

The Railyard Dispatch

Volume 14, Issue 10

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum November - December 2015

Elections 2016 – Resumes Due Official Notice: Now Accepting Nominations



The 2016 Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations and resumes for openings on the Danbury Railway Museum Board of Directors. Four Director positions are up for election. Each will serve a two year term. If you are interested in running for any of the positions, incumbents and new candidates alike, please prepare a resume that is **no longer than one-half an 8 ½ X 11" sheet of paper**, and include the following information:

1. Name, address, phone number, e-mail address.
2. Your accomplishments for the DRM over the last two years. **No more than 150 words please.**
3. Your plans and goals for the DRM over your two year term. Include a project or area where you would contribute your time. **No more than 150 words please.**

There are three ways to send your resume to the Nominating Committee:

1. Via e-mail to GouldSL@aol.com.
2. By regular mail to the DRM at PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813, Attention: Steve Gould.
3. By placing in Steve Gould's mail box in the Museum office.

All resumes must be received by 4 PM, January 17, 2016 in the format described above to be considered a candidate. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!

Serving on the Board of Directors is a serious commitment to the Museum and its vision and goals. Please consider running only if you feel you can commit the time and effort to move the Museum forward and help it grow. Regular attendance at Board meetings, which are currently held the third Thursday of each month at the Museum, is a requirement. Check the Museum Bylaws, which are available in the Museum office, to check for requirements for running for any of the positions.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Gould for help. Also, if you know of someone who wants to be contacted about running, please let Steve know for follow up. Thank you!



In This Issue:

- ~ Upcoming Events at the DRM - Page 2
- ~ Milk Car Display Brings Back Memories - Page 3
- ~ Pumpkin Patch Trains 2015 - Pages 4 - 6
- Plus . . . New Members & Ten Years Ago

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!

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| David Allen | Danbury, CT |
| Samantha Cescam | New York, NY |
| Jeremy Stand | Bronx, NY |
| Jack Lapidis | San Francisco, CA |
| Robert Fulton | Danbury, CT |
| Janice Mahinka | Elmhurst, NY |
| David A. Guglielmo | Weston, CT |
| Orcutti Family | New Fairfield, CT |
| Christine Liu | New Haven, CT |
| William R. Losee | Ossining, NY |
| Dana Hoggatt | Danbury, CT |
| Paul Ineson | Hopewell Junction, NY |

Upcoming Events at the DRM

December 6th, 12th & 13th, 19th & 20th -

2015 Santa Express!

Come see Santa! Ride the train in our railyard and visit Santa in his Special Coach! Every child will receive a small gift from Santa.

Reservations are strongly recommended!

Reserve online at: www.danburyrail.org, or call 1-203-778-8337 during business hours.

Parking available at Patriot Garage.

The \$10 admission for visitors ages 2 and up (under 2 years free) includes train ride, exhibits and displays in our 1903 Station, operating layouts, children's activities and free hot chocolate!

Trains will be running every **half-hour** 12:00pm - 4:30pm on Saturdays and 12:30pm - 3:30pm on Sundays. There will be a **special evening train on Saturday nights, December 12th & 19th at 4:30pm!** Take an evening ride through our lighted railyard!

If you are a member and would like to help out, please contact Sue Teer at 203-792-1981.

Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show - January 30th & 31st, 2016

Come to the biggest railroad hobby show in the Northeast! As always, the show will be held at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, MA, and the DRM will be there!

Admission is **\$14 for adults and free for children 15 years or younger** accompanied by a paying

2 adult. A must see! For more information, go to: www.railroadhobbyshow.com/

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda, Vice President

As the Museum closed out the fall 2005 season, it could be said that the Pumpkin Patch trains were highly successful despite some weather that was not always the best. Shortly after the Pumpkin Patch trains ended, preparations began for the Santa Trains.

At long last, thanks to the efforts of then President Ira Pollack, points of interest signage was erected along the eastbound and westbound lanes of I-84. We had smaller signs at the end of Exits 5 and 6, but the larger signs alerted travelers that Danbury had a railway museum. To this day, we have visitors who said they saw the signage and decided to stop.

For a number of years, the Museum collaborated with the New York Transit Museum on excursions to the DRM. In 2005, we enhanced the outing by meeting the group in South Norwalk as they changed trains to travel to Danbury. This allowed the group to hear stories and histories about the branch and the DRM. Yard tours and a train ride were enjoyed by all. Departing Danbury on the 1:44 train, they travelled to South Norwalk where they were greeted by members of the Switch Tower Museum for a tour of that facility.

In the yard, the RPO was being worked on under the direction of Bill Britt who was looking for monetary donations to begin replacing the windows. Also needed were old canvas mail bags that had been phased out by the Post Office.

The Museum has always been a popular place for Western Connecticut State University photography students to visit for class assignments. Usually they came individually but we did have an entire class visit. Our partnership with WestConn continues to this day.

The Grant Writing Committee was busy all year submitting requests to a number of organizations. Three major projects in need of money at the time were the RPO car, New Haven RDC #32 and the Mack Railbus. Only the Mack Railbus never got the funding it needed.

Parking Deal on Weekends

Thanks to the generosity and cooperation of the staff at the Danbury Parking Authority, guests at the DRM will be able to get their admission ticket stamped at the Front Desk for a \$1 discount on parking at the Municipal garage across the street.

Milk Car Display Brings Back Memories

By Secretary Steve Gould

Seeing Ben Brown's O-gauge milk car display in one of the two triangular display cases in the Great Room reminds me of my youth. I grew up on a dairy farm in East Hampton, NY, on the Eastern end of Long Island. The Gould Dairy was founded by Jonathan F. Gould, my great grandfather, in 1885. He was the son of Patrick T. Gould, the keeper of the Montauk Point Lighthouse who was appointed to that job by President Andrew Jackson in 1832. The business was passed on to his son, my grandfather J. Arter Gould and Charles O. Gould, Arter's brother. My dad and his cousin took over the business shortly after my dad earned his degree in Business Administration from Syracuse in 1928; later the dairy merged with another in town to become G&T Dairies, Inc., until it went out of business in the 1970's.

My memories were of the merged dairy. Milk was produced, pasteurized, bottled and distributed from the farm. A creamery was established in town and then milk from each dairy farm was processed at the creamery rather than at the individual farms. G&T Dairies distributed pasteurized, homogenized, and chocolate milk. There were the usual varieties of heavy cream, light cream, and half-and-half. Eggs came from a chicken farmer located in Bridgehampton. Buttermilk and skim milk were not produced locally but were purchased from an "up Island" dairy, Sheffield Farms, a division of National Dairy Products Corporation (which later became Kraft Foods). Sheffield would ship LCL (less-than-carload) quantities of both milk varieties in glass bottles in a refrigerated milk box car via the Long Island Rail Road for delivery to the team track in East Hampton, barely a quarter mile from the dairy. I remember riding over with my dad in the truck which was backed up to the door of the car so that the cases of bottled product could be unloaded. I did that a number of times until the shipments were converted to truck via Sheffield's private fleet.

That's not the only memory of milk cars I have. When I was Manager of Railway Equipment for Standard Brands Incorporated in New York City in the early 1970's, I managed a variety of tank cars for a variety of bulk



products. The most unusual cars in the tank car fleet were former milk tank cars manufactured and leased by General American Pfaudler Corporation with GPEX reporting marks. A number of dairies such as Hood and Sheffield were lessee customers of General American. The cars were built just after World War II, were 50' long, and looked like a reefer box car but contained two stainless steel tanks. Inlet and outlet valves were accessed through the center door of the car. The Fleischmann Distilling Corporation, a Standard Brands subsidiary, used the milk tank cars to transport 140-proof, four-year-old bourbon whiskey from Owensboro, KY to bottling plants at Peekskill, NY and Plainfield, IL. The cars were ideal due to the stainless steel tanks. When the Federal DOT ruled that alcoholic beverages were hazardous due to flammability, the cars could no longer be used in this service due to enclosed tanks. The cars were then repurposed by Standard Brands and placed into bulk vinegar service, also due to the stainless steel tanks. When the cars were retired, most were scrapped but one of the "bourbon" or "vinegar" milk tank cars, GPEX 1021, was saved by the Illinois Railway Museum in Union, IL.

So come on down to the Museum and see which display will stir up a memory or two for you!

Pumpkin Patch Trains 2015

By Sue Teer; Photos this page courtesy of Sue Teer

Pumpkin Patch Trains 2015 were very successful for us with lots of happy families visiting and all good weather. Our volunteers were great interacting with the families and keeping things running smoothly, both inside and outside of the Station. This year brought 4 new lady volunteers: Lois, Martha, Gussie and Tiffany, who all kept the cider lines and tattoos moving along. A new blowup (a shaking tree full of pumpkins) was popular for photos and the RS1 worked tirelessly to move the crowds to the patch. We gave away about 1100 pumpkins, about 30 gallons of cider and 60 packages of cookies in case anyone was wondering. This event proved to be a great success for the Museum, and VERY busy for the gift shop too! Thanks to all who helped make these fun weekends possible, inside and outside of the Station, gift shop, train crew and general volunteers.



Pumpkin Patch Trains 2015, Continued from Page 4

Photos this page and page 6 courtesy of Carolyn Taylor



Continued on Page 6

Pumpkin Patch Trains 2015, Continued from Page 5



Season's Greetings
From The Danbury Railway
Museum's Officers and Directors





PO Box 90, DANBURY, CT 06813

Address Correction Requested

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DANBURY, CT
PERMIT NO. 569



MUSEUM CALENDAR

- December 2(7:30pm) *20th Century Limited* - Carl Liba
- December 9(7:30pm) Hopewell Junction, Part 2
- Peter McLachlan
- December 16(7:30pm) B. C. Rail - John Barton
- December 17(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members
- December 23(7:30pm) To Be Announced
- December 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** (Museum closed)
- December 30(7:30pm) To Be Announced
- January 1, 2016 **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** (Museum closed)
- January 6(7:30pm) DL&W Phoebe Snow - Carl Liba
- January 13(7:30pm) To Be Announced
- January 20(7:30pm) To Be Announced
- January 21(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members
- January 27(7:30pm) To Be Announced

Museum hours: Wed-Sat 10-4; Sun 12-4

See the newsletter in color at: www.danburyrail.org



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor

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: drmnewslettereditor@yahoo.com
 Editor: Michael Madyda
 Printing by: Infinity Printing of Danbury

Change of Address:

If moving, please send your new address to:
 Danbury Railway Museum,
 Attention: Membership Chairman
 PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
 Via Email to: drmmembers@aol.com