

The Railyard Local

Volume 6, Issue 1

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

January 2007

We've Been Good, Santa!

Cars Full of Guests Ride the Santa Express

The DRM once again successfully hosted a winter holiday event for children and young at heart. This year the Museum added new decorations, displays, and interactive attractions. As previously noted, volunteers worked hard to make a CN car ready to accommodate our Santa event, creating a magical, festive place to meet Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the elves.



Now that the event has concluded, pictures can be published of the spectacular decorations within the refurbished car. The RDC Budd car #32 was set to go, thanks to our maintenance crew who installed a new set of batteries to replace the defunct 20-year old set.



Within the Museum building our visitors were enthralled by the O-gauge wonderland, created by Rich Shubar, of holiday lights and animated decorations, and special Christmas trains. In addition to the decorations and usual attractions, we featured face painting, a "Guess the number of M&Ms" raffle, a

Continued on Page 7

In This Issue

~Ten Years Ago - page 2

~DRM Express Track - page 3

~The Yard Inside - page 4

plus . . .

RPO News & Notes and Library News

Reminders:

Resume Deadline for BOD Positions

The 2007 Nominating Committee (Steve Gould, Chairman; Bob Boothe, and Joe Ward) is accepting nominations and resumes for openings on the Danbury Railway Museum Board of Directors. The four officer positions, and four Director positions, are up for election next year. Each will serve two year terms. If you are interested in running for any of the positions, incumbents and new candidates alike, please prepare a resume(**requirements detailed in the December newsletter issue**). There are three ways to send your resume to the Nominating Committee:

1. By e-mail to GouldSL@aol.com.
2. By regular mail to DRM, PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813-0090, attention Steve Gould.
3. Place in Steve Gould's mailbox at the Museum.

All resumes must be received by 4 PM, Sunday, January 14, 2007 to be considered a candidate. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

DRM at "Big E" January 27th & 28th

Come visit our booth at Amherst Railway Society's three-building Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA! Saturday hours will be from 9-5; Sunday from 10-5.

City of Danbury Cancels "First Night"

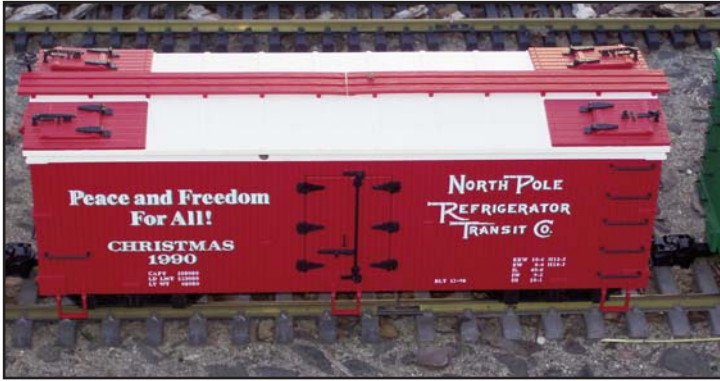
It has just been learned that the City of Danbury has canceled plans to hold "First Night" activities. The December issue of *The Railyard Local* had announced that the Danbury Railway Museum would once again be a participant in these festivities, and to call for further details as the date neared. Unfortunately the only forthcoming information is that it has been canceled. If it is to be held next year, the DRM would hope to be a part of it once more.

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!

Keith Carlson
Marc Kuffler

New Milford, CT
Danbury, CT



Library News

By Stan Madyda

Here are some more donations received in 2006 that we would like to acknowledge and thank:

- Mrs. John Rodemeyer – four books on railroading
- Edmund Swigart – model train magazines
- Thomas Hourican – Rutland Railroad Historical Society and New York Central Historical Society magazines, train magazines
- Bob Pitcher - a journal box cover from the Shepaug Railroad
- J. Hart Evans – postcards, 28 books on railroading, tank car plans, 1940 World's Fair brochure, two bound volumes of "Model Builder Magazine," and issues of "Trains" and "Model Railroader" magazines
- Dan Foley – slides and books
- Amos Hewitt – caboose lamp and a platform lamp with globe
- Peter Libertante – Lionel trains and track
- Marolyn C. Beschle – issues of "Shoreliner" magazine and NHRHTA Bulletins
- Jennifer Schoelkopf – HO train set
- Dan Milone – 3 Lionel switches
- Marc Kuffler – VCR/TV, New Haven Conductor's Hat, trolley bell, Lionel train car, Bachman G gauge trolley
- Peter Hanen – HO trains
- Patrick Vedder – CSX Bulletins, maps, rule books, signal and safety manuals
- Stan Madyda – model train and railroading

Ten Years Ago

by Stan Madyda

As 1997 approached, the January newsletter outlined coming events for the first three months. It was decided that shorter hours for this time period would be in effect. The Museum would open Thursday through Sunday with yard tours given as long as there was good weather. The Election for new officers and board members was set for March 5th. Wednesday night open houses would continue. It was also announced that the first ever Easter Bunny Trains would be run on March 22nd. Further plans into 1997 included our Spring Event in April, a June excursion to the Hudson River, new exhibits and First Night.

The Santa Trains that were run in December were successful with some trains having close to 600 passengers. These trains were run on December 14th and 15th and consisted of seven shorter runs. Model train layouts were set up in the station and equipment was open in the yard. Many members came out to help with the various jobs that needed to be done. Helping out as Santa and Mrs. Claus were Peter McLachlan, Gerry Herrmann, David Simington, Kathy Johnson, Tara Lewis and Judy Tarrant along with many elves. The success of these trips gave the DRM a good financial base to start the New Year.



Here Peter is ten years later, still helping at our Santa event.

On New Year's Eve, the DRM took part in the First Night Celebration in Danbury by hosting the music of Amy Gallatin and the Stillwaters. Six hundred people visited the station that night. Again a number of members came out to help with the festivities serving food, providing additional entertainment, welcoming guests and answering their questions. Later in the evening, the visitors left to view the fireworks from Patriot Garage and Ed Blackman started cooking his "famous ribs" for a private party for Museum members and volunteers. Ted and Sylvia Wahl provided for the New Year's toast.

Continued on Page 6

DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

This month I'd like to start by wishing you a healthy and prosperous New Year. I'm also hoping your holiday season was pleasant with all of your seasonal dreams coming true.

During this time of year we must begin our planning for our upcoming season. Before you know it the warm weather will be here once again.

Almost three years ago the Board of Directors, members of the Museum, and the Northwest



Connecticut Convention & Visitors Bureau attended numerous strategic planning meetings to formulate a business plan for the Museum's future. We focused on short, medium, and long-term goals, and prioritized these according to importance. I feel that we must continue this process in order to keep our focus and direction. Of course, this was a guideline and obviously priorities can and will change. I also feel that the challenges are still before us and we must continue to work toward these goals. Listed below are the three categories:

Short Term (1 year)

1. Establish a tour guide and car host training program for all members to attend.
2. Obtain more grant money.
3. Schedule more motor coach tours to increase attendance.
4. Upgrade five hundred feet of track and two switches in the rail yard.
5. Establish the position of a strong volunteer coordinator.

Medium Term (5 year)

1. Construct a building in the rail yard for maintenance of equipment.
2. Operate rail excursions outside of the rail yard.
3. Obtain trackage rights to the New York State line.
4. Do necessary maintenance and repair work on the turntable.
5. Get the yard and turntable on the List of National Historical Places.

6. Enhance our marketing program.
7. Work on Board and membership development.
8. Develop and encourage younger members.

Long Term (10 year)

1. Reconstruct the roundhouse and shop buildings in the rail yard.
2. Run rail excursions with our own equipment.
3. Seek ongoing government funding.
4. Establish a rail station at the Danbury Fair Mall.
5. Offer daily train rides vs. weekends only.

We must continue to plan for our future and must have an idea of our direction. It's very important



for fund raising , grant writing, and budgeting, but most importantly for the growth of our Museum.

I ask that the membership and, of course, the Board of Directors support this program and become part of this process. Membership will change over the years, people come and go unfortunately, but we must maintain this focus that we have formulated for our Museum. Please support and become part of our future.

DRM Contributes to Exhibit

Here is another example of the DRM and its members reaching out to further our Museum's mission by contributing to an exhibit elsewhere. Stan Madyda, who was one of the members involved, has written the following announcement about an exhibit which has just opened:

There is an exhibit at the Thomas Paine Cottage on railroading in New Rochelle (NY). The DRM Library loaned some artifacts and donated some material for them to use in the exhibit. There are also some photos of New Haven equipment taken in our yard by the Director of the Cottage, John Wright. He came for a visit and spoke with Gerry, Peter, and myself. A couple of our members also assisted in the exhibit: Dan Gallo, Sr. and John LaBarre. Hours at the Cottage are Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday from 10-5pm and Fridays from 2-5pm.

The Yard Inside

By Wade W. Roes

Layout Status:

Z Gauge: We are still looking for anyone who may have some Z gauge they would be willing to donate or loan to the Museum.

N Gauge: Some new, old structures are in the works.

HO Gauge: Progress on the HO gauge. Gary Bentley continues his landscaping operations. The north end town has been arranged and landscaping is under way there also. J.R. is close to finishing the east side yard.



(Above) Gary Bentley works on gluing trees that he has made at home on to the HO layout. (Below) The landscaping progresses with a variety of plant types.



Marty is busy getting the electrical control installed.

S Gauge: New and old S gauge pieces (static display) are in place.

O Gauge: Additional new Ross O gauge switches have been received which will further enhance our newly planned O gauge layout. We have received donations of materials from Home Depot and a very generous O-gauge collection from Mr. Bill Mahaney. The O gauge donations will provide an outstanding foundation for our new layout. The highlight of our recent O gauge donations is the collector edition of the "Patriot", a

Genesis 103 locomotive and seven-car train manufactured by MTH, and donated by the

4

Lawrence Scripps Wilkinson Foundation. (noted in our last column). The "Patriot" is in McGinnis colors and looks like the real thing that periodically sits outside our Museum building. Again, we invite anyone interested in getting in on the ground floor of this project to contact me or Rich Shubar, Project Leader, or come to our Tuesday evening work sessions, 7-10pm. The (www.wilkinsontrains.com) foundation now has a picture of our Museum and a description of what we are all about on their website . . . take a look!

As I prepare this article for our newsletter in December for you to read in the January issue, I would like to reflect on 2006: outstanding new members helping with the layouts and displays, working on Tuesday nights and other times; an HO gauge layout going from concept to being nearly operational; a brand new operational G gauge logging layout donation; uniform displays; new display cases; extensive plans for a new O gauge layout with outstanding donation and participant support; new G gauge equipment and displays inside; plans for an interactive exterior G gauge setup outside; new signage, banners, illustrations, photographs, and a road trip to the Danbury Library in August. WOW! THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all of the people that have participated in THE YARD INSIDE this past year.

Happy New Year,
Wade

Library News, Continued from Page 2

magazines

- Renee Malamd – trainman's hat
- Barbara A Lynch – five lanterns
- S. Simon – a photograph of the station platform in Jenkintown, PA
- Paul Egel – Westclox watch, five coach keys, MTA operator hat badge, 2 MTA patches, N scale RDC
- Peter Lavelle – 1974 Car & Loco Cyclopedia, two books, PRR Track Manual
- Steve Gould – calendars, 11 Union Tank Car prints, steam locomotive photo album, Union Pacific calendar prints and various other prints.
- Rose Lockwood – two N scale mine dioramas
- Dave Cheney – six MTH model train catalogs
- Terri Stramiello – 24 books, two videos, a 1994 DRM Box Car kit and various papers relating to her time as secretary of the DRM
- Bruce Malone - magazines

If you made a donation this year, we will be completing sending out written acknowledgements along with a Deed of Gift. The Deed of Gift transfers the ownership of anything donated to the DRM and must be signed by the donor.

Passengers on our Santa Express traveled down the



railyard to see more decorations and the New Haven caboose "dressed for the occasion" revolving on the historic turntable operated by one of our elves. Upon disembarking after the return trip, they greeted Frosty, and entered Santa's special car. It now is heated, light-



ed, and has space to accommodate a small operating G-gauge layout, myriad stuffed animals, toys, decorations and packages along with Santa, Mrs. Claus and elves. Santa presented each child with a small gift. Many guests took advantage of the opportunity to purchase photos of their children with Santa. Most of the holiday celebrants came prepared with their own cameras, and found many chances during their visit here to take memorable photos. The Maine Central



caboose near the CN car was popular, along with other pieces in the railyard open to the public. Some



days G-gaugers ran a holiday-themed model train.

Many thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who made this event possible! The enthusiasm of many who were helping during the event was evident from their smiles, costumes and decorations. The

excitement and pleasure of our visitors is contagious, and a delight to those of us who volunteer here. Not seen directly were the hours spent by many of our members to convert the CN car for the event, to prepare the Santa Express car, to publicize our event, and to decorate the Museum's interior and railyard. As a major part of this, the newly-formed Events Committee and Sue Thomas, the event coordinator, deserve a lot of credit for conducting such a successful event.



RPO news & Notes

By Bill Britt, Project Leader and DRM Vice-President

This past month we received a wonderful donation of lumber from the Kellogg Hardwood Co. of Bethel, so we were able to repair the rotted out floor under the windows and by the door at the head end of the car. Very shortly we will begin to make the forty-five "Paper Box" doors from the balance of the wood donated to us. Much of this work will be done at home.



Bill Britt is finishing up the floor replacement.

The motion detector switch that was installed in the lighting system is working well, and a propane heater we located has enabled us to work on cold days.

One door of the "Registered Mail" cage that sits under the sorting table is missing. We have spent considerable time trying to locate the wire grill we need to replicate a new one; this included a trip to



Brooklyn, NY to a large sheet metal shop, all to no avail. Since we didn't know what to do next, we asked Gerry Lawlor to work his magic on the computer, and he located several potential suppliers. After calling a few and a bit of haggling, we now have what we need, and hope to work on this piece soon.

The above is good news; now the not so good and the worst part of the project. We are again running very low on funds; any help

anyone can do along this line will be very much appreciated.

DID YOU KNOW? that at the time the Railway Post Office cars were in their "Hay Day", they processed over 16 billion pieces of mail annually.

Again thank you for your interest in our RPO. We enjoy hearing from you.

Ten Years Ago, Continued from Page 2



The Hudson River Museum in Yonkers, NY had an exhibit on during 1996 telling the story of railroading in Westchester County. At the close of the exhibit, they offered to sell some of the components to the DRM. Funds were approved and Gerry Herrmann, Mike Salata, Jesse Meeker and Peter Cornwall went to make our selection. Three cutaway passenger car interiors, some display panels, an interactive game and small objects were chosen. Some pieces are still in use inside the station, including the platforms by the train layouts, and the display showing various tools used on the railroad.

Our very first accession was also delivered to the DRM when a farm wagon that had been in storage arrived. This was donated and accepted with the hope that it would be a prop for future exhibits.

General announcements included Don Reventlow appointment as Assistant Chief Mechanical Officer, new items in the gift shop, positions needed to be filled, annual dues and the passing of member Ted Sommers.



We've Been Good, Santa!, Continued from Page 1

new coin-operated crossbuck with sound and lights, a mail box for Santa, and hot chocolate.



Dear Santa:

My name is Elizabeth (I'm 2 1/2 so Mommy is writing for me!) Thank you so much for the beautiful Santa hat - I wear it all the time and I love it! I have been a very good girl . . . well, I do try - especially when we're out shopping.

I hope you will bring me presents (did I mention I've been good?). I love choo-choos and Cinderella and baby dolls. What kind of cookies do you like best? (Daddy likes gingerbread).

I love you, Santa! Fly safely and Merry Christmas!

Love, Elizabeth

P.S. Mommy and Daddy have been good, too!





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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- Jan 14(4:00pm) **Deadline; resumes of nominees for positions on DRM Bd of Directors**
- Jan 17(7:30pm) 40s & 50s Passenger Trains -Carl Liba
- Jan 18(7:00pm) Board Meeting (Open to Members)
- Jan 24(7:30pm) Slides from Collection -Ron Smith
- Jan 31(7:30pm) Slides; New England - Dan Foley
- Feb 7(7:30pm) Video; Colorado Narrow Gauge -
Dick Shubar
- Feb 14(7:30pm) Slides; His and T.J.'s - John Garafola

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



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Change of Address

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