



The Railyard Local

Volume 2 Issue 3

A Publication of the Danbury Railway Museum, Inc.

March 2004

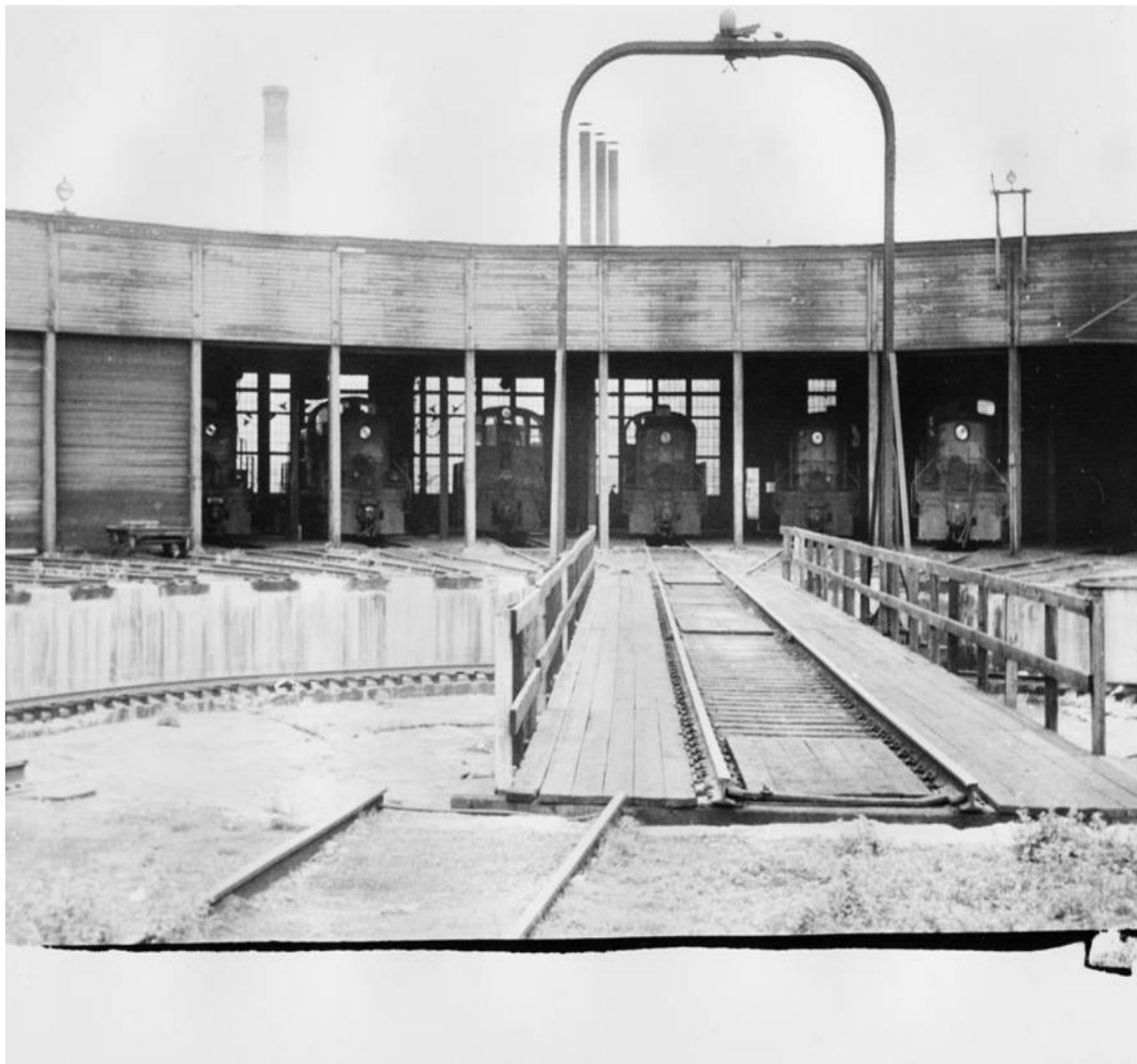


Photo by Peter Mclachlan

**NEW HAVEN RR. DANBURY, CT ENGINE HOUSE ON A SATURDAY, AUGUST
1957**

The purpose of the Corporation shall be to operate a railway museum in Danbury, CT to educate the public as to the history of rail-roading and the role of the railroads as part of our local and national heritage, and to engage in any and all activities convenient to said purposes.

Officers

Ira Pollack-President
Bill Britt-Vice President
Steve Gould-Secretary
Patty Osmer-Treasurer

Directors

Wade Ruese, Chairman
Suze Blackman
Dan Foley
Geoff Knees
Dave Lowry
Andrew McClellan
Peter McLachlan
Randy Natale
Michael Salata
Susan Thomas

Change of Address

Please send change of
Address to:

Danbury Railway Museum, Inc.
Attn: Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 90
Danbury, CT 06813-0090
Or e-mail to:
drmmembers@aol.com
Phone: (203) 778-8337
Fax: (203) 778-1836

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Volunteer organization.
www.danbury.org/drm

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dkern@snet.net

PLEASE DON'T FORGET !!!!!

DRM's 10th Anniversary Dinner & Benefit. Saturday, March 13, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. \$50.00 per person (\$14 for child under 12) with \$20 being tax deductible. Dinner is at the Stony Hill Inn on Rt. 6 in Bethel. Good food, good times, door prizes, cash bar and an after dinner presentation by J.W. Swanberg. Please make your check payable to the Danbury Railway Museum and send to: DRM Dinner Committee
P.O. Box 90
Danbury, CT 06813

Dinner choices are: Sliced London Broil with Bordelaise Sauce, Broiled Salmon & Chicken Marsala. Please respond by February 25th with your dinner choices and check.

NEW MEMBERS.....

The Henn Family	Danbury, CT
Ethel Kern	New Fairfield, CT
Brendan Deakin	Newtown, CT
Kyle Kayler	Mahopac, NY
Mary Beth Freeman	New Fairfield, CT
John E. LaBarre	Chappaqua, NY

WANTED.....

A working color inkjet printer (preferably Epson, but any brand will do) to be used in the DRM office. If you can donate a printer, please contact Charlie Albanetti at the Museum or email him at theteen-track@aol.com. Thank you.

Future Events.....

April 3, 4, 9, & 10:	Easter Bunny Trains
April 17:	New Member Day
May 1:	Railfair & Metro North Railrodeo
May 2:	Railfair & Train Show
June 20:	Father's Day Trains
Aug. 15:	DRM Member Picnic

ATTENTION !!!!!

Safety classes and crew classes to start soon. You must renew your certificate for safety and crew. New students will be accepted and given appropriate training. Look for dates to be posted.

Dear Readers:

In this issue I would like to thank Ira Pollack, Charlie Albanetti, Gerry Herrmann, Susan Thomas, Bob Boothe, Patty Osmer, Dan Foley, Frank Sullivan, Skip Kern.

Newsletter Message to Members

From Ira Pollack, President



Dear Members,

This is the time of the year when I wish for those 90° days with a warm wind blowing through the yard and I'm dressed in a T-shirt complaining about how hot it is. Ahh I love it! Before you know it, it will be upon us.

We've got many plans before us this coming season. We're trying some new things this year and, of course, will need your help. My main goal and intention is to expand on what is offered to our membership and to the public. We have entered into a contract with Metro North with their Day Get Away program, which will bring guests up from the NYC area. This will mean additional DRM train service on Sundays so obviously we will need further volunteers to staff the building and operate our yard excursions. Please don't hesitate to come forward and help us move the Museum to our next level of growth.

I'm presently trying to enhance our slide and video presentations by beginning a Saturday afternoon schedule starting this spring. This will be in addition to the Wednesday night sessions we already have. I've approached about 20 historical railroad organizations to do presentations on their particular railroad. The travel time might be restrictive for some of these groups so Saturday afternoon might be the most convenient time for them. I am trying to book one group a month with that particular presentation becoming a special event for the Museum. I would also like to include our library in this event. They have amassed hundreds of slides and many videos over the years and these should be seen by our members and by the public. As I've said, my main intention is to continually grow and expand upon what we have at the Museum. We must all look at new events and attractions and of course I'm always open for your suggestions. I will keep you updated on these new schedules as they develop.

Once the cold weather breaks we have many projects before us to make the yard and facilities ready for the season. We are in the process of adding descriptive signage to many of our non-moving exhibits. These will be small signs describing what our guests are actually looking at, including a small history of that piece. I'm hoping that once the frost is gone we can resume erecting the Wilton semaphore that will add to the exhibits in the yard. There are many things we can do but they all take your help and time.

In closing, our May 1st and 2nd events are getting closer by the day. The May 1st Railroad Rodeo sponsored by Metro North will be an interesting event and a first for the DRM. Metro North will be presenting their many departments, all competing against each other. The winners of this competition will represent Metro North at the national Railroad Rodeo. This should be very interesting and should not be missed. May 2nd will also be something to look forward to. Our annual Model Train Show has grown and will hopefully turn into a new tradition for the Museum.

We have some other new ideas on the burner and I'll be talking to you about them in the next newsletter. Please support these ideas and keep the Museum rolling forward.

Restoration of NYC HRR Wooden Caboose #19322

By Gerry Herrmann, Project Leader

In March 2003, the Danbury Railway Museum (DRM) volunteers and I started researching and evaluating the caboose to determine its condition. We found one side to be in poor condition. The other three sides were in marginal condition and will need reconstruction. The roof and cupola need extensive restoration. All the window frames and windows will require replacement. The interior is in fair condition. The cabinet doors and hardware should be replaced. The entire interior will need to be scraped and repainted.

The first step was to cover the caboose with tarps to protect it during restoration. The side that was in the worst condition was tackled first. The old siding was removed and, upon closer inspection, the framing underneath was replaced before new siding was installed. It seemed the more that was removed, the more rot was found. This will probably happen during the entire restoration. The first phase of the project has taken six months and over 600 hours of volunteer labor....

The framing lumber and interior siding was replaced by in-house lumber, which was donated by various DRM members during the past several years. This saved DRM quite a bit of money. The exterior tongue-and-groove siding, paint and hardware were purchased through a generous \$1500 grant from the Amherst Railway Society, Inc. in Monson, MA. A hundred boards of tongue-and-groove cedar siding were v-grooved down the center and primed before installation. This gave the siding an authentic look.

With the installation of the siding, two windows and a third temporary window were fabricated and installed. The caboose was buttoned up for the winter. Further interior work is dependent on the installation of the wood burning stove and will proceed weather-permitting.

This first phase of restoration was completed by early December 2003. The volunteers were: Bernie Balon, Bob Boothe, Harry Burke, Jim Daly, John Fegley, Dan Foley, John French, Franz Gerencir, Mike Joyce, Leo Kwiatkowski, Stan Madyda, Steve Mayerson, Pete McLachlan, John O'Hearn, Dave Roberts, Rober Seliga, Dave Simington, Joe Ward, Jim Whiteside, Dave Wilson.

An extensive restoration of this magnitude requires significant financial resources. The initial \$1500 grant spearheaded the first phase, but further work requires greater funding, approaching an estimated \$7000 to restore just the caboose body. The under framing, brakes and trucks will be handled by the DRM mechanical department.

The DRM would appreciate donations mailed to the museum and a notation made on the check that it is for the restoration of this historic caboose. Tax-deductible contributions should be sent to:

Danbury Railway Museum
NYC/HRR #19322 Project
120 White Street
Danbury, CT 06810

A plaque to honor and thank the donors will be permanently affixed in the caboose upon completion of the restoration. Photos of the restoration's progress follows:

PHOTO 1: Tarp protecting caboose

PHOTO 5: New vertical and horizontal framing

PHOTO 2: Original siding

PHOTO 6: Start of window frames and siding

PHOTO 3: Siding removed showing condition of framing

PHOTO 7: Half of siding installed

PHOTO 4: Rotted framing removed

PHOTO 8: Finished side to date

Photos by Gerry Herrmann, Project Leader. Restoration of NYC HRR Wooden Caboose #19322

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7

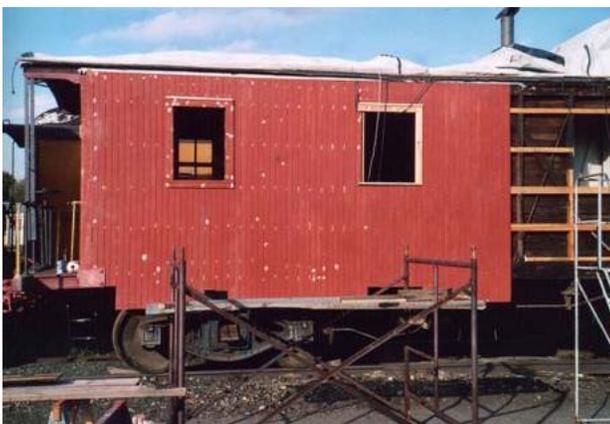
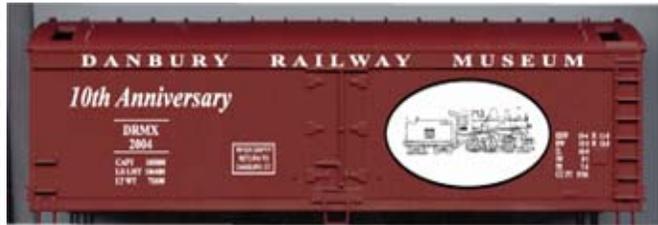


Photo 8



DRM Gift Shop News.....

As we start our 2004 season, the Gift Shop is overflowing with new items! First, our 2004 HO commemorative car has arrived! The price is \$13.95, with a 10% discount for members. The car comes unassembled; if you need an assembled version, please let us know!



Thomas the Tank Engine ® has come out with several new wooden items this year. New items in stock are: Murdoch, Spencer, and Emily, and we will soon receive Fog Cars, Rheneas with Coal Crusher Cars, Sodor Fire Crew, Jack, and Alfie. We try to stock all available Thomas cars, and we also have a few of the discontinued cars in stock, so please call us if you are looking for anything.

Ah, books! We are constantly seeking out new books! One of our recent "finds" is North American Locomotive Production 1968-1989. Published in 1989, this is a reference work on diesel locomotives which were manufactured from 1968 - 1989. All locomotives are cross referenced by owner and by built date, with any sales and renumbering noted. Printed on 80# glossy stock, this 196 page, 8 1/2 by 11, soft cover book has over 150 b&w photos and lists all locomotives produced over 50 tons in the period. Retail price is 27.50; we are able to offer it for \$15.00.

For the CNE fan, as of this writing, we have on order some beige "denim" shirts, with the CNE Poughkeepsie Bridge Route logo embroidered over the pocket – the design is similar to that of our CNE mug. The shirt will sell for \$35.00; quantities are limited. If you want one, please stop in or call. If the demand is there, we will order more of them.

If you want to order anything by mail, please add a \$4.00 shipping fee, and send your order and check to Danbury Railway Museum Gift Shop, Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813. Members will receive a 10% discount on all items. If ordering by mail, please include your member number.

Your staff, Kathie Fay and Patty Osmer

Most people know that today, trains are pulled by diesel or electric locomotives. 50 years ago, steam locomotives were still fairly common. 150 years ago, horses pulled many of the cars. In India, even elephants were used to move freight cars around. However, one of the most unusual railroads, right here in Connecticut, used cows!!! Do you know the name of that railroad?

Answer below:

Thank you Dan Foley

Answer: The New York, New Haven & Hereford

"Festival of Trees and Traditions" and the Danbury Railway Museum
Bob Boothe

Over the Thanksgiving weekend in November, the DRM was an invited participant in the first "Festival of Trees & Traditions" organized as a fundraiser for "Ann's Place".

A locally-funded, independent, non-profit agency, Ann's Place helps cancer survivors in Greater Danbury and their loved ones as they deal with the burden of a cancer diagnosis. The agency serves more than 350 people a month through support groups, individual and family counseling, a resource library, direct financial aid and other programs. All of the funds raised at the Festival were to be used to help area cancer patients and their families through the services provided free of charge by Ann's Place.

The event was held at the Grand Ballroom at the Portuguese Cultural Center and included a display of dozens of designer decorated trees, wreaths and quilts, which were sold or auctioned as well as unique gifts at the Festival Boutique.

The DRM had been contacted by Erik Drexler, Director of Development for "Ann's Place" and asked if the museum might be able to set up a train layout which would be in keeping with the holiday season. Early in the week before Thanksgiving the DRM "setup team" of Gerri Hermann, Dave Wilson, Harry Leeds, and Bob Boothe reconnoitered the beautiful ballroom at the center and later set up twin loops of "G Gauge" track on seven folding tables. We had "white snow" provided by rolls of white flannel and lighted ceramic houses (set up by another of the volunteers of Ann's Place) some small artificial trees completed the scene.

Over the days of the festival (Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday) we staffed the exhibit, running both the recently donated LBG trains as well as other museum equipment.

Our "team" included Gerri Hermann, Pete McLaughlin, Dave Wilson, Dave Rist, Kenny Williams, Harry Leeds, and Bob Boothe. As usually happens, many people stopped by to watch them running and to "talk trains." We had also been invited to hand out information about the museum and the upcoming "Santa Claus" trips and rides.

Below is our progress to date For our fundraising Campaign!

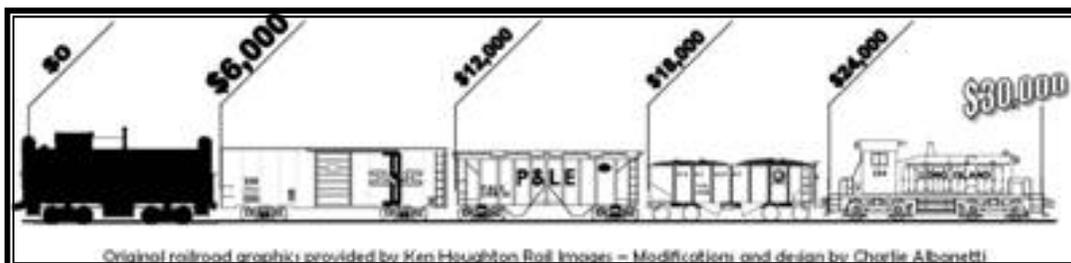
Any help you can offer can be sent to:

Treasurer

Danbury Railway Museum

P.O. Box 90

Danbury, CT 06813



Original railroad graphics provided by Ken Houghton Rail Images—Modifications & Design by Charlie Albanetti



120 White Street
Danbury, CT 06810

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MUSEUM CALENDAR

March 13th Fundraising Dinner

Wednesday Night Schedule of Events: Starts 7:45 p.m.

March 3	Steve Mayerson	Detailing and Weathering
March 10	Peter McLachlan	Historic Photographs
March 17	Ed Blackman	Trains from Across the Country
March 24	Steve Gould	RailFanning in North Carolina
March 31	Dan Foley	Railroads of Yesteryear
April 7	Pete McLachlan	Historic Photographs

April 3rd & 4th and 9th & 10th Easter Bunny Trains
April 17, 2004 New Member Day

Museum Hours: Tuesday thru Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Noon to 4:00 p.m.