

Danbury Departures

Volume No. 11

October 2001

A message to our members, their loved ones, and their friends.

The Board of Directors shares the grief of our nation and our members throughout this period of mourning. We offer our sympathy and concern for those who have suffered injuries, loss or emotional distress as a result of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. We share the same emotions, pain and a sense of lost as the rest of America.

We extend our sincere thanks and well wishes to all those who assisted in the rescue efforts. We have

several members who were a part of that effort and some who were on call. We also thank all that gave to the efforts with money, clothing and/or food. We also have members that will be taking an active part in the response by the United States and we thank you and support the effort you will make.

Tony White

On Board This Issue

Library Sale

Looking for volunteers

Member Shopping Spree Weekend!

A welcome to new members

MEMBERS APPRECIATION SALE

The Library Committee

Don't miss out on these bargains!

The Danbury Railway Museum Reference and Research Library will have a Members' Appreciation sale on Wednesday November 7, 2001.

The sale will begin after the Wednesday night presentation. All duplicate books, timetables, videos and miscellaneous material will be sold at half price.



Please send your favorite Railroad related photo for 2001!

The December newsletter will feature the year in review with a special photo issue. We would like you to send your favorite Railroad related photo for 2001 with a caption and photo credit. E-mail to roberta@iliketrains.com, drop it off at the museum or mail to:

All photos received by mail will be returned.

Attn: Roberta
Danbury Railway Museum
P.O. Box 90
Danbury, CT 06813-0090

Member News

Welcome New Members

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Barry Allen | N. Reading, MA | W. Donald Fox | Brookfield, CT |
| Krista Belmont | Norwalk, CT | Michael Gagliardi | Bedford Hills, NY |
| Brandon M. Cartegena | Danbury, CT | R. J. Hunt | Bethel, CT |
| Norris & Sara Lee Browne | Wilton, CT | Jonathan Koza | Brooklyn, NY |
| Valentine Cesare | South Norwalk, CT | Leo J. Kwiatkowski | Yorktown Heights, NY |
| Richard Cirulli | Wappinger Falls, NY | Douglas Kydd | Reading, MA |
| Arthur Conrad | Danbury, CT | Gregory A. Roederer | Cliffside Park, NJ |
| Dan Cotton | Sandy Hook, CT | Edward J. Sweeney | Norwood, MA |
| Rosemary Cywin | Bethel, CT | Frank Veneziano | Norwalk, CT |
| Edward S. Davies, P.E. | Wilton, CT | Susan Wilkes & Family | Fishkill, NY |
| Andrew Doherty & Family | Danbury, CT | Nicholas Zabawar | Cheshire, CT |



Photo by Tony White

New Metro-North Genesis engines 228 & 229 seen in Selkirk, NY on Sept. 10, 2001.



Photo by Mark Wurst

We hope to see you at an upcoming Wednesday night meeting (7pm at the museum, 120 White Street in downtown Danbury). In addition, we invite you to get involved in Museum activities as soon as possible.

REMINDER If you move, please send your change of address to:

Danbury Railway Museum

Attention: Membership Director
P.O. Box 90

Danbury, CT 06813

or via e-mail:

DRMMEMBERS@aol.com.



Photo by Mark Wurst

Check It Out!

An interesting web site belonging to member Mark Wurst featuring good memories of NYC as related to a true railfan.

<http://www.erols.com/mswurst>

LIBRARY REPORT

by Stan Madyda

The Reference and Research Library continues to receive donations from both members and non-members. Since its inception, there have been over close to 400 donations. Most have been kept. We try to sell duplicate material to raise money for the Collection Fund. Any material that is not relevant to our Collection Policy is usually passed on to other organizations that may have use for it. For instance, we recently donated subway signs, books and trolley transfers to the New York Transit Museum located in Brooklyn. The signs were a welcome addition to their collection as well as the transfers and books.

Here are some more donations we have received over the years:

Thomas Valluzzo - posters, Amtrak brochures and Official Guides.

Al Whalen - various railroad promotional material.

Peter Serniak - the Danbury Station sign that hangs in the Museum.

Carolyn Wagner - teaching manuals.

John Farrington - a live steam engine that is on display along with a grandfather's clock.

Joseph Dolloff - Currier & Ives commemorative print.

Charlie Buckels - insulators found along the New Haven main line in Kingston, Rhode Island.

Phil Smith - a transformer from an Ives trainset.
DRM Mechanical Department - the first set of cab releases from riders of the RS-1.

Anton Muller - Waterbury Station hose holder, track gauge, handbrake manuals and a video.

Dave McKee - reproduction of the Hamilton Press ink blotters showing the Danbury Station.

Edward S. Moore - Adams Express Company photo.

Jerrold Davis - employee timetables, waybills, time records and review certificates.

Ernest Lattanzio - photos of the Danbury Station just before renovations began.

Dord Melcede - books.

Ted Grafton - an oil can, book of rules, employee timetables, manuals, airbrake book and various other paper material relating to the railroad.

Mrs. Ted Sommer - an oil can and magazines.

Howard Peatfield - a car mover, car inspector lamp, Amtrak battery operated lantern, magazines, timetables and various New Haven forms.

DRM Gift Shop - two copies of the June 1996 issue of Railpace which features the DRM's Grand Opening.

Peter Selgin - insulators, a subway sign and various books.

Jim Miller - books, Official Guides, CN timetable, forms and leg straps from the Canadian National.

Robert Vogel - books.

Linda Hagenkotter - public timetables for the 1997 PGA trains.

Irwin Clurman - Transit Authority books and manuals.

New arrivals at the Gift Shop

From: Susan A Thomas

Calendars for 2002, both a general one of New England Railroads, and the NHERTA calendar for the New Haven fans.

We have received a new display of Christmas Cards by Learning Curve, with 18 designs new for 2002.

Thomas lunch boxes, juice holders, spoons and a new windbreaker jacket are now in stock for the little ones.

Member "Shopping Spree Days" will be Thanksgiving Weekend in the Gift Shop, with 20% off all items for members (please be sure to renew and bring your new card). We hope this new annual event will be a fun and easy way to pick up that special gift you have wanted for someone (or yourself). 50 new videos and dozens of new books in stock for the holidays are coming in now. **See you then.**

Taking Big Steps to Reach Our Goals

While America and the rest of the people impacted by that event on 9-11-01 take steps to recover, we too are doing the same.

The DRM continues to move ahead on several fronts to attaining the fulfillment of our Mission Statement. We continue to strive towards the investment of volunteer time, and income into creating a pleasant experience for all those who attend the museum.

The new computer system has been thoroughly investigated by the team of Roberta Ballard, Chris Blackman and myself. We are ready to make final decisions in hardware and software with purchase and installation to follow shortly. With the new system we will have the ability to improve admission ticketing, tracking sales in the gift shop, make creative mailings, and most important be able to have access to important membership info and packages.

Follow-up continues on all leads to equipment that will enhance our museum. Some pieces of equipment have already started their journey to the DRM. Others are waiting for clearance and transportation. And, others are just being looked at for appropriateness to the museum.

We have begun talks with other railroad groups in order to establish working relations with them. The goal is to form a cooperative in advertising, share physical help and expertise in restorations and operations, foster railroading in New England, have a joint effort in saving some special pieces of equipment that are very rare and to make each museum prosper.

This year we had no organized fund raising. However many members are giving small donations with their renewed memberships. We greatly appreciate these monies. They help defray the high costs of electricity and gas and keep the restoration process strong.

Many members are needed in the effort to make a successful museum. Some people support us through their donations. Others support us through their volunteerism. Both have equal value in my opinion. If any one of our members have thoughts of helping out, please contact me via email DRMTony@prodigy.net or regular mail addressed to the DRM and I will see that the proper person contacts you for follow-up.

Tony White, Treasurer

From the Operations Dept:

By Skip Kern

The operations dept is looking for members who would like to be part of the Rail Yard Local operating train crew.

Candidates should be 20 years of age or older, be willing to work in various types of weather, able to climb on and off equipment, and have a desire to learn how to be a trainman, brakeman, conductor, hostler, fireman, engineman.

You will be given a manual to work from, class time and practical experience.

If interested or for more information please contact: Skip Kern, at dkern@snet.net, or drop me a line at the museum, c/o Skip Kern

DRM Classified

HELP WANTED

Saturdays - starting at 9am

 **Ongoing RDC 32 work.**

Painting, sanding, grinding required.

Nancy Sniffen, Manager -1-203-732-5035

Joe Ward, Co-Manager - 792-2537

 **Yard Work**

Ira Pollack, 744-0801

Passenger Cars roof repair.

Dirty clothes and gloves required.

Ira Pollack, 744-0801

 **Tonawanda Valley Interior Restoration.**

Painting and sanding.

Roberta Ballard - email: roberta@iliketrains.com .

 **Volunteers also needed for:**

Front Desk, Gift Shop, Birthday Parties,
and various other positions

Call museum 203-778-8337 or email Kathy Fay at:
KM Fay30@aol.com



FORTY YEARS AGO....SEARCHING FOR STEAM IN WEST VIRGINIA

BY STEVE GOULD

Forty years ago - 1961 - was a very event-filled year. Besides the inauguration of John F. Kennedy as our 35th President, the sub-orbital flight of Alan Shepard, and the building of the Berlin Wall, it also was the year Bob Kessler and I traveled to West Virginia to seek out the last vestiges of short-line steam.

Bob and I had a few free days between our last final exam and graduation exercises at American University so we decided on a two-day trip. We left Washington, DC at 2:00 AM on June 1, arriving at the Virginia - West Virginia border at sunrise. Our first stop in the state was depressing: the Middle Fork Railroad in Ellamore, WV had already switched to diesel and their two Climax and one Heisler geared-engines were in dead storage on a siding.

Our next stop was Dundin, home of the Buffalo Creek & Gauley. What do they say about timing? Ours, so far, was bad as the BC&G was not running. The railroad shop personnel told us that on the first of each month, a different engine of the three rostered, is readied for service. Out in the yard, 2-8-0 #4 was the engine was being made ready.

We were told to return the next day when operations would commence. Before we left, we noted a number of Elk River Lumber Company Mikes in the yard, used for cannibalization purposes. We also visited the mining town of Widen, the other end of the BC&G; ten minutes there was an eternity due to the depressing atmosphere it presented.

Since we still wanted to see steam, we headed for Fenwick, WV, 30 miles away and home of the Ely-Thomas Lumber Company. We weren't disappointed as Shay #3 was alive and well, sitting in the yard. The engineer, a retired C&O hogger, was very accommodating, as he posi-

tioned the engine between lumber stacks and did some runbys for my movie camera. We also got a cab ride and listened to that beautiful whistle echo off the surrounding hills.

We stayed the night in Gauley Bridge, WV, stopping en-route at Hawks Nest overlook to view the New River Gorge. Sleep came easily, in spite of freights from three railroads (C&O, B&O, and NYC) passing through town all night. Does it get any better than that?

The next morning, we were up at 6 am, and on the road shortly thereafter. We wanted to be back at the BC&G before 8 am. Upon arrival, we saw that #4 was under steam but yard personnel told us we could catch the Georgia Pacific Shay heading up a spur off of the BC&G. A wild and crazy drive on a terrible road brought us to a clearing ahead of the Shay. It lumbered past us, tender first, with several lumber flat cars and a bobber caboose in tow. We noted that the rails were laid right across a creek vs over it!!

We got back in time to catch a light move of #4 to the B&O interchange to pick up empty hoppers; as well as the engine and train passing the yard and blasting up grade on its climb to Widen. (This engine survives today as #604 at Historic Spencer Shops in NC.)

Our next quarry was found at Rainelle, WV, the home of the Meadow River Lumber Company in the form of Heisler #6. We had stopped by the previous day but the engine was not operating. This day, the engine actually moved but only about 100 yards. Still, we did see an operating Heisler. Cass Scenic Railroad now owns this geared engine.

It was 3 pm and time to head back to Washington. On the way back we stopped at White Sulphur Springs; Alleghany to catch the WB C&O "Sportsman"; and Clifton Forge, VA to view the large C&O yards. Arrival at the American University campus was midnight, completing 911 miles and the search for West Virginia steam.