

The Railway Local

Volume 8, Issue 7

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

September 2009

Holiday Express Excursion

Specially scheduled rail trip to NYC

This is the holiday experience you have been waiting for! It has been several years since the DRM has sponsored a Holiday Express, but after months of working out the arrangements, we are now ready to sell tickets for this exclusive non-stop rail excursion to New York City and back. **SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th!** During the trip narrated by former New Haven Railroad engineer Pete McLachlan, ticket holders will travel along the Danbury branch to South Norwalk, then continue to Grand Central Terminal. Complimentary refreshments will be served. After arriving in NYC, you will have an opportunity to visit the Grand Central Terminal Fair & Light Show. A guided tour of the terminal will be available by making reservations ahead of time. We anticipate that the train will depart from Danbury's Metro-North station at 9:30am to arrive at Grand Central by 11:10am. The return trip will leave from there at 4:30pm to arrive in Danbury at 6:10pm. There also will be time for dining, shopping, and delighting in the holiday decorations while in New York City.

Parking will be available at Patriot Garage, opposite from the Museum, but not at the Museum. Tickets are priced at the same cost of \$35 as in 2002! No increase! In order to participate in the optional tour of Grand Central, you must make a reservation ahead of time for the 12 noon or 1pm tour, but the \$5 additional charge will not be due until the actual time of the tour. Seating is limited! Reserve your seats now! This can be arranged on-line at www.danburyrail.org or by emailing the Museum (info@danburyrail.org). Reservations also may be made by mail or by calling the Museum at (203) 778-8337. Unless sufficient tickets are sold by the end of October, Danbury Railway Museum reserves the right to cancel the trip. Refunds will be made only if the event has to be canceled. The schedule and equipment are provided by Metro-North and are subject to change.

We are excited by the prospect of sponsoring this special excursion and hope you will join us!

For your convenience in ordering tickets by mail, the top half of Page 7 in this newsletter is an order form which can be cut off for mailing (without removing any of the newsletter content).

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DRM Ready for Halloween

Come join us, for the fun, or to help, with this festive and very popular annual event! We will be open Saturdays Oct 10, 17, and 24 from 10-4pm, and Sundays Oct 11, 18, and 25 from 12-4pm, but the Museum building and Gift Shop will remain open until 4:30pm. Trains will run hourly: Saturdays 10:30-3:30; Sundays 12:30-3:30. Tickets, which include admission and the train ride to the Pumpkin Patch, are \$8 for ages 2 and over, with kids under 2 free. Children 12 & under may pick a free pumpkin. There will be special children's activities and free refreshments for all throughout each day. Please contact Sue Teer at 203-492-1981 if you can help. Information also is posted on the Museum's website at www.danburyrail.org.

Classic Film Viewing Amid Classic Elegance

Danbury's restored Palace Theatre will feature the 1974 film *Murder on the Orient Express* on Saturday, November 7th. This occasion will mark a joint venture between the DRM and the Danbury Museum & Historical Society. It will be a rare opportunity to view a classic film in a setting dating from a time when movie theaters really were theaters! Imagine yourself leisurely enjoying refreshments and entertainment surround-



Continued on Page 7

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!

A. Grace	Croton Falls, NY
Deborah Mousley	Yorktown Heights, NY
Carl Boccadoro	Darien, CT
Brian Weisen	South Salem, NY

Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

The Old Put - New York Central Putnam Division,

by Joe Schiavone with Brian Vangor. Hardcover, 8.5x11", 104 pages, photos, maps. Includes 2 DVD's; one a walk along the Putnam Division as it exists today, and the other footage from actual runs along the line. Included is an overview of the division and stories about the line in the 1940s & 50s, with a look at the Lake Mahopac Branch, the Mahopac Falls Branch and service to Tarrytown and Yonkers. Many photos. A must for anyone familiar with the line. The book is out of print and we only have a few left. \$35.00. Member price, \$31.50.

More of The Old Put - just out!

Joe Schiavone has found enough new photos of the "Old Put" to create a Volume 2! \$30. Member price, \$28. **All books are signed by the author.**

The Coming of the New York and Harlem Railroad

Look what we found! Thought to be a long out of print classic, we have acquired a number of NEW copies of Lou Grogan's definitive history of the NYC's Harlem line. This 364 page softcover USED book can be found on Amazon for \$99! Get your new copy now! We are selling it for \$43.95. Member price: \$39.55.



Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

While the newsletters from the summer of 1999 concentrated on "A Day Out With Thomas", another significant event was taking place and reported in September.

A group from New Milford interested in restoring rail service to the town approached the DRM with the idea of displaying RDC-1 #32 during a promotional event. The Museum agreed but the car needed to be readied for the move. While Nancy Sniffen and her crew had made a lot of progress on cosmetic restoration, much work still needed to be done on the mechanical end. The Museum turned to the New York, Susquehanna and Western Technical and Historical Society which had already restored a Budd car back to operating condition. In July, Bruce Van Wyk, Carl Ceragno along with members of the DRM and NYS & WTS began working on the running and the brake system. By the end of July, the 32 was ready for its trip to New Milford, and the DRM received welcome publicity.

Other news reported that tracks 18, 22 and 24 were in service and that a new switch was installed between tracks 24 and 26. Future plans called for the movement of the Botsford water tower to the yard and to construct an engine house at the site of the former Danbury Yard engine house.

Charlene Schosser who had taken over as editor of the newsletter from Peter Cornwall was moving away and her work was acknowledged. A call was made for anyone interested in becoming editor.

In the Member Profiles section, Peter Cornwall and John O'Hern were highlighted. The Great Train Spots column featured the White Pass & Yukon RR.



The DRM was privileged to have Joe Schiavone, author of *The Old Put* and of *More of the Old Put*, here for signing copies of his books. He also presents very informative and entertaining programs on our Wednesday nights. The schedule is listed on the Calendar page of each newsletter.

DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

In this month's report I first wish you all a pleasant fall season which is before us now. Summer has slipped away very quickly this year, or maybe it was not really here at all. We had too many rainy weekends to dampen a lot of our projects in the yard, and now we seem to be scurrying quickly to try to finish at least some of what we were working on.

Our trackwork is moving slowly, but we are making progress. Track 42 is our main focus now, with replacing about 30 ties in the area just west of the



turntable lead switch. Apparently the more we look, the more we find. Many of the ties in this area have begun failing and causing the gauge to spread. Our goal and priority is, of course, train operations at the Museum, but safety is our utmost concern. We must reach a point, if possible, where our infrastructure becomes a lot more stable and reliable. Of course that is easy for me to say, but the workload before us is staggering and our volunteers are very few. I will praise the people who have come out to help with this hard work on Saturdays, though. These are people who fully understand that this is the priority of the Museum - to sustain our Railyard Local; this is why our guests come to the Museum - to ride the trains. It has been my fear that someday soon we will not be able to operate anymore because of the poor trackage and lack of volunteers. That continues to haunt us.

In other much better news, work continues on our turntable. Several weeks ago I had tried for a turntable work day, but, alas, it rained that weekend. I truly believe in dedicating ourselves to one selected project and deploying everyone who comes to the yard on that project. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate with us, so we had one more resched-

uled weekend! We have had several people who have dedicated themselves to this project though. Art Slothower, new member Bob Wohlken, Rob Bell and Steve Mayerson have tirelessly been scraping and cleaning the main girder of the turntable, and Art singlehandedly painted the rust converter on both sides of the structure. During the past 15 years or more our turntable has never looked this good. I am hoping in the next several weeks we can apply a finish coat to further protect this important artifact. My respect goes out to their dedication to this project. Understand that what we are doing now is a stabilization just to buy ourselves time on this structure.



In closing my report this month, as usual, I will tell you there is a lot going on at the Museum. I talk about the things that I feel are a priority to me, the progress of the Museum, and some of the things I am involved in, but there is a lot more happening around us. There is so much happening at our Museum, with many volunteers involved, that I feel that oftentimes different aspects of our Museum and volunteer staff are not acknowledged enough in my reports. There are the activities of the Station Staff, the Model Railroaders, the Library, and all of the different people who come through the place. There are many people who are in the background doing their best to keep us moving forward as a vibrant Museum. As always these are the people I support. It has been hard though for me to acknowledge everyone involved in our growth, but remember that you have my support. I just hope you support me, too.

Once again, I have new ideas and many different projects in the making. We must continue to try new ideas, although some will work and others will not, but we must keep trying to keep things fresh.

I will talk to you next month on some of the latest developments.

3rd Annual Danbury Railway Day

Celebrating our NYCHRR #19322 wooden cabooses's 100th birthday

The primary theme for this year's Danbury Railway Day was the birthday celebration of our wooden caboose and its ongoing restoration. It also coincided with the opening of the Fairgrounds pumphouse to our guests with tours by Project Leader, John Ivansco, and the annual Members' Picnic following the event. Speakers at the birthday ceremonies included DRM President Ira Pollack, Project Leader Gerry Herrmann, DRM Secretary Steve Gould, and Stan Madyda. They related the history of cabooses (this one in particular), its restoration progress through the years, and acknowledged the contributions of volunteers and donors. Recently work has concentrated on reconstructing the cupola, using the rotten timbers of the original as a pattern. Both sides and the ends of this historic caboose already have been restored.

We welcomed many guests to the annual celebration of our Museum, as well as its 15th anniversary year, with many additional attractions. The caboose train rides featuring three vintage cabooses from different eras were filled to capacity, and were free with paid admission. The railroad car coupling and uncoupling demonstration which was so popular last year was featured again. Garden scale model equipment traversed the layout on the 18 platform. Special activities for children included temporary tattoos, coloring, and the locomotive inflatable which the Museum purchased last year. What would birthday celebrations be without cake and refreshments, so we supplied them, too! Food also was plentiful at the Members' Picnic. Ira Pollack welcomed members and expressed appreciation to all who have assisted the Museum. Engineer Pete McLachlan graciously supervised the running of the SW8.







HOLIDAY EXPRESS
RESERVATION FORM

Please tear off this form, complete, and mail to:
Danbury Railway Museum, Excursion, Box 90, Danbury, CT 06810

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please reserve _____ tickets @ \$35 = \$ _____

Check Enclosed Charge my Credit Card

Type: _____ Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

CCV Code (3 digits found on back of card) _____

I want to reserve _____ place(s) on the _____ 12:00 _____ 1:00 tour of Grand Central Terminal.
I understand that \$5 for the tour is payable at the time of the tour.

Classic Film Viewing Amid Classic Elegance, Continued from Page 1

ed by the glamour and elegance of bygone days. Your special experience will begin at 4pm with wine, hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction in the Palace Theatre lobby, followed by the film showing beginning at 5pm. The title sponsors are Tom Devine and Keith O'Marra from Ciao! Catering and Events/Two Steps Downtown Grille. Tickets are \$40 per person and available by mail or in person at Danbury Railway Museum (203-778-8337) and at the Danbury Museum &

Historical Society, 43 Main Street, Danbury (203-743-5200). You may purchase tickets on-line by visiting either www.danburyrail.org or www.danburymuseum.org. The number of tickets is limited, so order early to avoid the disappointment of missing out. Unfortunately the photos printed in grayscale here in no way



do justice to the theater restoration, but they may be viewed in their rich colors by accessing the newsletter on our web site at www.danburyrail.org. All of these views were photographed by DRM Secretary Steve Gould.



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

Sept	30(7:30pm)	30 Years A.T.S.F. - Pete Brill
Oct	7(7:30pm)	NYC, Other Pass. Trains - Carl Liba
Oct	14(7:30pm)	Slides; Ger. RRs - Gerry Herrmann
Oct	15(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
Oct	21(7:30pm)	Topic to be Announced
Oct	28(7:30pm)	Slides;NH RR cont'd-Pete McLachlan
Nov	4(7:30pm)	Slides; NYC Electric Div. - Carl Liba

Museum hours: Wed-Sat 10-4pm; Sun 12-4pm
See the newsletter in color www.danburyrail.org!



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Change of Address

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Via Email to drmmembers@aol.com

