

The Railyard Local

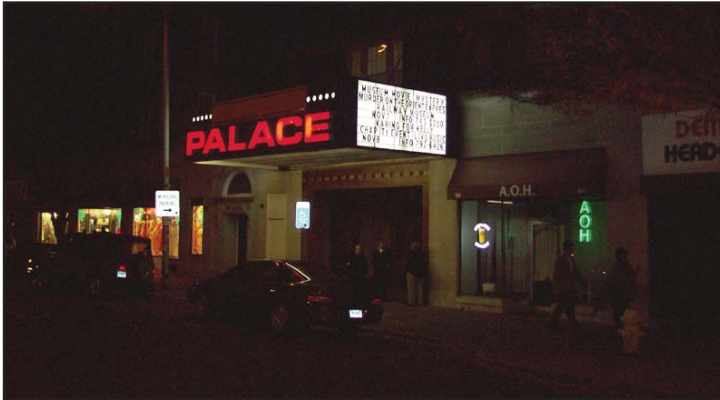
Volume 8, Issue 9

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

December 2009

Film Event at Palace Theater

Saturday, November 7th marked the first occasion that the Danbury Railway Museum and Danbury Museum & Historical Society have jointly sponsored a film event. This fund raiser, which included a showing of "Murder on the Orient Express", was successful



Continued on Page 6

DRM Hosts New Event

1st Anniv of Danbury Imagination Library By Patty Osmer

On November 21, more than 500 people attended the Museum to celebrate the 1st anniversary of the Danbury Imagination Library program. In 2008, United Way of Western Connecticut partnered with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to provide children under 5 who live in Danbury a free book every month, and the program was born.



Of the approximately 300 children attending, about one third of these were new to the program. All

Continued on Page 5

In This Issue

~ Ten Years Ago - Page 2

~ DRM Express Track - Page 3

~ Help the Connecticut Eastern RR Museum - Page 4

Official Notice:

Now Accepting Nominations

The 2010 Nominating Committee (Steve Gould, Chairman; Jerry Lawlor; John O'Hern members) is now accepting nominations and resumes for openings on the Danbury Railway Museum Board of Directors. Six Director Positions are up for election this year. Each will serve a two year term. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, incumbents and new candidates alike, please prepare your resume that is **no longer than one-half of an 8 1/2" X 11" sheet of paper**, and include the following information:

1. Name, address, phone number, e-mail address.
2. Your DRM accomplishments over the last two years. Keep to 150 words or less.
3. Your plans and goals for DRM over your two-year term. Include a project or area where you would contribute your time. Keep to 150 words or less.

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 the DRM at PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813, attention Nominating Committee.
3. By placing the resume in Steve Gould's mailbox at the Museum.

All resumes must be received by 4 PM, Sunday, January 10, 2010, and must be in the format described above to be considered as a candidate. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

Serving on the Board of Directors is a serious commitment to the Museum and its vision and goals. Please consider running only if you feel you can commit the time and effort to move the Museum forward and help it grow. Regular attendance at Board meetings, which are held the third Thursday of each month at the Museum, is a requirement.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Committee for help; all three of the members are present at the Museum every Thursday. Also, if you know of someone who wants to be contacted, please let the Committee know for follow-up.

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!

Anna Topol	Jefferson Valley, NY
Pamela Hutchinson	Stratford, CT
Amy Robson	Danbury, CT
Chee Cheng	Yorktown Heights, NY
Reed Spaulding	Ridgefield, CT
Raven Fickett	Sherman, CT
Natalie Dyer	Washington, CT
Frank & Betty Smullen	Bethel, CT
Jean A Tracy (Griener)	Redding, CT
Stewie Adams	Brooklyn, NY
Angelina Stojakovic	Danbury, CT

Gift Shop News

The DRM Gift Shop once again has restocked its featured display of the *Rails of America* series. Each trade-sized paperback volume in this very popular railroading series is specific to a particular railroad, type of equipment, or location, and contains numerous historical photographs. The Gift Shop has augmented this extensive collection with a few volumes of the *Images of America* series featuring locations such as Danbury, Candlewood Lake, and other locations nearby. Come browse, then buy some of these fascinating and historical publications! As usual, Museum members are entitled to a 10% discount in our Gift Shop.



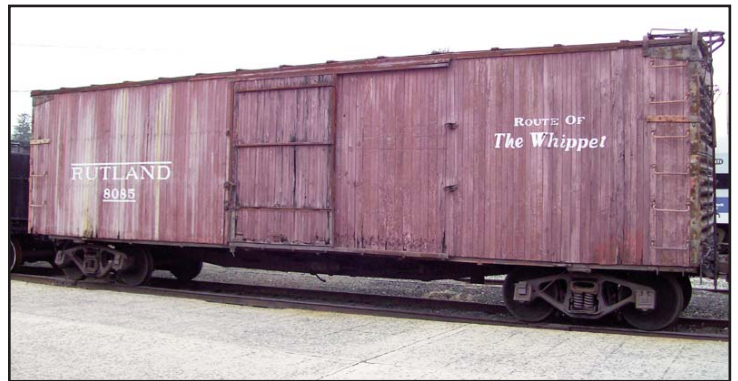
Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

Our New Haven RDC #32 was one of the topics discussed with a report by Project Manager Nancy Sniffen. The report also included a couple of photographs of the 32 as she sat in New Milford, CT as part of an event to bring attention to the need for commuter service to be extended north of Danbury.

Restoration on several pieces of equipment was moving right along throughout the summer and into the fall. It was noted that the PRR caboose that was donated by the Town of Yorktown had one side primed as well as some repairs made to the floor and side sill. The Erie Lackawanna hopper car 33941 was having metal work repaired and was also being primed. Work was also progressing on the GCT double ended crane. Another caboose, PC 23662, was having new desks and table tops built on the inside.

The 1455 was ready to be moved out of Massachusetts bound for Danbury. However, this was at the time Conrail was being absorbed by both CSX and Norfolk Southern. The DRM was asked if we could wait until after the merger which we agreed to. CSX promised to honor the agreement we had in place with Conrail to move the engine.



Another piece of equipment was being readied to come to Danbury. With the help of a group of Rutland Railroad Historical Society members, Rutland box car #8085 was donated by the Green Mountain railroad. The box car would need much work and the plan was to load it on a JTTX flat car for transport.

At the November board meeting it was learned that former New Haven RS-11 #1402 was available. The DRM would be interested in moving the engine to Danbury and authorized that this be investigated.

A brief history was presented on the Danbury and Bethel Street Railway. Originally chartered in 1885 as the Danbury and Bethel Horse Railway, it lasted until 1926. At the height of its operation it had 45 cars in operation on 25.6 miles of track.

Write-ups on new members Wayne Gradia and Skip Kern were also included.

DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

In this month's report I would like to first wish you all a pleasant holiday season. I will also take the time to thank all of the members who volunteer their valuable time to the Museum. There are literally thousands of hours that can be added up from all of our different interests and activities. There certainly is a lot going on at the Museum at any given time and it is our volunteers who make it possible.



This past year was a good one at the Museum, with many new people coming through our doors. We also tried some new events to attract even more new guests. We must always try these new ideas, although sometimes they do not work out as we have expected. On the other hand, sometimes these events do work out and become new standards for our yearly calendar and schedule.



Photo of Imagination Library visit taken by Stan Madyda

Now that the weather has radically changed for the worse, we can try to begin our planning for the next year's season. We did a lot of track work in the yard this year, with much more before us. Unfortunately the weather was a big obstacle, with rain almost every weekend, as you probably know. I would like to let you know some of my expectations for the upcoming year, and list some of the yard goals I would like to accomplish, if possible. These projects only can happen with your help.

1. Paint the turntable black
2. Rebuild the turntable operator's booth
3. Replace more turntable deck boards
4. Paint the #1455 steam engine
5. Set up storage areas for yard equipment (trailer)
6. Set up storage areas for library overflow (boxcar)
7. Repaint the roof of the RS1
8. Erect a temporary structure near the turntable
9. Build a storage shed for the G gauge
10. Finish the conveyor loader exhibit
11. Rebuild the turntable lead switch
12. Tamp Track 42
13. Do tie replacement on Tracks 18 and 24

As always, I have great expectations in what I want to do, and obviously some of these projects will not happen, but these are the goals that I strive for.

In closing my report this month, I again will thank you for all the help that you have given to the Museum, and look forward to working with you in 2010.

Happy Holidays!

Thanks from the Editor

Once again I would like to thank all those who have contributed to production of *The Railyard Local* in so many ways. Some have written articles, shared photographs and knowledge. You probably will not see their names in by-lines or photo credits, so I want to mention Bill Britt, Dave Roberts, and Jim Teer as those who have responded to my calls for help by picking up the newsletter from the printers and delivering the processed bulk mailing to the mail facility. Infinity Printing of Danbury has continued to do an outstanding job of publishing and expediting the printing process of this newsletter, as it has for at least the past five-and-a-half years. As always, the encouragement and feedback concerning the newsletter from members and other readers has been very welcome.

Thank you all!

Help the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum

by Steve Gould

On or about November 3, 2009, the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum in Willimantic was vandalized, causing an estimated \$100,000 in damage to buildings and equipment.

The Board of Directors of Danbury Railway Museum is fully sympathetic with its loss, and has established the CERRM Fund in support of its restoration efforts.

We are urging our members and friends to make a donation to this Fund, and the DRM will match donations up to a total of \$500. The Fund will be active through January 2010. Please show your support for Connecticut Eastern by sending a check to:

Danbury Railway Museum
CERRM Fund
Box 90
Danbury, CT 06013

Please indicate CERRM Fund on your check.

Thank you for your support.



4

Connecticut League of History Organizations

by Stan Madyda

On Wednesday, October 21, 2009, Gerry Herrmann and I attended the meeting of the Housatonic Valley Area of the Connecticut League of History Organizations. Meetings are held three times a year, and the latest meeting was at the Gunn Museum and Library in Washington, CT. We had a tour of the facilities and a light lunch was served.

Representatives from museums and historical societies gather to share ideas and discuss the latest news from their organizations. Each meeting we come back with a helpful piece of information pertaining to our collection or the museum in general.

We have hosted the meeting several times, and have always had very favorable comments about how far we have come and what we have accomplished as a museum. This speaks well of the members who have, and continue to support the DRM, whether it is through renewing their membership or actual time spent volunteering.

Jan 30 & 31 Time for "Big E"!

The DRM will have its booth and layout at Amherst Railway Society's four-building Railroad Hobby Show on this last Saturday and Sunday of the month. Come visit us! Admission will be \$10 daily, with children 15 and under free with an accompanying adult. Hours will be 9-5 Sat., 10-5 Sun. Details are on the web site at www.AmherstRail.org. Railroad enthusiasts have long ago marked their calendars for attending this annual event. For some, their Train Show wish list is more important than a holiday one!

Proceeds from this show are used to fund grants to railroading organizations, and the DRM has been among the grateful recipients. Come support this show, and have a great time!

We'll Give You Credit!

The DRM would like to recognize you for the time you have spent volunteering here. Please fill out a sheet recording the hours and how you have helped the Museum. It also helps the Museum to have information on the number of volunteers and total number of hours expended when applying for grants, and with getting funding and publicity. Sheets and recording books are at the Front Desk, Gift Shop, and Yard Trailer. There is a box in the Office labeled Volunteer Hours where sheets, or even an informal listing, can be submitted. It's a good way to end the year!

DRM Hosts New Event, Continued from Page 1

the children received a free copy of the book *The Little Engine That Could*, supplied by the Imagination Library program, and were given an opportunity to hear a reading of the book. All attendees also received a “goodie bag”, and were treated to admission to the Museum and a train ride.

The Museum was festively decorated with balloons. The children enjoyed the play tables, operating layouts, looking at real trains, and learning about railroading.

Studies show that children entering kindergarten with skills they need to succeed are more likely to graduate from high school and become productive workers. But almost half of America’s kindergarteners are behind – those from low-wage households by two years. Most will not catch up. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a unique opportunity to do something simple and powerful for preschoolers. It allows for children, from the day they are born, to receive an age-appropriate book every month until their fifth birthday.

For more information about this program, visit www.uwwesternct.org/our-work/edu/school-readiness. The Museum is proud to have been able to host this program. (Photos of the event were taken by Stan Madyda.)



Film Event at Palace Theater, *Continued from Page 1*

enough that even before the event had ended, plans were enthusiastically being made for a similar event next year. The theater, which can be booked for special events, is being restored to its former classical elegance by the current owner, Joseph DaSilva, Jr. This restoration has progressed to a point at which those attending events there recognize immediately that they are in a very special place. Amid the elegant surroundings of the lobby, our guests partook of a variety of delicious refreshments catered by title sponsors Tom Devine and Keith O'Marra from Ciao! Catering and Events/Two Steps Downtown Grille. Items displayed there for the Silent Auction were very appropriate to railroading and historical themes, and showed thought and great generosity. Among them were a basket of choice items from our Gift Shop, tickets to the Santa Express, Danburite earrings, and a children's railroad-themed quilt. What would a movie be without popcorn, so, yes, there was some, freshly popped! Steve Gould provided an introduction to the classic 1974 film. Railroad buffs appreciated the vintage railroad equipment used in the movie! An 1867 Italian sculpture of Carrara marble graced the lobby. A vintage movie projector, electronically-controlled player piano, and Corinthian columns delighted those venturing to the balcony above the lobby. DRM member Joseph Alves, who is familiar with the theater because his father has been working on its restoration, snapped some of the photos shown on the opposite page, and explained some of the restoration to guests attending this event.

This was a state-of-the-art vaudeville theater when it opened in 1928, and this ongoing restoration with its architectural detailing throughout, impresses guests with what a treasure Danbury has here. We hope you will join our Danbury museums for the second joint film event next year! Details will be forthcoming.



Film Event at Palace Theater, Continued from Page 6



The photographs of the Palace Theater shown below are among the ones taken by DRM member Joseph Alves, who is shown at this film event explaining the process of restoring a light fixture to one of the other attendees. The auditorium portion of the theater now open is smaller than the original, and is awaiting restoration of another section, then the dividing wall will be removed. Photos in color on our web site.





PO Box 90, DANBURY, CT 06813

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DANBURY, CT
PERMIT NO. 569

MUSEUM CALENDAR

Dec	23	MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Dec	30	HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Jan	6(7:30pm)	Slides; Pacific Gt. Eastern - Carl Liba
Jan	13(7:30pm)	Slides; New Haven - Bob Gambling
Jan	20(7:30pm)	Colorado 1988 - Pete McLachlan
Jan	21(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
Jan	27(7:30pm)	Midwesterner Looks at NE -Al Baker

Jan 30 & 31 **Come visit us at Amherst Railway Society's
Railroad Hobby Show at the Eastern States Exposition!**

Museum hours: Wed-Sat 10-4pm; Sun 12-4pm

See the newsletter in color at www.danburyrail.org!



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: drmnewslettereditor@gmail.com

Editor: Carolyn Taylor

Printing by: Infinity Printing of Danbury

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

