

The Railyard Local

Volume 10, Issue 2

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

March 2011

Bulletin!

Search for VP Candidates

By Steve Gould, Chairman, Nominating Committee

Since there was no candidate running for the position of President of Danbury Railway Museum, there was a vacancy created in that capacity. In accordance with the DRM bylaws, the elected Vice President, Wade Roese, became the President. This created a vacancy in the position of Vice President, spurring the search for candidates for that position.

At the March 17th Board meeting, the Nominating Committee was reconvened for the purpose of vetting candidates to fill the vacant position of Vice-President for a two-year term.

The bylaws state that the "Board of Directors, by majority vote shall elect an eligible successor to hold such office..." "Any voting member, eighteen (18) years or older, is eligible to run . . ." The Vice President "shall assist the President. In the event of the President's incapacity or inability to act, the Vice President, with the consent of the Board of Directors, shall perform the duties of President."

The Vice President also interacts with the City of Danbury with regard to the station building. He or she is also responsible for railyard security, and maintains contact with the various sub-contractors or suppliers doing business with the Museum. Of course, there may be other duties that will be assigned.

If you are interested in being considered, please prepare your resume that is **no longer than 1/2 of an 8 1/2"x11" sheet of paper**, and include the following information:

1. Name, address, phone number, email 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.

Please email your resume to the Nominating Committee at GouldSL@aol.com, or mail it to the Danbury Railway Museum at PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813-0090, Attention: Nominating Committee, or place the resume in Steve Gould's mailbox at the Museum. This should be accomplished by Monday, April 18 so that the Committee has time to review the information and present it to the Board on April 21.

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DRM at Big E's January Show

The Museum was well represented at Amherst Railway Society's four-building Railroad Hobby Show on January 29th and 30th. Our tables were in the usual spot in the Young Building. Many of our volunteers staffing the booth have participated for a number of years, but often new people help out.

Each year we have some additional items and displays to attract those attending this magnificent show. The Rapido cars proved to be big sellers, and the DRM Library's used books sold well. Also new this year were the large display boards with enlarged photos of Danbury Railway Museum highlights from



2010, and an electronic photo frame which featured a slide show with about 75 photo highlights. The layout continued to be a major attraction. Modelers ran it smoothly and exhibited a variety of rolling stock.

With 20,000 or more people attending the show is the best opportunity to distribute flyers, brochures, and other information about our Museum. In addition to answering questions posed by those visiting our booth, ticket holders share their knowledge with us. The show provides train enthusiasts and even our members a chance to reconnect with one another. We can communicate face-to-face with personnel of different organizations and establish new contacts.

Continued on Page 3

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!

Our Membership Chairman requests that all those renewing their membership **PLEASE return the paperwork with your check.**

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Fred Dray | Orange, CT |
| Michael Leister | Magnolia, DE |
| Catherine Newman | Katonah, NY |

Hopping for Joy This Spring

Easter Bunny Express arriving April 10th

This spring the DRM volunteers and Easter Bunny will once again welcome children and their families in what has been a very popular annual event. Even beginning in March, Sue Teer other volunteers have been active putting festive decorations within the Museum building, special Easter Bunny coach, and now also within the railyard.

The event will be conducted on **April 10, 16, 17, 22 and 23** with train rides in our railyard running every 1/2 hour from 12:30 to 3:30pm. The train will deliver passengers to the Easter Bunny's special coach, where children will have a chance to greet and receive a small gift from the Bunny. Children will love our coloring station, temporary tattoos, operating model layouts, and play area within the building, where parents are pleased and amazed by how long their young children are delightfully entertained. As always our railyard offers a unique opportunity to board vintage railroad equipment. Our guests also are able to view, photograph, and learn about all the DRM's full-size railroad artifacts and displays in the railyard. The visit offers uncomparable opportunities for taking photographs to cherish and share. Remember our fully stocked Gift Shop, and that DRM members receive a 10% discount!

Reservations are recommended. Tickets are \$9 for ages 2 and over, with under 2 admitted free, and entitle ticket holders to all of the special event and year-round attractions at the Museum. Tickets may be reserved online at: www.danburyrail.org. **Special event hours** will be 10-4:30pm for the Friday and the Saturdays; 12-4:30pm for the Sundays.

The Easter Bunny needs assistants, so if you will be able to help, please contact Sue Teer at the Museum (203)778-8337.

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Library News

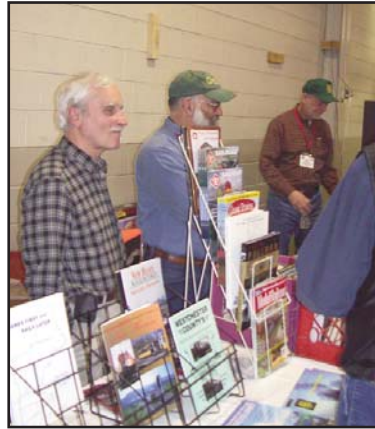
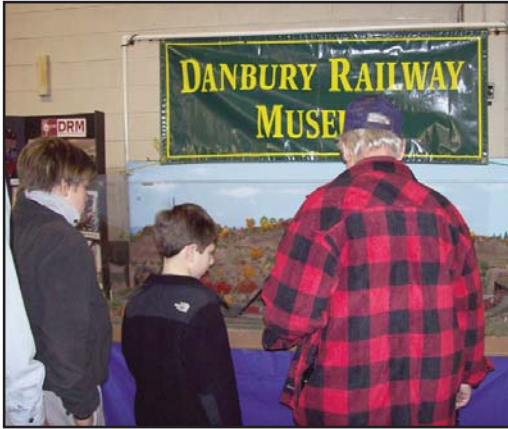
By Stan Madyda

It has been a while since we have acknowledged donations received by the DRM.

- David Lowry – a wooden train set
 - John Manley – books, annual reports, timetables, a brass key, a large collection of railroad passes, rule books magazine articles
 - Jack Farrell, Sr. – an Erie RR wrench, a New Haven wrench and hammer
 - Bill Croce – Amtrak timetables, magazines, Metro-North material, newsletters
 - Walt Grosselfinger – slides from the Don Ball Collection covering railroads in New England
 - Thomas Hourican – magazines, books and notebooks from the 2009 CNE trip and Hopewell Junction Station Restoration
 - Dexter Jeannotte – almost 800 issues from various railroad historical societies
 - Bob Warner – magazines
 - Dennis Pontanella – 24 VHS tapes
 - Dorothy Johnson – railroad spikes
 - Robert A Wohlken – steel pin from a freight car coupler
 - Robert Leavitt – “Starlight on the Rails” book, maps from the U.S. Army Map Service Corp of Engineers
 - Joe and Hank Williams – N gauge trains and magazines
 - Marty Scatola – magazines and calendars
 - Jerry Lawlor – magazines
 - Ed Hoostowski – a collection of blueprints showing the CNE right of way from Boston Corners to Poughkeepsie Junction
 - John O’Hern – an Erie RR map, a book of rules and a matchbook from the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, a Lionel train clock and 4 copies of Howard Fogg painting
 - Mrs. Meveral Rickert – a 1927 Louisville & Nashville freight bill
 - Lee Wright – a collection of books
 - Peter A Brill – magazines
 - Gene Martin – a Z gauge layout built into a coffee table
 - Frank Sullivan – 10 books
 - Lovett Smith – a manual for sleeping car porters and sleeping car lounge attendants, and historical documents from the New York Central
 - Robert Pitcher – a book on Industrial Brownhoist Cranes and a 1969 Union Pacific calendar
 - Bob Andrews – books and timetables
 - Vernon Walz – union books, timebooks and manuals
- Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Danbury Railway Museum.
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DRM at Big E's January Show, *Continued from Page 1*

Attendance at the West Springfield, MA show totaled just a bit less than the previous year, but not bad considering the weather in January and the economy! Once again the Amherst Railway Society put together a great show which train lovers look forward to year after year! Proceeds from the event are used to fund grants for railroading projects. The Danbury Railway Museum has been a grateful recipient of grants from this source. These grants have been very helpful in our restoration and equipment maintenance efforts.



Photos on back cover taken by Dan Pawling.

Additional Info on SRS 135

By Chris Locke

It was with great pleasure I read the article on SRS 135 that the Museum now owns. As former "unofficial" historian while employed at Sperry Rail Service, I would like to provide you with additional information about SRS 135.

SRS 135 started out life as a Seaboard Air Line doodlebug 2023. It was built by the St. Louis Car Company and Electro Motive Corporation in 1928 (although Sperry data indicates it was built by Brill). It was builder number 1459262. Originally it was powered by a Winton 120 gasoline engine, and a 275 horsepower GE traction generator. It was built as an 8 window baggage and 34 passenger car that was 74' long and weighed 53 tons. Retired in 1945, it was sold to Sperry Rail Service, later to become SRS 135. SRS 135 was built into a Sperry car in the Brooklyn Illinois shop on July 6, 1945. Official Sperry data is that the car as equipped by Sperry was 60' 2" long, 13' high, 10' 4" wide, and weighed 153,300 pounds. The original prime mover (Winton 120 with GE 275 HP traction generator) was kept intact until it was replaced by a Roiline F1850 (gasoline, low compression). This was a standard setup for Sperry cars of this era. The next prime mover changeout was to a Caterpillar 1693. The current setup, a Caterpillar 3406, was installed in January of 1987. This setup is also standard for cars of this era.

SAL had four cars that ended up as rail testers: SAL 2002 became SRS 133 in 4/1943, and 2003 became SRS 132 in 1/1942. SAL 2022 became SRS 134 and 2023 became SRS 135 in 1945.

I was hired by Sperry and my first detector car assignment was living on SRS 134.



Editors Note: Chris wrote articles for past issues of *The Rail-yard Local*, which are on the DRM web site. The October 2004 issue features "Sperry Car #135, Pt.II A Virtual Tour." "A Day on Board Sperry #135" describes Chris' experiences beginning in the December 2004 issue and continued in January 2005.

You can find his article "So, You Want to Learn How to Test Rail!" in the June 2005 edition.

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Railroading Merit Badge

DRM assists with earning Boy Scout badge

Danbury Railway Museum has volunteers qualified to help Boy Scouts earn this highly interesting elective. The Railroading requirements and Railroading merit badge workbook are available online at meritbadge.org. It is possible to earn the badge in one day. Contact the Museum at 203-778-8337 to schedule a Saturday appointment.

The best time of year to come is when we are giving train rides and have locomotives running. We are able to use these to further enhance the scouts' railroading experience. A videotape can be shown here which provides much of the information needed for the badge. We have model trains, artifacts, and full-sized equipment in a working railyard. Pamphlets, brochures, and posters courtesy of Operation Lifesaver are available at the DRM. Learning about safety issues is an important part of earning a Railroading badge and an essential part of our DRM operations.

In a recent visit to the DRM a Boy Scout, Terrence McGarty, interviewed volunteer and former railroad engineer Peter McLachlan and also learned about Operation Lifesaver in order to fulfill requirements for this merit badge. Parts of his report are reproduced on the following page.



Above, some scouts enjoying a cab ride in the SW8, and below, other Boy Scouts touring the steam locomotive.



Continued on Page 5

Rail Roding
By Terrence McGarty
2/12/11



Introduction:

This report is about the Railroading merit badge. I thought this would be interesting because it would be good to know about this type of transportation. Railroading is a significant benefit to our country because it has been good for our economy and is a great source of transportation.

With your parent's and counselor's approval, interview someone employed in the rail industry. Learn what that person does and how this person became interested in railroading. Find out what type of schooling and training are required for this position. –

Name: Peter McLachlan – Retired Engineer

- What did he do as an engineer? – Mr. McLachlan worked for 43 years driving all kinds of engines all over the country and listened to the engineers that he worked with. He is retired now, but still takes pictures of different trains in his spare time.
- What made him take interest in being an engineer? – He had been exposed to trains all around him in the town he lived in from the time he was four years old. He loved trains since he was little.
- What kind of training and schooling did he have? – He started training as an engine preparer at age 15 and worked his way up to getting a engineer job. He did this by listening to the people he worked with and learning on the job. He became an assistant engineer and then an engineer.
- Do people still make locomotives? – They still make electric locomotives but they stopped making steam locomotives.

4. Explain the purpose of Operation Lifesaver and its mission. Operation Lifesaver enforces train and safety all around the country. It is an organization that teaches people how to be safe around trains. It teaches people not to run or walk on tracks, no matter what time it is. It also teaches people not to jump on trains and ride them, and also, never to race a train in a car because it is easy to get stuck in front of a train and hit. Mr. McLaughlin said, “If you see it, you’re going to hit it.” It can take a train more than a mile to come to a complete stop. This is why at least 95 people get killed

by trains every year. Operation Lifesaver is trying to prevent this.

8. Railfanning

a. Visit a railroad museum, historical display, or a prototype railroad-sponsored public event. With permission, photograph, videotape, or sketch items of interest. Explain what you saw and describe your photos, sketches, or videotape.

I went to the Danbury Railway Museum in Connecticut and saw a couple of model locomotives, model train sets, and some pictures of the trains there, taken by Peter McLachlan (the retired engineer I interviewed). I also found out that the museum was the set of the 1951 Alfred Hitchcock movie, “Strangers on a Train”. I also got a few pictures on the trip. See them below!



This is me with John O'Hern (left) and Peter McLachlan (right) right after I had the interview with Peter for requirement 3. John O'hern is a merit badge counselor for Railroading. This is a model of Danbury Rail yard in the 1950's. Now, there are not as many trains in the yard because it is mostly a museum now.

Editor's Note:

The article on this page includes excerpts from a much more lengthy report which Terrence McGarty wrote for earning a Boy Scout Railroading merit badge. As always, our volunteers were appreciative of his interest in railroading, and were delighted to assist him. He and his family graciously were willing to share with our members some parts of his report which were pertinent to his Museum interview and visit.



John O'Hern, Terrence McGarty, Pete McLachlan



DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack



My term as President of the Danbury Railway Museum is coming to an end this month.

I would like to take the time to thank all of the people who supported me and helped the Museum grow during my eight years in this capacity.

I have made many good changes over these years and turned the yard and building into a vibrant and educational attraction for the City of Danbury and the rail museum community, but mostly for the hundreds of visitors that we receive yearly. When I became President I had a vision for the Museum and was fortunate enough to be able to succeed with many of these goals.

The Museum was always my true love especially from its inception back in 1994. I thought this would be the greatest thing to happen to Danbury and, of course, to myself, and I had to be a part of it. Mayor Gene Eriquez, one of the innovators of the Museum, also had a vision, knew its potential, and the impact the Museum would have on the city. He was able to nurture it in its early days.

Over these years I also made many new friends that will always be dear to me. Through much of my efforts, we also gained many allies in the surrounding community including the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Metro-North, and the Housatonic Railroad, to name just a few. These people were invaluable in helping sustain our operations in both the building and in the yard with many donations, free advice, and general help to the Museum's advancement.

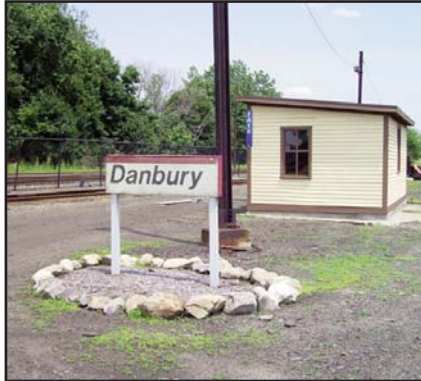
I also thank all of the volunteers who supported my goals for the Museum's growth. It is these people who helped me make the Museum what it is today. It is these people who were there both night and day running the building or giving tours or who would tirelessly help me maintain the rail yard. These members also had that same vision that I had, and I have much respect for them. Thank you again for all your help.

In closing my letter, I wish the Museum well in its endeavors for the future and can only hope that it can continue to grow and prosper in these coming years.

The photos below and continuing on Page 7 depict just a few of the Museum highlights during Ira's tenure as President.



A Few More Museum Highlights during Ira Pollack's Tenure as DRM President, Continued from Page 6





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MUSEUM CALENDAR

| | | |
|-----|------------|---------------------------------|
| Mar | 9(7:30pm) | T.B.A. - Ed Blackman |
| Mar | 16(7:30pm) | Annual Meeting + T.B.A. |
| Mar | 17(7:00pm) | Board Meeting - Open to Members |
| Mar | 23(7:30pm) | T.B.A. - Gary Gurske |
| Mar | 30(7:30pm) | Misc. Moves - Pete McLachlan |
| Apr | 6(7:30pm) | NYC Hudson Story - Carl Liba |
| Apr | 13(7:30pm) | T.B.A. - Ed Blackman |
| Apr | 20(7:30pm) | California - Stan Madyda |
| Apr | 21(7:00pm) | Board Meeting - Open to Members |

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
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Danbury Railway Museum,
Attention: Membership Chairman
PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
Via Email to drmmembers@aol.com

