

# The Railyard Local

Volume 7, Issue 2

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

February 2008

## NYC/HRR Wooden Caboose #19322

### Second half of 2007 restoration update

By Gerry Herrmann, Project Leader

This is the second installment for the year on the restoration of Wooden Caboose #19322. See the first in the July 2007 issue of *The Railyard Local* newsletter.

Two coats of boxcar brown paint were applied over the course of several weeks by (left to right in photo) Franz Gerencir, Pete McLachlan, John Fegley, Gerry Herrmann and Harry Burke(not in photo).



Article photos shot by Gerry Herrmann except the one of Gerry raising the flag, which was taken by Art Slothower.

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## Easter Bunny Arriving Early

March 15-16<sup>th</sup> and 21-22<sup>nd</sup>

We soon will be preparing the Easter Bunny's special car for our guests to this popular event at the DRM. Each year we find different ways to enhance the experience for our visiting public. And what better way is there for our volunteer members to emerge from winter doldrums than to share in the excitement by helping at the event! The Museum will be open on the Friday and Saturdays from 10-4:30pm, and on the Sunday from 11-4:30pm. Trains will depart every half-hour beginning at 11:30am. Tickets will be \$8 for ages 3 and up. Our track restorations have enabled additional length and scope to our rides. Children will receive small gifts. Reservations are recommended, and also available via our website [www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org). Please contact Sue Teer (203) 792-1981 if you can help.

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## Time to Vote!

### Please make your choices

We have enclosed the resumes, ballot, and return envelope for our 2008 Board of Director elections in the center of this newsletter issue. We are fortunate to have **eight candidates** running for the **five positions**, so the vote for your choices definitely will make a difference! Please take the time to read the cover page and resumes of our candidates, then return your marked ballot before the **deadline of 7:30pm Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**. Your member number (indicated on your membership card) and/or name must be on the return envelope. We appreciate the interest these candidates have shown in running for the BOD positions. Thanks go to Nominating Committee members Steve Gould(Chairman), Jerry Lawlor, and John O'Hern for their work, to Patty Osmer for preparing the inserts, and to all those who assisted with the inclusion of the election materials with the newsletter.

## Railyard & Crew Volunteers

### Upcoming dates for required tests

All members planning to work in our railyard **must** qualify on our annual DRM Safety test for 2008. This includes tour guides and car hosts. Train crew members also must qualify on our DRM Train Crew test. Both exams are open-book; the Safety test has a fill-in format, the Train Crew test multiple choice. So if you would like to volunteer, don't let the word "test" put you off. Ask our seasoned volunteers who are "repeat attenders" at these annual sessions!

**Dates: Saturdays, March 8<sup>th</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Times: Safety - 10:30am Train Crew - 1:00pm**

Any member unable to attend either session must arrange with the DRM Safety Officer, John O'Hern, to take these tests, and qualify, before working in our yard. He can be reached at the Museum, or by calling (203)778-8337.

# 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!

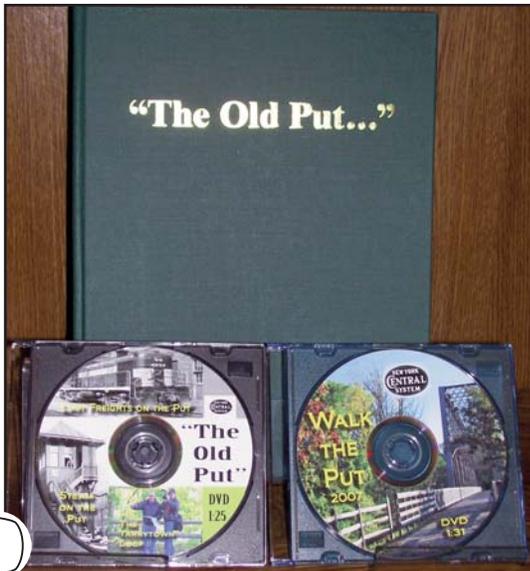
- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Charles L. Leonard IV | Middlebury, CT  |
| Gary & Lisa Givens    | Westport, CT    |
| Karin NeJame          | Bethel, CT      |
| Cliff Walker          | Newtown, CT     |
| Helene E. Williams    | Hawleyville, CT |
| Dave Wallace          | Mahopac, NY     |

# “Old Put” Comes to Life

Author Joe Schiavone presentation Feb 13<sup>th</sup>

The feature presentation of that Wednesday evening, beginning at 7:30pm, will be about New York Central’s Putnam Division. Although the rail line last carried passengers in the late 1950’s, and has been transformed into the North County Trailway, Joe will bring it to life again for us, even if just for an evening. His passion for the Old Put dates back almost 60 years, and he delights in sharing it with others.

As detailed in the November newsletter issue, the DRM Gift Shop carries his hard cover book “The Old Put”, created with Brian Vangor, which also features two DVDs. The first disc contains vintage footage of the rail line in use; the other is a walking tour with commentary of the roadbed as it is today. Be sure to buy a copy, available for \$30, while supplies last! This will be a wonderful opportunity to have your copy of the book autographed. We hope you will join us for this special program.



# Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

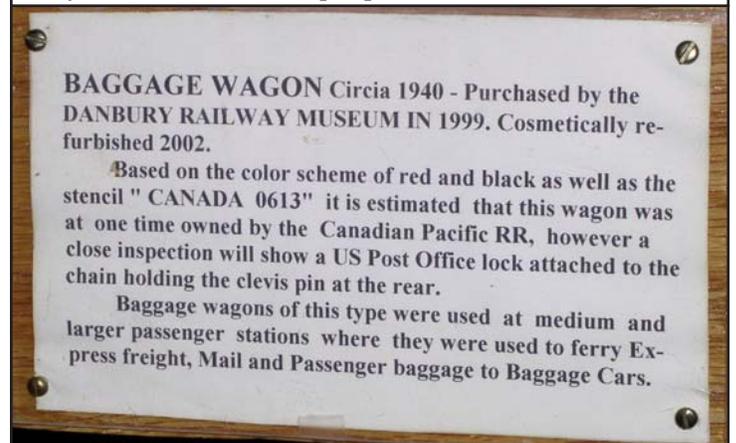
The beginning of 1998 saw some major developments at the Danbury Railway Museum that are still evident today.

One of the important happenings was that the DRM became owners of the land near Segar Street where the pump house sits. Leahy’s owned the land but had no further use for it. Through Paul Gassner, Leahy’s learned of our desire to have the property and the pump house. It was transferred to the DRM, with Bill Guider completing the necessary closing work. A group of members then became interested in restoring the pump house. Today we await its relocation into the DRM Yard.

The baggage wagon that sits inside the Museum arrived ten years ago when Ira Pollack learned it could be made available, and arranged for the donation. Although not a baggage wagon that the New Haven would have used, it was a welcome addition. Bill Britt would become the project manager for its restoration work.



The beautifully restored baggage wagon in the Museum today with informational plaque.



An announcement was made that the DRM would host Thomas the Tank Engine in August. The newsletter noted that many members would be needed to fully staff the three day event.

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# DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

Dear Membership,

Hope all is well with you this month.

I'd like to fill you in on some of the things going on at the Museum. Even though we're in the dead of winter now, there are still many noteworthy things happening. We've received a very generous donation from the New York Botanical Gardens' Christmas train layout. They have given us a sizable collection of G-gauge track, rolling stock, and even shrubs for our outdoor layout in the yard. Wade Roese, Bob Booth, Harry Leeds, J.R. Mitchell and crew went down to the Bronx a few weeks ago, making a couple of trips to pick up the items. This donation will surely enhance our layout and ever-growing interest in this large scale of model railroading. My thanks go out to all of our members who participated in this event. It is great news that our name is getting out there, that people are realizing what we do here at the DRM, and are willing to help and support our cause.

Even though it is cold outside, we have been working in the yard gutting out the burned interior of the Maine Central tool caboose. My goal is to clean out the car, install windows, and eventually use it as storage space. Unfortunately we cannot do much else at this time of the year in the railyard, but spring is just around the corner.

This is the time of year for planning our upcoming season. We are looking at some different events, possibly just to add some variety to attract new and different people to the Museum. I cannot tell you much more about them at this stage, but I am hoping

you will be pleased at their outcome. I will definitely keep you posted as they develop. There are many good things that are in process and will take a long time to unfold – many that I cannot discuss freely at this time. You must know that sometimes it gets very frustrating waiting, spending the many hours and leg-work time to get these things accomplished. I, of course, want to do things right away and have a hard time waiting for their outcome.

I have been talking a lot about goals for the future of the Museum. I feel very strongly about this and will be working very hard to accomplish these goals. I need your support, input, and involvement to see this through though. In the next several months I will be calling you to help me reach some of these goals.

At the close of this month's report, I want to mention that we are looking at Saturday March 8th and 22nd for our safety exam and train crew requalifying. Once again John O'Hern and John Geigle will graciously administer these important programs for the Museum. If you have any interest in becoming part of our operating crew, or would like to help work in the yard, please come to the Museum at 10:30am on one of these dates for these required courses and testing. We have much work in front of us. Once again, this will be a busy season, but always look back at what we can do, and what we have already accomplished. I know it gives me the strength to move forward.

Below, a vibrantly colored photographic display (watch for the color version on our website [www.danbury.org/drm](http://www.danbury.org/drm)) which highlights many of our accomplishments and attractions at Danbury Railway Museum during the year 2007. Ira Pollack created the impressive display using photos taken by Carolyn Taylor.



# Photographic Glimpses of the Railyard in November

DRM member Mike Powell was roaming the railyard in November, camera ready, watching for unique perspectives to capture. Below are a sampling of the images he has once again generously shared with us.



# Library News

By Stan Madyda

It has been a while since we acknowledged donations of artifacts, books, magazines and other railroad related material. If you donated an item in 2007, we will be sending a thank you letter along with the Deed of Gift. One copy of the Deed of Gift must be signed and returned to the Library giving us free and clear ownership of the donation.

- Robert Andrews – calendars and railroad documents
- Russ Briggs - engineer drawings for New Haven steam locomotives
- Joseph L. Hajla – books and magazines
- Greg Russo – magazines
- Ross Custom Switches – O gauge track and switches



Donald Berry, our papier-mache engineer from the Danbury Fair relaxes in the comfort of one of the recently donated red, soft, upholstered Pullman chairs just inside the entrance to our Museum building.

- Bill Bodnar – G gauge trains
- Jonathan Schultz – O gauge rolling stock
- Mark Fagen- keys used on the railroad
- Paul Lamson – books, magazines, maps, video, postcards, photos and a switch lantern
- Juan Medina – HO gauge track, structures, locomotives and rolling stock
- Vincent Reiner, Jr. – HO gauge track, rolling stock, miscellaneous kits and parts
- Gary Houlihan – videos
- Neale Riely – New York Central S-2 locomotive headlight
- Allan Kellogg – G gauge layout depicting the Westside Lumber Company complete with structures, scenery and rolling stock
- Lawrence Scripps Wilkinson Foundation – O gauge engine and rolling stock
- John Rice - wooden train engine and three

pieces of rolling stock

- Bill Pullman – 1930 Bahr photo of the rail yard and a 1929 Baisley photo of a railroad luncheon
  - Vic Westman – manuals, magazines and timetables
  - Harry Burke – Flagman’s kit, two brakeman lanterns, PRR sledge hammer, rear marker bracket
  - Marianne Ault-Riche - two Pullman chairs
  - John Jay – videos, magazines, books, calendars and miscellaneous railroad material
  - John Klotz – model railroading magazines
  - Gary George – “Model Railroader” magazines
  - John O’Hern – book, “Union Pacific Streamliners”
  - Dan Foley – slides, videos, Amtrak register and diagram books
  - Joseph Grana – magazines, NMRA directory
  - Geoff Beard – Metro-North timetables and brochures, 1925 ICC statistics book
  - Frank Sullivan – N gauge trains and track
  - Wayne Wheeler – framed prints
  - Marty Scatola - magazines
  - Bruce Pierce – baggage wagon
  - James Stevenson – New Haven passenger car diagrams and blueprints
  - Joe Hine – DVD of the Valentine’s Day train ride in the yard
  - Tom DeJoseph – 10 books
- We’ll have more acknowledgements next month. Thank you to all of the donors who thought of the Danbury Railway Museum.

## Valentine’s Train Rides

February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

Let the DRM warm you up with a train ride aboard our vintage Budd car in our railyard, with free coffee and hot chocolate, and sweets courtesy of our train crew. The DRM will once again show the results of Sue Teer’s talents at decorating for our special occasions. Model railroad layouts will be operating, and full-size equipment will be open in the railyard, including the newly restored Rail Post Office car. There will be free tattoos for children. Because it is February, we must qualify this by mentioning that **the train rides will be available, weather permitting**



The masking tape was removed from the windows and the glass was cleaned. The caboose is ready for Ira Pollack to stencil the herald, letters and numbers.

We concentrated on the cupola, which almost requires a total replacement. We decided to build a temporary roof over the cupola to protect it during restoration. Additional scaffolding was installed to the existing scaffolding to a height of 21 feet. Bob Pitcher fabricated cross braces, which were installed by Bob Pitcher and Dave Roberts, to stabilize the scaffold.



Upon completing the scaffolding, an American flag was raised by Gerry Herrmann. This is a tradition



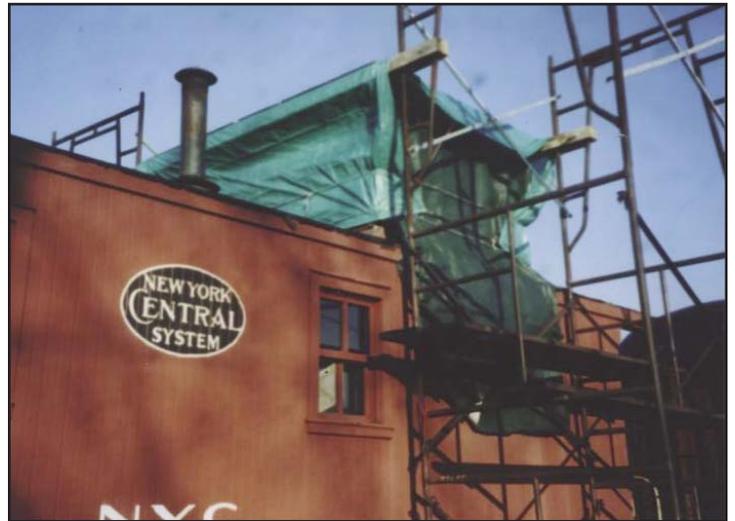
going back many years to when skyscrapers were built with steel beams by steplejacks. When the skyscraper skeleton was completed, an American flag was raised to signify that there were no fatalities during the construction.

Dave Roberts and I fabricated the temporary roof with 2x4's and plywood attached to the scaffolding, which has wheels and can be moved during the restoration of the cupola. Various tarps were draped over the temporary roof. This was



done with the help of Bill Britt, Art Slothower, Franz Gerencir, John Fegley and me.

Franz Gerencir and I started to remove the grab irons from the roof of the cupola. The weather turned bad in early December, so the caboose was buttoned up for the winter. We will start in the spring of 2008 to



finish the restoration of the caboose and the application of a new roof.

Volunteers for 2007 were: Bill Britt, Harry Burke, John Fegley, Franz Gerencir, Gerry Herrmann, Pete McLachlan, Stan Madyda, Steve Mayerson, Bob Pitcher, Dave Roberts and Art Slothower.

The DRM would appreciate donations mailed to the Museum with a notation made on the check that it is for the restoration of this historic caboose. Tax-deductible contributions should be sent 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.

# DRM Hosts Historical Groups

## Meeting at Reference & Research Library

By Gerry Herrmann

On January 16, 2008, the Housatonic Valley Area Connecticut League of History Organizations met at the Danbury Railway Museum. The meeting was held in the Museum's restored CN 0660 coach. The following organizations were represented: Brookfield Museum and Historical Society  
Danbury Railway Museum  
Keeler Tavern Museum  
Newtown Historical Society  
Preserve New Fairfield  
Ridgefield Historical Society  
Sherman Historical Society  
Southbury Historical Society

The meeting started at 12 noon, and lasted about two hours. I started the meeting with the history of the coach. The topics of discussion were: Past Perfect program (software program for museums), upcoming training programs, restoration, grants, endowments, preserving archival material, and past and upcoming programs. This was the first time that the CN coach had been used for a meeting, and was well received by our guests. Stan Madyda, Peter McLachlan, Sue Teer and I set up the car for the meeting. Light refreshments were served.



Before and during the meeting. Photos by Stan Madyda



## Ten Years Ago, Continued from Page 2

Another important piece of passenger equipment arrived at the Museum. Geoff Knees wrote an extensive three page report on the Tonawanda Valley. Geoff first met the owner of the car, Dr. G. Peter Beardsley when he was treating a family member and noticed Geoff's belt buckle depicting a heavy weight passenger. Dr. Beardsley expressed a desire to form a partnership with the DRM and have the car moved to Danbury. The car was built by Pullman and saw service on the 1928 edition of the New York Central's 20th Century Limited. It was retired in the 1950's and was eventually purchased by Dr. Beardsley. Work began in January 1995 to ready the car for the move to Danbury. An initial inspection by the Providence & Worcester



The Tonawanda Valley on display in the railyard today

found that the journal bearings would need to be machined in order for the car to be moved. This is an expensive process so the project was put on hold. In 1997, the Valley Railroad (where the car was stored) Master Mechanic J. David Conrad came up with an idea to use some wheels they had available and thereby avoid most of the expense needed for the car to pass inspection. Work on the car resumed in the fall with many members taking part. On January 21st at 12:55 in the morning the Tonawanda Valley was finally delivered to the DRM by the Providence & Worcester. Geoff's report is far more detailed. Anyone wishing to read it in the February 1998 newsletter should contact a member of the Library Committee.

Other news ten years ago included a thank you to the members who helped out at the Amherst Railway Society Train Show. Most still volunteer their time today. Easter Bunny Specials were announced, along with the dates for the DRM Third Annual Open House. This event would feature an excursion on Metro-North originating in Grand Central Terminal. The City of Danbury Special would travel to Danbury on the New Haven Line and return to New York via the Maybrook and Hudson Lines.



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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

Feb	13(7:30pm)	Slides; NYC Put Div - Joe Schiavone
Feb	20(7:30pm)	Modeling techniques - Steve Mayerson
Feb	21(7:00pm)	Board Meeting (Open to Members)
Feb	27(7:30pm)	Slides; LIRR - BobGambling
Mar	5(7:30pm)	Slides; Today - Pete McLachlan
Mar	12(7:30pm)	Slides; B&M locos & trains -Carl Liba
Mar	19(7:30pm)	<b>7:30pm ballot deadline: Annual Meeting;</b> Videos; TBA - Gary Gurske

Museum hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-4pm; Sunday 12-4pm

Visit our website: [www.danbury.org/drm/](http://www.danbury.org/drm/)



### Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:  
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### **Change of Address**

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PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813  
Via Email to [drmmembers@aol.com](mailto:drmmembers@aol.com)

