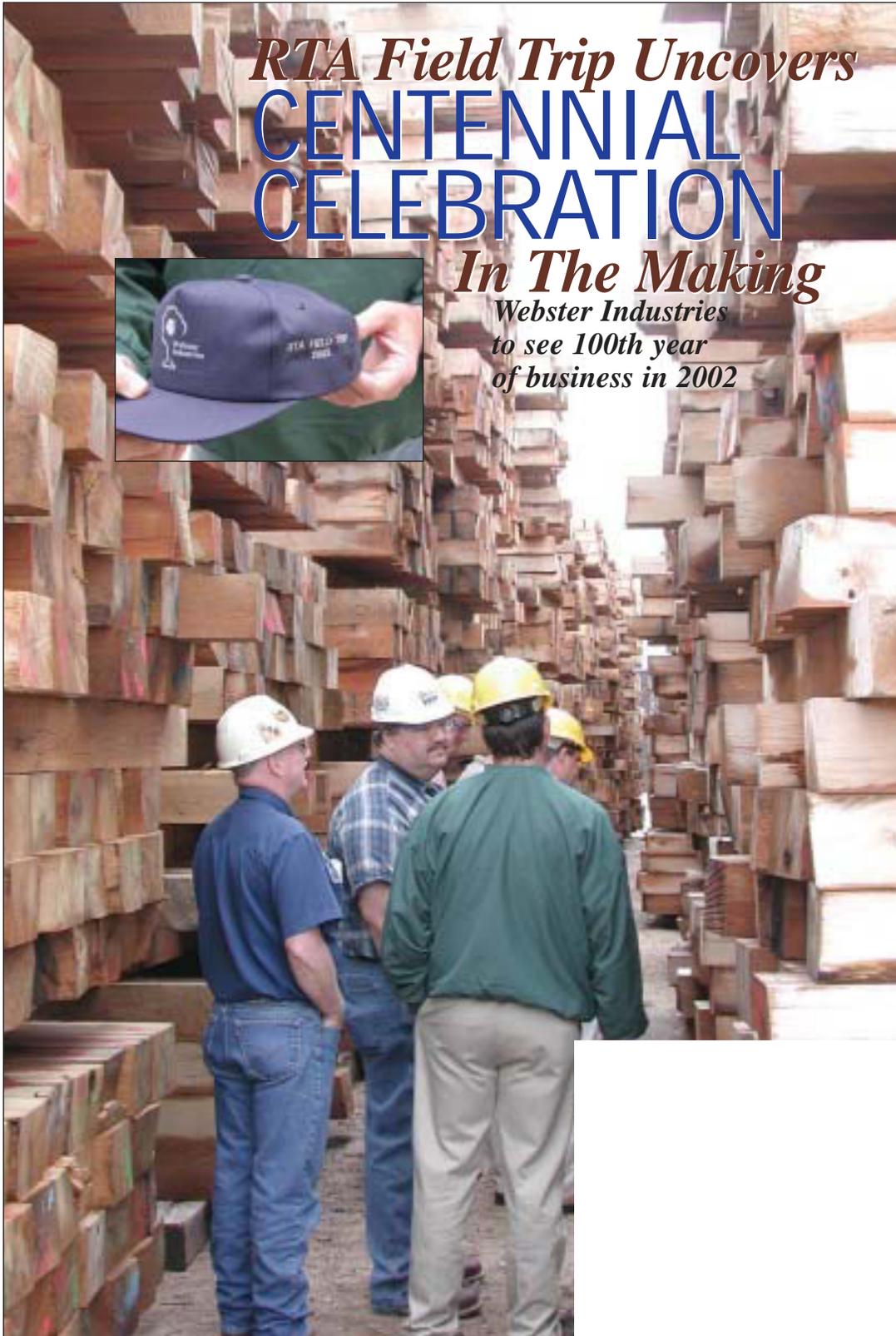


# Crossties

JULY/AUGUST 2002

The Magazine For Producers And Users Of Treated Wood Crossties And Related Products.

2002 RTA CONVENTION  
REGISTRATION FORM  
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# Exciting, Energizing, Enlightening, Expanded

## St. Louis' Union Station To Host Most Comprehensive RTA Convention Ever

**T**he problem in describing this year's version of the Railway Tie Association's (RTA) annual gathering set for Oct. 15-18, in St. Louis, is where to begin.

Is it with the depth and breadth of the agenda, which had to be expanded a full half day? Or, is it with the superb venue? How about all the things to do in St. Louis, or the unique spousal program and tour? And then there is golf on a Jack Nicklaus signature course and the spectacular evening of entertainment at the annual

banquet. It has been said before—but this time it rings truer than ever—it just doesn't get any better than this.

RTA's 84th annual meeting will have feature all this and more. For enlightenment, just look at the program. In the business sessions, attendees will hear from some of the industry's foremost authorities on a wide range of topics.

A.G. Edwards Senior Analyst Gary Thayer, a frequent guest on CNBC, will provide an in-depth look at the economic outlook for the transportation sector of the U.S. economy. A complete update on the very important legislative docket for railroads will be provided by one of Washington's leading rail lobbyists, Keith Hartwell of Chambers, Conlon and Hartwell. Conventioneers will also learn more about the efforts being made to stop the spread of the Formosan termite and what the industry is doing to re-register creosote. And, all this is in just one of four comprehensive sessions.

In other focus sessions, all the research projects in which RTA members have an interest will be covered. Complete analytical results on the long-term test ties that were pre-treated and remedially treated with diffusible preservatives will be presented by Dr. Terry Amburgey of Mississippi State University. A look at 43 years of data from the 1958 creosote cooperative study will also be presented. In addition, two very important RTA research efforts that are under way in cooperation with railroads, the Tie Usage Index Task Force and the Federal Railway Administration-funded project on optimizing maintenance for high-speed passenger rail, will be discussed.

If this isn't enough to tempt you to register today, Missouri Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson is slated to speak, as is Linda Morgan, chairman of the Surface Transportation Board. Mike Franke will provide an in-depth look at the Midwest regional initiatives to expand passenger corridors. AREMA (American Railway

Engineering and Maintenance-Of-Way Association) President Rich Keller of Montana Rail Link will also share his thoughts along with representatives from Class 1 engineering departments. Plus, producers and purchasers will discuss in a half-day session on Friday the state of the market and several new concepts.

RTA gatherings are not all about work. They are about having a little fun, too. So, don't forget to scan the agenda for the annual golf tournament to be held at Stonewolf, a premier Jack Nicklaus signature golf course. Also, look for the annual RTA banquet, where participants will enjoy one of the world's funniest comedic magicians, Scott Cervine, and dance to the sounds of St. Louis' finest, The Ralph Butler Band.

RTA hasn't forgotten the family, either, and has planned events for the everyone to enjoy. During the business meetings, spouses and guests will be treated to a Continental breakfast where they'll step back in time with "Fashions of the Past," a fashion show featuring actual garments from 1900 through the 1940s. To make this event more fun, members of the audience are asked to participate in this interactive show. The experience will do more than just entertain; everyone will learn about what was fashionable throughout the first half of the 20th century, along with the history of the garments and who wore them. Later, spouses and guests can join a tour that will include the spectacular Missouri Botanical Gardens, one of the finest in the world, and several other St. Louis landmarks. Among these, the St. Louis Cathedral, with more than 83,000 square feet of mosaics that depict scenes from the Old and New Testaments, will be visited.

If ever there was a time to be with all your RTA friends and associates, this year's convention is that time. Make plans now to join in all the business sessions and take in a few of the fun activities that are hallmarks of RTA gatherings. §

### Renowned Economist Set To Speak At RTA Convention

Gary Thayer, vice president and chief economist at A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc., will serve as a presenter at RTA's 84th Annual Convention,



Thayer

which is set for Oct. 15-18 in St. Louis. He will make an in-depth presentation on the economic outlook for the transportation sector of the U.S. economy. One of the nations' largest investment firms, A.G. Edwards & Sons encompasses more than 7,300 financial consultants in 705 offices throughout 49 states, the District of Columbia and London.

Thayer joined A.G. Edwards in 1986 as a foreign currency, energy and interest rate futures analyst. As chief economist, he uses quantitative analysis to forecast economic growth, interest rates, exchange rates and stock market activity. He offers analysis and economic direction to the firm's retail and institutional financial consultants as well as to its corporate and public finance personnel.

Thayer is frequently quoted by many national media outlets, including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times* and *Investor's Business Daily*. He also often conducts television interviews with CNBC, CNNfn and other major news organizations. §