

The Railyard Local

Volume 8, Issue 5

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

July 2009

Double Treat on Sat., Aug 8th

Danbury Railway Day

plus our Annual Member Picnic

The focus of the 3rd annual Danbury Railway Day will be the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of our wooden New York Central and Hudson River Railroad caboose. We plan to have a speaker from the New York Central Railroad Historical Society to discuss the service provided by these wooden cabooses. On this special occasion we also will have the Grand Opening of our restored pumphouse which was relocated from Segar Street! Just as we have on the previous two Danbury Railway Days, we will have numerous added attractions including working hit-and-miss engines, blacksmithing at our New Haven forge, and demonstrations of railroad car coupling-uncoupling.



A coupling-uncoupling demonstration in progress at last year's Danbury Railway Day.

Our garden railroad layout will be operating on the 18 platform, and special activities for children will be available. The Railyard Local will feature a double-caboose train, which will deliver passengers to our historic turntable for a ride and a tour of the pumphouse, then take guests to the far track in our railyard and back. Normal general admission rates will apply for this 10-5pm event. **Train rides will be free!** Please contact Steve Gould at the Museum if you will be able to assist on this special occasion.

Following the activities for Danbury Railway Day, will be the Annual Member Picnic, beginning at 5:30pm. The picnic-style dinner will be served at no

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15th Anniversary Celebration

Special dinner to mark DRM's milestone

Two Steps Restaurant on Ives Street in Danbury will be the site of our celebration on **Friday, September 18th**. The festivities will begin at **6:30pm** with a buffet dinner. Information also will be posted on our website www.danburyrail.org.

We need to have your ticket order by Sept. 9th. Tickets are \$35 per person and may be obtained in person at the Museum, by mailing a check, or by calling the Museum with a credit card handy. If purchasing by mail, please make the check out to Danbury Railway Museum, indicate it is for the dinner tickets, and mail it to S. Teer, Danbury Railway Museum, P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813. Be sure to include your return address and telephone number with the order.

We hope you will join us as we celebrate this occasion with great food and entertainment.

A Note of Thanks

"During my 2008 membership year I spent countless hours with my grandsons enjoying the railroad museum. Although they toured the yard and occasionally watched the videos, they mostly played with the "Thomas" tables. They always asked to go to the "Train Place." So for Christmas I treated myself to a Thomas Table that I now have in my family room and the boys can play everytime they visit.

Thank you for all the wonderful hours they spent with you."



The DRM's three large play tables, with a great variety of train toys, props and scenery are popular attractions.

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!

Patty Mudge	New Fairfield, CT
Kathleen Budzik	Danbury, CT
Katherine Brown	Ridgefield, CT
Dana Christos	New Milford, CT
Ben Heckscher	New York, NY
Shankar Narayan	Brookfield, CT
Eric Bernhard	Stamford, CT
Saulo Araujo	Danbury, CT
Pasquale Salvo	Newtown, CT
Greg Lirot, Jr.	Darien, CT
Geoffrey M. Graeber	Worcester, MA
Chris Haskins	Bethel, CT

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

The summer of 1999 was a busy time at the Danbury Railway Museum as described in the June and July newsletters.

Much work was being done in the yard and around the station for the Day Out with Thomas event scheduled for July 30th and 31st and August 1st. Many jobs needed to be filled and the call went out to members to volunteer.

Restoration work did not stop because of Thomas. Thanks was given to numerous members who worked hard to have equipment ready for the Spring Show. The FPA-4 Alco, owned by Ed Bowers, was painted into a Penn Central paint scheme and was featured in the night photo session. A crew completed the New Haven gondola. Quite a bit of the double ended crane had been repainted. By having so much equipment ready the first ever Photo Freight was able to run in the yard.

DRM at Quassy Travel Expo

The Museum was represented at Quassy Amusement Park on June 14th along with over 40 other places in the state of Connecticut to publicize attractions close to home. Sue Teer and Dave Roberts staffed our table. Attending such shows is an important way to inform the public about our Museum and attract people here. Sue attends numerous train shows each year, often with Jerry Lawlor. Photo by Dave Roberts.



This photo and captions supplied by Geoff Knees shows "the DRM crew posed just after finishing the pre-move prep of Ed Bowers' FPA's at the Bangor engine facility. From left: Tony White, Randy Natale, Ron Freitag, Goeff Knees, and Gary Baloun, a consultant sent by Ed to advise on the job." By Ten Years Ago, we already had made quite a difference in its appearance.

Attention was given to the Boston & Maine 1455. In addition to the purchase price, it was estimated that an additional \$15,000 was needed to prepare the engine and move it to Danbury. Raising funds for the engine was a priority and it was hoped that many members would see the importance of the engine to the DRM and donate what they could.

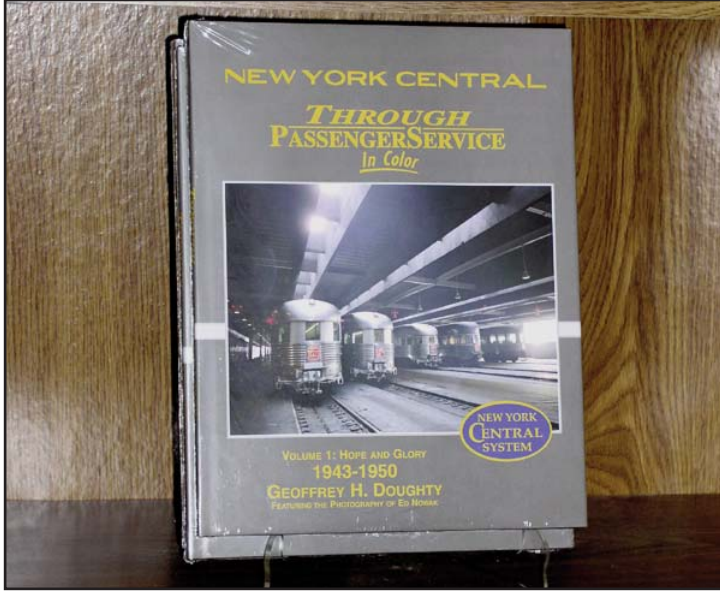
Many photos were featured in the two issues. Shots from the Spring Show were of the turntable, the FPA-4, the U.S. Army engine that was on display along with a tank, the New Haven RS-1 doing switch-

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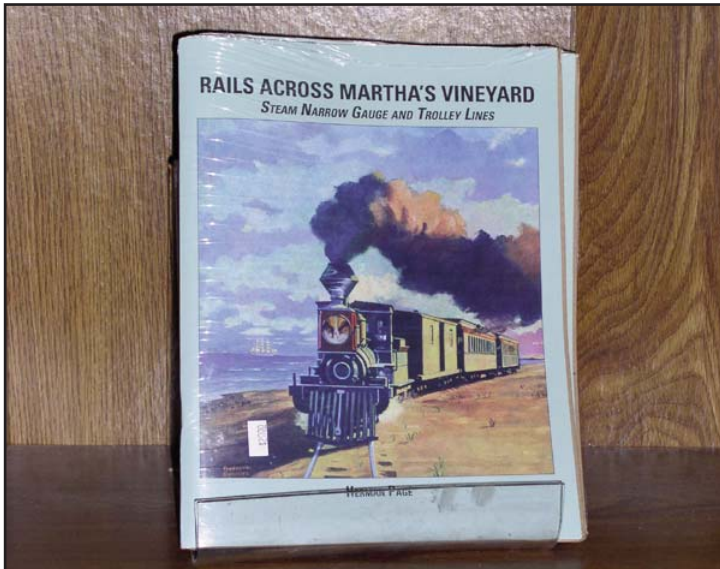
Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

Follow the post-war development of the New York Central passenger service's "Great Steel Fleet" through the color images of its company photographer, as detailed by NYC passenger train authority Geoff Doughty in *New York Central Through Passenger Service Vol. 1: Hope & Glory 1943-1950*. Member price, \$54.



The little-known histories of Martha Vineyard's steam narrow-gauge railroad and what grew to be a seven-mile electric streetcar system are explored in *Rails Across Martha's Vineyard* by Herman Page. Attention is given to the operating history and equipment used by the two unique rail systems. The narrow gauge ended service in 1895, followed by the trolley lines in 1918. While any kind of rail service on Martha's Vineyard has been gone for about a century or more, this book relives the era when travel by train or trolley was part of daily life on the Island. Member Price, \$18.



Camera Lens on Metro-North

One of the delights about the location of our train museum is that we have many opportunities to view and photograph Metro-North equipment as it rounds the loop between our building and railyard. DRM Secretary Steve Gould usually has a camera handy, and often shares his photos with us. On February 19th he caught the images shown here.



Above, an inspection train rounds the loop in front of the DRM, then, below, meets with the shuttle train from South Norwalk. Bottom photo, ex-DL&W "Phoebe Snow" tavern lounge.



DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

In this month's report I will tell you things are moving along at the Museum. Progress is being made with the 0814 forty-four ton locomotive. Justin Chapin has been working on replacing the two air reservoir tanks with new ones purchased this winter. We are hoping to use this locomotive as power for the Railyard Local once these repairs are complete. This will be much more economical for the Museum in the long run. It uses less fuel, plus there is the potential of using it year round for our train rides.



In the yard, work continues with tie removal and overall cleanup. I have filled yet another 20-yard dumpster, this time with rotten ties, over the past several weeks. I am hoping that in the future we can have a dumpster at the ready while we are doing tie replacement so we do not accumulate them as we have in the past. I am trying to concentrate my efforts near the turntable and pumphouse to get this area cleaned up once and for all.



Speaking of the pumphouse, John Ivansco and Dave McKee have been making great progress on the restoration of the building. They have rebuilt the windows and doors and have replaced sections of the clapboard siding. Paint has been purchased, and before too long that too will be complete. John plans on painting it the original NHRR scheme of tan with brown trim. I also am planning on building a platform in front of the structure to aid pas-

sengers in disembarking from the Railyard Local. Additional funds still are needed for this and for the restoration of the building.



It has been kind of hard this year scheduling any kind of work sessions on track with all the damp weather, but I am hoping that will change soon. I would like to tamp sections of Track 42. Through time many of the rail joints have sunk and need leveling throughout the curved areas. We now will be able to use the rebuilt jackhammers and compressor to help in this project. Jim Teer and Dave Kopycinski have been oiling and lubricating our switchwork to ease in operation of the switches. This is one more necessary maintenance function that must be done for better operation of our yard and Railyard Local. My thanks go out to them for their help.

As always, I am continually talking about the projects needing to be done and lack of money to do them. This season, with our budgetary constraints, I am concentrating on projects that have funding behind them. The turntable is a good example, and a great project that can be worked on. I propose and plan to begin cleaning up the lower main girders of the rust and dirt that has accumulated there over the years. This was recommended to us by Macton Engineers, who inspected the turntable this past year. After cleaning, I would like to use rust converter, then paint these areas. Obviously much more work is needed on this unique artifact and centerpiece for the Museum, but this will buy us time until funding for the deck replacement and bearings is available. This project, as always, needs your time and energy. I am at the Museum every Saturday to help set you up with mate-

rials to do this project, if you can spare any of your time.



Saulo Araujo and Ed Holowinko scrape rust off the turntable in preparation for rust converter and painting. Below, the manufacturer's plate reads "Geo. P. Nichols & Bro. Designers & Builders Chicago".



I would like you to know that I am continuing our oil reclamation project. I plan to remove all of the old motor oil and diesel fuel that has accumulated in the yard over the years. Several recycling companies will be cleaning these materials out of the yard once and for all. In the future whatever new materials are generated through our operations will be removed immediately. We cannot continue to store these liquids on our site. They are a hazard and a definite accident waiting to happen.

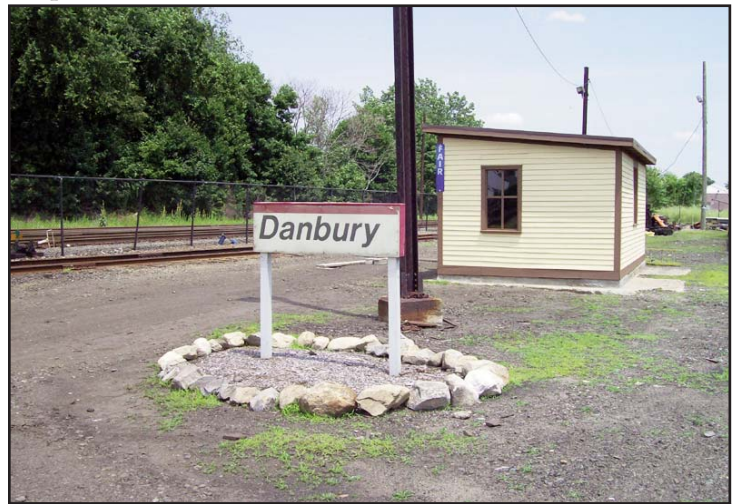
I talk to you about what is happening every month, or at least what I am trying to get to happen. Many of these projects and goals have been going on for years. My goal is to clean up our yard. It has been filled with a variety of hazards, getting rid of which has almost been beyond my means. My goal is to have

a safe working environment for our volunteers and especially for our visitors. The work load for me and the very few volunteers has almost consumed me. My appeals for help seem to fall on deaf ears. These things



Gerry Herrmann and Franz Gerencir work on the cupola to the 100 year-old wooden caboose.

I talk of need to be done. Very often now I will do them by myself, when and if I have to. My priorities and goals remain the same for this Museum. I, or should I say we, have made progress, but there is a very long way to go, even longer now without your help.



A ring of stones now dresses up the area by the Danbury sign near the pumphouse.

In next month's edition I will continue to reminisce about our early days as a Museum, on acquiring rolling stock and beginning to realize what a potential we had, and what we could do. There are many other things happening at the DRM, but I do not have enough room to tell you everything that goes on. I do have some plans in the making for some new events and possibly some new equipment. I will tell you more as these things develop.

Antique Wheels at Danbury Railway Museum

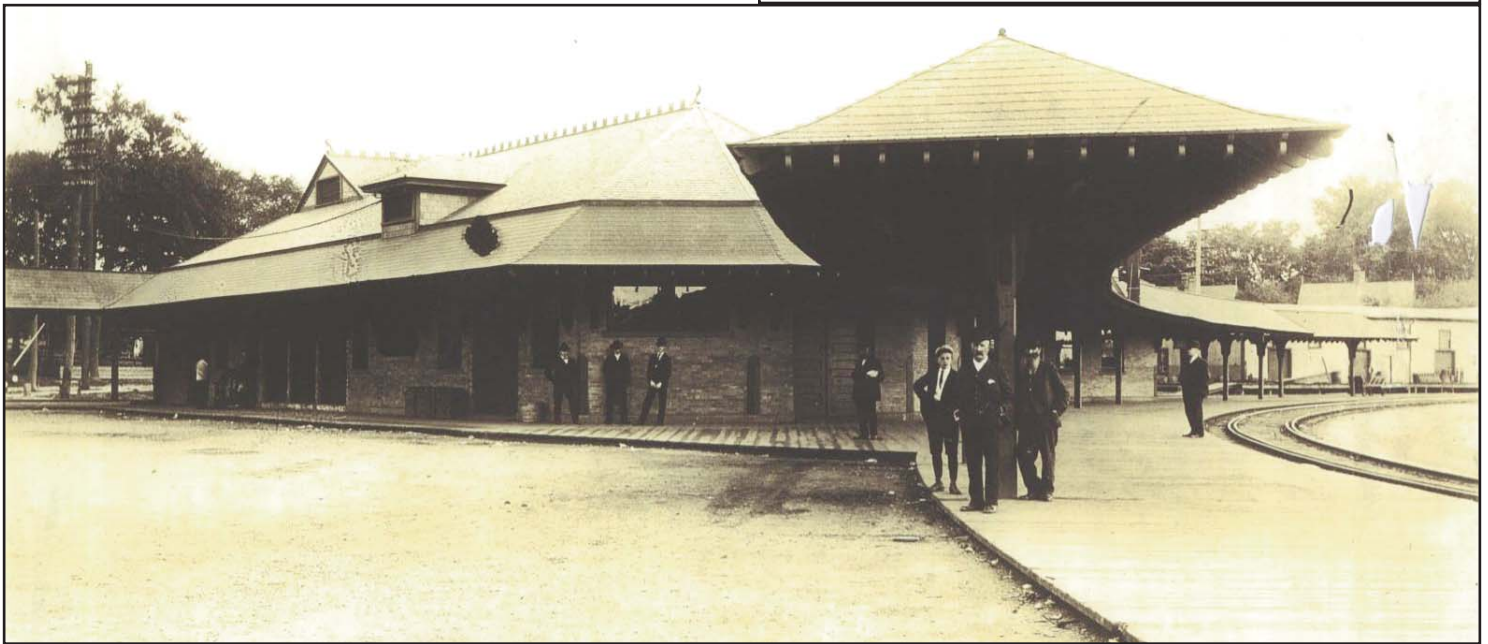
Explore the past from "Iron Horse" to "Tin Lizzie"

On Saturday, September 19th the DRM will sponsor a unique event showcasing antique vehicles of all kinds. From 10-5pm antique cars, hot rods, trucks, fire trucks, and military vehicles will be on display. When combined with our vintage railroad equipment, this will be an especially exciting step into the past. Imagine the marvelous photo opportunities! We will have children's activities and operating layouts, as well as the Museum's other usual attractions. The normal ticket prices of \$6 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens, and \$4 for children 3-12 (under 3 free) will apply, with train rides \$3 additional per ticket. Information also is on our website at www.danburyrail.org.

If you are interested in participating with an antique vehicle, please contact Ira Pollack at the Museum (203)778-8337.



These Model A vehicles visited the Museum in April 2009. Can't you almost picture antique cars such as these in the historical photo below (from the DRM Library, photographer unknown) showing Danbury Station in 1915?



Three DRM Volunteers to Give Presentations in Bethel

A few of our members who are most active in sharing their knowledge and experiences with other groups, will be giving presentations at Bethel Health Care. The first will be conducted by Steve Gould, who will give one on Danbury railroad history on Thursday, July 30 at 2pm. A video will be shown. This occasion will be followed, probably in August, by a presentation about operations by Pete McLachlan, who will draw upon his experiences as a New Haven engineer and vast knowledge of railroading. At a time to be determined, possibly in September, DRM Vice-President Wade Roesse and J.R. Mitchell will do a model railroading presentation covering the basics of the hobby. Examples of types of model trains, buildings, locomotives, cars, etc. will be shown.

DRM Secretary Steve Gould has frequently shared his knowledge, video and photo collection with various groups, including at the DRM on Wednesday evenings. He also has been one of the instructors for the after-school program on train modeling for students at the Hawley School in Newtown. Peter McLachlan has been very generous on numerous occasions for many years in sharing his railroading knowledge, experiences, and vast collection of slides. Many have been here on Wednesday nights. Wade Roesse and J.R. Mitchell have participated in the program at the Hawley School. Wade also has conducted informative train modeling workshops as part of our Wednesday night slate of programs as listed in the Museum's newsletters.

A Message from the Editor

Unfortunately due to matters at home that need immediate attention, for the moment this editor cannot commit to keep to the consistent monthly newsletter schedule maintained for the past four and a half years. Under the best of circumstances it has been very difficult to create and mail each issue on a timely basis. Your patience with the later than usual arrival of this issue, and maybe a few more, is appreciated. As a last resort it may be necessary to combine a couple of months into one issue. Every possible effort will be made to keep you informed of DRM activities on an ongoing and timely basis. Again, it is a privilege to be editor for such a fine, dynamic organization. At this particular time the all-the-time commitment required by this project may be more than can be maintained.

Double Treat on Sat., Aug 8th, Continued from Page 1

charge to members, but donations are requested to help defray costs will be appreciated. **Admission to the picnic will be by reservation 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. **Reservations** are required to be made **by August 5th** so we can plan for the food. 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; we hope you will join us!

Ten Years Ago, Continued from Page 2

ing in the yard and displays from the Connecticut Antique Machinery Museum. Other photos showed the Pump House restored at its Segar Street location, the Kiddie Train that was once part of our Birthday Party package, photos by member Henry White of the June excursion to the Hudson River, the New Haven gondola and the front truck from a New York Central steam engine that Metro-North had fished out of the Hudson and donated in 1998.

An announcement was made that Tim Pieplow was appointed Supervisor – Restoration with all Project Managers reporting to him on their progress and needs. Tim was also Project Manager for the 1455 and its move to Danbury. Gerry Herrmann would continue as head of carpentry and Ira Pollack as head of painting and lettering.

Member profiles featured were Gerry Herrmann, Richard Shaboo, Gene Griffen and John Klotz.

A new monthly feature was introduced on Great Train Spots located around the world. Members were asked to send in a brief description of their favorite places to watch trains.

Progress on the O-Gauge

The Tuesday night modeling crew has been steadily adding to and perfecting the O-gauge layout in the Museum's Great Room. If you recall, this was the layout that several years ago was moribund, and these dedicated volunteers have been recreating the layout including the benchwork, bringing this attraction back to life. These scenes are from June 2nd.



Top, Wade Roese setting up a crane. Below, Harry Burke and Marty Grossman soldering, and bottom, Marty and Ron Huppert about to make adjustments to the turntable.





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MUSEUM CALENDAR

July	16(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
July	22(7:30pm)	Foreign Rys - Bob Kessler
July	29(7:30pm)	Misc. Slides - Gary Gurske
Aug	5(7:30pm)	Slides of Western MD - Pete Brill
Aug	12(7:30pm)	FFF is 70; Chicago RRs - Steve Gould
Aug	19(7:30pm)	His Selected Slides - Pete McLachlan

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



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