

The Railyard Local

Volume 6, Issue 4

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

April 2007

Signal Tower Number

By Peter McLachlan

Recently a signal tower number was donated to the Museum. Like others of its kind, it was used to identify the signal location. The first number (39 in the case of our artifact) is the mileage from New York City. This signal is for going east, since the numeral 04 designates the signal is for Track 4, and eastbound tracks had even numerals. Track 1 and 3 would be going west. This particular signal tower number is from



Rowayton, CT, since the mileage matches that listed for that location on the current New Haven Line timetable issued by Metro-North. Since there were two tracks for eastbound where the number board came from, the other track next to it would be 39 02. If anybody has more information, please let me know.

This board usually hung on the mast above the signal on the New Haven main line. On the Maybrook Line it hung below the signal. Other railroads had

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DRM April-October Hours

Daylight Savings Time beat us to it, but the Danbury Railway Museum's hours once again will change for the warmer, longer hours of the year. The Museum will be open Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, and on Sundays 12-5pm from April through October. Hours may be slightly different for Special Events, and it will be open for certain Monday holidays such as Memorial Day and Labor Day from 12-4pm, so if you have any question, please call the Museum at 203-778-8337.

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The Annual Meeting and Ten Years Ago

Volunteer Safety Exam

Required for all helping in DRM railyard

The Volunteer Safety Exam was offered on March 3 & 4, but since those dates were set after publication of the March newsletter issue, we are posting notice now. This open-book exam **MUST** be taken and passed annually before volunteers may work in our yard. This includes train crews, tour guides, and car hosts. Those who did not attend those sessions should arrange with Safety Officer, John O'Hern to take this exam. John will be at the Museum on Thursdays and Saturdays, 10-4pm (until 5pm after April 1st).

Bulletin Board Reminders

Our **Easter Bunny Express** will be running on **March 31, April 1, 6 & 7**. Details are at our website www.danbury.org/drm and in the March issue. We hope you will be able to attend, and spread the word about the event to others. Flyers about this and other events are at the Museum's Front Desk for distribution. That is a tremendous help and economical way to advertise our events. Since extra volunteers are needed for special events such as this one, we still may need extra help even as you read this. Please contact Sue Thomas at the Museum if you can participate.

The DRM's **Membership Open Forum** will be held at the Museum on **Wednesday, April 18th at 7:30pm**. We hope that holding this special Wednesday evening event, with time provided specifically for you to ask questions and express your opinions with the newly elected Board of Directors present will encourage more interaction. As always, the Board would like to hear your ideas, address our members concerns, and when possible, provide answers. Let's work toward common goals and solve our Museum's challenges together. Don't miss this opportunity!

New Members

We are delighted to welcome our new members this month. All members, as well as the general public, are welcome to attend the weekly meetings and free programs held Wednesdays, 7:30pm, at the Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury. We invite all members to become involved in Museum activities as soon as possible!

John A. Brockway	Pawling, NY
Charles Herman	Montrose, NY
Keith & Caroline Correig	West Hartford, CT
Colin Sanford	Greenwich, CT
Peter DiCesare	Danbury, CT
Joe Hine	Danbury, CT
A. Wassmuth	Brookfield, CT
Brian & Cindy Schoefield-Bodt	Shelton, CT
Michael MacFall	Manchester, CT

Signal Tower Number, Continued from Page 1



This shows the brackets on the back of the number for hanging it below the signal tower.

many different ways of displaying the signal location.

This is an historic artifact. Most signal tower numerals have been eliminated because of new cab signaling on the Metro-North. At all interlocking crossovers there may still be some left. We intend to display this signal tower numeral in our railyard for our guests to see. It was restored by Bill Britt. Watch for it!

Danbury Cleanup Day

Join us as part of this community effort on Saturday, April 21st. We will be cleaning up our parking lot area, and areas near the DRM along Patriot Drive and White Street. A number of volunteers

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spending just a short amount of time doing this will make a big difference.

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

The big news in the April 1997 "Danbury Railway News" had to do with the turntable. Once powered by an electric motor, the turntable had not been used in over 20 years. It was determined that the motor on that could not be made to function again. In stepped Bob and John Andrews who replaced the electric motor with a gasoline engine. They also repaired the controls, gears and bearings so the turntable again moved. Members worked on building new railings and putting down new decking.



A working turntable is still very unique. The ride on our turntable is a very popular part of our event and train ride attractions.

The April Train Show was again in the news with a call for volunteers needed to man the many activities planned including excursion trips, yard tours, ticket selling, gift shop and exhibits.

A brief write up on the Library was included explaining why the room was always locked and what was contained inside. In order for the Library to open it must have a member of the committee present. Many valuable items are contained in the room as well as many old and fragile items. In 1997, as well as in 2007, there are many items still waiting to be catalogued and filed in proper storage.

There was also space devoted to the members, the Museum and getting involved. The Museum was described by Don Silberbauer as an active place with many different events taking place as well as being a business that needs to compete. In order to be successful, the Museum must continue to grow, offer new attractions and exhibits that will keep bringing people back. The Museum will need to be diverse enough to attract local residents, railfans, and tourists.

On a historical note, a photograph and accompanying article described a railcar built by the

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DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

This month I'd like to welcome in our new Board members, and of course thank the old Board members for their service to the Museum. We have much work in front of us as leaders of the Museum.

This coming season we all have many projects to see through to continue the growth of the Museum. As always there is much to do at the DRM, as you have probably heard me say many times before. In the next several weeks I will be ordering timbers for the long-awaited track work in the yard. I'm hoping to rebuild the turntable lead switch to allow a longer train ride, and of course access to the turntable. As I have stated before this will be a difficult project to see through, and I really need your help digging out the old timbers and replacing with the new. I'm looking at doing this one at a time, unfortunately, but I have no other way of proceeding with this project. Please join me on Saturday mornings at 11am to rebuild this important part of our infrastructure. Once this project is completed, I will be ordering plaques commemorating the name chosen by the person donating the money to purchase the ties.



Bill Britt and Bob Pitcher worked this past fall on replacing the coupler on one of our 44 tonners. Photo by Dan Foley.

Track work is but one project going on in the yard. We'll once again be working on our NYC wood-

en caboose, the RPO car, and the #1402 locomotive. This August we'll be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the #1455 steam locomotive. We are planning to do cosmetic restoration to make it look more presentable, as well as work to stabilize its condition. We also will be working on our CN #660 party car. The point is that there will be a lot going on in the railyard this coming season and we need your help.

I am including once again the project leaders, if you might have any interest in volunteering at the Museum by working on these restoration projects.

PRR Rail Post Office car - Bill Britt
NYC wooden caboose - Gerry Herrmann
RS11 #1402 locomotive - J.R. Mitchell
B & M #1455 steam engine - Carolyn Taylor
CN #660 - Jim Teer
Yard trackage restoration - Ira Pollack

I will also list other areas of importance where volunteers are always needed to keep our Museum running smoothly.

Reference & Research Library - Stan Madyda, Gerry Herrmann
Front Desk - Dave Lowry
Gift Shop - Patty Osmer
Model Trains & Exhibits - Wade Roese
Safety & Train Service - Justin Chapin, John O'Hern
Wednesday Night Programs - Dan Foley

What makes our Museum unique is the diversity of our projects and volunteers that all have a passion for our success. We all want to reach out and include you in this neverending quest. We want you to be part of this success, and ask for whatever help you can spare. Come forward and be part of our dreams!

Steve Gould to Speak on LI

DRM Secretary Steve Gould has been asked to speak at the Sons & Daughters of East Hampton - Lost Tribe of Acabonac dinner on May 11 in Amagansett, NY. His topic will be the Long Island Railroad and its impact on East Hampton and the East End. The LIRR has had a long history, and Steve plans to relate the grand plan for a deep sea port at Montauk, the impetus for the expansion of the railroad from Bridgehampton to Montauk in the late 1800's and the dream of then LIRR President Austin Corbin.

Steve also will speak briefly about the DRM and its mission, reminding attendees that we are but a short ferry ride across Long Island Sound.

The Yard Inside

By Wade Roese

Layout Status:

N Gauge:

Marty and Jeff have installed the new timing circuits and done some trouble shooting which has resulted in the N gauge again being operational.

HO Gauge:

Steve and Gary have almost completed the landscaping on the west side of the layout. J.R. and yours truly have built and installed arches and retaining walls on the east side. Cosmetic work on the HO is rapidly approaching completion. Electronic control and operation is next and not too far away.

O Gauge:

Bring your tools, ideas, and roll up your sleeves!



One Tuesday night in January Rich Shubar was once again surrounded by O gauge, this time sorting and labeling equipment and parts.

G Gauge:

As soon as the weather is favorable, we should be working on the proposed new G gauge setup outside. Please consider joining us.



The six student participants are shown with DRM member Peter Liberante and DRM member workshop instructors Gary Bentley and Wade Roese.

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As you read this article, Rich, J.R., Gary and I will have completed the after-school program at the Hawley Elementary School. It has been gratifying to see the effort and participation the six kids have put forward. We started this program at the request of a representative of the school, believing this would be a



good way for the DRM to expand its outreach program. Bill Britt, Pete McLachlan, and Steve Gould have been instrumental in having already set the foundation for expanding our outreach and enhancing our public image. Anyone with an idea or suggestion that would continue or add dimension to this outreach program is encouraged to contact Steve Gould or me.



The Yard Inside, Continued from Page 4

The vertical glass display case to the left of the fireplace is now full of some very interesting and attractive dishware, thanks to the efforts of Gerry Herrmann and the Library boys. Neat stuff!



Ron Smith on Wed. Night

On Wednesday, May 9th guests to our 7:30pm evening program once again will be treated to a slide show by Ron Smith. He started taking pictures of trains in the early 60's, and has been on all corners of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and England. Railroading is part of his heritage since his father and grandfather worked on railroads such as CNE & New Haven. He retired from Nestle's after 39 years, and lives in Washington Depot, CT. Wednesday nights often find Ron here at the Museum attending programs given by other presenters. Come join us too!

Ten Years Ago, Continued from Page 2

Bridgeton & Harrison Railroad in Maine in the 1930's. The railroad, a two foot narrow gauge operation, needed a railcar to be used for a 32 mile round trip when there were no carloads to be moved. A Chevrolet car body was mounted on a chassis with flanged wheels. For head end cargo a large box was constructed and also mounted on wheels.

Also in 1997, CSX and Norfolk Southern reached an agreement to split up Conrail and a brief article was written explaining what this meant (The Reference & Research Library has received much material since 1997 on the split up and is available for research).

There was mention of upcoming live steam meets at the Pioneer Valley Railway.

DRM Annual Meeting

The Wednesday night program on March 14th began with the DRM's Annual Meeting. President Ira Pollack recapped this past year at the Museum, and outlined the Museum's goals for the coming year. Treasurer Patty Osmer reviewed the preceding year's financial picture and outlook for this next year. Secretary Steve Gould followed by announcing the results of this year's election of DRM Officers and Directors on the Board. Elected to two-year terms were the four Officers: President, Ira Pollack; Vice-President, Wade Roese; Treasurer, Patty Osmer; Secretary, Steve Gould. The following were elected to two-year terms on the Board of Directors: Dan Foley, Mike Salata, Rich Shubar, and Carolyn Taylor. At the March 15th Board meeting, the BOD appointed J.R. Mitchell to the position vacated as a result of Wade Roese being elected as Vice-President. Don Konen was once again elected by the Board as its Chairman.



Thursday, March 15th 100% attendance allowed a group photo of the entire new Board of Directors. From left to right are: Dan Foley, Rich Shubar, Treasurer Patty Osmer, Randy Natale, President Ira Pollack, J.R. Mitchell, Dave Lowry, Carolyn Taylor, Ed Blackman, Secretary Steve Gould, Don Konen, Mike Salata, and Vice-President Wade Roese.

Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

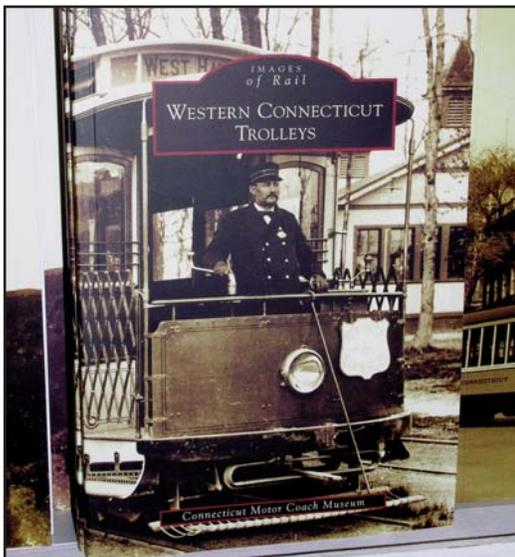
Our long-awaited 2007 car is here! This HO scale Northeast style caboose, #661 and with reporting mark of DRMX 2007 is a model of the caboose fre-



BLT 2-40	INSP 11-74
DRMX 2007	8-84 MEC
COT&S 4-03	RPKD 4-03
DRM	DRM
1-79 MEC	8-84 MEC

quently run on our Railyard Local. This is truly a collector's item! Price is \$19.75 (\$17.78 for members). If you wish to order by mail, please include \$4.10 shipping (and 6% tax if shipped to Connecticut). The 2003, 2004, and 2005 cars are almost gone; if you haven't gotten one of these yet, better hurry in before they are sold out.

Our newest book is WESTERN CONNECTICUT TROLLEYS, an Arcadia Publishing *Images of Rail* series compiled by the Connecticut Motor Coach Museum. Price is \$19.99 (\$18 for members).



New clothing has arrived! First, our exclusive CNE sweatshirt in a cream color (off-white) with the CNE laurel leaf logo on the left front, and the Poughkeepsie Bridge Route logo on the back. This is an extremely nice looking sweatshirt,



in a cotton/polyester blend.

Price is \$20 (\$18 for members). Size XXL \$2.00 extra.



Next, a full-zippered, black hooded sweatshirt with the McGinnis logo embroidered on the left front and two pouch pockets. \$30 (\$27 for members, XXL extra).

And last, a very nice hooded nylon jacket with light lining, full zip front and snap pocket closure, in black with the NH classic script logo. The jacket is \$39 (\$35.10 for members).



Please stop in to see the many other items for sale in our Gift Shop.

RPO News & Notes

By Bill Britt, Project Leader

This past month has been a slow one; first, because of the cold weather, and secondly, the things that we can do at home have for the most part been completed. The past two weekends did give us a little break, and we did get some bag hooks removed and have started to clean them up; we will be continuing this during the next few weeks. We also did a small amount of paint scraping.



The # 23 stained and polyurethane coated paper box door is shown in place. It now has a label holder with pull. Other paper boxes and the rows of first class letter slots are shown in photos. Below, a handsome, portable sorting tray that was made, stained and polyurethane coated at home.

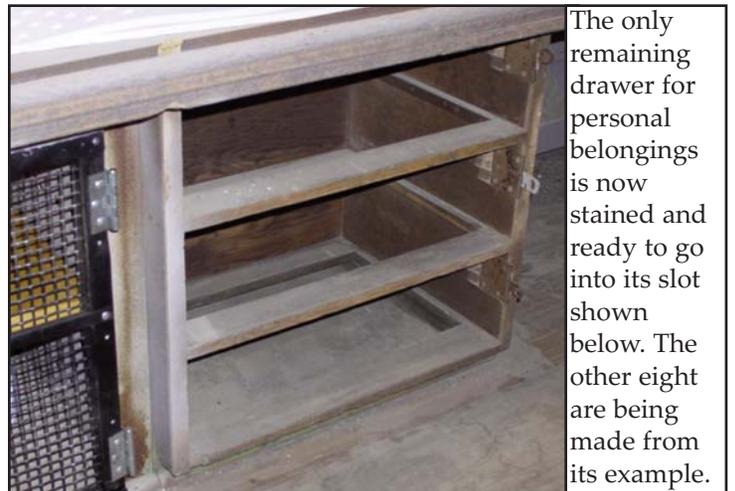


As the weather improves we will also try to get a better, but not final, car entrance stairway installed.

In the not too distant future we will be starting to paint the interior of the car. We will have to paint the interior of the 45 paper boxes which are about two feet high by 11 inches wide, and two feet deep, as well as the 880 first class letter slots. To do this we will need spray paint equipment. If anyone has spray painting gear that we can borrow for a few days, we would appreciate knowing about it. Thanks.



We have received a few nice donations during the past month, but again we must ask for your assistance. Please direct any checks to the Danbury Railway Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810, and please mark them to the attention of the RPO. Thank you for anything you can do to help.



The only remaining drawer for personal belongings is now stained and ready to go into its slot shown below. The other eight are being made from its example.

DID YOU KNOW ? that prior to the railroads carrying the mail, it was handled by horseback, by stagecoach, by sulky, by canal packets, and by steamboat; needless to say, it was moved at a very much slower pace.

Thanks again for taking the time to read this; we always look forward to hearing from you.



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- Apr 18(7:30pm) **Membership Open Forum** w/Ira Pollack and DRM Bd. of Directors
- Apr 19(7:00pm) Board Meeting (Open to Members)
- Apr 25(7:30pm) Slides of West Coast - Stan Madyda
- May 2(7:30pm) Video; Shops of California State RR Museum - Gary Gurske
- May 9(7:30pm) Slides - Ron Smith
- May 16(7:30pm) St. Louis/KC in 1970s - Bob Kessler

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:

Mail: The Danbury Railway Museum
Attention: Newsletter
PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813

Phone: 203.778.8337

Fax: 203.778.1836

Email: newsletter@danburyrail.org

Editor: Carolyn Taylor

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If you move, please send your change of address to:
Danbury Railway Museum,
Attention: Membership Chairman
PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
Via Email to drmmembers@aol.com

