

The Railyard Local

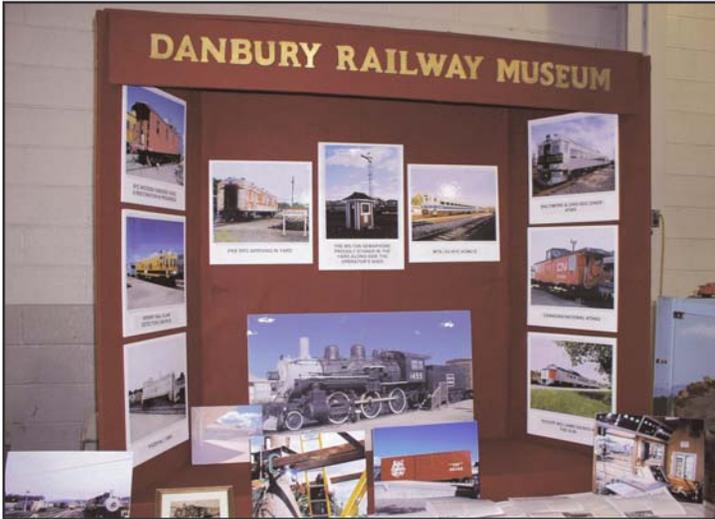
Volume 5, Issue 3

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

March 2006

Show at "Big E" a Big Success

Danbury Railway Museum's volunteers made the annual trip to participate in Amherst Railway Society's tremendous train show in West Springfield, MA on January 28-29. What a show it was! It was held in three large buildings, and attracted over 21,000 visitors during the two days. The Museum featured a new photo display courtesy of Ira Pollack, the H-O layout



Above, the new photo display. Below, Sue Thomas, Patty Osmer, Don Konen, Wade Roese, and J. R. Mitchell share a light moment while manning the Museum's booth.



brought from its usual place in the Gift Shop, a wide variety of merchandise from our Gift Shop, and books for sale from the DRM Library. If the sales of the Library's books are included, the Museum reached a new record for sales at this event. It is an important

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Easter Bunny Trains in April

Bunny ready to hop aboard DRM caboose

The Easter Bunny had such fun at our event last year that he will be coming back to greet visitors at the DRM again this year on April 8-9, and 14-15. The event will run from 12-4:30, with trains departing frequently. Reservations are recommended (203-778-8337 for details). Tickets will be \$7 for ages 3 and up, but members receive \$1 off of each ticket. Guests will ride a vintage train through our railyard to Bunny's



special caboose, where children will receive a small gift. There will be photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Our Museum and railyard will be open as usual to ticket holders. If you can help out at this event, please call Sue Thomas at the Museum.

DRM Name Tags

We now have DRM name tags available to **all** members. The tag design includes the DRM logo, as shown on the address side of this newsletter, with the name below. It is printed in red, with a white background, and is quite classy and professional looking. If you would like one, order personally, or by mail by sending \$6.00 in cash, along with exactly how you want your name printed to John O'Hern, c/o Danbury Railway Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810. He will then order the name tag for you.

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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!

Christopher Brohy	Wilton, CT
Peter Belward	Derby, CT
Madelaine McGinley	Cold Spring, NY
Barbara Davis	Bethel, CT
Kim A. Holczinger	New Fairfield, CT
Peter Houlahan	Redding, CT
Lisa Sheridan	Sandy Hook, CT
Ian Hayward	Danbury, CT
Patrick Vedder	Troy, NY
Nianjun Zhou	Danbury, CT
Joseph N. Schneiderman	Bloomfield, CT
Greg Slomba	New Fairfield, CT
Chenaniah Stimson	Wurtsboro, NY
Emily Mills	Ridgefield, CT
Kim Tope	Mt. Kisco, NY
Lioni McDonald	Wilton, CT
Taheef Seldon	Orange, NJ

Upgrade to Life Member:
Dana Laird

Rowayton, CT



Reminder of Board Vacancy

Anyone interested in being considered to fill a vacancy on the Danbury Railway Museum's Board of Directors for a term ending in March 2007 should contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

Steve Gould, Chairman	GouldSL@aol.com
Bob Boothe	mogul1455@hotmail.com
Joe Ward	joseph.ward@comcast.net

You should indicate in writing why you would like to fill the vacancy, and how you would help the Board achieve the DRM goals.

There still is time. The Board will vote for the candidate from the names submitted by the Nominating Committee. The vote will not take place until after the March 2006 regular elections are completed.

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Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

With the April Open House and Train Show fast approaching, there were a number of tasks that needed to be completed. The March 1996 newsletter focused on what needed to be done and how members could volunteer.

In addition to the weekend itself, the Museum was looking for help in preparing the yard and the station. A full page was set aside for a calendar that members could sign up for days that they would be available. Work days in the yard were Wednesday evenings and all day on Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers were needed for show set up and take down. Car hosts would be needed for the excursion trains that were running both days - an all day trip on Saturday and two short ones on Sunday. A minimum of 10 members were needed for inside the station and another for the yard.



The New Haven caboose C-627 is used as part of a consist with one of our vintage locomotives and one or two passenger cars to provide train rides within the railyard.

With the Open House, the DRM would officially be able to move into the station. The contents of 16 Ives Street would be moved out by the end of April. Although not mentioned in the newsletter, at one point the City of Danbury considered leasing part of the station to a food establishment. Our officers at that time were able to convince the City to allow the entire station to be occupied by the Museum. A call was made to have members staff the Museum during hours of operation.

On Monday March 18, 1996 the Housatonic Railroad delivered New Haven caboose C-627. The caboose was prepared for movement by Geoff Knees and Eric Hagenkotter. After its arrival, Ira Pollack began restoration work.

Sales of the 1995 DRM HO scale box car went well and it was decided to order 400 of the 1996 version. The Gift Shop would also be able to offer more products with the larger space available in the station.

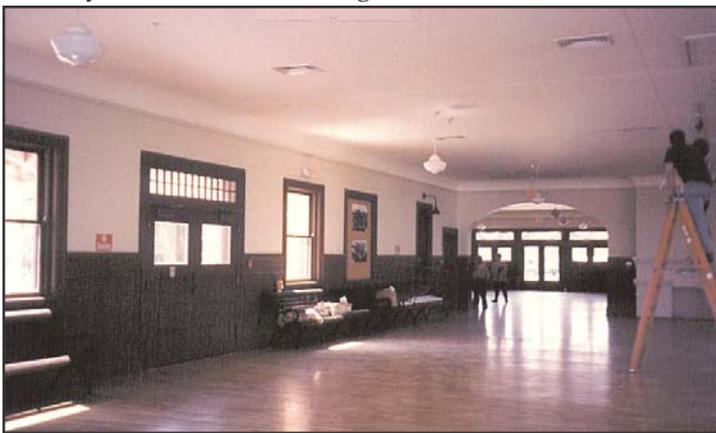
DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

In this month's newsletter I would like to let you know about some of the new appointments that I have made for our organization. There are many different jobs or tasks that are required to run our operation, some that you might not even notice or ever know exist. As our Museum grows, the workload increases for us all. I have been asking for your help all along and now will report on some new changes and additions to our operations.

To start off with, I have appointed Dan Foley to run and maintain our Wednesday night program of presentations. Dan will be responsible for organizing the new schedules, contacting current and new speakers and keeping our membership aware of this program through the newsletter and whatever media is available to us. This has been very successful through the years and continues to grow. If you have any interest in participating in these programs, please contact Dan for future bookings. I wish Dan well in this new endeavor and look forward to new programs coming up in the future.

I have also appointed Wade Roese as Exhibits Director for the Museum. Wade will be responsible for generating new displays and exhibits, working and collaborating with our library archive group and exploring new interactive displays. Incidentally, Wade and the Tuesday night group have been influential in building our new HO layout and setting up the recently donated G scale layout. I am excited about working with Wade, continuing and expanding the displays we already have in the building.



This early view of the interior of the Museum shows how far we have come! It highlights how important our exhibits are for educating and entertaining our guests and members. This photo is from Ira Pollack's collection.

The Museum has many different projects that are going on at the same time. We receive many monetary donations toward these projects, anything from

the RPO, the NYC caboose, or the tie replacement project, to name a few. I have wanted to centralize all of these donations through one person to simplify and standardize the paperwork and, of course, the legwork required. I have approached Mike Salata to fill this need. Mike will be responsible for receiving and forwarding copies of these donations to the appropriate parties involved, and then responding to the donors with thank you letters as needed. I would also like to see these donations acknowledged in our newsletter. This has long been a need of the Museum and I wish Mike well with this new challenge.

Finally, I talked about the need for an Advertising Director and an Operations Director in last month's newsletter. To date no one has come forward to fill these important positions. I will again list these requirements in our Help Wanted section and still hope for a positive response from our membership. Please call me at 203 778 8337 to help.

In closing we have a very busy schedule in front of us this year with new events and much track work. As President I ask for your help and support in these endeavors and need your commitments to keep our Museum growing and moving forward.

Help Wanted

Advertising Director - Requirements of Position

1. Produce budget for upcoming year (possibly using past year as a guideline)
2. Advertise upcoming events at Museum (Santa, Jeep Show, etc.)
3. Inform public of happenings at Museum (turntable, semaphore, NYC caboose, yard, new equipment)
4. Marketing our product - regionally, locally
5. Create contacts with newspapers, TV, and radio. Find agencies interested in informational stories about the Museum.
6. Make sure press releases are accurate and on time.
7. Generate flyers for events; collaborate with the Webmaster.
8. Report monthly to the President

Operations Director - requirements of position

1. Schedule train crews for weekend operations and special events
2. Maintain time log of all operating volunteers on crew
3. Maintain training program for existing crews and new volunteers - engineers, conductors, brakemen
4. Collaborate with mechanical crew on maintenance, service issues, and schedules
5. Report monthly to the President

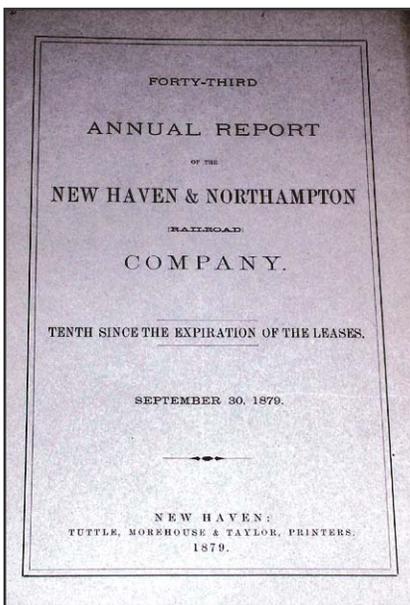
Annual Reports

DRM Library has a vast collection

By Stan Madyda

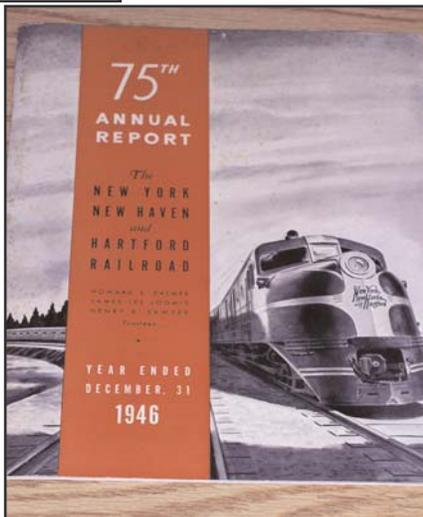
Over the last few months, the Library Committee has been meeting on Saturdays to continue what seems like an endless job of accessioning and cataloging material we have received over the last ten years. One of the categories we have concentrated on is the Annual Reports.

These reports are written each year for the shareholders of the railroad's stock and examine the previous year's operations. Our collection spans over 150 years. Some of our early reports are Boston & Lowell (1851), Hartford, Providence and Fishkill (1851), New York & New Haven (1852), Vermont Valley (1857-1860), Boston & Maine (1864), New Haven (1873) and New York & Northampton (1879).



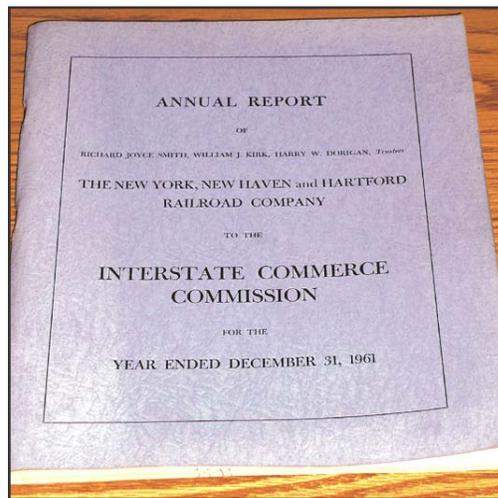
We have others from the New York Central, Norfolk & Western, Southern, Great Northern, Bangor & Aroostook, Maine Central, Burlington Northern, CSX and Amtrak. We also have final report from the Rutland (1964) and the New Haven (1969). These came from a variety of donors but the older ones are from the collection of L. Peter Cornwall.

Looking at the 75th Annual Report for the New Haven (1946), one learns that that the railroad was in the midst of bankruptcy, and reorganization plans were being submitted to the Trustees. Our copy has a note to employees saying that they are receiving the report in lieu of their monthly "Along the Line" employee newsletter. The report has its share of balance sheets,

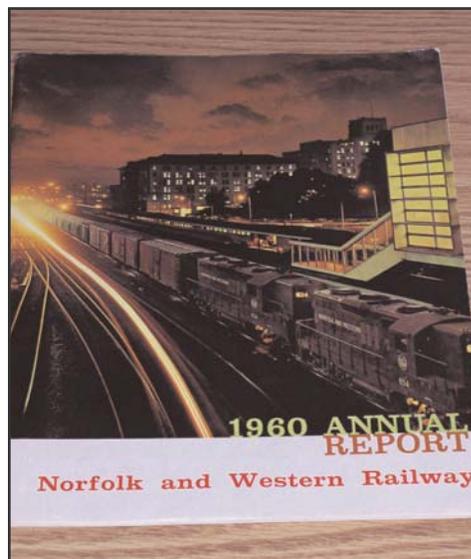


track mileage reports, operating statistics and

equipment reports. It also has several pages devoted to the state of the railroad. In 1946, railroads across the nation were seeing decreased freight and passenger revenues as a result of the end of World War II. Not



only was less material needed to be shipped by rail for the war effort, but major strikes by industries using railroads took place, including two affecting the coal industry. The New Haven saw decreases in freight revenue of 7.4% and passenger revenue of 21.4%. Express revenues were off by 79.7% mainly due to wage increases, but dining car revenues increased by 3.7%.



Diesel and electric operations accounted for 75% of the yard jobs, 73% of passenger car miles and 53% of the freight gross ton miles. This saved the railroad 780,000 tons of coal minimizing the effect the two coal strikes had on the railroad's ability to move its trains.

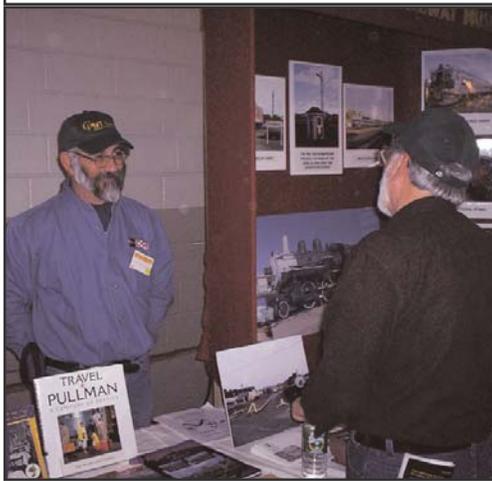
The 1946 report also discusses the effect on business from competing forms of transportation, new equipment purchases, the shortage of boxcars, wage increases and maintenance of way projects. Later Annual Reports on the New Haven review the railroad's resuming management of its business and coming out of bankruptcy.

Each Annual Report in our collection gives a clear, concise one year history of the railroad it represents. An understanding of balance sheets and accounting is not needed to appreciate the information contained in the reports. Any member or researcher can view the annual reports by making an appointment with Gerry Herrmann, Peter McLachlan or Stan Madyda.

opportunity to publicize our Museum and interact with other members of the railroading community. We already are meeting new visitors to our Museum who first learned about it at this train show.



Patty and Sue attend to customers (above), while J.R. engages in discussion with another.



Many thanks to all who participated in this BIG undertaking. Those include Don Konen, Sue Thomas, Patty Osmer, Wade Roese, J. R. Mitchell, Ed and Suze Blackman, and Carolyn Taylor. They helped with packing/unpacking merchandise, driving/loading/unloading the truck, setting up/taking down the merchandise and displays, selling, talking to the public, and handing out literature.



What's the attraction? There's nothing like a model train in action to fascinate train show visitors. Ours spends the rest of the year set up in the Gift Shop, so if you missed it at the show, come see it at the Museum.

Donations

By Patty Osmer

Thanks to the generosity of our members and friends, we received donations totaling more than \$36,000 in 2005. About 30% of the donations were made to the General Fund of the Museum, with the rest earmarked for specific projects.

At the close of 2005, our larger Special Projects Fund contained the following:

NH RS-11 #1402	\$9,175
B&M Mogul #1455	\$9,258
NYCHRR Caboose #19322	\$5,838
Tie Replacement	\$1,305
RPO Restoration	\$1,985
NH RDC #32 Maintenance	\$10,000
Ballast Tamper Purchase	\$5,000

We keep careful accounting of all monies donated to our Special Projects, and donors can be assured that when they earmark a donation for a specific project that it will be used for that project.

We also attempt to ensure that all donors receive an acknowledgement. If you have made a donation which has not been acknowledged, and need a receipt for tax purposes, please contact the Treasurer by mail at the Museum's address, or email to p.osmer@verizon.net.

Each and every donation, no matter how large or small, whether in time, materials, or money, is important to the success and growth of the Museum. We could not achieve what we have without the support of our membership and friends.

RPO News and Notes

By Bill Britt, Project Leader

The window replacement project has taken a turn for the better this month, and as of this writing, we are only a few hundred dollars short of our goal. Hopefully next month we will be in a position to tell you that the windows are at the glaziers being worked on. Thanks for all your help on this!

The mail bag program is the same as last month. We can always use a few more.

We continued to work on some internal pieces that were removed, cleaned and painted.

Did you know? That railway post office cars were operated on routes in some large cities such as Cleveland, Philadelphia, New York, etc. and used the trolley (street car) tracks.

Thank you for your continued support; we look forward to hearing from you.



Library News

by Stan Madyda

In January, the Reference and Research Library purchased a very large collection of books, magazines, timetables and other railroad material. The collection belonged to Harry Vallas who had worked for the New Haven Railroad and the Long Island Railroad.



Gerry Herrmann, Marty Scatola, and Peter McLachlan unload the truck filled with the Harry Vallas collection.

In September, we received an inquiry from the Willimantic Camp Meeting Association asking if we would be interested in purchasing the collection. The collection was given to the Association along with other possessions to use for their fund-raising White Elephant Sale. They realized that there was too much here for them to sell in a timely fashion and contacted the DRM along with two other museums. We immediately said we were interested.

In December, I traveled to Willimantic to look at the collection. What I found was over 100 boxes packed with material. There were a number of books the Library did not already have. Among them was the three-volume set by Bob Nimke on the Central New England. There also were a quite a few that would be duplicates. Overall the books were in excellent condition and many were still in shrink wrap, having never been opened. The collection also included Shoreliners, Central Headlights, B & M Bulletins and other historical society magazines. I thought the purchase price asked by the Association was fair. The purchase was discussed with other members of the Library Committee, Ira Pollack and Patty Osmer, all of whom agreed that it would be a good investment.

Money for the purchase came from the Library Restricted Fund. This Fund was built with money earned from our prior book sales. On January 16th, Gerry Herrmann, Peter McLachlan, Marty Scatola, David Simington, Harry Burke and I took a rental truck to pick up the collection. The Willimantic Camp Meeting Association was

happy to receive our check which will go towards improvements on their buildings.



As Gerry and Stan Madyda wheel the boxes into the Library they must be thinking, "Where will we put these?" Below, a very temporary resting place for some of the boxes, which have since been moved and sorted.



Work has begun on sorting through the collection. Some of the more expensive duplicate books were singled out for possible sale at the Amherst Railway Society Train Show in West Springfield. This was successful; many of the books were sold. We also found a number of books on non railroad subjects. It was suggested that we contact the book dealer

in Bethel. They came over and made an acceptable offer for the books.

In less than a month, we have recouped two thirds of our investment, including the truck rental. Coupled with the fact that we will be adding a number of books and other material to our collection, the Harry Vallas Collection is a welcome addition to the Reference and Research Library. I'll supply more information as we accession and catalog the collection.

Annual Meeting on March 15

Come join us at 7:30pm for the Danbury Railway Museum's Annual Meeting featuring a "State of the Museum" address by the President, financial report by our Treasurer, and election results. **The 7:30pm time is also the deadline for election ballots to be received at the Museum.** Our audience for the Wednesday night program also will be treated to a selection of outstanding slides from the collection of Ed Blackman.

Calendar of Events 2006

Free programs and DRM weekly update, open to the public, every Wednesday, 7:30pm at the Museum

Easter Bunny train ride event (reservations suggested)	April 8-9, 14-15
2006 Hammer-In - Blacksmith demonstrations on forges	April 29-30
Mother's Day Event - Moms free with child's paid admission	May 14
Memorial Day - Weekend schedule of train rides - Museum hours 12-4	May 29

Little Engine That Could 25 ft. Engine Visits Danbury June 17-18, 24-25

Jeep Lover's Meet - Antique and modern Jeep fun	July 15
Sperry Rail Car Day - Ride unusual rail equipment	July 29

Rockin' on the Railroad Band Concert DRM Fundraiser Come hear great bands! \$25 admission 12 - 5 August 12

Labor Day - Weekend schedule of train rides - Museum hours 12-4	September 4
RDC "Budd Car" Day - Ride the "Roger Williams"	September 16
Train ride to the Pumpkin Patch	October 14-15, 21-22, 28-29
Santa Trains (reservations suggested)	December 3, 9-10, 16-17
New Year's Eve event - Family entertainment	December 31

Please note: Except for the Easter Bunny rides, Little Engine That Could, Pumpkin Patch, Santa Trains, and New Year's Eve, all events are attractions **in addition** to our regular weekend schedule of train rides.



