

The Railyard Local

Volume 4, Issue 9

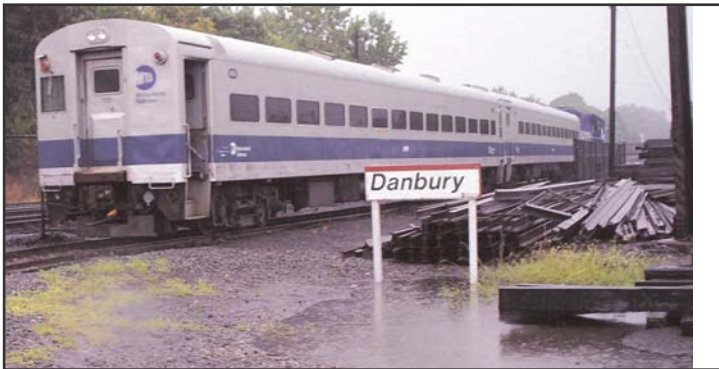
-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

September 2005

They're Here!

ACMUs arrive just in time for Page 1

The long-anticipated ACMUs were backed into the DRM railyard Sunday morning August 28th. Their numbers are 1171 and 1128. Justin Chapin was on hand at delivery time along with a few DRM members taking photos. After the rides on the *Railyard Local* ended for the day, Justin, Jim Daly, and Joe Calabrese were the crew that brought the cars down Track 20. Thank you Metro-North and its train crew for the donation and delivery to our Museum! Our appreciation also goes to project leader Stan Madyda and to DRM President Ira Pollack. These latest additions to our roster extend the historical range of our equipment.



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G-Gauge Model RR Roundup

Large scale trains to run October 8th

Members of G-gauge clubs and societies from the tri-state area, DRM members and friends will converge on the DRM on that Saturday to operate their live steam locomotives and other G-gauge model equipment. These models are garden railroading size, the same large size as the ones that enthralled our guests when set up on the center platform at the Easter Bunny event here this past spring. Join us for this special treat! If you own G-gauge model railroad equipment, and would like to have an opportunity to operate it here, please call the Museum front desk at (203) 778-8337 to leave a message for Bob Boothe.

All of our usual Museum activities including train rides will be operating on regular schedule.



Members Picnic & Volunteer Information Open House

An abundance of delicious food, combined with opportunity to socialize and be engineer on our SW-8 Pfizer locomotive made our members picnic a delightful way to spend a Sunday afternoon-into-evening. We also were happy to welcome some members who had first joined during this past year. Pete McLachlan graciously supervised and directed locomotive operations by our member amateur engineers so that they could have the thrill of running the engine

Continued on Page 2

New Members

We are delighted to welcome our new members this month. All members are welcome to attend the weekly meetings held Wednesdays, 7:45pm, at the Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury. We invite all members to become involved in Museum activities as soon as possible!

Linda Cook	Bethel, CT
John & Betty Markiewicz	Somers, NY
Kim & Keith Goodwin	Danbury, CT
Tricia Johnson	Newtown, CT
Moira Gibbons-Schroka	Brewster, NY
Thomas Ruddy	Trumbull, CT
James Gregory	Brookfield, CT
Mark Hammersmith	New Fairfield, CT
Kevin Martin	Old Greenwich, CT
Joseph Rynkiewicz	New Fairfield, CT
James Lee Corcoran	Bronxville, NY
Lauren & Mike Teixeira	Brookfield, CT
Maria J. D'Avanzo	Katonah, NY
Sean Masi	Southbury, CT
Robin & Mary Pape	Los Gatos, CA
Gordon & Sabrina Hull	Danbury, CT

Members Picnic & Volunteer Information, Continued from Page 1



up the track to the turntable and back. Thank you Don Konen and Patty Osmer for organizing the picnic.

Prior to the picnic, project and area leaders were on hand to welcome those attending the Volunteer Information Open House. They explained volunteering opportunities. Potential volunteers who made the effort to come made the time and preparation of our already dedicated volunteers worth while.



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Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

The September 1995 issue of the "Danbury Railway News" announced that the Dedication Day of the Union Station was set for Sunday, October 29. The Mayor of Danbury, Gene Eriquez would dedicate the station. Although the building itself was not ready for visitors, the rail yard was, so members were invited to tour the grounds and the equipment already present.

In preparation to the Dedication Day, the yard saw a big transformation. Most of the debris was removed and a single lead track from Metro North was completed. Future work was planned for tracks 18, 20 and 22 and the turntable pit, which was filled with debris.



The Budd Car Restoration Project was also announced with a start date of September 30th. Nancy Sniffen and Ron Freitag were named Project Managers. There was a call for tools, supplies and volunteers. Ron was planning to look for radiators.

The newsletter asked for donations of a television, a VCR, lawnmowers, and tools for the station and railyard. Non-rail donations to date included two yard trucks and a restored farm wagon. It was hoped that the farm wagon could be incorporated into an exhibit.

The 1995 DRMX boxcar in HO scale was being sold. The 1995 edition was an orange color. Also for sale in the Gift Shop was the reprinted edition of Jack Swanberg's "New Haven Power 1838-1968."

Members read about the future purchase of a locomotive. While the newsletter didn't give any details, it did mention that plans to acquire one were in the final stages.

Peter Cornwall included a couple of photos from his collection in the newsletter. One showed a badly derailed Boston & Albany 0-8-0 switcher in Beacon Park. The other was of a Central Vermont Motor Car #148 making a station stop at Miller's Falls, MA on May 10, 1937.

DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

Hope all is well. This month I'd like to mention some of the activities that take place in the railyard. There are obviously many tasks that are available to our volunteers. Seeing it written out like this it emphasizes the amount and variety of work that we do. Some of the work is for restoration, but you will see that there is a level of on-going maintenance that has to be done on a regular basis. Many of the restoration projects are on-going with a loosely structured schedule for completion; however we must take advantage of the good weather and longer daylight hours of this time of year to make progress on them. I must comment though that this season has been extremely successful in progressing with the many different projects that we have worked on. The fact remains that we have a great deal to do, still need your help, and there is great variety in the ways in which you can do it.

If you have any interest in the opportunities listed below, or any kind of expertise which would help us, please leave a message to be contacted by our project leaders who are listed below at (203) 778-8337.

Opportunities for Volunteering in the DRM Yard

- 1) Painting, i.e. rolling stock, exhibits, general maintenance
 - a) preparing either wooden or metal artifacts by sanding and scraping old finishes to get them ready for paint
 - b) priming equipment for finish color
 - c) applying finish color



- 2) Lettering
 - a) generating graphics according to original photos of equipment
 - b) preparing stencils for eventual transfer onto surfaces
 - c) hand lettering using One-Shot paint and special lettering brushes
- 3) General restoration
 - a) woodworking fabrication
 - b) metalworking fabrication
 - c) prep work for the wood and metal

- restoration
 - d) electrical work
- 4) Track maintenance
 - a) tightening of rail joints
 - b) tie replacement
 - c) ballast tamping
 - d) switch maintenance
- 5) Yard maintenance and upkeep
 - a) lawn mowing
 - b) weed removal
 - c) garbage disposal and general clean up of facilities
 - d) landscaping of grounds
 - e) snowplowing
 - f) keeping sidewalks clear of snow and ice
- 6) Maintenance of yard vehicles
 - a) proper greasing of backhoe and crane
 - b) maintenance of pickup truck and other vehicles
 - c) keeping fuel levels up on vehicles

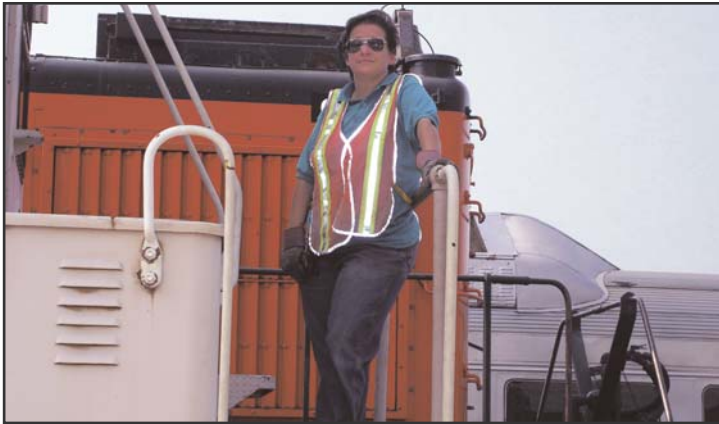


Yard Project Leaders

- 1) New York Central caboose - Gerry Herrmann
- 2) Pennsylvania Rail Post Office car - Bill Britt
- 3) Welding - Bob Pitcher
- 4) Woodworking - Gerry Herrmann and Bill Britt
- 5) Lettering and painting - Ira Pollack
- 6) Track work - Bruce Van Wyck
- 7) Lawn maintenance - Dave Roberts
- 8) Vehicle maintenance - Bob Andrews
- 9) Rolling stock maintenance - Justin Chapin
- 10) Training program - Nancy Sniffen
- 11) Safety program - John O'Hern
- 12) New Haven forge - Glenn Miller
- 13) 1455 Boston & Maine steam locomotive - Bob Boothe
- 14) G-scale model train layout - Bob Boothe
- 15) Miscellaneous construction projects - Ira Pollack

What's Happening?

There has been plenty of activity at the DRM. We need to do all we can while when the weather permits it, so despite the heat, volunteers showed up to help.



Nancy Sniffen, an immensely dedicated volunteer, is in charge of all train operations at our railyard. She schedules, trains and supervises the crew, and is responsible for all rolling stock moves.



DRM President Ira Pollack demonstrates his skill in lettering, which greatly enhances the appearance of our CN caboose.



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Don Konen has added running the SW-8 Pfizer locomotive to the ways he assists at the DRM.



Project leader Gerry Herrmann and Mike Madyda often work as a team restoring the NYC caboose. Restoration is progressing on the north side.



Bob Pitcher assists DRM Vice-President Bill Britt in using the backhoe to flip a metal frame right-side-up. Bob created the frame which is shown below supporting the ties forming a platform for two storage trailers.



Dave Roberts has spent many hours doing carpentry work and painting, so that our Wilton semaphore operator's shed is now almost complete.

Where Do They Come From?

Guests who have signed the Guest Book in our Museum building come from a wide variety of places. Here is a sampling of home towns and countries of guests who visited in June and July this year. We are delighted that they cared enough to comment in our book, and enjoyed their visit to the DRM!

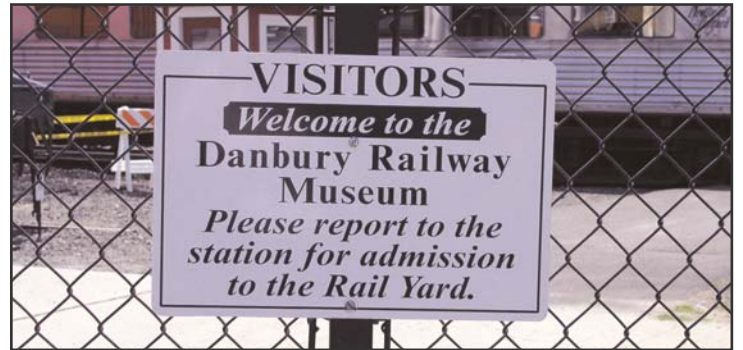


Orleans, Ontario, Canada	Rock Hill, SC
Somerset, NJ	Del Rio, TX
N. Miami, FL	West Haven, CT
Carmel, NY	Walworth, NY
Norwalk, CT	Yonkers, NY
Ambler, PA	Pine Grove, PA
Providence, RI	Royersford, PA
Valdosta, GA	Canton, MA
N. Reading, MA	La Grange, GA
Weston, CT	Horn Lake, MS
Baltimore, MD	Brewster, NY
Mt. Vernon, NY	Catonsville, MD
Brooklyn, NY	London, UK
Tuckahoe, NY	Louisville, CO
Louisville, KY	Darien, CT
Fredericktown, OH	Bronx, NY



Orange, CT	Raleigh, NC
Mt. Kisco, NY	Chandler, AZ
Dublin, Ireland	Broward, FL
Seymour, CT	Plainville, CT
South Windsor, CT	Harrison, NY
Bay Shore, NY	Manville, NJ
Auburn, NY	Santa Monica, CA
Gulf Breeze, FL	Cowpens, SC
Australia	Marion, FL

N. Lauderdale, FL	Kingston, MA
Waterbury, CT	Locust Valley, NY
Southbury, CT	Montclair, NJ
Bronxville, NY	Bethpage, NY
Garden City, MI	Falls Church, VA
Ansonia, CT	Boynton Beach, FL
Durham, CT	Elmhurst, NY
Plymouth, CT	Ossining, NY
Augusta, GZ	Tucson, AZ
York, PA	Easton, CT
Canton, OH	Spring, TX
Tunkhannock, PA	Plymouth, MN
Muncie, IN	Lebanon, NJ
Meriden, CT	East Northport, NY
Plandome, NY	Orwell, NY
Arcadia, WI	Chesapeake, VA
Pittsburgh, PA	Somerset, KY
Richmond Hill, GA	Springfield, MA
Katonah, NY	Roxbury, CT
Sherman, CT	Cheshire, CT

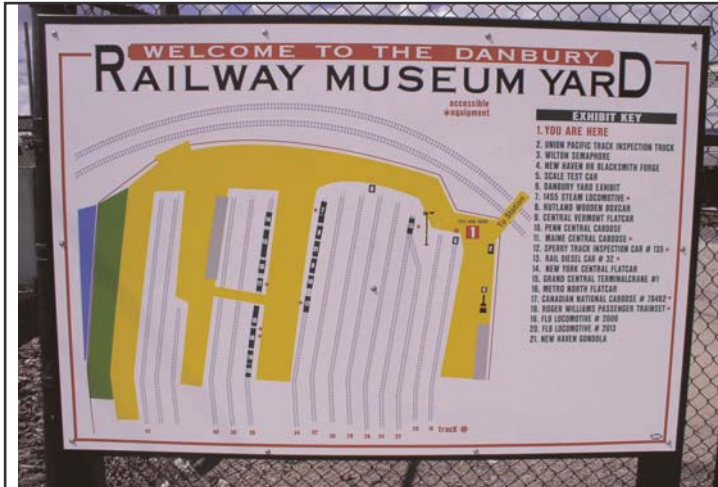


Derby, CT	Bristol, CT
East Hampton, CT	Westfield, MA
Krusa, Denmark	Barberton, OH
Waxhaw, NC	Athol, MA
Norwich, CT	Scott Depot, WV
Olmsted Top, OH	Jamaica, NY
Fairfield, CT	Lockport, NY
West Yarmouth, MA	Spartanburg, SC
Warwick, RI	Northport, NY
Winston-Salem, NC	Los Gatos, CA
Woodstown, NJ	Hamden, CT
Wethersfield, CT	Waldo, WI
Soufriere, St. Lucia	Peoria, AZ
Ware, MA	Warren, MA
Edinburgh, Scotland, UK	Richmond, BC, Canada
China	Staten Island, NY
Springboro, OH	Venice, FL
Englewood, FL	New Haven, VT
Knoxville, TN	Rock Fall, CT
Towanda, PA	Wilton, CT
Scarsdale, NY	East Kingston, NY
Manchester, NJ	Toms River, NJ

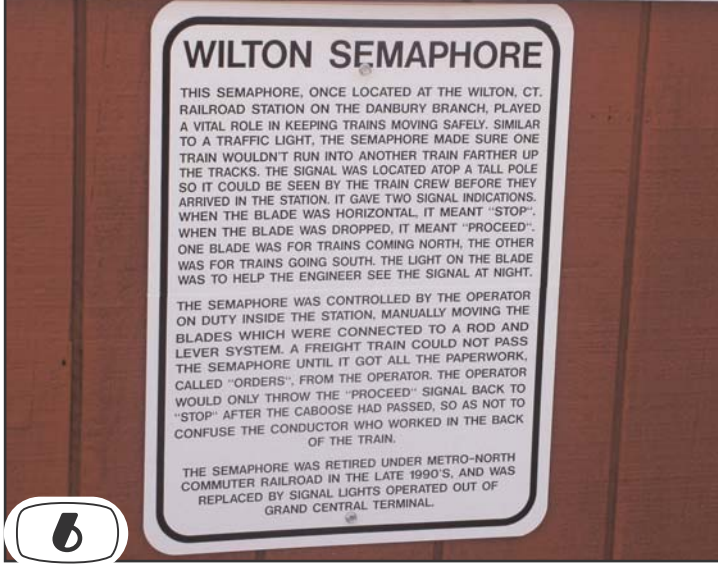
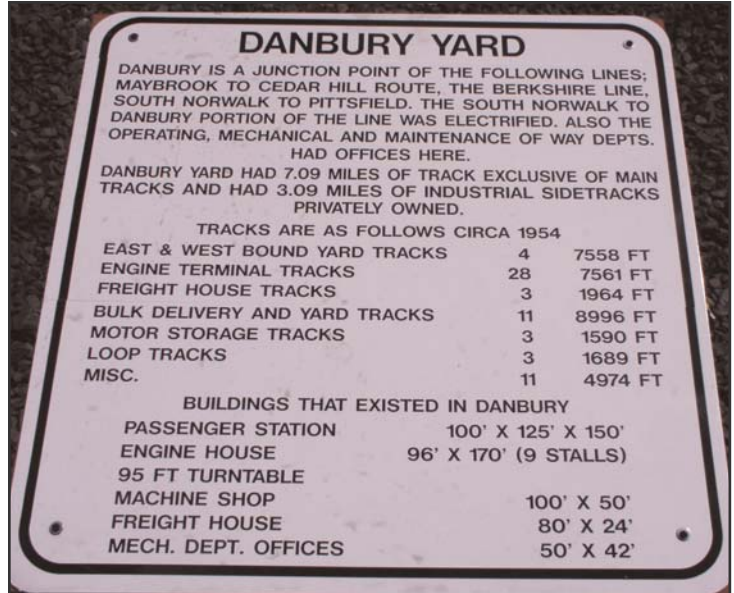
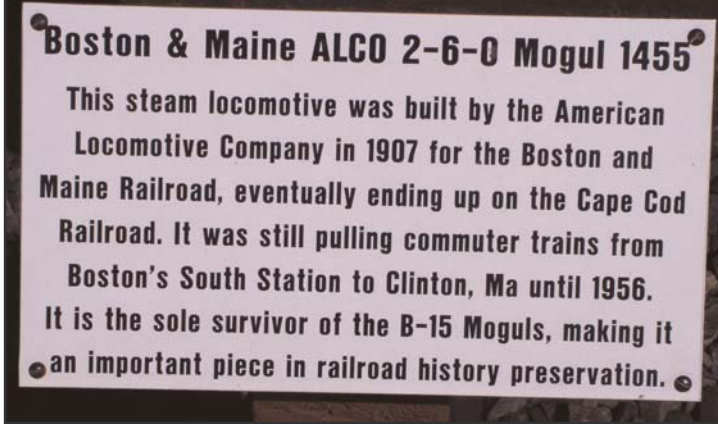
Signs of Progress

This year the railyard sports new signage to further our goal of enhancing our guests' DRM yard experience with more educational, directional, descriptive and safety signs. Some of these were funded by a much appreciated Meserve Foundation grant.

How many of the signs shown here will you be able to locate on your next visit to our railyard?



Our newest sign is a directory of equipment in the railyard. There is space to add the two ACMUs to the list!



Donations

By Stan Madyda

A new display has been added to a showcase near our gift shop at the Museum. It features ashtrays and some glassware from various railroads. They are from a collection donated in 2002 by Susan H. Endler. She and her late husband did quite a bit of traveling on long distance passenger trains.



We recently received the wooden sign from Litchfield, CT as a donation from Hilda Wadhams. Jack Swanberg donated a metal blue and yellow sign from Croton-Harmon, which now hangs over the exit door facing the Maybrook Line. The Museum also displays the station sign from East Canaan, CT, which was donated in 1999 by the Great North Eastern Railroad Foundation. These signs join ones already on display from Danbury, Bethel and Mill Plain.

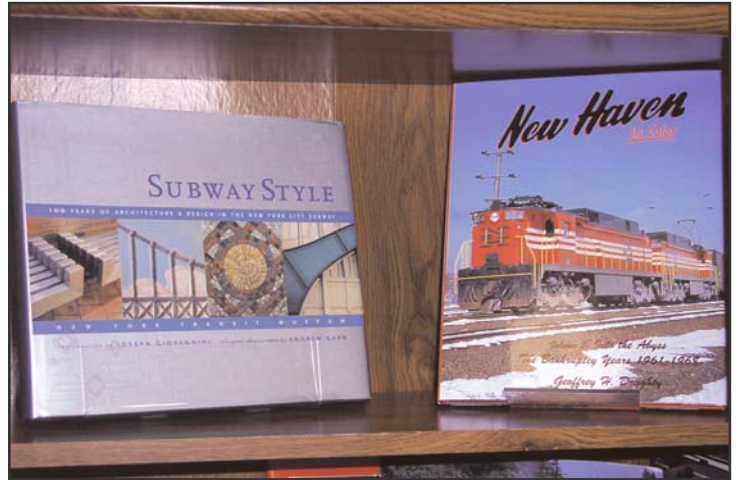


Gift Shop News

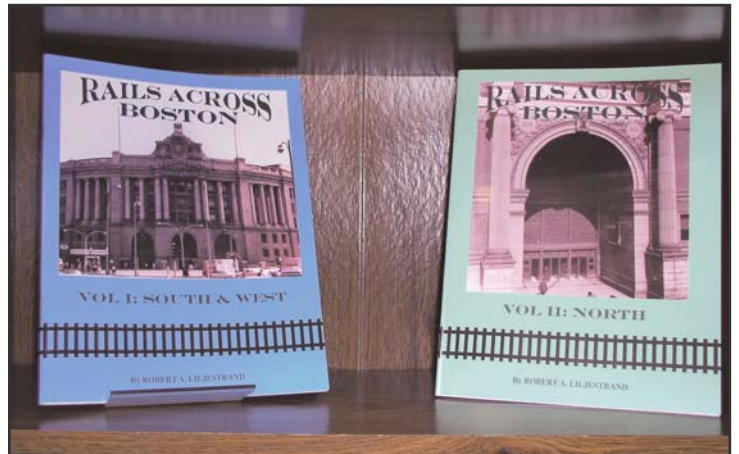
By Patty Osmer

Several new books have arrived! Listed below are three of them:

New Haven in Color, Vol 3, Into the Abyss - The Bankruptcy Years 1961-1968, by Geoffrey Doughty follows the slow demise of this once-thriving railroad. More than 200 color photos; 128 pages; hardcover. Don't miss this sequel to the other *New Haven in Color* series of books. Member price: \$53.96.



Subway Style: 100 Years of Architecture & Design in the New York City Subway by New York Transit Museum. This heavily illustrated, oversize book is a must for anyone who loves subway station art and architecture. It covers the design of the stations themselves, ceramic murals, metalwork & lighting, signage & graphics, car design, and a number of other topics. Member price: \$36.00.



Rails Across Boston: Vols 1 & 2 by Bob Liljestrand. Vol 1 covers the New Haven & Boston-Albany lines, and Vol 2 the B&M, Union Freight Railroad, and the Boston El. Each book is softbound, 48 pages. Member price: \$16.20 each.

If you haven't checked out our new pocket Tee's, stop in or call now.



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Sept 14 (7:45pm) | Historic Slides - Ron Smith |
| Sept 15 (7:00pm) | Board Meeting (Open to Members) |
| Sept 21 (7:45pm) | East Broadtop - Dan Gallo, Jr. |
| Sept 28 (7:45pm) | Special Program - Bob LaMay |
| Oct 5 (7:45pm) | Video "Return of Yelbar" (encore presentation of his horror film) & N&W J 4-8-4 on Front Royal Branch 1993 - Steve Gould |
| Oct 12 (7:45pm) | Historic Slides - Bob Gambling |
| Oct 19 (7:45pm) | Slides w/comments - Pete McLachlan |

Be sure to look for the full color version of this newsletter on our website: www.danbury.org/drm!



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