

The Railyard Local

Volume 6, Issue 3

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

March 2007

Hop Aboard the DRM's Easter Bunny Express!

Special event on March 31, April 1, 6, & 7



Our Bunny can hardly wait to greet our guests as they arrive from their vintage train ride through the Museum's railyard. The Bunny reserved a special coach filled with decorations for the occasion. We suggest that those wishing to attend this popular annual event also make **reservations**. That way you can plan your day with tickets for a

specific train time, and avoid lines or waiting time. Please visit our web site www.danbury.org/drm and click on **Tickets** at the right-hand top of the home page, or scroll down and click on the event. If you call the Museum for reservations at 203-778-8337, please do so Wed.-Sun. 12-3pm. In either case you will receive a confirmation and your tickets will be held at the Front Desk for you. Trains will depart every 45 minutes from 12:15-4. The Museum will be open 10-5 on Saturday, March 31st, 11:30-5 Sunday, April 1st, and 10-5 Friday and Saturday, April 6th and 7th. The \$8:00 admission for ages 2 & over includes the train ride, visit with the Bunny, photo opportunities, a small gift for children, face painting, and turntable ride, as well as all of the usual numerous attractions of layouts, artifacts, Gift Shop, full-sized vintage rolling stock, and additional displays in the railyard. Show your DRM membership card to receive \$1 off of each ticket.

Those wishing to volunteer should contact Sue Thomas at the Museum. We need extra staff on this occasion. Helping on events such as this is a very satisfying experience because we see the excitement and joy of our visitors, and are so pleased to share what the Museum we love has to offer.



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The Yard Inside and DRM Express Track

Winter Showed Some Heart

Weather permitted Valentine's Day trains

Riders showed up eager to ride our Valentine's train on February 10th and 11th. This was very heartening especially for Sue Thomas, Dave Roberts, and Jim Teer, who had decorated the Budd car and Museum for the occasion. Thank you train and maintenance crew, car hosts, and Museum building staff for your assistance, and to Justin Chapin for clearing the snow from our premises prior to the event.



Our passengers were smiling as they filed off the decorated Budd car after their Valentine's Day ride

Ballot Deadline!

March 14th 7:30pm

All ballots for the election of DRM officers and Board of Directors must be returned by the above date and time in order to be counted. If you currently are a member and have not received a ballot, please contact us immediately at info@danburyrail.org or call the Museum.

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!

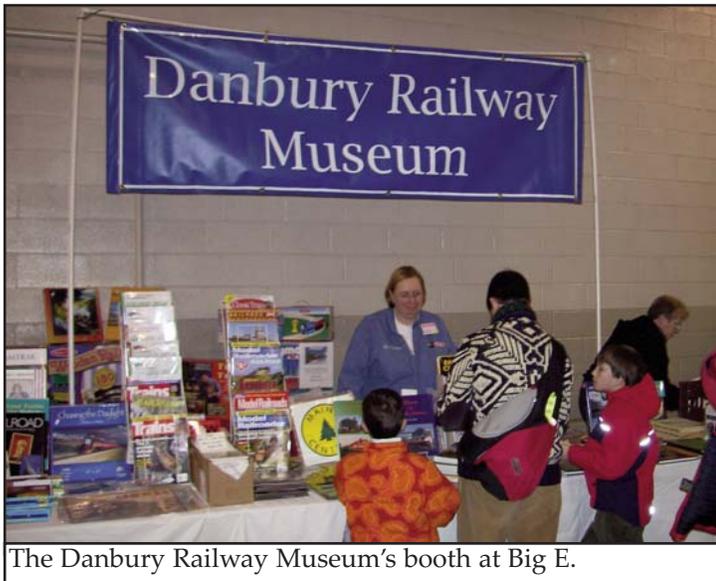
- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Daniel Klein | Weston, CT |
| Katy Scott | Naugatuck, CT |
| Shauna Vereen | Danbury, CT |
| E. Gaston | West Haven, CT |
| Neale Riely | Katonah, NY |
| Aerin Young | Danbury, CT |
| Joseph M. Bouchard | Monroe, CT |
| Jason Rivera | Bethel, CT |
| Asya Takken | Brewster, NY |
| Scott Farley | Ridgefield, CT |
| Gay Kimball | Monroe, CT |
| Brian McElroy | Cold Spring, NY |

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

The March 1997 "Danbury Railway News" spoke of the upcoming Open House and Train show scheduled for April 26th and 27th. Dealers, indoor and outdoor exhibits and train excursions along the Maybrook Line were part of the planned events. Two excursions were planned for Saturday. The first would bring passengers to Hopewell Junction. A photo runby was planned for this trip. The shorter afternoon trip would go as far as Brewster. On Sunday the first trip of the day would travel to Metro North's Brewster North Maintenance Shops where passengers would get a tour of the facilities. A runby was also planned for this trip. Again, the afternoon trip would be a short one to Brewster.

More donated rolling stock was on the way with the Museum taking ownership of two former New Haven 4600 "washboards." These units were first delivered to the railroad in 1954 and saw service towards the end of their careers as part of the Stamford Wire Train.



The Danbury Railway Museum's booth at Big E.



One of the "washboards" at the DRM railyard in 1997, as pictured by Bob Westerfield. This is one of numerous photographs he took which are now part of the Museum Library's historical collection.

Membership Open Forum

Wednesday, April 18th, 7:30pm

A time for questions, answers, opinions

By Ira Pollack, President

On Wednesday, April 18th you are invited to a different type of evening at the DRM. This will be an opportunity to meet our newly elected members of the Board of Directors, and to have an open meeting with time for questions and answers. I would like to know the membership's concerns, and try to solve some of our challenges. This evening will provide a chance to discuss some of our Board's goals for the future of the

A couple of photos showed progress in the yard in preparation for the April show. One photo showed Tom Blackman, Randy Natale and Geoff Knees working in the turntable pit as they prepare to have it operational for the April show. Another shows Geoff power washing the RS-1. The engine was still in green paint and the plan was to have it repainted into New Haven colors in time for the April show.

The election ballots were counted and on March 5th the results were announced. The officers were Peter Cornwall – President, Peter McLachlan – Vice President, Mickey Silberbauer – Treasurer and Tara Lewis – Secretary. The Board consisted of the four officers and Ed Blackman, Lucye Boland, Dan Foley, Ron Freitag, Bill Guider (Chairman), Geoff Knees, Tom Morris, Ira Pollack, Mike Salata, Don Silberbauer, Nancy Sniffen, Terri Stramiello, Sue Thomas and Tony White. Mayor Gene Eriquez also held a seat on the board

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Danbury Railway Museum. Please attend if you can. I look forward to meeting you.

DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

I hope all is well with you these cold and bitter days of winter. By the time that you read this edition of the newsletter we'll have almost gone through our yearly election of Officers and Directors. I'd like to take the time now to thank everyone on the Board of Directors for their service to the Museum over the last two years. This is an important job of leading our Museum and making the many decisions that it takes to run our organization. I'd also like to welcome in the new directors to the Board. I will be looking forward to working with them in the near future. As always we have many challenges before us to meet.

I must also let you know that this Board of Directors has approved a balanced budget for 2007, a budget that also will allow our Museum to prosper and grow. This has been an important goal for the Museum for many years, and very hard to achieve. I'd like also to take the time to thank Patty Osmer, our Treasurer, for her hard work and diligence in putting together a series of proposed budgets to consider during the process of finally arriving at a balanced budget. Our Museum has many different projects and priorities. At this time our goals definitely outweigh our financial means, and our budget reflects this. We must work on projects that do have funding behind them though, and one of our main and constant priorities is to maintain train service with all the support behind it.



Fortunately before you know it, winter will be behind us. Therefore we must begin planning for our upcoming season. Our continuing projects will be the restorations of the NYC wooden caboose, the Pennsylvania Rail Post Office car, the #1455 Boston & Maine steam locomotive, and RS11 #1402 locomotive. These all are projects that do at least have some funding behind them to continue forward. My main priority this season is to stabilize and rebuild the turntable lead switch and try to stabilize the #42 track wherever possible. Of course this is a major project for us, and I need your help. I'll be starting this task as soon as the frost subsides, and the ground stabilizes. I would plan

on meeting on Saturday mornings at 10am to begin this construction work. I'm hoping you can join me and others in preserving railroad history at the DRM, and becoming part of our own history at the Museum.

Railfan Event on Jan 5

Randy Natale, who is on the DRM Board of Directors and mechanical crew, and his wife Maureen, welcomed a new railfan to their household on January 5th. We are told that their son, Nathan Robert, already has his first train!

RPO News & Notes

By Bill Britt, Project Leader

Despite the cold weather, work continues on the RPO. The paper box doors have been assembled, stained, stenciled and coated with two coats of polyurethane. We have not been able to come up with the proper "Label Holder with Pull" that we need. These label holders are similar to those found on the card files in the library. We would like to have some 3" in width but have only been able to locate ones 2 1/2" wide. They vary in price from \$2.26 to \$8.09 (for the same thing) so we are still looking. We need 45.

We will be working on the 1-1/8" oval molding that holds the doors in place; we may have to substitute here, but it will be very similar.

We have developed a "hot" lead for some globes for the lighting fixtures; they are at a reasonable price, and we should know more by early in March.

Two 30" x 24" portable sorting trays with two sides are required in each car; these have been made, and as I write this note, they are receiving their second coat of polyurethane. When the sorting racks are set up, snap-under-the-paper-box clamps will be added to the trays to hold them in place.

With regard to the old "Bug-A-Boo", money, we did receive a substantial donation from Joe Ward for which we are very thankful. **THANKS JOE!** To come to the fruition of this project however, we do need more. Please send any funds you can spare to Danbury Railway Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810. Please mark to the attention of the RPO. Thank you.

DID YOU KNOW that annually during its hey-day approximately 92% of all US Mail, by weight, was moved by rail. This amounted to about 5.5 billion pounds and 16 billion pieces. Figures may not mean much to some of you folks, but it does point out the significance of the Railway Postal Service.

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

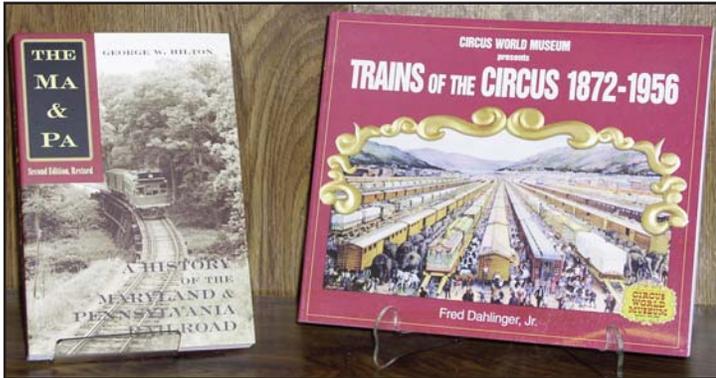
Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

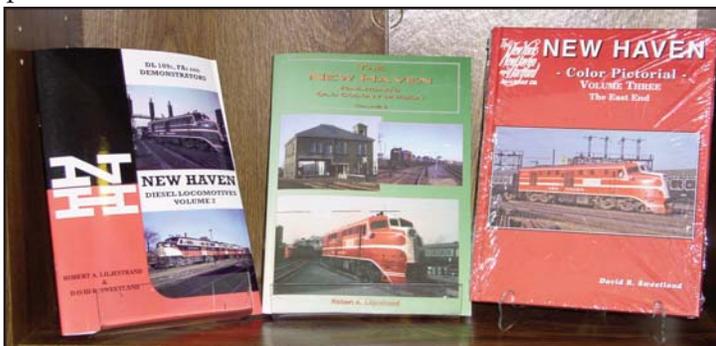
You said you wanted books, and new books we have! New in stock are:

The Ma and Pa: A History of the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad - By George W. Hilton for a member price of \$18.00,

Trains of the Circus 1872-1956 - By Fred Dahlinger, Jr for a member price of \$27.00, and

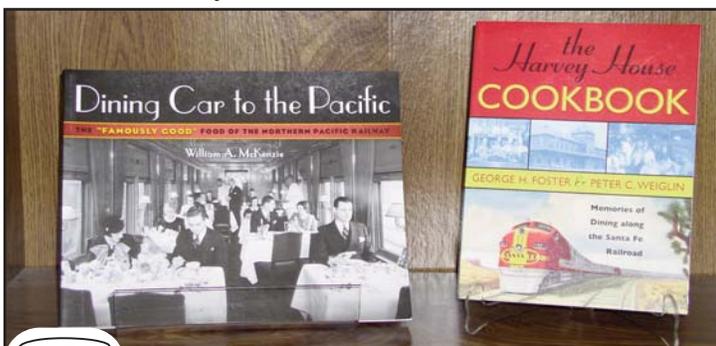


The New Haven Railroad's Old Colony Division - Volume 2 - by Bob Liljestrand for a member price of \$18.

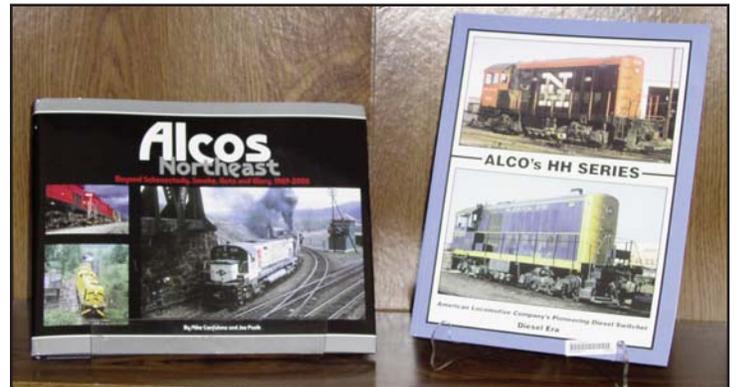


Also new are several books from the Arcadia "Images of America" series, including *Railroads of the Columbia River Gorge*, *Rails around Durango*, *Reading Trains and Trolleys*, and *San Francisco's Powell Street Cable Cars*.

We still have plenty of *New Haven Color Pictorial - Volume Three - The East End* By David R. Sweetland at a member price of \$54 - for New Haven fans, this is one you don't want to miss.



For the kids, on order are the long-awaited "Little Engine That Could" wooden trains, which include an engine and 5 cars. These trains are compatible with Thomas & Brio, and will make a welcome addition to your child's train layout.



Two of our Gift Shop's selection of books on ALCOs, *Alcos Northeast*, and *Alco's HH Series: Diesel Era*

We also have a new supply of **DRM pocket tee-shirts** sporting the NH FL-9 on the back, and a new supply of the CNE pocket tees.



Lastly, in order to make more room for new material, we are closing out our current inventory of Railfan **VHS collection** by offering **20% off any title in stock** (children's VHS not included).

While you are in the Gift Shop, don't forget to see our new "Euro" DRM magnetic bumper stickers.



Calendar of Events 2007

Free programs and DRM weekly update, open to the public, every Wednesday, 7:30pm at the Museum
Train rides on weekends April - November, subject to availability

Bunny Trains (reservations suggested)	March 31, April 1, 6, & 7
Mother's Day Event - Moms free with child's paid admission	May 13
Memorial Day - Weekend schedule of train rides - Museum hours 12-4	May 28
Father's Day - Dads ride free with child's paid admission	June 16

Little Engine That Could

25 ft. Engine Visits Danbury

June 23-24, 30 & July 1

(Reservations required)

Classic Trains/Classic Cars	Date to be announced
Danbury Railroad Day - Celebrate our steam locomotive's 100th birthday	August 11
Labor Day - Weekend schedule of train rides - Museum hours 12-4	September 3
Train ride to the Pumpkin Patch	October 13-14, 20-21, 27-28
Santa Trains (reservations suggested)	December 8, 9, 15, 16, 22
First Night - Danbury's New Year's Eve event - Family entertainment	December 31

Please note: Easter Bunny rides, Little Engine That Could, Pumpkin Patch, and Santa Trains are special events. All other events are attractions **in addition** to our regular weekend schedule of train rides. Tickets for special events will be available through our web site. Visit us at www.danbury.org/drm or contact the Museum for an up-to-date schedule and information. All events are subject to change.

#1455 Boston & Maine Mogul

By Carolyn Taylor, Project Leader

This is a time of gathering information about what needs to be done to the locomotive to 1) cosmetically restore it; 2) to improve and stabilize its condition; 3) to educationally enhance the public's experience of steam locomotives through this jewel of rail-roading history, and 4) to learn more about its history. When this list is drawn up, priorities will be established with the assistance from the CMO, mechanical staff and others, and we will start to work on it! If you have information along these lines, and/or would like to help with the goals for this historic piece, please

contact me at newsletter@danburyrail.org. It is encouraging that some people have already indicated willingness to help out. There are a lot of improvements that we would like to make before its birthday celebration in August. Thank you, and I hope to hear from you.



The Yard Inside

By Wade W. Roesse

Layout Status:

Z Gauge:

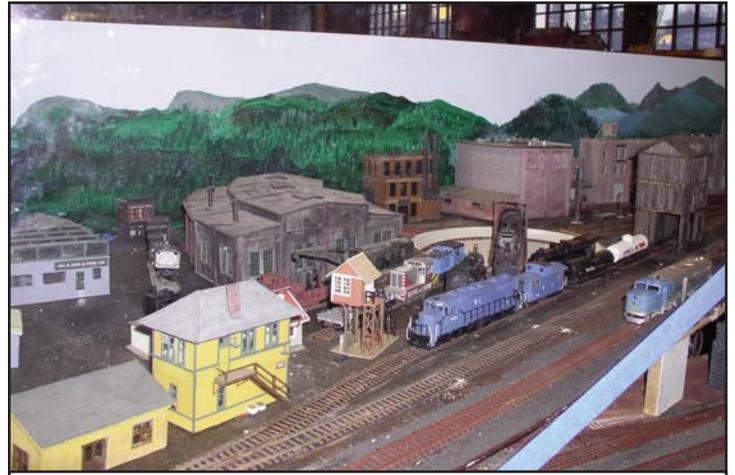
No layout yet, but we now have a small static display.

N Gauge:

"Ask and ye shall receive"; a very generous donation of locos, cars, track, switches, and accessories has been received. In addition, we have ordered a new timer for the layout since the old one put in for retirement!

HO Gauge:

Steve Mayerson and Gary Bentley continued the landscaping on the West side of the layout. It looks great and is almost complete (outstanding work). On the other side (East), J.R. has almost completed ballasting the upper level yard (also outstanding). For the past two weeks, Marty Grossman has brought his electronic circuits to be checked out, but we keep diverting



The east side of the HO layout, shown from a different angle.

Marty's talents to other areas. Sorry Marty! Great progress on the HO. Come in and take a look.

S Gauge:

No news is no news!

O Gauge:

We are very close to initiating work on the new O gauge. Rich Shubar, Ron Huppert, and I are getting antsy to begin.

G Gauge:

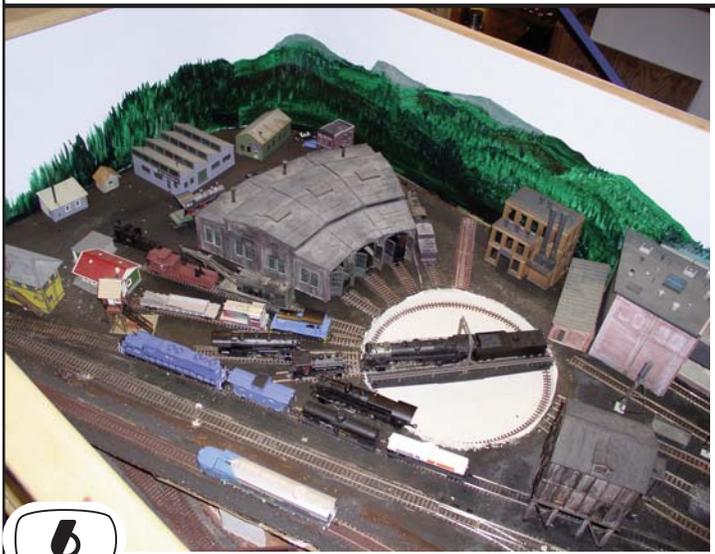
The logging G gauge keeps chugging away, but plans to build one outside as an attraction is in the works. Stay tuned.

Please stop into the Museum; take a look around, leave your comments about what you like, don't like, and/or any suggestions about what you would enjoy seeing on display in the DRM. I know the previous sentence is a repeat, but . . . !

The Tuesday night work group went on the road to Newtown to the Hawley Elementary School to put on an after-school program. We have started building a 4'x6' HO layout with kids (a tall order for six hour-and-a-half sessions). Rich, J.R., Gary, and yours truly have already represented the DRM, and it appears that the kids are having fun and learning. Thanks for all your help guys! If anyone is interested in participating, please contact me. 203-938-3611



West side (above), East side (below), all around the layout. Overhead photos show some of the great progress made.



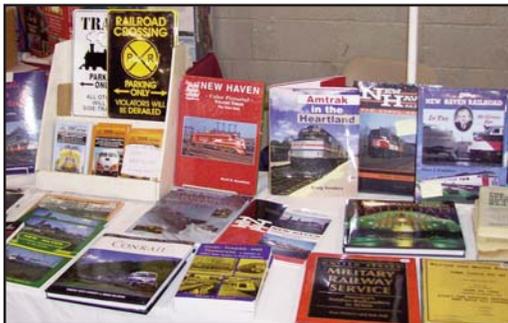
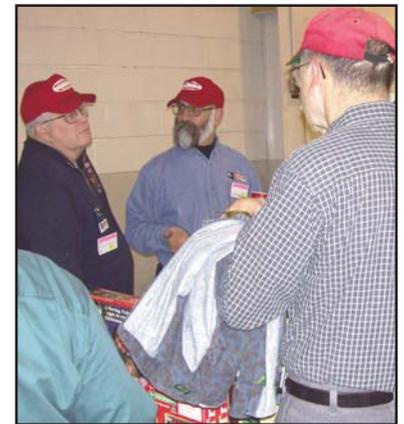
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Track work was also being done in the yard since several tracks were out of service. Track realignments, switcher and a run around were on the schedule of tasks. We were still waiting for new rolling stock to arrive in the yard, including the Pennsylvania caboose from Yorktown.

The newsletter also had the usual upcoming schedule, a reminder about membership and a reminder that anyone wishing to work in the yard must pass the Safety 101 course.

DRM Big Attraction at Big E

It is true that many members have had just one train of thought for many months, and that was to make tracks for the Big E on the weekend of January 27th and 28th. Almost 21,000 other people had the same idea, and made this year's event successful. The DRM's sales matched our best, and we also just as importantly used the opportunity to publicize our Museum. Library staff, Tuesday night modelers, and Gift Shop staff worked ahead of time to prepare items for sale. Sue Thomas made a new photo display using photos supplied by Carolyn Taylor and Patty Osmer. Our booth was staffed by Patty Osmer, J.R. Mitchell, Don Konen, Ed and Suze Blackman, Jim Teer, Sue Thomas, Wade Rouse, and Carol Wilson, many of whom helped with transporting the merchandise and displays.





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MUSEUM CALENDAR

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|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mar 14(7:30pm) | 7:30pm ballot deadline; Annual Mtg.
Modeling Tech - Steve Mayerson |
| Mar 15(7:00pm) | Board Meeting (Open to Members) |
| Mar 21(7:30pm) | Videos from His Trips - Steve Gould |
| Mar 28(7:30pm) | His and T.J.'s Slides - John Garafola |
| Apr 4(7:30pm) | Slides from His Collection - Carl Liba |
| Apr 11(7:30pm) | NY Central Slides - Pete McLachlan |
| Apr 18(7:30pm) | Membership Open Forum w/Ira
Pollack and DRM Bd. of Directors |

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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Change of Address

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

