

Danbury Departures

Volume No. 13

December 2001

President's Message

From Ira Pollack

I'd like to wish all of our members a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season! In my last message to you I praised you for your involvement with the museum. It truly is you, the members, who keep this place alive. Too often, the members are forgotten for their good deeds and dedication to our organization so I will repeatedly thank you for your help and praise you for your efforts in achieving our successes.

We are now in the process of building an exhibit area within the building. I would like to use this area for photographic displays. I am looking forward to having rotating exhibits in this area with each exhibit lasting four to six months. I would like to advertise these exhibits to the public and possibly charge admission fees. We have talked many times about doing this over the years and I am excited that it is finally coming to fruition.

We also anticipate acquiring more equipment for our collection in the yard. Hopefully in the next few weeks we will receive two New Haven Railroad boxcars, a 25-ton locomotive and possibly some other surprise pieces. Although sometimes costly to move, we must remember that we have acquired much of our collection for little or no cost for the actual equipment. Equipment acquisition is a major part of our mission as a museum and must be an on-going process.

Our Wednesday night guest speaker and slide show program continues to be a

favorite and we see new faces each week. This last month one of our special guests was J. W. Swanberg and he spoke of the transition era from New Haven to Penn Central. We have many more guests scheduled so be sure to check the DRM web-site, www.danbury.org/org/drm, and here in the newsletter for upcoming events.

During the holiday season, please visit the Galleria on Main Street in Danbury to visit the G-Gauge layout that our members have once again assembled for the public. Their dedication to keep this tradition alive deserves honorable mention and I appreciate their efforts to keep the name of the DRM in the public eye.

In closing I would like again to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and I look forward to working with you in the future toward a successful museum.

Thank you for your service.

DRM Exhibit

From: Sue Thomas

Be sure to visit the Galleria Building, 235 Main Street, Danbury weekdays between now and New Year's Eve to see the beautiful large scale model railway built and maintained by our members, and supported by Union Savings Bank. This is a wonderful exhibit, added to yearly, and will guaranty to put a smile on all those who visit.

This exhibit is also open New Years Eve!

On Board This Issue

Member Photo Gallery



message from the president



New library donations

Seasons Greetings and warm wishes to the whole DRM family!

During this season of getting in touch with family and friends, getting in touch with our feelings we at the DRM want to wish you all a Peaceful and Joyous Holiday Season.

Currently many of us are getting in touch with our inner feelings and are also reaching out to understand other people and organizations and are trying to put this latest chapter in history into perspective.

Between thoughts of shopping for gifts, buying new toys for our children and ourselves, we at the DRM have been busy getting things ready for the holidays with the annual Holiday exhibit at the Galleria Mall in Danbury. We continue to go after equipment that will be of interest to our membership and to those who visit us. The process is continuing to make the Gift Shop and the Front Desk computerized.

We have seen our membership grow which is proof that we are doing the right thing with our vision and mission. We have seen our station take on many changes to enhance the experiences of our visitors. There are several very interesting railroad pieces in our yard. Several items have had restorations begun and others are nearing completion.

Many members have supported the museum through hundreds of hours of volunteering. We would never be where we are today without their help! We all know the people at the front desk! But next time you visit, stop and talk to the train crew, those restoring a historic piece of equipment, those driving over 200 miles to work on restorations, those working tireless on track and cleanup, those who gave their time and vacation time to work for the Thomas the Tank event, the car hosts on excursions, the people that take care of the day to day problems and issues that face the museum, those who give material for the newsletter, the editor of the again regular newsletter. But, we know that over 600 of you support the museum through your memberships and donations. You all

are the people who make the DRM a success. You are the ones who are making the museum something that will be around for years and years!

And since I am the Treasurer, I have to say that it's still not too late to make a tax-deductible donation before 12/31/01.

Tony White

We hope to see you at an upcoming Wednesday night meeting (7pm at the museum, 120 White Street in downtown Danbury). In addition, we invite you to get involved in Museum activities as soon as possible.

REMINDER If you move, please send your change of address to:

Danbury Railway Museum

Attention: Membership Director

P.O. Box 90

Danbury, CT 06813

or via e-mail:

DRMMEMBERS@aol.com.

Obituary:

It is with deep regret that we must report the death of Leon Dunevein on Tuesday November 27th.

He became a member of the Museum when it was founded. Over the years, because of his keen interest in both prototype and HO model railroading coupled with his English heritage and sense of humor, he contributed to the Museum at all levels and was instrumental in advancing it's aims.

Two years ago, he retired from his job in Danbury and he and his wife moved to Las Vegas. Earlier this year, he was diagnosed with cancer.

We only wish we could find the words to express how saddened we are by Leon's death. He was truly a good friend, and a very special person to all of us.

We send our best wishes and condolences to Jean.

THE YARD INSIDE

by Wade W. Roese

For those of us fortunate enough to visit and/or work at the DRM on a regular basis there is a lot going on, both inside and out. New acquisitions, restorations, tours, rides and plain old grunt work creates an active and visible environment of progress and growth in the museum yard. Inside the station, the library workers quietly toil away sorting, logging, and creating a valuable research source; the gift shop continues to enhance its product line; visitors revel in the displays and memorabilia. Also inside the station, along with all the static displays, are the "toys", or more appropriately, hobbies. I would like to initiate this column as a forum for our distant members to get a better picture of the progress of our animated displays inside the museum (THE YARD INSIDE) or better stated the yards inside.

As many members know, there are currently three operating train layouts inside the museum.

These layouts have been constructed, maintained and operated for a number of years and I will not bore the readers with all their history(besides, I don't know all the history). I would, however, like to relate what has recently transpired with the various layouts and current work in progress.

The focus of this month's column is our most recent project, the N gauge layout, which is a 160th scale model of Danbury's and our museum's own rail yard. When I joined the DRM this year the layout benchwork was complete, track was in place, and the turntable and roundhouse were in place. The following people have been busy building this replication and should be recognized along with some outstanding contributions to date: Richard Carlo(station), John Christy(roundhouse and backshop), Steve Mayerson(freight house), Ira Pollack(turntable), Bill Britt, Dave Rist(trackwork, security enclosure and general project oversight), Wade Roese(topography), Eric Mayerson, Mike Miciukiewicz, Don Konen, Peter McLachlan and Ed Blackman. Many of these members have provided

the necessary historical information required to represent the late forties, early fifties. My apologies to any contributors I may have overlooked and welcome advisement so as to give them proper recognition.

In future columns, I will attempt to provide updates on all the layouts and hopefully provide some photographs. If you wish to participate in any of the modeling projects please give us a call or stop by the DRM. Some neat stuff is in "the yard inside".

From the Operations Dept:

By Skip Kern

The operations dept is looking for members who would like to be part of the Rail Yard Local operating train crew.

Candidates should be 20 years of age or older, be willing to work in various types of weather, able to climb on and off equipment, and have a desire to learn how to be a trainman, brakeman, conductor, hostler, fireman, engineman.

You will be given a manual to work from, class time and practical experience.

If interested or for more information please contact: Skip Kern, at dkern@snet.net, or drop me a line at the museum, c/o Skip Kern

From the Gift Shop:

by Sue Thomas

New Haven NHRTA calendars are back in stock in limited quantities, so don't delay to pick yours up.

Gift Shop hours are Tues thru Sat 10:00 -5:00, Sunday 12 :00 to 5:00, Wednesday evenings 7:00 to 9:00.

We have many new items in for the holidays, including "train" movies, new videos, and the Danbury Railway Museum black sweatshirt is back in stock of the NYC E9 in lightning stripe colors.

Coming soon - Tee's and Sweatshirts with the Genesis in New Haven colors!

DRM member photo gallery



Dinner aboard the AutoTrain - Note the real china, silverware and table cloth. Photo credit: Bob Greenberg



Port Ewen, NY 9/22/01 Photo credit: Stan Madyda



Loading cars in Virginia. They start at 11:30 AM. You can board at 2:30 PM and the train leave at ???PM. Photo credit: Bob Greenberg



Cannan Station Fire - Photo credit: John Ivancso



Cannan Station Fire - Photo credit: John Ivancso



A view of the yard in VA. Photo credit: Bob Greenberg



Clear track into Naples Italy 7/16/01. Photo credit: Mike Salata



The "John Molson" at the Canadian Railway Museum, St. Constant, Quebec. Photo credit: Roberta Ballard



Twin Hi-speed express at sunrise waiting to depart Rome, Italy
Photo credit: Mike Salata



Yes, it is a real "wood burning steam engine"!
Photo credit: Roberta Ballard



Two prestigious Hi-Speed trains at Rome, Italy station after washing their windows. 7/14/01. Photo credit: Mike Salata



Is it CANADIAN or CANADIEN? Photo credit: Roberta Ballard



PICNIC - Members picnic - Photo credit: Dave Lowry



Danbury Rail Yard. Photo credit - Bill Wagner

DRM member photo gallery (continued)



British Railways Large Prairie #4160 and Great Western Railway 4-6-0 "Nunney Castle" ready for departure from Bishops Lydeard. March 2110 Photo credit: Steve Gould



Iona Island, NY 5/17/01. Photo credit: Stan Madyda



Highlands, NY 9/22/01 Photo credit: Stan Madyda



Night photo shoot at East Broad Top Fall Reunion 2001. Photo credit: Tony White



Night photo shoot at East Broad Top Fall Reunion 2001. Photo credit: Tony White



Above two photos - Getting up steam at East Broad Top, PA. Photo credit: Tony White

LIBRARY NEWS

by Stan Madyda

Earlier this month, the Library held two successful Member Appreciation Sales where all duplicate material we have was available for half price. We'll update the duplicate book list for the next issue and offer them for half price. Timetables and magazines are too numerous to list. We have many back issues of magazines available and the cost is only \$.25 or \$5.00 for an entire box.

Space is at a premium in the Library as more material comes in. Additional shelving is being added to accommodate the books, magazines and newsletters. By the time you read this, we may be finished.

If anyone has made a donation to the Library this year, thank you letters and the Deed of Gift are currently being mailed. I hope to have this completed by mid December. It is important for the Library to receive back a signed copy of the Deed of Gift. This document makes the Museum the owner of the donation.

One of our members asked why, since he made a donation in 2001, I haven't acknowledged it in the newsletter. The answer is simple - I'm trying to catch up on donations from earlier years. The donations listed below are from 1996 and 1997.

- Robert McDevitt - 7 photos and a NYC "No Smoking" sign
- Lucia Lefferts - 2 movies transferred to video from the 1930's
- Don Olsen - a 1897 railroad map
- G. Roger Clements - railroad information and brochures, photos, material on the Amtrak Turbo Train
- Newspaper articles from an unknown donor
- Amtrak timetables found in the DRM office
- Richard Carpenter - books, magazines, maps, Conrail material, timetables, and Official Guides
- Jaap Van Dorp - magazines and employee timetables

- John Christy - 4 cassette tapes of old radio recordings
- Peter Tascone - a New Haven Railroad Snow Train poster
- David Wilson - various Empire State and Valley Railroad material
- Ted Wahl - a New York & New England stock certificate and Metro North calendar
- Jacqueline Kean - various material on railroads
- Joseph P. Siok - photo of Union Station and copies of Housatonic Railroad information
- Cathy Winter - 2 railroad phones
- William Ring - ticket holder rack
- Russell Loveland - stock and bond certificates
- Howard Fogle - magazines
- Marlene Caprilozzi - train videos
- Ed Blackman - Metro North timetables, brochures, newsletters, memos, Amtrak timetables and brochures and a crossing light
- Michael Johnson - books
- Bayard Cutliffe - books, a video, signs and magazine articles
- Warren Hagenkotter - a New York Central timetable
- Don Buonomo - Brooklyn subway sign
- Harold Noonan - magazines
- Alan Bardo - a car move
- Stan Schoonmaker - books and magazines

Thanks to everyone who has donated. More to come next month.

A note from the Designer:

I apologize to the members of DRM for the delay of your newsletter. This month has been very busy and I had not been able to put it together in a timely fashion.

Please sit back and enjoy this issue (although it's late) as The Editor and other members of the museum work produce this newsletter to keep you informed of the Museum's progress.

Bill O'Keefe