

The Railyard Local

Volume 11, Issue 7

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

October 2012

Words from Our President

Sadly I must report that our long-time friend and fellow member Edward Blackman passed away yesterday, Friday, September 14, 2012 at six in the morning after a short illness. We thought Ed would bounce back and be relating his stories and sharing advice as he had many times before, and with his many visitors and friends during what we assumed was to be his recovery. He was surrounded by his family when he passed.



Born in Norwalk and raised in Redding, Ed opened a hobby shop on Route 7 over the former Ancona's Market. New to Connecticut and living in Redding, I often gravitated to Ed's shop to experience modeling, get an education about the hobby, and of course get an education about the "real" New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad for which Ed worked. Later with Penn Central, and Metro-North, he continued his active hobbies of photography and rail-fanning. He had a thirty-eight year career of service with the railroads.

As a life and charter member, member #2, Ed was instrumental in the formation of the Danbury Railway Museum in 1994. Along with his wife Suze and two sons, Chris and Tommy, they shared their

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Halloween Decor & Pumpkins

Weekends of October 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28

Come join us for this fall celebration with a train ride featuring our bright orange RS-1 locomotive, back in service in time to capture the spirit of the event! Admission will be \$9 for ages 2 & over, younger free. Children 2-12 will be able to select a free pumpkin from our patch, and all may enjoy free refreshments there. There also will be additional special children's activities. Hours on Saturday 10-4pm; Sunday noon-4pm. Call Sue Teer or the DRM if you can assist.



Danbury Railway Day and Member Picnic August 11th

In addition to demonstrations and informational tours, this year's event presented the DRM with a timely opportunity to display progress with our equipment restorations and repairs. Justin Chapin and crew made the necessary repairs for the RS-1 locomotive to head the Railyard Local consist. The CN caboose and #1455 looked rejuvenated with new coats of paint. The NYCHRR wooden caboose had come out from under wraps and was the site of tours. Art Slothower conducted tours showing progress on the Tonawanda Valley coach. Glenn Miller demonstrated

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Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

It doesn't seem like it but we have had the Wilton Station Semaphore for 10 years. It was the last operating one on Connecticut when CDOT and Metro-North arranged to have it donated to the DRM.



Also received was Reading box car #18828, donated by the Canadian Pacific Railroad. The car was acquired by the Delaware & Hudson which was later merged into the Canadian Pacific. The car was moved to Danbury with CP and CSX donating their costs and the Housatonic charging a reduced rate.

After years of planning and negotiating, the SONO Switch Tower Museum opened. Operated by the WestConn Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society it would be shown as it was in the 1950's. The third floor features the 68 switch levers that controlled the interlocking.

The popular photo exhibit of Peter Cornwall's photos, "The Way It Was" closed and Ira Pollack began working on the next, photos of the New Haven Railroad in the 50's and 60's by Jack Swanberg, titled "A Railroad at Work." Another exhibit in place was the Railroad China display put together by Gerry Herrmann and Frank Sullivan.

A Volunteer Coordinating Committee was formed to address the growing need to have sufficient people available to staff the Museum and for ongoing projects have the necessary people helping out. A new push was made to have all volunteers record their hours worked at the Museum. An open house for volunteers was being planned for November to assist people wishing to learn more about how they can participate in the Museum's needs.

Restoration work in the yard continued with New Haven RDC# 32 having one of its

engines pulled for rebuilding. The roof of coach #1547 was re-tarred. A crew from the Museum went to Canaan, CT to prepare the New York Central wooden caboose for movement to the DRM. Much work was done on the Tonawanda Valley with the roof tarred, windows worked on and paint removed.

Lastly, the State of Connecticut announced an Operation Lifesaver vanity license plate. Recent funding cuts affected the Operation Lifesaver program and the state hoped to make back some of the shortfall with the sale of these plates.

Coming Soon to Gift Shop!

Member Days Friday-Sunday, Nov. 23-25

Time to make a holiday gift list for shopping at the DRM Member Appreciation Days! Members will receive a special discount of 20% off most items at our Gift Shop. Want some ideas? Check out our featured items in Gift Shop News on Page 6. We will have a selection of 2013 calendars available. The best selection will be early; special orders are not eligible for the extra discount.

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!

Have you noticed? The address label on each newsletter indicates the expiration date of your membership. (If you have very recently renewed your membership the new date may not be reflected yet on the label). The membership of Life Members does not have an expiration date.

Please return the paperwork which was mailed to you when you send in your membership renewal. It helps our Membership Chairman. Thank you!

Peter Celona
Oleg Petrenko
Christopher Barnard
A Satchi
David Sonatore
Mrs. Tunnera
Huaijing Luo
Bab Grant
Tatiana Barry
Josephine Halvorson

Brookfield, CT
Danbury, CT
Danbury, CT
Danbury, CT
Wilton, CT
Cos Cob, CT
Bethel, CT
Greenwich, CT
Danbury, CT
Canaan, NY

Words from Our President, *Continued from Page 1*

talents and passion for railroading and the enhancement of our Museum. A generous family, they made numerous donations and contributions. As a result, the Blackmans grew the Museum collection and resources. Ed's proclivity for detail was always apparent; he could tell you where a locomotive was born, saw service, its specification, how many, and where it was currently housed. As President from 1999 to 2001, his dedication and commitment was evident in all the time and efforts he put forth. As a member of the Board of Directors his concern was always for the ben-



Ed, back row, second from left, was one of the volunteers recognized for their contributions at the DRM Annual Meeting in 2005; below, Ed's ribs were a highlight of the Members Annual Picnic.

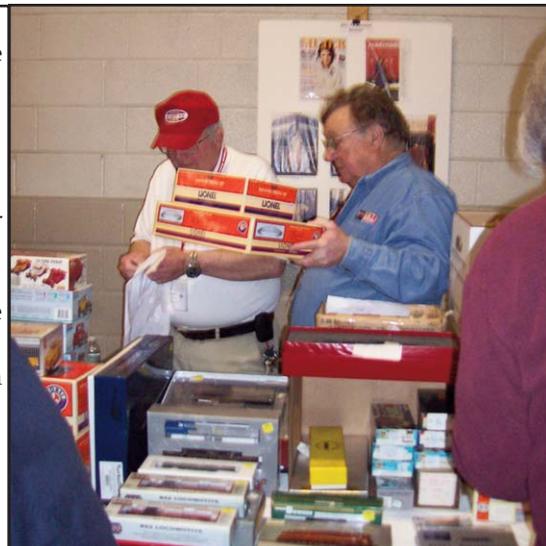


efit and betterment of the DRM. Always an ambassador for the Museum, his railfanning trips were reciprocal as he told as many stories as those he brought back to share with our membership. His modeling expertise followed the same level of detail; "They never did that there or like that!" Ed's Wednesday night programs were seldom boring, always full of great photography and never absent of humor. Of course, much of the humor was at Ed's expense.

Personally, Ed was my friend. If I had a partic-

ular interest or was working on a specific modeling project, Ed's photographs would be shared generously and he was a tremendous research asset. He was very willing to help new members, especially if you were a train fan or a modeler. Regularly a worker at the Big "E" railroad event in Springfield, Massachusetts at the end of January, Ed would travel through the buildings searching for new stuff, sell some stuff he no longer needed/wanted, work the booth, entertain us at dinner, and share any of his sale profits with the Museum.

At Big "E": Below, he poses with DRM Treasurer Patty Osmer, who was running the Gift Shop concession; right, he is restocking the table with more model railroad items for sale at the show.



Regrettably, I/we must say goodbye to our friend, devoted life member, fellow modeler and long-time railroader. Hopefully, Ed, you will look down on us and see us flourish. Goodbye, Ed.

On behalf of your DRM friends,
Sincerely,
Wade

Danbury Railway Day and Member Picnic August 11th, *Continued from Page 1*

skills at the New Haven forge while creating useful items there. While the G-gauge attracted guests outside, a trio of musicians of "Iron Horse" provided live entertainment within the Museum. Volunteers reprised the popular coupling/uncoupling and signal demos and information sessions. Once again, our guests seemed to appreciate our efforts and what the DRM has to offer.

Since it worked out so well last year, the members' opportunity to operate a locomotive under supervision began immediately at the conclusion of the public part of the event, before the actual picnic. The meal, as always, provided delicious food and great company, as well as an address by our President, Wade Rouse.



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Danbury Railway Day and Member Picnic August 11th, *Continued from Page 4*



First Responder's Day at DRM

As a day of remembrance the DRM honored the hero first responders of 9/11/01 and present day on September 8th. First responders and their family members were admitted free, along with train rides. A large mounted photo of the World Trade Center as it stood majestically in New York City was there to greet guests as they entered the Museum. A special display of photos taken at Ground Zero showing the heroism was mounted on the wall in the Great Room. These displays remained during the following week. The photos and a DVD were on loan from the Redding Fire and EMS Company #1. This group also created the DVD assembled from photos selected from those taken by members of the same organization and ones submitted to the 9/11 Memorial. The DRM featured showings of this special DVD throughout the day.

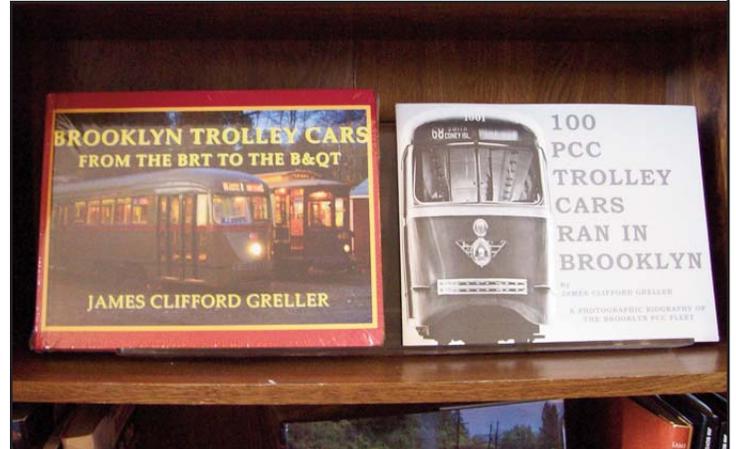
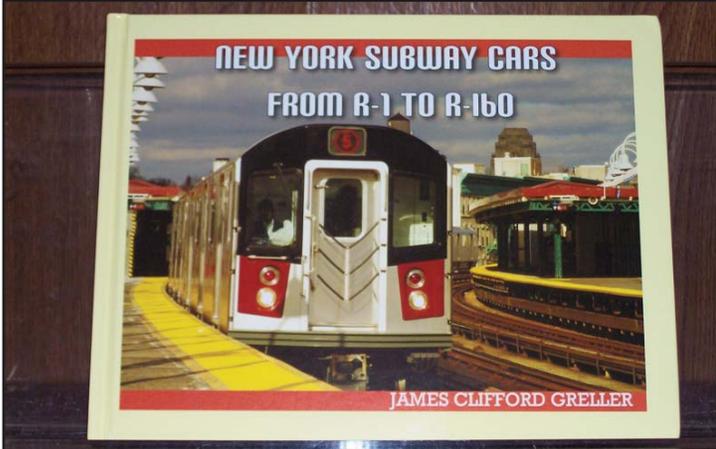


Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

We have added 7 books about New York's Transit System to our inventory. They are:

New York City Subway Cars from R-1 to R-160 by James Clifford Greller: This hard cover 200-page book covers the historical facts from the first R-1 to the future fleet of R188. The retirement and disposition of the R32 and R40s is also included, as well as some work equipment, and there are drawings of each car with roster information. Special member price of \$45.



Brooklyn Trolley Cars from the BRT to the B&QT by James Clifford Greller: This 360 page hard cover book covers every piece of trolley and cable car that The Brooklyn Rapid Transit and later the Brooklyn and Queens Transit Corporation ever operated, and traces the electric trolley equipment from the consolidation of the Brooklyn Rapid Transits fleets. It includes a complete 1904-track map of all of the Brooklyn and Queens s traction lines along with roller sign layouts of each type car and complete roster with a roster of preserved cars. Special member price of \$45.

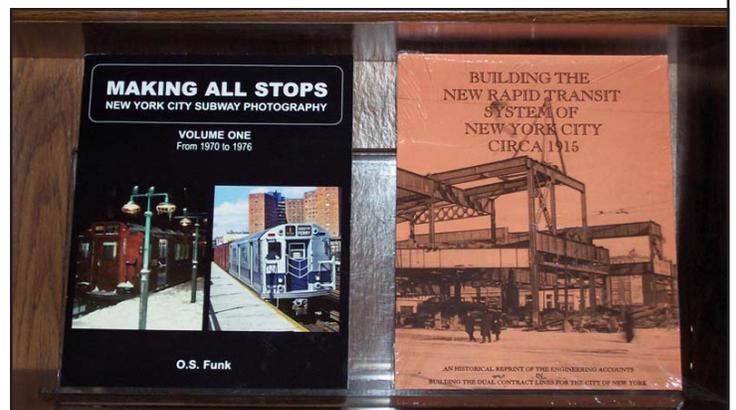
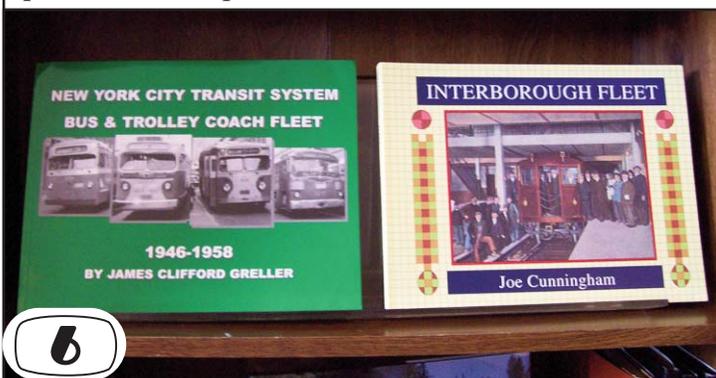
100 PCC Trolley Cars Ran in Brooklyn by James Clifford Greller: This is a pictorial of the pioneer PCC trolley fleet of Brooklyn. From 1936 to the end of trolley operations in 1956, this first order of PCC cars is traced one car at a time. In 87 pages, all in black & white photographs, each car comes to represent a stage of their short history. Special member price of \$23.40

NYCTS Bus & Trolley Coach Fleet 1946-1958 by James Clifford Greller: This book about the New York City Transit System describes all the buses and Trolley coaches purchased by the City of New York from 1947 – 1958. 100 pages of post-war bus history. Special member price of \$23.40

Interborough Fleet by Joe Cunningham: A complete history of New York's first subway cars, from the original cars of wood & steel to America's first steel railway car. Many rare photographs combined with historical text. Special member price of \$23.40

Making All the Stops by O. S. Funk: Exceptional color photographs by Steve Zabel of the New York City Subway System 1970-1976. Member price \$36.00

Building the New Rapid Transit System of New York City c.1915: an Historical Reprint of the Engineering Accounts in building the dual central lines for the City of New York by Fred Lewis. This book describes in detail the Dual Contracts Program that built the IRT and BMT Systems, through diagrams and photographs. Special member price of \$16.20.



Library News

By Stan Madyda

It has been a busy past few months in the Library. Once again we needed to rearrange the room, thanks to a donation of four large flat files from Roger Whitcomb. To buy these files new would have cost over \$1,000 apiece. With the help of Wade Roesse, Joe and Mike Laporta, Harry Burke, Joseph Alves and myself, we removed the files from Roger's home. The Tuesday night Library Crew and Modeler Crew got the files in place. Now we will begin the catalog process to fill the drawers with large documents and drawings.



The three flat file cabinets on the left plus one on top on the right added tremendously to the Library's capacity for safely storing large documents and to their accessibility.

A couple of years ago Gerry Herrmann had the idea of putting some of our file cabinets on wheels so we can store them in the aisles between the shelving. Bob Pitcher made the frame and supplied the wheels. This works great, and this summer Gerry and Dave Roberts attached handles to make them easier to move.

In May, the Library presented two programs on the Electrification of the Danbury Branch. The first was at the Bethel Historical Society's annual meeting in May. We showed it again at one of the SONO Tower's monthly meetings. We tried to show the program at one of the DRM's Wednesday nights but had equipment problems. It has been re-scheduled for November 14th.

Several years ago, we purchased the Past Perfect program with a grant received from the Meserve Fund. This program allows us to better manage and catalog our growing collection of books, documents, photos and artifacts. With the help of new volunteer, Shannon McDonald, the artifacts are being photographed and cataloged. Our hand lantern collec-

tion is now complete and duplications we removed. The plan is to have a more meaningful display of the lanterns in the Museum.



Dave Roberts demonstrates the mobility of a cabinet on wheels and the way it saves space in the DRM's Library.

Peter McLachlan has spent the summer working on a large collection of photos and negatives. We first learned of this collection about ten years ago but the owners were not willing to donate it at the time. Earlier this year Wade Roesse received a phone call from the family, and he arranged for the donation to be made. Ian Jenner has been helping people with the listing of what the collections contains and we hope soon be able to sell prints.

Dan Foley continues to sort through our slide collection. Ian has scanned some of the slides and at some point we will be able to add these into Past Perfect.

Gerry, Marty Scatola, David Simington and Harry Burke have worked weekly sorting and accessioning collections and material we receive. Harry and Marty sorted through a number of duplicate public timetables and these are now on sale in the Gift Shop. Another new volunteer is Kate Corwin who will be assisting in cataloging items into Past Perfect. Both Kate and Shannon are planning careers in the museum field. We hope to give them enough varied projects to help them attain their goals.



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- Oct 17(7:30pm) Video; China Steam - Bill Brett
- Oct 18(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members
- Oct 24(7:30pm) British Railways - Bob Kessler
- Oct 31(7:30pm) Steam Fan Trips - Pete McLachlan
- Nov 7(7:30pm) The Rock Island - Carl Liba
- Nov 14(7:30pm) Electr. of Danbury Br - DRM Library
- Nov 15(7:00pm) Board Meeting - Open to Members

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

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

•New York Central and Hudson River Railroad 19322 Caboose

This 34-ft wooden caboose was built in the early 1900's in East Buffalo, NY. It is complete with 5 bunks, a toilet, a stove, two tables and an ice box. It was retired from the New York Central Railroad in 1968.

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