

Danbury Departures

Volume No. 14

January/February 2002

New Haven PS1 Box Cars

By Ira Pollack

I'm very pleased to announce our recent acquisition of two PS-1 New Haven box cars, #33732 and #34537. These cars, built in the 1940s, are some of the last 40 ft. New Haven cars in existence and we felt that they belong in our ever-growing New Haven collection.

I would like to thank Mike Miciukiewz, Fran Ariola and Jim Anderson for their help in our acquisition of these cars. After many phone calls and correspondences with Amtrak, the City of New London Development Corporation, and finally the scrapper, we were able to purchase the cars for their scrap value.

The hardest part of the project, and most expensive though, was moving them over the road with Lisi's Towing Service. Lisi used something called a true-hitch which, in effect, turned the box cars into two 50 ft. full trailers. The cars were lifted with his 60-ton wrecker, the true-hitch installed under the coupler pockets, the wheel sets loaded on a flatbed and away it went! We did encounter problems getting the cars through our gate once again, but Lisi's persistence paid off.

The timing was most important in that these cars were going to be scrapped and we had to move immediately to save them. The scrapper was actually on site in Ft. Trumbull yard with lit torches wanting to know if we wanted him to save these cars or not.

This Spring we plan to begin the restoration process by sanding down the cars, painting and lettering them to their original New Haven delivery scheme.

This project unfortunately was a costly one for the Museum and we have begun a fund-raising campaign to help in the cars' restoration and also to defray some of the moving costs involved. A restricted fund has been formed to aid in the restoration of the two cars. Please help the Museum bring these cars back to their original glory!



Photo Credits: Dan Foley



Mission....

The purpose of the Danbury Railway Museum is to organize and manage a railway museum in Danbury, Connecticut and to engage in any and all activities convenient to said purposes. The goal of said museum shall be to educate the public to the history of railroading and the role of the railroads, both as part of a natural heritage and as an institution in contemporary society. The corporation is organized exclusively for educational purposes.

Officers

Ira Pollack - President
Ron Freitag - V. President
Steve Gould - Secretary
Tony White - Treasurer

Directors

Dan Foley, Chairman
Ed Blackman
Suze Blackman
Geoff Knees
Tom McCullough
Mike Miciukiewicz
Randy Natale
Michael Salata
John Silbert
Susan Thomas

Change of address

Please send change of address to:

Danbury Railway Museum, Inc
.Attention: Frank Sullivan
P.O. Box 90
Danbury, CT 06813-0090

Or Via Email to:
Drmmembers@aol.com

Danbury Departures is made possible by volunteers.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Editor: Roberta Ballard

Printing courtesy of: Infinity

Danbury Railway Museum, Inc. is a not for profit 501(c)(3) all volunteer organization.

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

www.danbury.org/drm

The Yard Inside - January 2002

By Wade W. Roese

Hopefully last months article did not overly put many people to sleep and you're open to another dose of inside goings on.

N gauge Layout:

Ira Pollack's monster coal shed has arrived and its almost thirty inches (400 ft) makes an impressive addition to the layout. Bill Britt has built and installed a trestle which traversed the Still River inside the yard. Thanks again, to Ira and Bill. The hills and "mountain" are getting their finishing touches and will soon see some landscaping. Bill Britt has prepared a "things to do and needs" list for the N gauge layout which we hope you will take a look at and possibly find an item with which you could assist. Following are some highlights of items needed or to be done:

Houses of the Victorian period
People and vehicles of the late forties/early fifties
Vehicles Bridge
Sand tower
Signal Bridge (4 track)
Commercial Buildings
Signal Towers
Farm house and barn
Crossing gates
Operating and dummy Locomotives
50s passenger coaches
Freight cars

Anyone interested in assisting or able to provide "stuff", please let us know.

S gauge: Again, Bill Britt continues to keep the "S" system operational through gum and band-aid repair of locomotives, etc. Anyone out there with a spare that needs a home is urged to contact Bill at the Museum. Thanks.

O gauge: Our O gauge Lionel layout continues to entertain visitors week after week with minimum attention (at least, that is the way it seems to me). If there is a gremlin that keeps maintaining the equipment he/she must be working the graveyard shift.

G Gauge: Friday after Thanksgiving saw opening day of the Gallaria on Main Street, Danbury with the G gauge train and buildings clearly focus in the entry. Work was done by many of the "Yard Inside" boys and other volunteers under direction and guidance of Gerry Herrmann. This display continues through the holidays. Please visit, and Thanks Gerry!

An extensive new display system has been erected inside the museum and warrants a visit and viewing from anyone not having come through the display area lately. Bring your friends and relatives and enjoy all that's going on.

If you wish to participate in any of the museum projects please give us a call or stop by the DRM. Some neat stuff is in "the yard inside" and even some bigger neat new stuff in the yard "outside".

Written before the holidays, but sent after, we hope yours were happy and safe. From the "boys" in the yard inside.

The gremlin has been found! The O gauge layout continues to entertain museum visitors thanks to the quiet oversight and care of Bob Westerfield.

The holidays are gone and the G scale layout has been returned to the subterranean caves where it now hibernates with the elves and summer bears. Thanks again to all the field workers that again gave their time to undo the display and save our toys.

HO gauge, probably the most popular modeled railroad scale, has not been given any coverage in our column yet. We do have a fully detailed diorama near the library and a small portable operating layout which will probably have made its appearance at the "Big E" in February. On January 12th Bill Britt, Ira Pollack, Wade Roese, and Jeff Van Wagenen ventured to the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Kupper in Sherman. Mr. Kupper has graciously donated his 16 ft. x16 ft. HO layout to the DRM. The layout was disassembled and transported to the museum. Jeff Van Wagenen has "volunteered" to head up an operating HO display and layout program.

N gauge: While no one was looking, Steve Mayerson quietly added some paint, roads, and landscaping to the layout, and Bill Britt and Dave Rist worked on the finishing touches on the in yard trestle. Some small street buildings and freight cars are in place, and the display is starting to look like a layout. Please stop by and see the progress. Again, anyone interested in assisting or able to provide "stuff," please let us know.

S gauge: Not too much new with the S gauge, but we continue to look for anyone out there with a spare locomotive that needs a home. Please contact Bill Britt at the museum. Thanks.

The new display system erected inside the museum continues to be expanded in anticipation of an upcoming new photo display. Watch your Departures calendar for dates and visit with your friends and relatives to enjoy what's going on.

I would like to entertain the idea of initiating a product review series/column to the bulletin. We would provide some of the reviews but would request our members who model to submit their own reviews to be shared with fellow members. Please provide some feedback as to your feelings about this idea.

Thanks,
Wade.

To all operating volunteers:

Safety/Rules classes are scheduled for the following dates:

Sunday: February 24, 2002 9:00 A.M.
Saturday: March 9, 2002 9:00 A.M.

Classes will be held at the DRM

All Operating volunteers, and any volunteers who wish to become qualified to operate must attend one of these classes unless you hold valid Norac or MTA Metro-North Railroad rules certification.

All necessary literature will be distributed at these classes. If your schedule does not permit attendance at one of these classes, don't worry, more will be scheduled as demand warrants. It is preferred however, that as many as possible attend on one of these two dates so we will be ready to begin operations for Ester.

Please contact John Geigle:
Via e-mail: puckhead78@hotmail.com
Or via the DRM to reserve a spot in one of these classes.

Thank you,
J. Geigle
DRM/Ops

Welcome New Members

Miriam Bakker Angelastro	Westport, CT
Michael A. Bonelli	Croton Falls, NY
John Furanna	Milford, CT
Christine Hamel	Danbury, CT
Nicholas Harmon	Darien, CT
Tracey Holman	Newtown, CT
L&W Lipton-Matthews	Bethel, CT
Peter McDonough	LaGrangeville, NY
John H. Ostendorf, Sr.	Little Neck, NY
Neal Perchuk	Croton Falls, NY
Pam Roche	Newtown, CT
Lisa Schroeger	Redding, CT
Timothy W. Smith Jr	Danbury, CT
Bruce Van Wyk	Rochelle Park, NJ
Carl Zencey	Newtown, CT

From the Coop!

By Tony White

Hello Members and welcome to 2002 and another year for the Danbury Railway Museum to conquer. Elections are underway. You have to decide who will get elected to the Board of Directors. This is the first time in many years that there are a lot more members interested in being on the board than there are spaces. Choose your picks carefully.

My apologies to those of you who may have wanted to make a donation to the Museum for the year 2001. Sometimes things happen beyond our control and that issue was late. However you can get a head start on your donations for the tax year 2002 anytime during the year.

Winter tends to be our slow period. There are fewer visitors to the museum. The cold weather hampers restoration. We store our energies for the up-coming season. However, this winter many things are happening at the DRM.

Nancy Sniffen continues to be busy in the yard with finishing her project the Budd Car #32. If you get a chance to visit the museum soon, make it a point to check out what she's completed since the summer. By the way, it's an amazing sight to see NH # 32 moving under it's own power within our yard limits for those of us who were there when she arrived shoved in as an ugly duckling. There are only two seats left at \$200 each. They will have the donors name engraved on a plaque by the seat. By the way, you can ride #32 on Saturday's during the winter! So come out!

Three Alco engines are heel to toe on track 18 in the yard. It is my understanding that you won't see another RS-1, RSC-2 and a RS-3m lashed together anywhere else in the United States! They are NH #0673, Northern Central #1513, and ConnDot #605.

John Geigle has been named Head of Operations. He brings experience as a real railroad engineer to the position. He has completed the Operations portion of the rulebook and has trainings planned for those who want to be qualified as a part of the Train Crew.

Inside the station, a new display area has been established. Currently it is showing off some of the photographs of our first President L. Peter Cornwall. There are over 90 photos of New England Railroading taken during the 1930's. The photos offer a rare historic view of the way it was and they have yet to be seen in any books for that era.

Kathie Fay and Patty Osmer are now in charge of the Gift Shop. They have taken over for Sue Thomas. They bring with them experience and lots of new ideas for items that they will have for sale. They will also be using the new computer system for sales and inventory tracking.

Work continues on the computer network for the museum. The computer and point of sale system has been installed in the Gift Shop. The brains or main computer for the network is in the Office. On that computer Charlie Albanetti is editing video for our Railroader's View of the Life and Times of Railroading video. Charlie and Pete McLachlan continue with interviews of railroaders for this project.

We are hopeful that the facelift of the front desk reception area will get completed prior to the beginning of spring and the next season of events. The computer for that area has not yet been installed.

During the most prestigious railroading/hobby event of the year in the northeast, the DRM was well represented. Many rail organizations stopped by our section and spoke of all that we have accomplished. Model railroaders' and historians alike remarked of the work being done with the replica of the yard circa 1950's in N-Scale. We have gained the respect of thousands of people and continue to hear of how much we've accomplished within such a short period of time.

We continue to make strides to establishing a network of railroad/trolley joint ventures in the state of CT. We have met with some of the representatives and have plans to meet others in this venture. It will help solidify not only the importance of the DRM but also the history of rail in Connecticut.

Finally I would again like to thank all of you who have come out to help with the day-to-day activities, special events and with the unseen jobs this past year. I would hope that it was an enjoyable experience for you all. But with the coming of a new season, it will be important that you continue your support both physically and financially for us to continue to meet our mission goals.

2001 Holiday Express

From Sue Thomas

A lot of happy people had a beautiful day in New York December 8 as passengers on our annual Holiday Express. With the newly arrived New Haven Genesis Engine in front and the beautiful private car New York Central 3 behind, we made an impressive train of people enjoying snacks, decorations, the gift shop and of course, Santa, Mrs. Claus and elves visiting along the way.

Our thanks to those who made this trip possible, (our forgiveness please if we forgot anyone):

Charlie Albanetti, Roberta Ballard, Priscilla Beaulieu, Ed and Suze Blackman, Kathy Fay, Dan Foley, Carol Humphreys and children, Geoff Knees, Don Konan and Patti Osmer, Peter McLaughlin, Kristen Russo, Lovett and Barbara Smith, Sue Thomas, Joe Ward, and the front desk gang for answering all those calls!

Our special thanks to:

Sit Down Diner,
Grassy Plain Pizza
Ron's Service Center
Simple Pleasures
Stew Leonards
McKenney Mechanical
Suze Blackman
DRM Gift Shop

For their donations of food and door prizes.

In The Gift Shop

From Sue Thomas

Our Genesis in New Haven colors Tee shirts are here, as well as sweatshirts for those New Haven fans.

Prefer your Genesis in the Metro North colors, we have caps and shirts in these scheme, too!

Our small New Haven stickers at 79 cents are appearing everywhere lately, from car bumpers to Engineer Skip's railroad lantern. Come in and see our selection!

Still available: Trains and Model Railroad calendars for 2002.

For the little railroaders, we have a new supply of videos featuring all sizes of trains and how they work!

The Gift Shop is open during Museum hours and Wednesday nights.

March 23, 24, 29, 30 Easter Bunny Railyard Specials- Train Rides

Easter Bunny Railyard Specials

Its Spring - and the Easter Bunny will be visiting our Railyard on March 23, 24, 29 and 30 for all the little ones in the family. Hours 12 - 4, price \$6.00 (\$5.00 for members), and we encourage you to tell your friends, make a day's visit to the DRM and enjoy the model trains, the new Peter Cornwall photo exhibit, and see the many new items in the Gift Shop.

Volunteers cheerfully accepted to aid visitors on and off the train, car host, punch tickets, help the Bunny!

If you can help, call:
Sue Thomas 203-792-1981

From Ed Holowinko

A web site that you might want to check out .
Maintained by UCONN, it has hundreds of rail photos.
[Www.cthistoryonline.org](http://www.cthistoryonline.org)



Photo Credit - Ted Anderson

October 24, 2001
Zaloklmar, Hungry facing west toward
Budapest.

LIBRARY NEWS - January 2002

by Stan Madyda

Work continues in the Library in setting up more shelving to house our growing collection. Once everything is done, we will be better organized and will have the space to accept additional donations.

If you made a donation in 2001, you should have received a thank you letter along with a copy of the Deed of Gift. This document must be signed by all donors in order to give the Museum clear title to the donated material.

Continuing with donations that we received in 1997 and 1998:

- Betty Ramey- photos and a history on the Kentucky and Indiana Terminal Railroad
- George - Peacock various railroad material, magazines, newsletter and calendars.
- Rodney Chabot - books
- Robert Lord - photo of the Danbury New York Express dated 1904
- Tim Pieplow - photos
- Joseph Simington - books
- Dan Foley- excursion flyers, New Canaan station sign, ads, various correspondence and a CSX Annual Report
- Alan Heady - 1887 Reid Railroad Guide
- Ed Blackman - manual
- Cooper Whiteside - 2 railroad crossing flasher lights
- Debbie and Walt Bodin - magazines
- Christopher Barbieri - magazines and prints of railroad artwork
- Ed Kestler - railroad manuals
- Warren Hagenkotter - New York Central seat checks and a copy of "Along the Line"
- Bayard Cutcliffe - book
- William Huffman - New York Central train order
- Jim Gardner - B & M Bulletins
- DRM - Gift Shop FL9 manual
- Tom Larkin - New York Central tech manuals
- Lewis Merrill - 1940 Strombecker wood trains
- Robert E. Davis - stationery steam engine toy
- Jim Towey - oil cans, lanterns, car mover, railroad telegraphs, timetables and magazines
- Stephen Gould - Lehigh and Hudson River correspondence and documents
- Tom Gallagher - railroad signals
- Henry White - record albums, New York Central lantern, spikes
- Malcolm Hunt - postcards and magazines
- Anonymous - whistle from New York Central MU #1185
- Leo Jette - spike puller
- Michael Durkin - various railroad manuals
- Peter McLachlan - photos from 1977 of the realignment of the loop track
- Steve Mumley - Rutland stock transfer books
- Bill Nedderman - New Haven lantern
- Railroad Enthusiasts of New York - magazines
- Jeremiah K. Ross book
- Carol Wilson one trunk and one Official Guide
- Ethan & Edmund Breitling - 1902 railroad pass and date nails
- Peter Lynch - books, 11 glass negatives and Conrail 10th Anniversary medallion
- Frances Batura - "Strangers on a Train" video
- Peter Cornwall - Chaney Collection reference manuals

We also received the following from unknown donors: magazines, model train catalogs, books, photos, slides and calendars.

LIBRARY NEWS - February 2002

by Stan Madyda

The Library remains closed as we continue to put in new shelving for the books. We have completed the moving of existing shelves for the magazines and newsletters. This material has been resorted on the shelving making it a little easier to find certain publications.

Continuing to acknowledge donations from 1998:

- Jerry Bradley - various railroad related material
- D. E. Comer - railroad manuals
- Randy Natale - stock certificate from the Housatonic Railroad
- Harry Burke - railroad manuals
- Frank K. Thompson - photos of Danbury Union Station, the freight house and yard
- Edward Gerson - railroad notices
- Warren Pemburn - rule books
- Robert Leavitt - manuals and timetables
- David Barr - model 567C engine maintenance manual
- Gail Noyes - photos
- William Carrig - various letters to and from the New Haven
- Robert Underwood - book on British steam railroads
- Bill Evans and Joan Lynch - a blanket from the New Haven Railroad
- John Christy - railroad manuals
- Robert Young - trolley tokens and trolley ticket punch
- Angelo Miranda - magazines
- James L Campbell - various tools
- Robert LaMay - a number of photos and slides on various subjects
- Arthur Retalis - railroad manuals
- Richard Schultz - photo of the DRM inaugural excursion
- John B. Wilson - war time letters on passenger service delays
- Terri Stramiello - magazines
- Rodney Chabot - Railway Age magazines
- John Thompson - HO trains
- Ron Freitag - magazines and employee manuals
- WTNH-TV - a copy of the Positively Connecticut feature on the DRM
- Daniel Pawling - 2 electric marker lights
- Joe Callahan - magazines
- Tom McCullough - an Official Guide
- Chris Blackman - a commemorative plate
- Jesse Meeker - magazines
- Ed Blackman - 72 slides and various Metro North forms

HO Layout Help Wanted

Members interested in constructing an HO scale railroad in one of our former MU cars should contact:

Jeff Van Wagenen (203) 263-3627
(jjvanwagenen@yahoo.com).

Initial work will be to prepare the interior of the car, and to design plans for the layout.

Thanks--

Jeff Van Wagenen



Photo Credit - Ted Anderson

New Haven Steam Engine Newport, RI.



Photo Credit - Ted Anderson

1951 fantrip from South Station to Newport, RI and back. Pacific 1004.

MUSEUM CALENDAR

***Starting Sunday February 17 thru Saturday May 18 - L.Peter Cornwall Photo exhibit
"The Way It Was"***

Sat. March 23	Easter Bunny Railyard Specials - Train Rides
Sun. March 24	Easter Bunny Railyard Specials - Train Rides
Wed. March 27	7:30 P.M. - Dan Foley Slide Show
Fri. March 29	Easter Bunny Railyard Specials - Train Rides
Sat. March 30	Easter Bunny Railyard Specials - Train Rides
Wed. April 3	7:30 P.M. - Sue DelBianco - By Rail Through the Pequonnock Valley
Sat. April 6	Railyard Local
Wed. April 10	7:30 P.M. - Steve Mayerson - Weather or Not #6
Sat. April 13	Speeder and Track Car Day and Railyard Local
Wed. April 17	7:30 P.M. - J.W. Swanberg - West Coast RR - Cajon Pass
Sat. April 20	Railyard Local
Wed. April 24	7:30 P.M. - Dan Gallo - The Ghost Railroads
Sat. April 27	Railyard Local

Spring RailFair 2002

Saturday May 18

Displays, Demonstrations, Photo-ops, and more.....