

The Railyard Local

Volume 7, Issue 7

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

July 2008

Little Engine That Could Event

Museum hosts event for 3rd time

Once again our volunteers turned out to assist in the many ways needed to conduct this special event on the weekends of June 21-22 and 28-29. Thank you! It was clear from feedback from our guests and our observations, that those attending this event thoroughly enjoyed all the special attractions accompanying it, as well as our usual Museum and railyard displays.



We were disappointed in the ticket sales, which were lower than in the two previous years when we held this event. The final figures have not been tabulated yet. The Events Committee once again worked to cut our overhead in advance of the event. Purchasing an inflatable locomotive as an attraction was one of those moves. These inflatables have proved to be very popular, and we intend to use it many times in the future for other events.

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Have You Noticed?

Your DRM **membership expiration date** now **appears on the address label** of your monthly newsletter. If you are a Life Member, there will be no date on the label. Our Membership Chairman wants to remind you: **DO NOT SEND CASH**, and **DO NOT SEND A CHECK WITHOUT** the PAPERWORK that you were sent for renewal. We thank you all for your continued membership and support!

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plus . . .

A Valued Volunteer, and Al Kellogg Honored

Danbury Railway Day and Annual Member Picnic

Double treat on Saturday, August 9th

The focus of this 2nd annual Danbury Railway Day will be the celebration of the restoration of our Pennsylvania Railroad Railway Post Office car. Dr. Frank Schmeer or the Railway Mail Service Library in Boyce, VA will speak at the dedication ceremony for the car, and there will be a special stamp cancellation



by the United States Post Office right in our RPO car!. Of course, the car will be open for tours. We again will have working hit-and-miss engines, and blacksmithing at our New Haven forge. Special activities for children have been planned. We hope to have a demonstration of railroad car coupling-uncoupling. Our newly-enhanced garden railroad layout will be operating on the 18 platform. The *Railyard Local* will feature our unique caboose train, which will deliver passengers to our historic turntable for a ride, and take guests to the far track in our railyard and back. Admission will be \$8 for the public, \$7 for members for this 10-5pm event. Please contact the Museum to leave a message for Steve Gould if you will be able to assist on this special occasion.

Last year it worked out so well to hold the Annual Member Picnic immediately following the Danbury Railway Day, that we have decided to do the

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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!

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Carlos Fernandez | Croton Falls, NY |
| Vincent Aceste | South Salem, NY |
| Mark O'Neill | Bellmore, NY |
| James & Sylvia Warren | West Redding, CT |
| George Norris | Bronx, NY |
| Mark Hankla | Danbury, CT |
| Ana Horvath | Mahopac, NY |
| Sarah & Alex Hoffert | Sandy Hook, CT |
| Tim Schulken | West Hartford, CT |
| Robert Brown | Brookfield, CT |
| Robert Jenkin | Brookfield, CT |
| Walter Schopfer | Ridgefield, CT |
| William Strassner | Barneгат, NJ |

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

Work was progressing on getting the five flat cars located at the Bullard plant in Fairfield to Danbury. The main obstacle was to clear 20 years of brush and trees, and several members were working to get this job completed. The cars were of New Haven, Central Vermont and Bullard vintage.

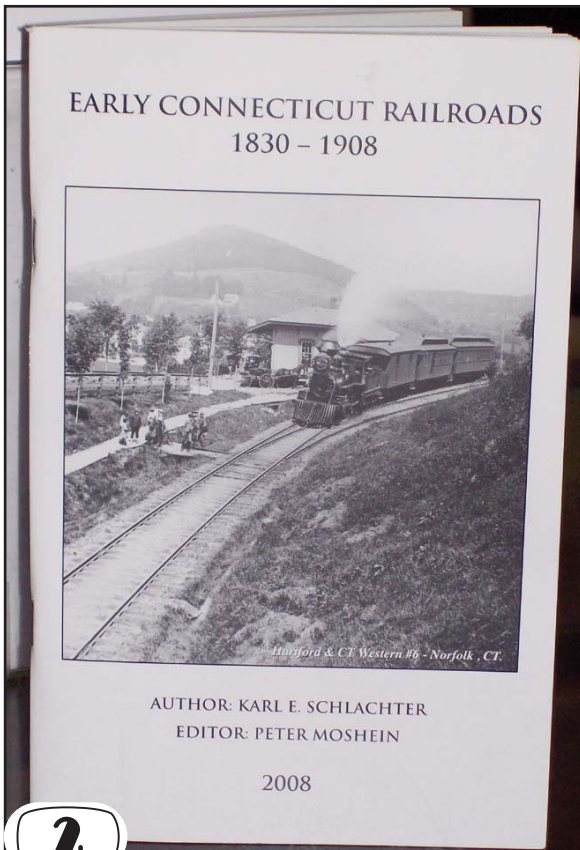


The Central Vermont flatcar from Bullard was restored; informational signage as shown. A tank car is in the background.

Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

We have just received a new book, "Early Connecticut Railroads 1830-1908" by Karl Schlachter. This informative little booklet is unique in that of all the books about Connecticut railroads which have



been published, none of them have included any details about the revenues they received. This book provides those statistics, along with several black and white photos. Member price: \$13.50.

There was a need for display cases, but the Museum declined to spend \$3,000

for several that were available from a Danbury store. However, Dan Foley learned of a store in New Canaan that was closing and the owners were willing to donate ones that they had. With Dan arranging for the transportation, the cases arrived in Danbury, along with some other needed supplies that were purchased for \$20.

A new feature was added to the newsletter: reviewing restoration work that was taking place in the yard. A number of projects were ongoing during the Summer of 1998. The PRR N5 caboose was one of the major undertakings. It was determined that much of the sheet metal siding would need to be replaced and the old siding was stripped off. Tim Pipelow, who was heading up the project, located a source for new siding and a purchase was made. In order to fasten the siding to the framing a hot riveting gun was purchased and a crew of members worked on preparing the caboose for further restoration and reconstruction.

DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

Dear Membership,
Hope all is well with you this summer.

We've been very busy this season working in the yard clearing and cleaning up the scrap metal that has accumulated over the years. The Museum has made a substantial financial gain through this process, and the yard has never looked this good. If you can, please visit us to see the difference that we have made. There are a lot of people out there who have made this possible, and I would like to thank them all for their generosity and help to make this change in the appearance of the yard. We have also been clearing out the boxcars and the blue baggage car to make them a more suitable workshop area.

By the time that you read this we will have experienced another Little Engine That Could event. I feel that we must look at other events that are generated by the Museum using whatever means we have at our disposal, and keep the event in-house to eliminate the overhead or additional costs incurred by outside contracts. The present economy is a definite factor in low ticket sales and lack of turnout for this event. The public is not spending or traveling as it did before the gas crisis, and this is affecting us and all of tourism as a whole. We must focus on events that are easy and inexpensive to run, like Pumpkin Patch, Santa Trains, Easter Bunny, etc. We have purchased an inflatable jump-around locomotive which will be a substantial



In other news, our volunteers, under the leadership of John Ivansco, are in the process of moving the Segar Street pumphouse building into the yard, and setting it up near the turntable area at the east end of the yard. We discovered the foundation of the old sandhouse will accommodate the pumphouse almost perfectly. Of course this will be an added attraction to



this area of the yard, and to the Museum. We also plan on building a platform for unloading passengers in this area once the pumphouse is installed. The larger plan for this area is to pour footings and re-erect the Botsford water tower just east of the pumphouse. This is one of the long overdue projects of which we seem to have hundreds at the DRM. I am very excited by these ideas, and hope we can see this all through in the near future.

I am looking forward to the Danbury Railway Day, and Membership Picnic coming up on August 9th, and I am hoping you can join us in this event.

In closing this report I must tell you there are other events that will be happening soon, and I will tell you of them as they unfold. I do not want to report on anything that is not definite because things will change as quickly as the weather. As always, I look forward to meeting you and talking about your interests in the Museum concerning its past, present, and future.



savings to us for future events. It will pay itself off in no time just by avoiding the rental fees that we otherwise would have to pay. I will add though that our volunteer staffing was very adequate and professional in running the Little Engine That Could event, and I would like to thank everyone involved for helping out.

Images from *The Little Engine That Could* Event



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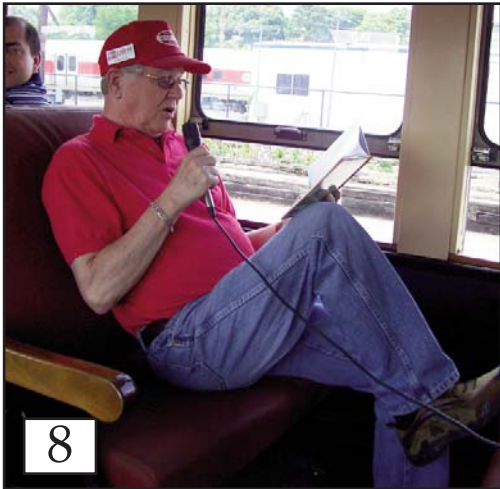


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1) Dave Lowry and Jerry Lawlor smile a greeting to Museum guests. 2) Spruced up G-scale layout on the 18 platform. A second tier is operational, along with a straight track on which the Budd car traversed 3) Suze Blackman applies a tattoo. 4) A pleased Sarah Leavy shows off the result. 5) Passengers on their way toward the turntable while listening to the story of *The Little Engine That Could*. 6) A new directional sign created by Ira Pollack specially for this event. 7) Don Konen and Joe Ward were among those staffing our food concession.

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8) Dave Rist was the story reader on the first weekend. 9) Steve Mayerson and Dave Roberts were train crew on the Little Engine. 10) Gallant Car Hosts Pete McLachlan and Art Slothower assist passengers debarking for a turntable ride. 11) Pete and Conductor John O'Hern, who also operated the turntable, watch as pleased guests leave the ride. 12) Passengers on the train. 13) Bill Britt watches Bob Pitcher and Glenn Miller make repairs at the forge. 14) Alan Stock's hit-and-miss engines

Historical Photos from 1939



By Pete McLachlan

The Royal Train carrying the King and Queen of England to the New York World's Fair was yarded at Danbury overnight. Frank Azzarito was the engineer in charge of the train while it was in the yard.

These photos were donated by his son Art Azzarito, also a retired Metro-North engineer.



Al Kellogg Honored

The Danbury Railway Museum recently paid tribute to Al Kellogg for his generosity to the Museum. He and his grandson Cody donated the popular G-scale logging layout in the Museum's Great Hall. The Tuesday night modeling crew set it up for us. On behalf of the Museum, DRM President Ira Pollack presented Al with a plaque of appreciation.



A New Volunteer Joins Us

Dan Stoller, a college student, has made a big difference at the DRM this summer season. He has



assisted at the Front Desk, as a Car Host, and in other capacities. He is flanked in the photo by long-time, steadfast DRM volunteers, and members of the train crew, Pete McLachlan and Sean Harte.

A Very Valued Volunteer

Dave Roberts wears many hats (literally) at the DRM. As shown in this photo, Dave has recently added assisting with finances by balancing daily receipts and preparing the deposit to the list of ways he helps at the Museum. Dave can be seen on train crews as a Conductor, "Pretengineer" on Little Engine, staffing the Gift Shop or Front Desk, maintaining our grounds, restoring equipment, working on model layouts here, restoring track, assisting with mechanical maintenance, picking up our mail from the Post Office, and contributing as a member of the Events Committee. He has willingly assisted where help is needed. That also has included sometimes picking up this newsletter from the printers, or delivering it to the Post Office. Thank you, Dave!



Ten Years Ago, Continued from Page 2

Ira Pollack was busy lettering the PRR X58A boxcar so it would be completed in time for the August Thomas event. Ron Freitag and a group of members also worked on the PC N8A caboose #23662



getting the exterior ready for Ira to letter it.

Other projects in the yard also had a number of members giving their time. Nancy Sniffen and Joe Ward were working on the interior of the New Haven RDC-1 #32 while Jaap, Brent and Brian van Dorp evaluated the drive train. Andy Solomon headed up the restoration of New Haven gondola #60521 while Bob



The restored New Haven gondola with signage giving its history. The presence of informational, directional, and safety signage in our railyard is largely due to the efforts of DRM Pres-ident Ira Pollack.

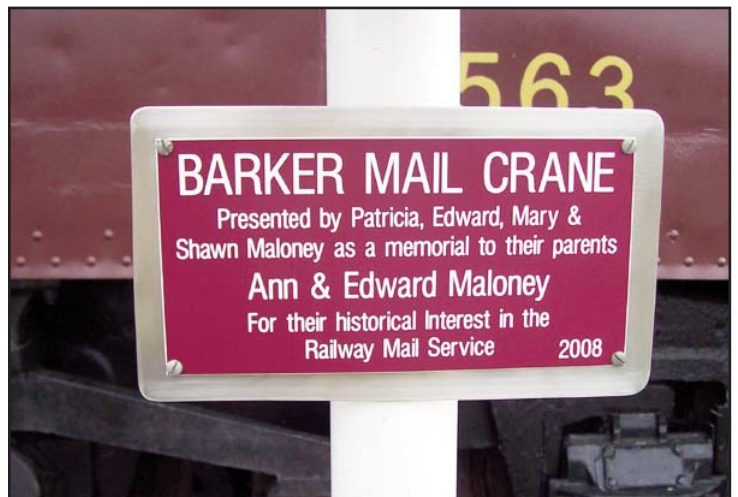
Broderick and Steve Kohart started work on

the "NYC" E9 locomotive loaned to the DRM by Ed Bowers.

The Library continued to receive donations including a number of issues of *Railway Age* from the war years of 1940-1943.

Danbury Railway Day & Picnic, Cont'd from Page 1

same this year. The picnic will begin at 5:30pm. Do plan to come early on August 9th and stay late! The picnic-style dinner will be served at no charge to members, but donations to help defray costs will be appreciated. **Admission to the picnic will be by ticket only.** Reserve your ticket(s) by emailing us at info@danburyrail.org or call the Museum at (203) 778-8337, and let us know how many will be in your group. As in the past, there will be free train rides, including the cab, for members. The picnic is a relaxing opportunity to enjoy good food while visiting informally with other members. For new members, it gives you a chance to meet other members and vice versa. So often we are here at different times, and not all at once! We hope you will join us!



The Barker mail crane is a new addition to the restoration of our RPO car. As the newly installed plaque indicates, the mail crane was generously presented to us by members of the Maloney family. We are hopeful that some of them will be able to attend the celebration of the RPO's restoration on August 9th.



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

July	16(7:30pm)	Slides;Long Island RR-Bob Gambling
July	17(7:00pm)	Board Meeting (Open to Members)
July	23(7:30pm)	Slides fr His Collection-Ed Blackman
July	30(7:30pm)	Films of J. Tulley - Joe Schiavone
Aug	6(7:30pm)	Modeling:Paint/Weathering Details - Steve Mayerson
Aug	13(7:30pm)	Slides;Conrail in 80's-Pete McLachlan
Aug	20(7:30pm)	Membership Open Meeting w/Pres. Ira Pollack and Board Members

Museum hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5pm; Sunday 12-5pm
See the newsletter in color at www.danbury.org/drm!



Contact Information

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