

The Railyard Local

Volume 5, Issue 2

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

February 2006

First Night, Snowy Night

Warm welcome on New Year's Eve

The Danbury Railway Museum continued its tradition of participating in Danbury's First Night festivities. Those who had purchased the tickets for the event sponsored by the City of Danbury found a variety of entertaining activities at our Museum. The time-span of the event, from 3 to 8pm, enabled even families with young children to participate and enjoy the special entertainment.

The day began early for the fireworks crew, which started setting up the fireworks on the far side of the railyard early in the afternoon. Firemen with a



fire truck also braved the snow and cold to be on hand near the location of the fireworks. Our train crew fired up the RDC Budd car hours ahead of time, so that it would be warmed up and ready to give train rides to our visitors on First Night.

At 3pm the Museum closed except to First Night ticket holders. A train ride in the railyard was given every hour throughout the event. Meanwhile, inside the Museum, guests thrilled to a showing of "The Polar Express". This was followed by a delightful performance of guitar music accompanying original songs and comedy by Nancy Tucker. Those passengers departing through the falling snow on our train could easily imagine they were on a real Polar Express. The evening finished with a spectacular display of fireworks exploding with colorful bursts lighting the sky and trains in the railyard.

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RPO News & Notes and Library News

Fundraisers at DRM

The following fundraisers are the ones we are pursuing most actively at this time:

Any donations toward trackwork; Buying a track tie for \$35 will be acknowledged by a plaque on the tie in the name chosen by the donor;

Former PRR Rail Post Office car restoration: Those donating \$200 toward purchase of a window will have their name on a plaque inside that car;

New Haven forge: Those making a donation of \$25 toward finishing the sheathing of the forge will receive a special DRM 7-function stainless steel pocket knife from the DRM Gift Shop.

Official Notice:

Board Vacancy to be Filled

The Danbury Railway Museum's Board of Directors has a vacant Director position for a term ending in March 2007. To be considered by the Board to fill this vacancy, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee and let your wishes be known. The Nominating Committee is shown below:

Steve Gould, Chairman GouldSL@aol.com

Bob Boothe mogul1455@hotmail.com

Joe Ward joseph.ward@comcast.net

You should indicate in writing why you would like to fill the vacancy and how you would help the Board achieve the DRM goals.

The Nominating Committee will submit the names of interested candidates to the Board of Directors. The Board would then vote for the candidate to fill the unexpired term. The vote will not be taken until after the March 2006 regular elections are completed.

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!

James P. Doherty	Carmel, NY
Jonathan & Alosa Eiger	Riverside, NY
Jonathan & Vicki Harkness	Dover Plains, NY

Upgrade to Life Member:
Chris & Maj. Britt Moreton Waltham, MA



RPO - News and Notes

By Bill Britt, Project Leader

The window replacement program has slowed somewhat this past month. We hope this was just due to the holiday season and that donations will pick up again soon.

On the other hand, the mail bag procurement program received an outstanding boost through the efforts of Mike Salata. Mike worked with his mail carrier, who in turn asked her postmaster for bags. She obtained twenty-two canvas sacks for us. Thanks Mike!

A few racks have been removed from the car, wire brushed, painted, and returned to their places.

Did you know? All railway post office cars were owned by the individual railroads, then leased to and manned by the federal Post Office Department.

We look forward to hearing from you, and we

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appreciate any help you can give us.

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

The February 1996 "Danbury Railway News" featured announcements on new equipment arriving, upcoming events and some historical articles. It was also the first time a new logo appeared showing a 4-4-0 steam engine.

By now, the RS-1 was in the yard and it was decided to drain the water and store it until April when the weather would be warmer. When the locomotive arrived in Danbury, it came in the green paint scheme of the Green Mountain Railroad. It was suggested that the future paint scheme could possibly reflect the history of the RS-1. It was originally built



The decision was made to paint the RS-1 using the orange and black colors and logos of the New Haven Railroad.

for the Illinois Terminal Railroad in 1948. Other possible paint schemes mentioned were three railroads that used the RS-1 in New England: the New Haven, the Rutland and the New York Central.

Another piece of equipment that was due to arrive was the New Haven caboose #C-627. This NE-5 caboose was built in 1944 by Pullman Standard for the New Haven. This caboose was purchased from the Berkshire Scenic Railway thanks to a donation from Linda and Warren Hagenkotter. The plan was announced to restore this to its original paint scheme.

A third piece of equipment coming to the DRM was the Conrail plug door box car #164125. The car was originally built in 1964 by the Pennsylvania Railroad at the Hollidaysburg, PA shop. This car would be used for storage by both the Museum and the Conrail Technical and Historical Society.

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DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

This month I would like to take the time to extend my appreciation to two long-time members who have moved on with their lives and will be leaving as active members of the DRM. These are people whose perseverance, tenacity, and dedication have made an incredible difference to the Museum's growth and prosperity over the years. I'm having a hard time realizing that they will be gone soon but life does move on I guess. I just hope that they realize how much they will be missed by me and by our membership.

Back in the early days of the Museum, Nancy Sniffen expressed interest and took the initiative to pursue the restoration of the RDC 32.. This was an incredible task right from the beginning with countless hours of hard, dirty work, inside, underneath and all around this unique piece. It is easy to see her dedication to this project today. Nancy has also been our Operations Director, scheduling crews for our train operations and making sure we can run the local on weekends. I wish Nancy well with her new endeavors and hope she knows how much she has contributed to our Museum.

Charlie Albanetti, another self-starter and dedicated member, will be leaving soon for a new job and many new horizons this summer. Charlie has been responsible for marketing, advertising and promoting our Museum over the last several years. Charlie's expertise has helped our Museum grow incredibly over these few years and he'll be sorely missed. I wish Charlie well in his new pursuits.

Like any growing organization we must be prepared for setbacks that do happen. I would like to encourage you, the member, to come forward and possibly help fill these important voids. I have described these positions and their responsibilities below. Also listed are two additional committees to be formed: one for Events Planning and one for Volunteer Coordinating. I would ask that these groups be comprised of three to four people. This is the start of a new column, "Help Wanted", that will be printed in the newsletter. Positions listed are ones that need to be filled as soon as possible in order that Museum continue to operate smoothly.

Help Wanted

Advertising Director - Requirements of Position

1. Produce budget for upcoming year (possibly using past year as a guideline)
2. Advertise upcoming events at Museum (Santa, Jeep Show, etc.)

3. Inform public of happenings at Museum (turntable, semaphore, NYC caboose, yard, new equipment)
4. Marketing our product - regionally, locally
5. Create contacts with newspapers, TV, and radio. Find agencies interested in informational stories about the Museum.
6. Make sure press releases are accurate and on time.
7. Generate flyers for events; collaborate with the Webmaster.
8. Report monthly to the President

Operations Director - requirements of position

1. Schedule train crews for weekend operations and special events
2. Maintain time log of all operating volunteers on crew
3. Maintain training program for existing crews and new volunteers - engineers, conductors, brakemen
4. Collaborate with mechanical crew on maintenance, service issues, and schedules
5. Report monthly to the President

Events Planning Committee - (new events run by committee)

1. Generate new events
2. Form budget for yearly events
3. Schedule volunteers for staffing of events, in collaboration with Volunteer Committee
4. Plan out event requirements, such as tables, food, permits, etc.
5. Report monthly to the President

Volunteer Coordinating Committee -

1. Welcome in new members to the Museum
2. Integrate new members into our volunteer staff (yard, building, crew, etc.)
3. Maintain record of volunteer hours
4. Make sure building is staffed as needed, including Front Desk and Yard Tour staff
5. Collaborate closely with Events Committee and their needs
6. Report monthly to the President
7. Collaborate with Advertising Director for promoting events

Over the years during my terms as President, I have always said that the volunteers can make or break this organization. It is very true right now. I need you, the member and volunteer, to come forward and help keep our Museum moving forward. If you can help in any of these positions please contact me by calling me at the Museum (203) 778-8337.

Photos of the Electrification of the Danbury Branch

By Stan Madyda, with archival assistance from Gerry Herrmann and Peter McLachlan

These photos show the early days of the electrification of the Danbury Branch. The photos were made from negatives donated by Diane Brown, and are now part of the Reference and Research Library Collection at the Museum. The photographs were taken by her father-in-law, H.F. Brown.

The envelope that contained the negatives had very little information as to when and where they were taken. We do know that work for the electrification was authorized in late August 1924. Work was completed by July 1925.

We would have to assume that the photo below showing the track crew at work was taken in late August or September since the weather is warm and leaves are still on the trees. We are not sure of the location but it could be between Wilton and Branchville.



Another photo (not shown) we have of the same location shows Route 7 running parallel to the field.

The photo (top right) showing the lone worker in shirt sleeves and tie appears to have been taken about the same time. We do know that the location is the Greenwood Avenue crossing in Bethel. The small building on the right is the crossing gate shanty.

The photo (lower right) showing the crew on the track car was probably taken during December. We do not know the location of where it was taken.

Further research on the branch indicates that construction began in October 1924 and that by mid-

December most of the concrete foundations

for the overhead were complete. Work on the



line continued through the winter and service was inaugurated in July 1925.

These photos are three of a total of 17 we had printed from 23 negatives. They are available for viewing in the Library by

appointment along with other material we have on the Danbury Branch, including feasibility studies on more recent electrification.



Glossary of Railroad Lingo

from Railroad Avenue by Freeman H Hubbard, 1945.

Black hole -	Tunnel
Counting the ties -	Reducing speed
Grass wagon -	Tourist car (tourists like scenery)
Rubberneck car -	Observation car
Throttlejerker -	Engineer
Ashcat -	Locomotive fireman
Put on the nosebag -	Eat a meal
Peanut roaster -	Any small steam locomotive
Zoo keeper -	Gate tender at passenger station
Wigwag -	Gate crossing signal

Library News

Ten Years Ago, Continued from Page 2

By Stan Madyda

New donations continued right up to the last day of 2005 and over 70 were received. If you donated material to the DRM in 2005 you should have already received your "Thank You" letter and a Deed of Gift, which legally transfers title of the donation to the Museum. Any exceptions should be noted by the donor. Examples of exceptions that the Library Committee has seen include passing the donation on to another museum if we can not use it, or returning the items to the donor if they are no longer part of our collection. For the most part, donors allow us to do as we wish with the items. We pass non-railroad material along to other museums and sell duplicate items to fund the Library Collection and operation.

Since the last newsletter:

John Manley donated a book titled "Port and Terminal Facilities at the Port of New York." This book, published in 1942 by the War Department, was considered "classified." It contains information on the waterways in greater New York, businesses, wharves and warehouses along the waterfront, and the railroads that serviced them.

James Yee gave us timetables and MTA brochures along with some newspaper articles on New York area mass transit.

Patricia Giurgescu donated the book "All Aboard! A Tour of the Holiday Train Show at the New York Botanical Garden." This layout has many structures based on historical buildings from New York City and the Hudson Valley made from natural material. The book describes some of these buildings and the history of the layout.

Our collection of railroad china continues to grow with two New Haven plates donated by Robert H. Kessler. They are on display in the "Newly Donated" showcase.

Paul Gassner donated 3 photos taken in July 1926 of the Seifert & Goss lumber shed and coal trestle located along the Still River.

Marty Scatola gave us recent issues of New York Central Historical Society's "Central Headlight" and "Classic Trains."

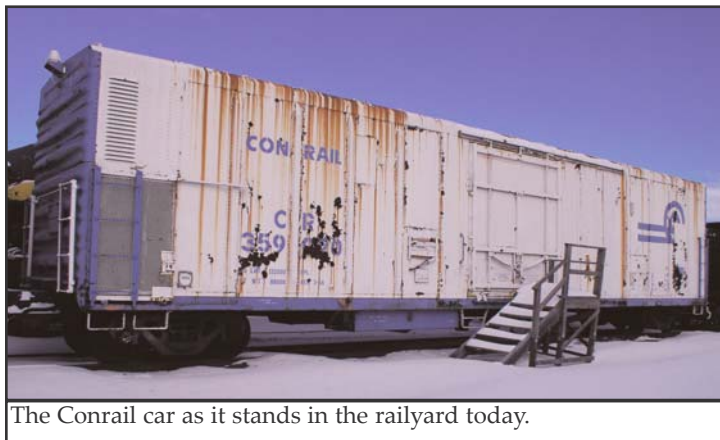
Joan Killian donated HO trains and track.

Robert J. Sallick donated Lionel trains and track from the 1970's.



The red New Haven C-627 NE-5 caboose added to the festive spirit of the railyard over the holidays as it revolved on the turntable.

The three pieces of equipment owned by local businessmen arrived in the yard to await refurbishing into a railroad themed restaurant.



The Conrail car as it stands in the railyard today.

The DRM was able to assist the Military Museum when the Housatonic delivered flat cars loaded with a tank and other military equipment.

The April Open House was discussed calling for members to help and be part of the event. The yard and station would be open to visitors with dealer tables, layouts and food available. Excursion trains were to be run over the Maybrook - an all day trip to Beacon on Saturday April 20th and two shorter trips to Dykemans the following day. A night photo session in the yard was planned for Saturday night.

Additional events announced were a memorial service for John Flower, member meetings, yard work sessions and board meetings.

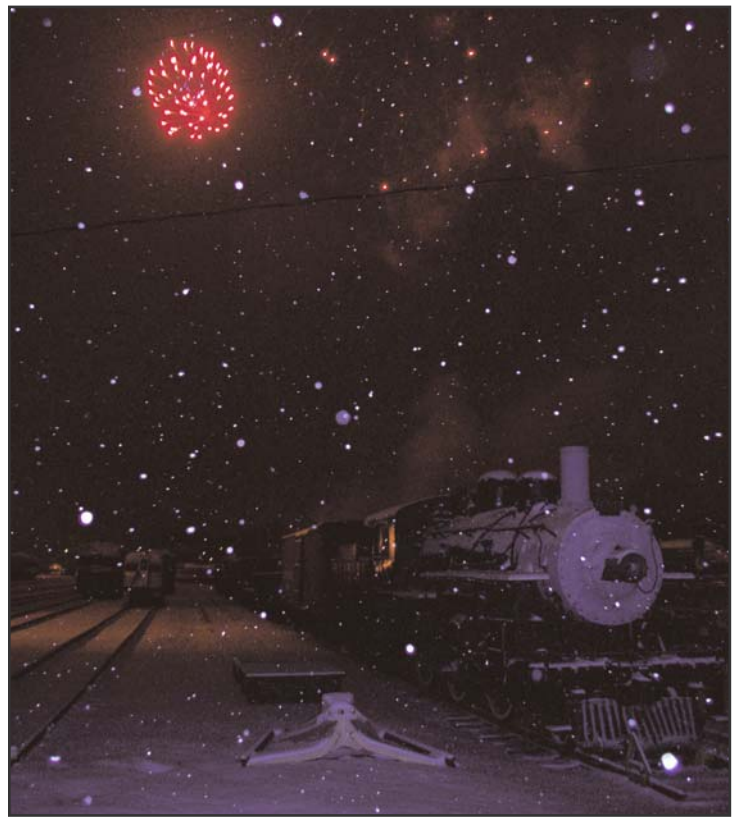
The historical submission had to do with the Danbury Division of the New Haven Railroad in 1929 with its headquarters located in one of the buildings now on the Leahy Fuel property. There was also a brief review of the "Central New England Story, Volume II" by Bob Nimke.



(above)Technicians began setting up tubes on the farthest side of the railyard for the evening fireworks.(below)Our First Night guests head through the snow to the railyard for a ride on the Budd car.



Nancy Tucker delighted our guests with her original, humorous songs. Many involved audience participation, and as the photo below shows, they loved it!



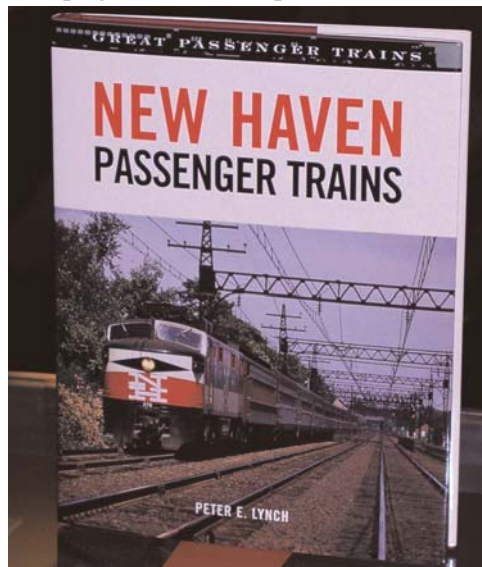
Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

We have a new book in stock: **NEW HAVEN PASSENGER TRAINS** by Peter Lynch. Companion book to his popular **NEW HAVEN RAILROAD**, this 160 page book with pictures of stations, terminals

(including Grand Central Terminal and Penn Station), advertisements, route maps, timetables, and interior views of cars, provides a dramatic visual account of train travel in its hey-day, and a view of its subsequent decline. Member price: \$31.50.

The Gift Shop has received top-quality blue denim long-sleeved shirts with the DRM logo on the pocket. (The short-sleeved ones were pictured in the Gift Shop News in the December 2005 newsletter.) A limited number are available at cost to members for \$30. If you want one, contact Patty at the Gift Shop anytime through the month of February.



Railroad References and Information Sources

By Wade Roesse

As promised, here is a list of railroad and modeling information sources.

1-87vehicles.org	H-O vehicles,info & many links
hankstruckpictures.com	Truck pictures(thousands of all types)
railroaddata.com	5000+ reference sites (real and models)
railserve.com	10,000+ reference sites (real and models)
northeast.railfan.net/now19.html	M.O.W. equipment pictures
trains.com	Access to Kalmbach Pub. Index from 1934
Evergreenscalemodels.com (877) 376-9099	18620-F 141 st Ave., N.E. Woodenville,WA 98072 Plastic modeling materials
Plastruct.com (800) 666-7015	Plastruct, Inc., 1020 S. Wallace Place, City of Industry, CA 91748 Plastic modeling supplies
Walthers.com (800) 487-2467	Wm. K. Walthers, Inc., 5601 W. Florist Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53218-1622 Model railroad supplies, videos, kits, books, sets, etc.
Lonestarmodelsinc.com (972) 252-0866	Lonestar Models, 2808 Cibola Dr. , Irving, TX 75062 H-O vehicles and reference links
Microscale.com (714) 593-1422	Microscale Industries, 18435 Bandilier Cir., Fountain Valley, CA 42708 Decals
Zyconmodels.com (see lonestar models)	High quality brass and import H-O models
Pen-bay.com	Penbay Equipment Co., P.O. Box 520, Winterport, ME 04496-0520 Stock and custom decals
Micromark.com (800) 225-1066	Micro-Mark, 340 Snyder Ave., Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922-1595 Small tools, resin, supplies
Specialshapes.com (800) 517-4273	Special Shapes Co., P.O. Box 7487, 1356 Naperville Dr., Romeoville, IL 60446-0487 Brass shapes

Note of Caution: Use of these websites can be dangerous - two arms come out and grab you into your computer, and you may become addicted!

New Sign Indicates “High Water Mark” of 1955 Flood

In October 1955, the Still River overflowed and inundated downtown Danbury. By looking at old photos, it was possible to pinpoint the location of the “high water mark” of this flood on our building.





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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Feb 15(7:45pm) | Slides of Putnam Div., Danbury, and
Norwalk Stations - Roger Liller |
| Feb 16(7:00pm) | Board Meeting (Open to Members) |
| Feb 22(7:45pm) | Video;Restoring Bangor & Aroostook
Caboose C-63 - Gary Gerske |
| Mar 1(7:45pm) | New Haven RR Slides continued -
Peter McLachlan |
| Mar 8(7:45pm) | Scenery(Modeling) - Steve Mayerson |
| Mar 15(7:45pm) | Slides fr His Collection- Ed Blackman |

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



Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:
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Change of Address

If you move, please send your change of address to:
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Via Email to drmmembers@aol.com

