First Night, Snowy Night
Warm welcome on New Year’s Eve

The Danbury Railway Museum continued its tradition of participating in Danbury’s First Night festivities. Those who had purchased the tickets for the event sponsored by the City of Danbury found a variety of entertaining activities at our Museum. The time-span of the event, from 3 to 8pm, enabled even families with young children to participate and enjoy the special entertainment.

The day began early for the fireworks crew, which started setting up the fireworks on the far side of the railyard early in the afternoon. Firemen with a fire truck also braved the snow and cold to be on hand near the location of the fireworks. Our train crew fired up the RDC Budd car hours ahead of time, so that it would be warmed up and ready to give train rides to our visitors on First Night.

At 3pm the Museum closed except to First Night ticket holders. A train ride in the railyard was given every hour throughout the event. Meanwhile, inside the Museum, guests thrilled to a showing of “The Polar Express”. This was followed by a delightful performance of guitar music accompanying original songs and comedy by Nancy Tucker. Those passengers departing through the falling snow on our train could easily imagine they were on a real Polar Express. The evening finished with a spectacular display of fireworks exploding with colorful bursts lighting the sky and trains in the railyard.

Continued on Page 6

Fundraisers at DRM

The following fundraisers are the ones we are pursuing most actively at this time:

Any donations toward trackwork: Buying a track tie for $35 will be acknowledged by a plaque on the tie in the name chosen by the donor;

Former PRR Rail Post Office car restoration: Those donating $200 toward purchase of a window will have their name on a plaque inside that car;

New Haven forge: Those making a donation of $25 toward finishing the sheathing of the forge will receive a special DRM 7-function stainless steel pocket knife from the DRM Gift Shop.

Official Notice:

Board Vacancy to be Filled

The Danbury Railway Museum’s Board of Directors has a vacant Director position for a term ending in March 2007. To be considered by the Board to fill this vacancy, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee and let your wishes be known. The Nominating Committee is shown below:

Steve Gould, Chairman GouldSL@aol.com
Bob Boothe mogul1455@hotmail.com
Joe Ward joseph.ward@comcast.net

You should indicate in writing why you would like to fill the vacancy and how you would help the Board achieve the DRM goals.

The Nominating Committee will submit the names of interested candidates to the Board of Directors. The Board would then vote for the candidate to fill the unexpired term. The vote will not be taken until after the March 2006 regular elections are completed.
New Members

We are delighted to welcome our new members this month. All members are welcome to attend the weekly meetings held Wednesdays, 7:45pm, at the Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury. We invite all members to become involved in Museum activities as soon as possible!

James P. Doherty  Carmel, NY
Jonathan & Alosa Eiger  Riverside, NY
Jonathan & Vicki Harkness  Dover Plains, NY

Upgrade to Life Member:
Chris & Maj. Britt Moreton  Waltham, MA

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

The February 1996 "Danbury Railway News" featured announcements on new equipment arriving, upcoming events and some historical articles. It was also the first time a new logo appeared showing a 4-4-0 steam engine.

By now, the RS-1 was in the yard and it was decided to drain the water and store it until April when the weather would be warmer. When the locomotive arrived in Danbury, it came in the green paint scheme of the Green Mountain Railroad. It was suggested that the future paint scheme could possibly reflect the history of the RS-1. It was originally built for the Illinois Terminal Railroad in 1948. Other possible paint schemes mentioned were three railroads that used the RS-1 in New England: the New Haven, the Rutland and the New York Central.

Another piece of equipment that was due to arrive was the New Haven caboose #C-627. This NE-5 caboose was built in 1944 by Pullman Standard for the New Haven. This caboose was purchased from the Berkshire Scenic Railway thanks to a donation from Linda and Warren Hagenkotter. The plan was announced to restore this to its original paint scheme.

A third piece of equipment coming to the DRM was the Conrail plug door box car #164125. The car was originally built in 1964 by the Pennsylvania Railroad at the Hollidaysburg, PA shop. This car would be used for storage by both the Museum and the Conrail Technical and Historical Society.

RPO - News and Notes

By Bill Britt, Project Leader

The window replacement program has slowed somewhat this past month. We hope this was just due to the holiday season and that donations will pick up again soon.

On the other hand, the mail bag procurement program received an outstanding boost through the efforts of Mike Salata. Mike worked with his mail carrier, who in turn asked her postmaster for bags. She obtained twenty-two canvas sacks for us. Thanks Mike!

A few racks have been removed from the car, wire brushed, painted, and returned to their places. Did you know? All railway post office cars were owned by the individual railroads, then leased to and manned by the federal Post Office Department.

We look forward to hearing from you, and we appreciate any help you can give us.

Continued on page 5
DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

This month I would like to take the time to extend my appreciation to two long-time members who have moved on with their lives and will be leaving as active members of the DRM. These are people whose perseverance, tenacity, and dedication have made an incredible difference to the Museum’s growth and prosperity over the years. I’m having a hard time realizing that they will be gone soon but life does move on I guess. I just hope that they realize how much they will be missed by me and by our membership.

Back in the early days of the Museum, Nancy Sniffen expressed interest and took the initiative to pursue the restoration of the RDC 32. This was an incredible task right from the beginning with countless hours of hard, dirty work, inside, underneath and all around this unique piece. It is easy to see her dedication to this project today. Nancy has also been our Operations Director, scheduling crews for our train operations and making sure we can run the local on weekends. I wish Nancy well with her new endeavors and hope she knows how much she has contributed to our Museum.

Charlie Albanetti, another self-starter and dedicated member, will be leaving soon for a new job and many new horizons this summer. Charlie has been responsible for marketing, advertising and promoting our Museum over the last several years. Charlie’s expertise has helped our Museum grow incredibly over these few years and he’ll be sorely missed. I wish Charlie well in his new pursuits.

Like any growing organization we must be prepared for setbacks that do happen. I would like to encourage you, the member, to come forward and possibly help fill these important voids. I have described these positions and their responsibilities below. Also listed are two additional committees to be formed: one for Events Planning and one for Volunteer Coordinating. I would ask that these groups be comprised of three to four people. This is the start of a new column, “Help Wanted”, that will be printed in the newsletter. Positions listed are ones that need to be filled as soon as possible in order that Museum continue to operate smoothly.

Help Wanted

Advertising Director - Requirements of Position
1. Produce budget for upcoming year (possibly using past year as a guideline)
2. Advertise upcoming events at Museum (Santa, Jeep Show, etc.)
3. Inform public of happenings at Museum (turntable, semaphore, NYC caboose, yard, new equipment)
4. Marketing our product - regionally, locally
5. Create contacts with newspapers, TV, and radio. Find agencies interested in informational stories about the Museum.
6. Make sure press releases are accurate and on time.
7. Generate flyers for events; collaborate with the Webmaster.
8. Report monthly to the President

Operations Director - requirements of position
1. Schedule train crews for weekend operations and special events
2. Maintain time log of all operating volunteers on crew
3. Maintain training program for existing crews and new volunteers - engineers, conductors, brakemen
4. Collaborate with mechanical crew on maintenance, service issues, and schedules
5. Report monthly to the President

Events Planning Committee - (new events run by committee)
1. Generate new events
2. Form budget for yearly events
3. Schedule volunteers for staffing of events, in collaboration with Volunteer Committee
4. Plan out event requirements, such as tables, food, permits, etc.
5. Report monthly to the President

Volunteer Coordinating Committee -
1. Welcome in new members to the Museum
2. Integrate new members into our volunteer staff (yard, building, crew, etc.)
3. Maintain record of volunteer hours
4. Make sure building is staffed as needed, including Front Desk and Yard Tour staff
5. Collaborate closely with Events Committee and their needs
6. Report monthly to the President
7. Collaborate with Advertising Director for promoting events

Over the years during my terms as President, I have always said that the volunteers can make or break this organization. It is very true right now. I need you, the member and volunteer, to come forward and help keep our Museum moving forward. If you can help in any of these positions please contact me by calling me at the Museum (203) 778-8337.
Photos of the Electrification of the Danbury Branch

By Stan Madyda, with archival assistance from Gerry Herrmann and Peter McLachlan

These photos show the early days of the electrification of the Danbury Branch. The photos were made from negatives donated by Diane Brown, and are now part of the Reference and Research Library Collection at the Museum. The photographs were taken by her father-in-law, H.F. Brown.

The envelope that contained the negatives had very little information as to when and where they were taken. We do know that work for the electrification was authorized in late August 1924. Work was completed by July 1925.

We would have to assume that the photo below showing the track crew at work was taken in late August or September since the weather is warm and leaves are still on the trees. We are not sure of the location but it could be between Wilton and Branchville.

Another photo (not shown) we have of the same location shows Route 7 running parallel to the field.

The photo (top right) showing the lone worker in shirt sleeves and tie appears to have been taken about the same time. We do know that the location is the Greenwood Avenue crossing in Bethel. The small building on the right is the crossing gate shanty.

The photo (lower right) showing the crew on the track car was probably taken during December. We do not know the location of where it was taken.

Further research on the branch indicates that construction began in October 1924 and that by mid-December most of the concrete foundations for the overhead were complete. Work on the line continued through the winter and service was inaugurated in July 1925.

These photos are three of a total of 17 we had printed from 23 negatives. They are available for viewing in the Library by appointment along with other material we have on the Danbury Branch, including feasibility studies on more recent electrification.

Glossary of Railroad Lingo

from Railroad Avenue by Freeman H Hubbard, 1945.

- Black hole - Tunnel
- Counting the ties - Reducing speed
- Grass wagon - Tourist car (tourists like scenery)
- Rubberneck car - Observation car
- Throttlejerker - Engineer
- Ashcat - Locomotive fireman
- Put on the nosebag - Eat a meal
- Peanut roaster - Any small steam locomotive
- Zoo keeper - Gate tender at passenger station
- Wigwag - Gate crossing signal
The three pieces of equipment owned by local businessmen arrived in the yard to await refurbishing into a railroad themed restaurant.

The DRM was able to assist the Military Museum when the Housatonic delivered flat cars loaded with a tank and other military equipment.

The April Open House was discussed calling for members to help and be part of the event. The yard and station would be open to visitors with dealer tables, layouts and food available. Excursion trains were to be run over the Maybrook - an all day trip to Beacon on Saturday April 20th and two shorter trips to Dykemans the following day. A night photo session in the yard was planned for Saturday night.

Additional events announced were a memorial service for John Flower, member meetings, yard work sessions and board meetings.

The historical submission had to do with the Danbury Division of the New Haven Railroad in 1929 with its headquarters located in one of the buildings now on the Leahy Fuel property. There was also a brief review of the "Central New England Story, Volume II" by Bob Nimke.
Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

We have a new book in stock: NEW HAVEN PASSENGER TRAINS by Peter Lynch. Companion book to his popular NEW HAVEN RAILROAD, this 160 page book with pictures of stations, terminals (including Grand Central Terminal and Penn Station), advertisements, route maps, timetables, and interior views of cars, provides a dramatic visual account of train travel in its heyday, and a view of its subsequent decline. Member price: $31.50.

The Gift Shop has received top-quality blue denim long-sleeved shirts with the DRM logo on the pocket. (The short-sleeved ones were pictured in the Gift Shop News in the December 2005 newsletter.) A limited number are available at cost to members for $30. If you want one, contact Patty at the Gift Shop anytime through the month of February.
Railroad References and Information Sources

By Wade Roese

As promised, here is a list of railroad and modeling information sources.

1-87vehicles.org  
H-O vehicles, info & many links

hankstruckpictures.com  
Truck pictures (thousands of all types)

railroaddata.com  
5000+ reference sites (real and models)

railserve.com  
10,000+ reference sites (real and models)

northeast.railfan.net/now19.html  
M.O.W. equipment pictures

trains.com  
Access to Kalmbach Pub. Index from 1934

Evergreenscalemodels.com  
18620-F 141st Ave. N.E. Woodenville, WA 98072  Plastic modeling materials

(877) 376-9099

Plastruct.com  
Plastruct, Inc., 1020 S. Wallace Place, City of Industry, CA 91748  Plastic modeling supplies

(800) 666-7015

Walthers.com  
Wm. K. Walthers, Inc., 5601 W. Florist Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53218-1622  Model railroad supplies, videos, kits, books, sets, etc.

(800) 487-2467

Lonestarmodelsinc.com  
Lonestar Models, 2808 Cibola Dr., Irving, TX 75062  H-O vehicles and reference links

(972) 252-0866

Microscale.com  
Microscale Industries, 18435 Bandilier Cir., Fountain Valley, CA 42708  Decals

(714) 593-1422

Zyconmodels.com (see lonestar models)  
High quality brass and import H-O models

Pen-bay.com  
Penbay Equipment Co., P.O. Box 520, Winterport, ME 04496-0520  Stock and custom decals

Micromark.com  
Micro-Mark, 340 Snyder Ave., Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922-1595  Small tools, resin, supplies

(800) 225-1066

Specialshapes.com  
Special Shapes Co., P.O. Box 7487, 1356 Naperville Dr., Romeoville, IL 60446-0487  Brass shapes

(800) 517-4273

Note of Caution: Use of these websites can be dangerous - two arms come out and grab you into your computer, and you may become addicted!

New Sign Indicates “High Water Mark” of 1955 Flood

In October 1955, the Still River overflowed and inundated downtown Danbury. By looking at old photos, it was possible to pinpoint the location of the “high water mark” of this flood on our building.
ATTENTION:
OPEN IMMEDIATELY!
BALLOT ENCLOSED

MUSEUM CALENDAR
Feb 15(7:45pm)  Slides of Putnam Div., Danbury, and Norwalk Stations - Roger Liller
Feb 16(7:00pm)  Board Meeting (Open to Members)
Feb 22(7:45pm)  Video; Restoring Bangor & Aroostook Caboose C-63 - Gary Gerske
Mar  1(7:45pm)  New Haven RR Slides continued - Peter McLachlan
Mar  8(7:45pm)  Scenery (Modeling) - Steve Mayerson
Mar 15(7:45pm)  Slides fr His Collection - Ed Blackman

Be sure to look for the full color version of this newsletter on our website: www.danbury.org/drm!

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Change of Address
If you move, please send your change of address to:
Danbury Railway Museum,
Attention: Membership Chairman
PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
Via Email to drmmembers@aol.com