

# The Railyard Local

Volume 4, Issue 4

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

April 2005

## DRM Receives Meserve Grant For educational enhancements

The Danbury Railway Museum is the grateful recipient of a \$4,500 grant from the Albert Wadsworth & Helen Clark Meserve Memorial Fund, a private foundation serving the Greater Danbury area. The grant will be used specifically for educational purposes. It will allow us to purchase interactive exhibits and exhibit enhancements for the Museum building and the railyard, which we otherwise could not afford. It also is an honor that our proposal for using the grant to fulfill our mission was selected from a vast number of other applications.



Karl Epple, Chairman of the Albert W. & Helen C. Meserve Memorial Fund, is shown giving the grant check to DRM President Ira Pollack. Mike Salata, Patty Osmer, and Steve Gould of the DRM also attended the ceremony.

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## Keep Your Eyes on the DRM

Beginning this month, our trains will once again be running every Saturday and Sunday. On many weekends there also will be special attractions or events to add to the excitement of a visit to our Museum and railyard. Our hours also change: we will be open Tuesday - Saturday 10-5, and Sundays 12-5.



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plus . . .

Library News and Membership Updates

## “Hobo Camp Stew” Popular

The Danbury Railway Museum participated in the Wild Winter Warm-Up at the Danbury Ice Arena & Pure Country on Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Our “hobos” served up a delicious stew to those attending the fund raiser to benefit Danbury’s non-profit organizations.

Our volunteers’ costumes, food, literature, and props all were in keeping with the DRM booth’s theme



“Hobos” Ed Albanetti and Patty Osmer serve up a savory stew of Rogan Josh with seasoned rice and lentils.

of “hobos”. A “Hobo Camp” was set up, complete with a kettle over a “campfire”. A flyer informed visitors about the history of hobos and hobo stew. Surely the real hobos never were treated to the gastronomic treat that was served to those visiting our DRM “Hobo Camp”!

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## Museum Annual Meeting

The DRM’s Annual Meeting preceded the regular Wednesday night program on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Those attending heard an address by President Ira Pollack (see this issue’s *DRM Express Track*), a financial report by Treasurer Patty Osmer, and election results from Secretary Steve Gould. Continuous members with ten years of volunteering also were honored and presented with special certificates in recognition of their service. Members honored were: Ed Blackman, Suze Blackman, Paul Gassner, Warren Hagenkotter, Gerry

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# 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!

Markus Nottelman  
 J.D. & Tara Sherman  
 March Hill  
 Thomas Pond  
 Katherine Mueller  
 Sarah Hoadley  
 Gary McGlendon  
 James McFarland  
 Jonathan Blum  
 Rachel Gerstman  
 Lauren Boyle  
 Tadd Naramore  
 Chris Landrigan  
 Sharon & Patricia Bowers  
 Brain Fullem  
 Jeanne Marquis  
 Philip Mazzucco  
 Junko Burns  
 Mike Lembo  
 James DiPreta  
 Pamela Lalak  
 Bruce J. Penniro

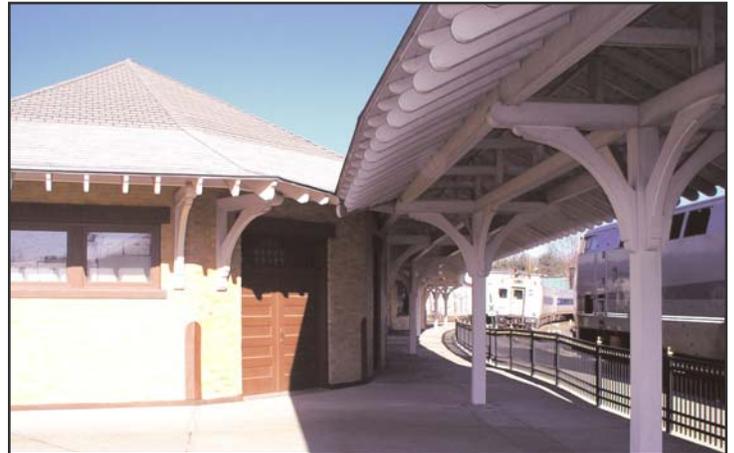
Sandy Hook, CT  
 Danbury, CT  
 Bethlehem, CT  
 Fairfield, CT  
 Ridgefield, CT  
 Newtown, CT  
 Watertown, CT  
 Newtown, CT  
 Stamford, CT  
 Somers, NY  
 Danbury, CT  
 Seymour, CT  
 Wayland, MA  
 Newtown, CT  
 Newtown, CT  
 Southbury, CT  
 Rupert, VT  
 Westport, CT  
 Brookfield, CT  
 Monroe, NY  
 Carmel, NY  
 Holden, MA

New Life Member

# Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

The April/May newsletter started with an article on accessions. The Museum had just gained status as a 501(C)(3) non profit organization through the efforts of then Treasurer Jesse Meeker. An Accessions Committee was named that included Geoff Knees, Lucye Boland, Jesse Meeker, Terri Stramiello and Peter Cornwall. A brief description of what accessions mean to the DRM was given.



In addition to getting its non profit status, the Museum also received from the FRA the designation to use DRMX on any of our rolling stock that may be used outside the yard limit. The "X" identifies a car as belonging to a private owner.

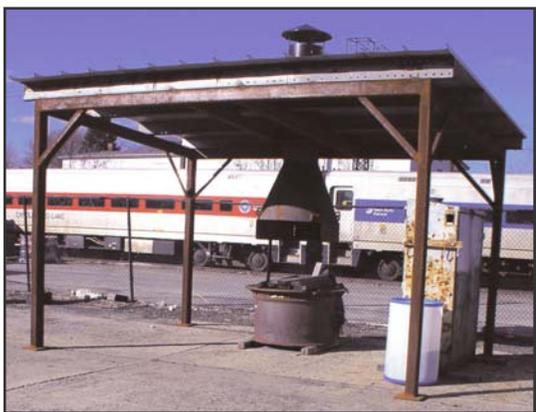
The first equipment was beginning to come into the yard. The ex-Reading coaches arrived along with the New Haven gondola (see separate article) and the Budd cars were due at the end of May. There was a call for volunteers to work on restoring the Budd cars.

The dedication of the station was getting closer and there was a reminder of all the work that needed to be done. All of the work in the coming months would be done in the yard and on the equipment. The city would be supplying the resources to haul away unwanted junk. Members needed to get in touch with Peter McLachlan regarding the safety course for the yard. It was hoped at the time that we would have access to the station in time for the September ceremony, but that was not to be. It would be April 1996 before we could actually start moving in.

There was an update on the work being done on the station. A plan for the interior was outlined. It included an HO scale modular layout, the library, gift shop and the ticket office, which was to be a real ticket office.

*Keep Your Eyes on the DRM, Continued from page 1*

Our **Hammer-In 2005 on May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>** will be a major event. The DRM's vintage forge will be operating. Many skilled artisans will be attending to demonstrate their skills and sell their wares.



With improving weather, volunteers will be in the rail-yard adding signage, displays, restoring equipment, and otherwise enhancing

the appearance of the railyard. **COME JOIN US Saturdays at 9:30am or contact Ira at the Museum!**



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# DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

**The President's address to the Membership at the Danbury Railway Museum Annual Meeting, Wednesday, March 16, 2005**

Every Wednesday night, before our featured program, I do "What's Happening". It is an overview of what has been going on the previous week at the Museum, and what we expect to accomplish during the week ahead. When you look at these weekly reports, you see:

Here is what we do.

Here are the names of the doers.

Here is our progress report.

Look at where we've been, and look at how we are moving ahead.

The Museum is alive and well and growing.

It's our volunteers that make us shine.

It's these people who are doing it, either in a small way or a big way.



Look around. Look in the yard. Look in the building.

Look at the newsletter. Look at our many visitors.

It's all around.

It's a love, a passion, a fire that can't be put out.

Look at all the people in this room - all different - young, old, short, tall - all with that common love, and need to succeed.

Look at what these volunteers have done over these weeks, months, and now years.

These reports show the progression of our past.

We are moving forward with direction, with momentum, an unstoppable momentum.

We know what our past was. Now we must look to our future.

Over the past nine months we have formulated a business plan including goals with different levels of priority. They were picked by members on the Strategic Planning Committee and grouped by length of process into one, five, and ten year periods.



Following are some examples:

One Year: Tour guide training  
Obtain grants  
Upgrade trackage in the railyard

Five Year: Raise a building at the turntable  
Conduct rail trips going beyond the DRM yard  
Secure trackage rights to the New York State line

Ten Year: Build a roundhouse and shop building  
Conduct excursions with our own equipment

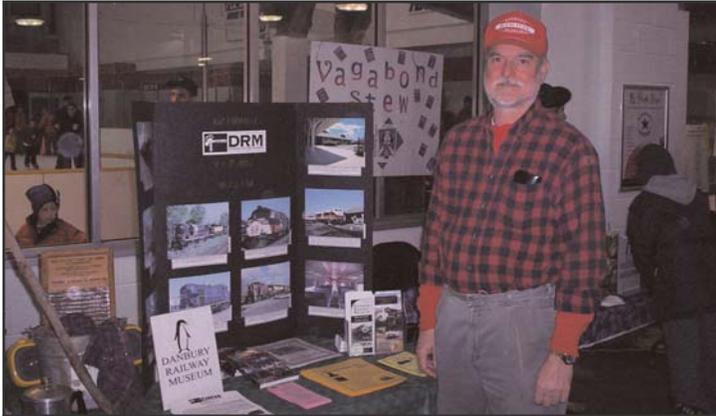
These are but a few of our goals, but this is our future.

This is where we are headed, and our course to follow.

I have seen where we came from, and I know we can follow this path to success. Please support this plan and continue to support our growing Museum.

Thank you.

Thanks to our volunteers, Ed Albanetti, Patty Osmer, Don Konan, and Sue Thomas, who also put together a photographic and gift shop item display for the booth and distributed information about the Museum.



Don Konan stands in front of the DRM display area, which featured hobo-themed items and DRM Museum photos.

Since those sampling our "hobo stew" were eager to know the secrets of recreating it themselves, we promised to share the recipes with them in this issue of the newsletter. They are as follows:

#### RICE & LENTILS

- 1 Cup (8 oz) rice
- 1 Cup (8 oz) Lentils
- 2 ½ Tbs of Ghee (clarified butter) or just use some oil
- 2 Onions
- 3 ½ cups (28 oz) of hot water
- 1 ½ tsp of Garam Masala

1. Wash rice and lentils, drain
2. Heat Ghee and dry the onions until brown, Save ½ of the onions as a garnish
3. Add the rice & lentils to the onions and stir constantly for about 3 minutes
4. Add the hot water, salt & Garam Masala. Bring to a boil, cover and simmer over low heat for 20 - 25 minutes or until the rice & lentils are cooked.
5. DO NOT lift the lid or stir during this time

#### GARAM MASALA #2

- 4 Tbs coriander seeds
- 2 Tbs cumin seeds
- 1 Tbs whole black peppercorns
- 2 tsp cardamom seeds (after removing the pods)
- 4 ea. 3" cinnamon sticks
- 1 tsp whole cloves
- 1 whole nutmeg

Roast all but the nutmeg separately until fragrant

4

Blend into a powder

Grate the nutmeg and add to the mixture

ROGAN JOSH

Gourmet August, 1984 pg. 94

- 3 large onions, grated coarse
- 2 inch piece of ginger root, peeled & grated
- 1 head of garlic, minced
- ½ cup of vegetable oil
- 1 ½ tsp. turmeric
- 1 ½ tsp. paprika
- ½ cup of tomato paste
- 5 pounds beef, cut in ¾" cubes
- 1/3 cup ground coriander
- 3 ½ Tbs. ground cumin
- ¼ cup garam masala
- ½ tsp. cayenne
- Salt to taste

In a very large flameproof casserole cook the onions, the gingerroot and the garlic in oil. Add the turmeric and cook for 5 minutes. Add 2 Tbs. of water and cook over moderate heat stirring, for 10 seconds. Stir in the paprika and the tomato paste, add the beef, the coriander, the cumin, the garam masala and the salt and cook over moderate heat for 10 minutes or until the beef juices are evaporated. Add 3 cups of water and cayenne and simmer uncovered stirring for 45 minutes to 1 hour or until the beef is tender.



Members present who received certificates for volunteering

Herrmann, John Ivansco, Stan Madyda, Steve Mayer-son, Pete McLachlan, Mike Miciukiewicz, Howard Peatfield, Shirley Peatfield, Ira Pollack, Mike Salata, Marie Salata, Nancy Sniffen, Sue Thomas, Bob Westerfield, Hank White, Bobbi White, Dave Wilson, and Carol Wilson. Kathie Fay was honored for her years of service to the Gift Shop.

Election results, to two-year terms: President, Ira Pollack; Vice-President, Bill Britt; Treasurer, Patty Osmer; Secretary, Steve Gould; Directors, Sue Thomas, Dan Foley, Mike Salata, Carolyn Taylor. Revised by-laws amendments were approved. A total of 191 ballots were cast, a 33% return.

# GIFT SHOP NEWS

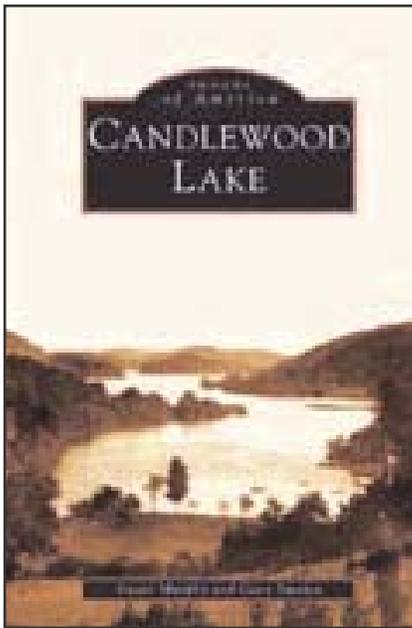
by Patty Osmer

Our new Danbury Railway Museum 2005 HO-scale car is in! This limited edition car, made by ConCor, and custom printed by Double R Graphics, is



in limited supply. Fewer than 90 were produced. The trailer on flat car sells for a member price of \$22.50, with a \$4.00 shipping charge if you

wish to order by mail. Call, or stop in to get yours now, as these are going fast!



The book *Candlewood Lake* will be arriving soon. Local residents will want a copy of this book for the member price of \$18.00.

## FUND RAISING

Recent donors to the Museum's \$30,000 Fund Raiser have been: Erik Zars, James Teer, Matthias Manske, Heritage Tours, Michael Sarezky, William Sample, Philip Brockelman, John Gallagher, Charles Kaiser, Jeff Van Wagenen, Dave McCauley,

Since the campaign began in mid-2003, \$15,966 has been donated toward our goal of \$30,000 for track repair.

Other contributions toward specific projects or of materials have been made by: Jerry Meeham, Robert Festa, Patricia Osmer, John Stottle,

Danbury Railway Museum sincerely thanks all of our friends and members for their continued support.

## VOLUNTEER HOUR RECORDING

Hopefully by now, all our volunteers have located a place in which to record their hours, be it in one of the books located at the Front Desk, Gift Shop,

Volunteer Lounge (Operations Table), Tool Caboose, or Yard Trailer, or in a pocket calendar, or even on a scrap of paper! A mailbox has been set up in the Office where you can leave completed hour sheets, or leave them in one of the books and they will be picked up. If anyone has any questions, please email Patty Osmer at [posmer@core.com](mailto:posmer@core.com), call the Museum and leave a message for her, or see her in the Gift Shop most Sundays. It is vital that you record the hours you volunteer, and the area in which you are volunteering. Thanks for your help!



Hobo-themed Gift Shop items include the book *View From a Boxcar Door* and Hobo's Railroad Spike Whistle.

## Library News

Thanks to everyone who worked on getting the heat in the Library fixed. We will resume working on a regular basis in April, including Tuesday evenings, and probably will do some Saturday sessions as well for a while.

We sold another #1455 print.

New donations since the last report:

Henry Yee - MTA, NJT, MARC and SEPTA material, all recent

Peter Hanen - video

Lionel LLC - model of the #1455

Ton Hourican - magazines

Charlie Bardo - items on railroad unions

Harry Burke - 3 books

Dan Millone - a large collection of books, timetables, and magazines

John LaBarre - 7 ladder books of waybills from the Branchville Station

Unknown donor - a collection of books

We appreciate your generosity.

# The Coaches Arrive in Danbury

by Stan Madyda

The weather forecast that I saw for April 8, 1995 was for the day to be okay with temperatures in the mid 50's. Howard Peatfield remembers it being a gorgeous day early in the morning in Canaan, Connecticut. That was to be the day the ex-Reading coaches would move from Canaan to the Danbury Railway Museum.

The Housatonic Railroad was discontinuing their summer excursions since they wanted to concentrate on their growing freight business. The coaches, owned by the State of Connecticut, would no longer



The train pulls into Cornwall Bridge for a stop to check the train.

be needed and the DRM reached an agreement with the state to lease them for \$1.00 a year. Four of the coaches were built in 1922 by Harlan & Hollingsworth and the fifth one was built in 1925 by Bethlehem Steel. They were built for the Reading Railroad and would eventually see service with Conrail, SEPTA and Metro North. When Metro North was through with them, they went to the Housatonic. A sixth coach was to stay at Falls Village.

Engineer Peter McLachlan and his conductor, Neal Mann both volunteered for the movement and the Housatonic supplied the engines. Reporting early in the morning they climbed aboard GP-9 #7324 which was to be the lead engine with GP-35 #3602 the trailing unit. Originally the DRM was to receive a Pennsylvania baggage car that was on the Housatonic property but at the last minute that changed, and the Museum was given New Haven drop bottom gondola #60521. The Housatonic was using this as a snow plow and had two good size holes in the end of the car

where the plow was mounted. Peter and Neal put the train together with the gon



behind the engines. The gondola did not have any brakes so a hose was run from the engines to the first passenger car.

I started out that morning with a friend to photograph the movement, thinking it would be a nice early spring day. We met up with the train at Canaan High School where it was stopped. Peter had to get a picture. He said the train would be easy to chase because of the slow speed they would be traveling. We decided to go to West Cornwall for the next photo. There I noticed some white objects falling from the sky and my first thought that it was some ash from a wood burning stove. Soon it became apparent that it was snow flurry. But not to worry, it was April 8th and the temperature was going to be in the 50's.

The next stop was Cornwall Bridge and the snow became steadier. This was not a flurry. We waited by the former station which was now a residence. Out of the snow, we could make out the headlight and as it approached the station, the train stopped. Seeing Peter get off the engine, Howard's first thought was that he needed to attend to the train. Wrong. Time for a picture, then inspect the train. Peter and Neal were concerned about hotboxes but everything was in order and off they went. Meanwhile, the snow continued to come down and it was cold. Next stop was Kent where the train went through town without stopping. All along the way we met up with other museum members and photographers out to capture this movement on either film or video. A color image taken by Peter at Kent Falls appears in Peter Lynch's book "New Haven Railroad."



Peter McLachlan and Neal Mann in HRR GP-9 #7324, with coaches and gondola in tow, approach Merwinsville Hotel in Gaylordsville, CT on their way to Danbury.

By the time my friend and I reached the crossing by Merwinsville Hotel, there were about three inches of fresh fallen snow on the ground. We were

still ahead of the train and only one other photographer showed up. This made for a very good shot as the train passed the hotel and slowed so that Neal could get off and flag the crossing. As the train passed, you could see Peter was really enjoying himself. Plus he was warm.



At the crossing by Merwinsville Hotel, Neal Mann jumped out to flag. He is barely visible in the photo to the left and in front of the locomotive.

Hatch Pond is a favorite photo spot along the Housatonic and a number of people were there waiting for the train. Howard Peatfield left the group to go nearby to his son's house for a different angle. The next stop would be New Milford where it was still snowing at a pretty good rate. The train stopped by the station where another inspection was done. By the time we reached the Brookfield Station, the snow had let up and was not accumulating like it was further north. Photographs were also taken at Berkshire Junction and at Wildman Street in Danbury.

Peter and Neal brought the cars into our yard and then started on the journey back to Canaan. There, Peter got in his car and began what was to be a 4 ½ hour drive home. I went home to defrost.

During the spring and summer work began on the coaches, first removing the "Housatonic" lettering and then repainting. There was some controversy over what the coaches should be lettered. Eventually a compromise was reached whereby three were lettered for "Danbury Railway Museum" and two would be lettered back to "Reading." Work on the gondola took place later with the holes patched and the car painted and lettered as it was on the New Haven.

Our first pieces of equipment came to Danbury on what turned out to be a memorable day - cold, snowy and a lot of good photo opportunities. Other cars and engines would follow, each with its own story.

I'd like to thank both Peter McLachlan and Howard Peatfield for sharing their memories of that day.



One of the coaches in more recent times at our railyard.

*DRM Receives Meserve Grant, continued from page 1*

Examples of ways we will use this grant are: to make the N-gauge model railroad an interactive display, to add signage to the railyard and Museum, and to enhance the railyard with a magnetic map showing the type and location of our equipment there.

The seeking and applying for grants is an ongoing project at the DRM. Grants are vital for us to continue operating, to fulfill our mission, and to grow. Congratulations and many thanks to our volunteers who have undertaken this assignment, and whose dedication has enabled us to receive grants.

*10 Years Ago, continued from page 2*

The newsletter also included good news about the Hudson River Special scheduled to run on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The DRM had sold 650 tickets, a sell out. Ed Blackman was the trip chairman at the time and made sure there was a lot of advertising done for the event, mostly flyers.

It was announced that the DRM would be represented in the Memorial Day Parade with the wooden steam engine float. Ira Pollack and Gerry Herrmann headed up this project along with more than a dozen other members that helped with its construction and painting.

New items in the gift shop were mentioned, along with announcements of a second Holiday Express trip in December, a motor coach tour to Steamtown, and Sunday open houses at Ives Street.

The Connecticut Trolley Museum was given a brief write up as a place members might want to visit.

On an historical topic, the Merwinsville Hotel in Gaylordsville was discussed. The hotel, once a meal stop on the railroad, was undergoing a restoration and opened to the public. On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Peter McLachlan was to give a slide presentation.

# DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM

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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

Apr. 20 (7:45pm)	Model Railroading - Steve Mayerson
Apr. 21 (7:00pm)	Board Meeting (Open to Members)
Apr. 27 (7:45pm)	Canaan Branch - Roger Coleman
May 4 (7:45pm)	Electric Locomotive Storage - Gary Gerske
May 11 (7:45pm)	Shepaug Railroad - Bill Bader
May 18 (7:45pm)	A Mixed Album - Woody Cohen
May 19 (7:00pm)	Board Meeting (Open to Members)

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



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Printing by: Infinity Printing of Danbury

### **Change of Address**

If you move, please send your change of address to:  
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PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813  
Via Email to [drmmembers@aol.com](mailto:drmmembers@aol.com)

