

THE RAILYARD DISPATCH

Volume 18, Issue 5

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

July 2018



Shortlines



OWNEY DAY

Owney Day was celebrated on July 14, 2018. While not as well attended as in previous years, those visitors who did come had an excellent day at the Museum. On board the Rail Yard Local, patrons heard the story of Owney as told by Marty Bishop, while the train made its way to the Railway Post Office car. Passengers detrained there and got a tour of the car by Secretary Steve Gould. Also, thanks to the efforts of Tom McCullough, visitors could stop at the United States Postal Service table, purchase a stamp, and get a special Owney pictorial postmark cancel for the day's event on an envelope supplied by the Museum and included in the price of admission. The balance of the Owney story was told as the train returned to the point of origin on Track 24. These unique envelopes are on sale in the Gift Shop for \$5.



TONAWANDA VALLEY GETS LETTERING



The final piece of the restoration of the 1928 observation/lounge/sleeping car "Tonawanda Valley", that once graced the rear of the famed New York Central train, 20th Century Limited, has been completed with the addition of yellow stenciled lettering of "PULLMAN" and the car's name on both sides of the car. Project Manager Art Slothower, who has single-handedly performed the lion's share of the restoration completed the stenciling in mid-July. (Bill Britt, the original Project Manager, passed away shortly after

the work had begun). Art also some picked up some original furniture from the car's previous owner for placement in the lounge. To protect the furniture from the sun, protective film was installed



on the windows. The car will be open for tours August 4 & 5th during the 12th annual Danbury Railway Days. Well done, Art!

A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME?

There was an interesting item in the November 1955 issue of *Railway Progress*. Apparently, the New Haven Railroad, under the guidance of President Patrick McGinnis, thought a good way to lower operating costs was to have crewless trains. Automation had already been tested successfully in France and the New Haven was the first railroad in the United States to test the concept. The idea was to have the test train run from New Rochelle to New Haven with the train controlled by a truck on highway. Since I-95 was still several years from being completed, the road had to have been U.S. Route 1. Full implementation of the plan would have been a major step backwards as Connecticut roads became crowded with cars.

The Library has a number of issues of *Railway Progress*, all with short interesting articles. They are available for reading by appointment with the Library.

**NYC &HRR Wooden Caboose #19322
2017 Restoration Update**

By Gerry Herrmann, Project Leader. Photos by Stan Madyda

Beginning in 2017, we ordered special milled wood to build two entrance doors for sides A and B on the caboose as this was necessary as the doors were built in layers. First we built a jig (see photo 1 – top left) and then custom cut the pieces for the main frame (see photo 2 – top middle). We then put the pieces in the jig (see photo 3 – top right) and installed the second layer and glued and clamped everything together (we used about 40 clamps) and allowed several days for the glue to dry (see photo 4 – 2nd left). We then did the third layer (see photo 5 – 2nd middle). We hung the first door without the panels and glass (see photo 6 – 2nd right). The finished door was hung with the panel and glass installed (photo 7 – 3rd row). We hope to finish, hang and paint the second door in 2018.

The volunteers for 2017 were Philip Beard, Franz Gerencir, Gerry Herrmann, Bob Pitcher and Stan Madyda. Total volunteer time for 2017 was 548 hours.

To continue this restoration, The DRM would appreciate donations mailed to the Museum and a notation made on the check that it is for the restoration of this historic caboose. Send tax deductible contributions to:

**Danbury Railway Museum
NYC/HRR #19322 Project
120 White Street
Danbury, CT 06810**

A plaque to honor and thank the donors will be permanently affixed in the caboose upon completion of the restoration.



COMING EVENTS

- August 4 & 5** **Danbury Railway Days. Admission \$11 for members.**
- Special demonstrations of signaling, spike pounding, car coupling/uncoupling.
 - Tours of the Tonawanda Valley.
 - Train Rides included
 - Special Hands on The Throttle – learn to operate our 44-tonner with training by one of our qualified engineers. \$75, includes admission to the event.
- August 25** **Member Picnic. RSVP via email or calling 203.778.8337. Contribution \$5. Please bring a dessert, salad, or side dish to share.**
- September 3** **Labor Day. Open 12 – 4 with train rides. Museum switches to Winter Hours**
- October 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28** **Pumpkin Patch Trains.** We can use your help setting up for the event. Please email or call 203.778.8337 if you can help us the first week in October.



IF YOU CAN HELP US IN ANY OF THESE AREAS, PLEASE EMAIL (info@danburyrail.org)
OR CALL US (203.778.8337)

OUR VOLUNTEERS KEEP US GOING!

GIFT SHOP/FRONT DESK

We need Gift Shop & Front Desk staff. If you can volunteer even ½ day a week, we need you.

OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

Officer terms (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) and some Director terms, will expire in March, 2019. Although this seems like a long time away, if you are interested in helping shape the future of the Museum, now is the time to think about running for one of the positions.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We are in need of a Newsletter Editor so that we can keep the **Railyard Dispatch** going.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

Meetings take place the **third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm**. Museum members may attend these meetings.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Please contact us with submissions or ideas for articles you would like to see:

Mail:

The Danbury Railway Museum
Attention: Newsletter
P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813

Phone: 203-778-8337; **Fax:** 203-778-1836

Email: NEWS4DRM@GMAIL.COM

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF
YOUR MAILING OR EMAIL
ADDRESS CHANGES**

KNOW A MEMBER WHO IS NOT GETTING OUR NEWSLETTER?

Send us their email (or snail mail) address and we will add them to our mailing list.

TURNTABLE RESTORATION

If you can help with the turntable restoration in August or September, please call the Museum and ask for Jim Teer. We will need help replacing the decking and ties.

**ALL NEWSLETTERS FROM 2001
TO PRESENT CAN BE FOUND ON
OUR WEBSITE,
WWW.DANBURYRAILWAYMUSEUM.ORG**

If moving, please send your new address to:

Danbury Railway Museum,
Attention: Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813

Via Email to: drmmembers@aol.com



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