Turntable Deemed Historic

As a result of the efforts mainly of DRM President Ira Pollack and Bruce Clouette, the Danbury Railway Museum’s operating railyard turntable has been given historic designation and listed on the National Historic Register. The Museum, having recently received a plaque for it, has planned a ceremony to recognize the turntable’s historic designation and dedicate the plaque. The occasion will be on Saturday, November 18th, beginning with the 1:30pm train ride to the turntable. Members are welcome to attend.

RPO News & Notes

By Bill Britt, Project Leader

Things are moving right along and the outside of the car is well underway toward completion. The entire car has been wire brushed; the roof has been epoxy primed and epoxy coated black. The rest of the car has been wire brushed and epoxy primed. The TUSCAN RED epoxy coating has been delivered and we hope to start on it this week. Weather permitting. (Editors Note: Weather permitted. See photo opposite.)

When the outside is complete we expect to work inside. The first thing we hope to do is to get lighting in the car. There are several lighting fixtures that are missing, and we have been looking around to locate parts to replicate them; this may prove to be difficult on such an old car, but we will do our best.

There will be some carpentry work that can be done at home; if there are any carpenters reading this that might like to help in this regard, please see me.

DID YOU KNOW? Under normal operating

Event Reminder:

Saturdays 10 - 5, Sundays 12 noon - 5

Our vintage train will be giving rides to the pumpkin patch, where apples and cider also will be served. Face painters, turntable rides, model railroad layouts and other attractions will be greeting guests attending our annual Pumpkin Patch event. Tickets are $9 for adults, $7 for kids 3-12 yrs, 2 and under free. If you would like to help out, please contact Sue Thomas at (203) 792-1981.
New Members

We are delighted to welcome our new members this month. All members, as well as the general public, are welcome to attend the weekly meetings and free programs held Wednesdays, 7:30pm, at the Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury. We invite all members to become involved in Museum activities as soon as possible!

Pat Burns
Dennis Caffrey
Kathryn A. Casella
Ronny Castillo
William B. Cole
Kelsey Connors
Ethan Dubrosky
Melissa Fisher
David Insoft
Melissa Marchewka
Deirdre McCann
Lisa Nyden
Dennis Rosenbaum
Judith & Del Ryan
Robert Shand
Erin Tyson

Haddon Hts., NJ
Stratford, CT
Somers, NY
Danbury, CT
Wassaic, NY
Milford, CT
Fairfield, CT
Stormville, NY
Pound Ridge, NY
Danbury, CT
Wilton, CT
Monroe, CT
Poughkeepsie, NY
Danbury, CT
Milford, CT
New Milford, CT

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

October 1996 saw the Danbury Railway Museum’s First Annual Fall Train Show held on October 19 and 20. The two-day event featured Fall Foliage trips. The Saturday trip was an all-day affair to Hopewell Junction, New York. The Sunday trips were to Dover Plains, New York in the morning and Towners, New York in the afternoon. Weather forecasts for the Saturday were for heavy rain and wind which hindered ticket sales for that ride. Sunday was a better day and sales improved. Mike Salata had the foresight to bring along a chain saw in the event we would have to clear the line west of Danbury. Sure enough, fallen trees did need to be removed by Museum members. The trips were delayed and the afternoon train did have a very unhappy passenger who accused the DRM of kidnapping him and threatened to sue because we were late. He almost became our first and only passenger to be removed from a train. Back at the station, the main waiting room had been cleared out and dealer tables were set up. Attendance for the weekend was 1700 people.

In other news, the Museum received the bronze plaque that now is fastened to the front of the building stating that the Old Danbury Station has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is interesting to note that Danbury Union Station was not used because research at the time did not show that the station on White Street was ever called that. “Union” signifies that a station was serviced by more than one railroad, and in 1903 when the White Street station was built, the New Haven was the only railroad providing service to Danbury. It was suggested

Volunteer Will Be Missed

The DRM received the sad news that long-time and Life member Peter King recently passed away. We will miss him, and send our condolences to the members of his family. Peter volunteered at the Museum, and frequently was seen wearing a conductor’s uniform as a costume at events, such as at the Pumpkin Patch event, shown here. In addition, his love of trains and knowledge of model railroading were an asset to the Museum.

Continued on Page 6
RS11 is being primed, and work continues on the CN passenger car, soon to be called the Party Car.

There are many different events, projects, and happenings going on at the Museum and, of course, I want you to be part of it if you can. We still have many voids in our operation and need your most appreciated help. In this month’s newsletter our editor has started a “help-wanted” column. This column will describe some of these very important positions that will help our organization continue to grow. Please come forward to help out.

In closing this month’s President’s report, I would like you to know things are doing OK at the Museum. We have been fairly successful this season with many new members, new projects in the yard being worked on, and certainly many great reports and compliments from guests visiting our facility. We must continue the good work though, keep our Museum growing, and keep the ideas new and fresh.
Kids Tracks

Each picture on this page shows part of a piece of equipment or display in our Museum railyard. Can you tell what each is, and what it is part of? Photos of the entire piece of equipment or display are on Page 7 in this issue. Are you able to match the photos on this page with the ones on Page 7? Answers are on Page 5.
The Yard Inside

By Wade W. Roese

**Layout Status:**

**Z Gauge:** We don’t have any yet, but would be very grateful to anyone that could share some with us.

**N Gauge:** We have not done much with the N gauge lately, since Bill Britt keeps a good rein on its maintenance. We do, however, invite anyone interested in constructing a new building to give one a try. The white paper ones are hopefully only temporary.

**HO Gauge:** The HO gauge layout continues to move forward. J.R. has almost completed the upper level yard trackwork, while Marty has been designing, constructing, and testing the electronic control circuits. Painting and other scene enhancing operations are underway. Anyone interested in assisting, please come to the Museum Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. Welcome to Gary Bentley.

**S Gauge:** The new display we mentioned last issue has come to fruition and many pieces of our S gauge collection are now on static display.

**O Gauge:** Thanks to the efforts of Ron Huppert, we are the grateful recipients of brand new Ross O gauge track and switches which will form the “base” for a new O gauge plan. Anyone interested in getting in on the ground floor of this project, please contact me or Rich Shubar, project leader.

**Standard Gauge:** Some “new” old standard gauge pieces have been placed on exhibit in our new display case as noted later in this update.

**G Gauge:** We have received some new G gauge donations and are planning the outside layout mentioned in a previous newsletter.

We (the Tuesday night work crew) have recently completed construction of four new display cases: three of which will be utilized to display various gauge models; the fourth will be used for library collections that have not been displayed previously. Additional displays and exhibits are in the process of being changed, revised, or updated. Lots of new stuff coming. Please join us; we look forward to your participation.

**Answers to Kids Tracks**

A, the signal portion of the Wilton semaphore, goes with #6, the Wilton semaphore and operator’s shed.

B, the cables for operating a crane, goes with #4, the New York Central double ended crane.

C, the herald for the New York Central caboose, goes with #3, the 1909 New York Central wooden caboose.

D, The cowcatcher of the steam locomotive, goes with #2, #1455, the Boston & Maine steam locomotive.

E, the Union Pacific emblem, goes with #1, the Union Pacific hi-rail flaw testing car.

F, the CN symbol and identification number, goes with #7, the red CN caboose.

G, part of the support for the overhang to the freight house that once stood in Danbury railyard, goes with #5, the display of all that remains of that freight house.

On your next visit to the DRM’s railyard, will you be able to locate each of these items?
that the older station now situated on Leahy’s property could have been called Danbury Union Station since two railroads serviced it – the New Haven and the New York & New England.

It was announced that Mickey Silberbauer was elected to the board filling a newly created spot. An organizational change was made with Peter McLachan put in charge of the Operations Department which included the Yard Group, and Mechanical Group headed by Ed Blackman and Geoff Knees respectively. Other groups within the Museum at the time included the Marketing Group and the Accessions Group. Two new groups were named – the Station Group headed by Terri Stramiello and the Exhibits Group with both Terri and Peter in charge. The Station Group was responsible for the building and grounds while the Exhibits Group was to plan and implement exhibits in the station.

A painting program was outlined for some of the equipment in the yard. New Haven caboose C-627 was already in new paint and plans were for the Mack Rail Bus, Pennsylvania box car 112432 and the RS-1 locomotive to be painted as soon as money and volunteers could be secured.

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Ten years ago, continued from page 2

Ten years after the new paint job, the New Haven C-627 Class NE-5 caboose is an example of how maintenance of our equipment has to be ongoing. This caboose is in need of rust removal and tarring on its roof, plus a new coat of bright red paint with fresh lettering. Our equipment is exposed to adverse weather conditions year-round, since even sunlight can fade and weather paint. While we pursue restoration of newly acquired items, we also must constantly work at maintaining equipment and displays which we have already restored.

Art Slothower spent long days painting the RPO car.

Help Wanted

Following are special positions that need to be filled for the Museum to continue to operate smoothly.

Advertsing Director - Requirements of Position
1. Produce budget for upcoming year (possibly using past year as a guideline).
2. Advertise upcoming events at Museum (Santa, Pumpkin Patch, Easter Bunny, First Night, etc.).
3. Inform public of happenings at Museum (turntable, new equipment and displays, etc.)
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.

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

Flyers were already being circulated for the Third Annual Holiday Express to be run on December 7 & 8.
MUSEUM CALENDAR

Oct 19(7:00pm)  Board Meeting (Open to Members)
Oct 25(7:30pm)  NY, NJ, PA lines - Bob Kessler
Nov  1(7:30pm)  New England and Canada - Roger Coleman
Nov  8(7:30pm)  Video of Cass + Mower Logging - Dick Shubar
Nov 15(7:30pm)  Berkshire Rte, Pt 2, slides - Ron Smith

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

Contact Information
Please contact us with submissions:
Mail:  The Danbury Railway Museum
        Attention: Newsletter
        PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
Phone:  203.778.8337
Fax:    203.778.1836
Email: newsletter@danburyrail.org
Editor: Carolyn Taylor
Printing by: Infinity Printing of Danbury

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