

The Railyard Local

Volume 5, Issue 8

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

August 2006

A Formal Celebration of the 44 Tonners at the DRM

DRM members & principal participants in saving the locomotives mark the occasion

On the morning of July 14th, the Danbury Railway Museum welcomed the principal people involved with saving these vintage locomotives, as well as DRM members, the press, and local elected officials to a formal celebration. We wished to extend our gratitude to them, and give a welcoming tour of the Museum, including the building, a train and turntable ride. *Please refer to DRM President Ira Pollack's column on Page 3 for more details.*



The objects of their affection, the 44 tonners, viewed by those attending the ceremony. The locomotives were located near the historic turntable for mechanical assessment.



Standing in front of the locomotives are (l. to r.) City of Danbury Councilwoman Mary Teicholz, State Representative Jan Geigler of Danbury, City of Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, Vice-President of Marine Operations at General Dynamics in Groton, Michael W. Toner, Congresswoman Nancy Johnson, and DRM President Ira Pollack.

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RPO News & Notes and Gift Shop News

Jeep & Train Lovers Paradise

120 Jeeps of all varieties draw new visitors

The DRM hosted its second Jeep/Railroad Rendezvous on July 16th. The event attracted vintage and modern, military and off-road, custom and greatly modified as well as off-the-assembly-line vehicles. Many were colorful, some mud-spattered (competing for the Dirtiest Jeep prize). Most of the jeeps were lined up beyond the far track area, and more or less



formed an avenue of jeeps. Train and jeep lovers alike delighted in leisurely inspecting the jeeps, asking questions, and photographing favorites. These vehicles can be seen in color on our website



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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!

Joyce Akinruli	Danbury, CT
Priscilla Beaulieu	New Fairfield, CT
John Bucci	Danbury, CT
Russell Elfont	Danbury, CT
Alexis Elias	North Salem, CT
Max Ems	Kent, CT
Tessa Friedman	Highland, NY
Donald Gauger	Monroe, CT
James Giorgio	New City, NY
Dean Hamilton	Avon, CT
Matthew Hudson	New York, NY
Erika Riley	New Fairfield, CT
Steven Ksenych	Winsted, CT
Wendy Pesreault	Danbury, CT
Julia Starkweather	Sandy Hook, CT
John F. Stottle	Ormond Beach, FL
William Von Zehle, Jr	Ridgefield, CT
Mark Ward-Willis	Danbury, CT

Upgrades to Life Membership:

Carolyn E. Taylor	Thornwood, NY
Martin F. Grossman	Wassaic, NY

Newsletter Delay

The editor apologizes and regrets the extensive delay in getting the August issue of *The Railyard Local* to the printers. For the past seven weeks, the DRM office computer, which is used to create the newsletters, has been out of commission. New parts and some software have now been installed, but more is needed before it can be used for the newsletter. An alternative means to create this August issue has proved unworkable for further issues. Patty Osmer and the editor have spent numerous hours on fixing the problem. It would be a particularly wonderful time for the Post Offices to do a good turn by delivering the bulk mailing of the newsletter within a prompt time frame!

This editor and contributing writers have worked hard to get and keep a newsletter schedule on which most members would receive each month's issue by the beginning of that month. It will take a number of months to reach that schedule again. This editor so far has resisted skipping or combining issues. Thank you for understanding.

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Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

Membership cards for the coming year accompanied the August 1996 newsletter along with an article asking for more volunteers to staff the Museum. At the time, there were 300 members, about 75 of them active volunteers.

It was reported that our first Birthday Parties, organized by Marie Salata with help from many members, were off and running with very good success. Dates were being booked for the remainder of the year and into 1997.

A new program called the Caboose Club was started by Judy and Tim Tarrant. The Club was aimed at preschool children, and met every Thursday morning in the station. Story reading, video viewing, snacks and tours of the yard were part of the program.

The Museum had received three baggage wagons recently for display in the station. One which was loaned to us by Norman Cook is a small two-wheel version, totally restored. Another different two-wheel



version was donated by Peter Cornwall. This was used at Stamford, and needs restoration. The third wagon, from the Philadelphia area, was originally a New Haven wagon, and this, too, needs restoration. A brief history about baggage wagons explained that some of the wagons were owned by the Railway Express Agency, while others were owned by the railroad. The wagons were used not only for passengers' luggage, but also for mail and packages shipped to consumers and businesses. The railroad was the primary carrier of packages before UPS and overnight shippers we

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DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

Hope all is well with you this summer.

To start off my report to you this month I will recap the presentation we had on July 14th in the yard. A reprint of my speech is included for those of you who couldn't be there for this small but important event. I wanted to thank the people responsible for their help in getting the 44-ton locomotives to our Museum, and also promote what we have to offer as a museum to our guests.

We began the day with a quick tour of the building, the layouts, displays, gift shop, library, etc. We then took a ride on the #41 RDC Budd car to the turntable, gave rides, and finally made our presentation at the roundhouse area. After my speech, Congresswoman Nancy Johnson spoke words of praise about the Museum, followed by speeches by Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton, and Mike Toner, Vice-President of Marine Operations at General Dynamics. I think everyone had a grand morning celebrating the occasion, but more than that, celebrating our Museum and what it is. Many thanks to our staff who also made this day possible by being there that morning.



Good morning. On behalf of the Danbury Railway Museum, I would like to welcome: Congresswoman Mrs. Nancy Johnson, The Honorable Mark Boughton, Mayor of the City of Danbury, Executive Vice-President of Marine Operations at General Dynamics in Groton, Mr. Mike W. Toner, members of the press, and volunteers and members of the Danbury Railway Museum.

We have gathered here today to celebrate and thank all those involved in saving the two General Electric 44-ton locomotives from extinction. Through your help and determination we have successfully preserved two pieces of our railroading past, and of our State's industrial heritage. We truly appreciate your considering us and thinking of us for this most gracious donation to our Museum's growth and future.

I must say that this is and was quite a story or saga right from its inception over six months ago. With many

false starts and misconceptions, we were able to persevere with the support and help of many of the people here today. I will add though that not everyone who participated in this project could attend today's celebration, and my thanks go out to them also. I would like to acknowledge Peter Richter and Pete La Bouliere of CDOT, Bob Walkup and Dave Ritcowski of Providence & Worcester Railroad, Bob Bass of the Housatonic Railroad, and Pete Holmberg of the Bethel Fire Department. These were people behind the scenes who, like me, had a vision of saving these locomotives.

Our initial plans for the locomotives are to assess them mechanically, and to put "Carol" or NH 0814, into our rail yard tour service. As time and finances permit, we will do the same with "Diane", the ex-Union Pacific locomotive.

In closing, once again, I thank you all for your continued support in this project and your support for the Danbury Railway Museum.



In other news, we are still in dire need of people coming forward to volunteer in the same areas that I've been writing about for several months now. We still need someone to coordinate our volunteers and deploy them into our many different departments. The Museum must stay open, but without front desk staff during the day, the doors will close. It has been an embarrassment to us all that we have had to close early a couple of times in the past several weeks. The Museum also needs someone with marketing experience to come forward to promote the Museum on a regular basis. Advertising and marketing our product is so very important for our continued growth and financial stability. I must also let you know that we must have a more stable training program for our new train crews. It's very hard for me to tell a new volunteer to wait until I can find someone to train him; that tells that person that there's really nothing there and that volunteer doesn't come back again. What a loss! I've said this time and time again: it's the volunteers that make or break this organization. I, as President, need your help. Please come forward to help us grow.



After entering our railyard, everyone rode on the #41 RDC Budd car (below) to the Museum's historic turntable.



Viewing educational signage before riding on the turntable.

The New Haven 0814 "Carol" began service on the railroad in 1945, as one of a total of 18 such locomotives owned by that railroad. It was sold to Electric Boat in 1959.

The Union Pacific 44 tonner "Diane" started out as a GE Demonstrator numbered DS 1399, and was sold to the UP on 1947. They used it as a shop switcher in Pocatella, Idaho, numbered 903999. It was overhauled in Omaha in 1972, sold to Diesel Supply in 1974, and purchased by Electric Boat the same year. (Thank you Stan Madyda for providing these additional facts about these engines.)

Many thanks to DRM members who helped carry out the celebration, including: DRM President Ira Pollack; crew members Don Konen and Dave Roberts; Wade Roese, who videotaped the occasion; Patty Osmer and Don Konen, who arranged for refreshments. It was a joyous time for our Museum, and a privilege to have many of those involved in rescuing these locomotives in attendance.



Congresswoman Nancy Johnson (above) makes a point during her speech, while (below) Vice-President of Marine Operations at General Dynamics, Michael Toner, provides a light moment during his speech when describing how the locomotives came to have names on them.



City of Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton addressing the group of people gathered to celebrate the occasion.

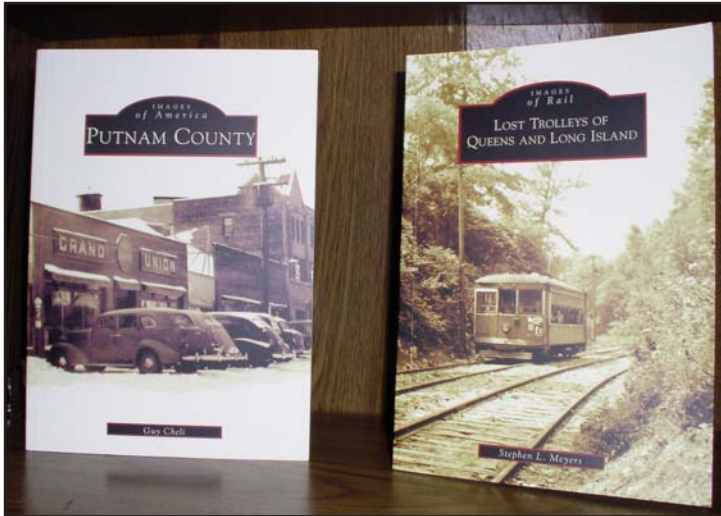
Gift Shop News

By Patty Osmer

NEW BOOKS:

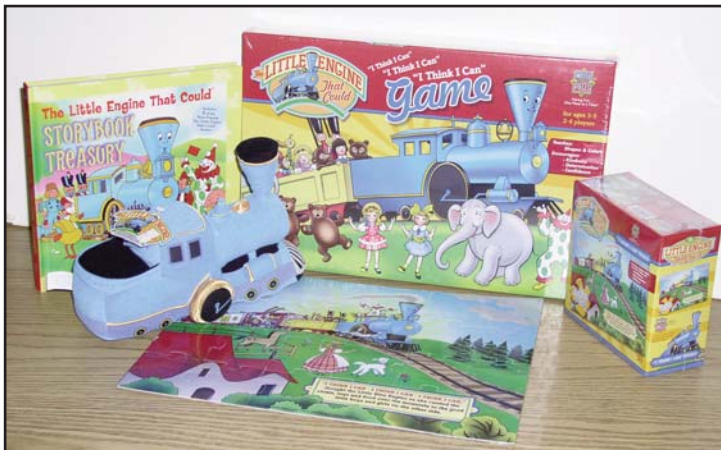
We have a newly published book, *Lost Trolleys of Queens and Long Island*. This book, from Arcadia Publishing and written by Stephen L. Meyers, gives us a look at these lost trolleys in B & W photos. Retail, \$19.99; member price, \$17.99.

Back in stock! The popular Arcadia books from the *Images of America* series, *Danbury* and *Putnam County* are once again available.



PARTY GOODS:

We are now stocking Little Engine That Could party supplies. We have a large selection of items, including balloons, a table covering, plates, cups, "treat" bags, hats, blow-outs, invitations, and a number of other items. Remember - members who book a birthday party at the Museum receive \$10 off the cost of the party. Make your reservations soon, as this offering has become very popular.



Among the great variety of Little Engine That Could items are the ones shown above: Storybook Treasury, a bright blue stuffed engine suitable for very young children, a board game for ages 3-5 years old, and puzzles.

RPO News and Notes

By Bill Britt, Project Leader

Now that the "Little Engine" has come and gone, we are back working on the RPO. The roof is the next major item we will be overhauling. As of this time(7-8-06) we have wire brushed about 15% of it. The system we will be using is similar to an epoxy two-part system, and only requires that we remove the heavy rust; any remaining rust will be encapsulated and should not advance any further. We will have to caulk around the scuppers and other roof openings. The work may look to be easy, but working on a hot steel deck in this weather can take its toll.

This month we received several photos of RPO cars on the New Haven Line, as well as copies of Postal Stamp cancellations of RPO "Last Run" trips. These were donated by Pete McLachlan. Thanks Pete!

Just as we were finishing this write-up, Dave Lowry asked what color we intend to paint the car. We responded "TUSCAN RED"(which is the original car color). Dave seemed very pleased with this - so much so that he gave us a very large donation to cover this cost. Thanks Dave!

DID YOU KNOW ? - the first RPO ran from Chicago to Clinton, Iowa on August 28, 1864; the last RPO was phased out during 1977.

Thank you for your interest in our RPO. We do not like to have to ask for your monetary support; it makes me feel like the folks on the Public Radio and TV stations, but anything you can do is appreciated. Stories, tales and yarns are always welcome.

Funds Needed for the Move

When the DRM budget for 2006 was approved, we did not know that we would have the generous offer from Electric Boat to donate the two 44 tonners to



us. Therefore money was not budgeted for the significant cost of moving them to the DRM. The Board of Directors made the decision to spend money for the move because otherwise the locomotives would be scrapped. We are trying to recoup the cost of the move through donations. Some members already have made significant donations for this purpose, but there still is a big shortfall. If you can help us, please make a check out to Danbury Railway Museum with the memo *44 Tonner Move*. Any amount will help.

Membership Dues Change

Effective October 1, 2006

Membership Category

Individual	\$40/year
Lifetime	\$400
Family*	\$50/year
Retired Railroader	\$20/year
Patron	\$200/year
Corporate	\$500/year

***Family** includes both spouses and all children living at home. In voting matters, there is one vote per family.

Membership benefits

All DRM membership categories (except Corporate) include:

- Free Museum admission
- 10% Gift Shop discount
- Newsletter subscription
- Membership card
- Annual report
- Window sticker/decal
- A vote in membership voting matters

Patron membership includes all of the above, plus one ride in a locomotive cab. (Tax deductible portion \$150)

Corporate Membership:

There has been no change in the present wording on the membership application form.

Another Active Project



J.R. Mitchell, project leader for our RS 11 New Haven locomotive, has been actively working on its restoration. As shown here, he was using an electric wire brush tool to remove corrosion from the outside of the engine as preparation for painting it.

Ten Years Ago, Continued from Page 2

have today. Photos from the 1950's show about a dozen carts in use in Danbury.

Two new committees were formed. The By-Laws Committee would review and update the Museum's by-laws, which were written in 1994 when the Museum was formed. Dan Foley, Mike Neustadt, Tom Morris, Lucye Boland, Peter McLachlan, and Peter Cornwall were appointed to the committee. A Finance Committee consisting of Treasurer Jesse Meeder, Mickey Silberbauer, Peter Cornwall, and Lucye Boland was also appointed to oversee finances, prepare budgets and review income.

A purchase of an Inch-and-a-Half Scale engine, car and track was made, with the plan of setting this up in the yard as a riding scale railroad. This was to be a permanent fixture, but only lasted a few years. Don Silberbauer was responsible for the purchase and implementation of the railroad.



The inch-and-a-half scale engine and car make an impressive exhibit for visitors to the Museum building.

Reports on progress in the Library, the Yard and on equipment were included. Shelving had been installed in the Library, and data entry had begun. Trackwork in the yard continued to be a major project. Joe Ward and Nancy Sniffen continued working on the Budd cars; window installation had begun. A stove was found to be included in one of the cabooses. Work continued on one of the Burro cranes donated by Metro-North. The Woodings track car was seeing regular operation in the yard.



Our RDC #32 Budd car has seen regular use in the DRM railyard, especially in the colder months of the year.

www.danbury.org/drm. The Museum's New Haven forge was in operation, and refreshments were available. G-gaugers ran garden railroading size equipment on a special layout set up on the 18 track platform. All this was in addition to the usual weekend operations



There was plenty of parking space, so... ?

and attractions. The jeep event, once again organized by Doug Eddy and Tom Phillips, offered even more prizes than the year before. Registrants competed in a wide variety of categories. Prizes ranged from gift certificates, to quite impressive specific prizes and trophies. This year's improved public address system enabled the substantial gathering of enthusiasts to easily hear the awarding of the prizes.



Photos of some of the vehicles registered at the Jeep/Railroad Rendezvous (above, below left and below center), the awarding of prizes (right), and event organizers Tom Phillips and Doug Eddy (below right)



Above, a young jeep fan on the popular coin-operated ride. Below, our vintage steam locomotive with a vintage jeep pickup truck.





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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Aug 16(7:30pm) | Architecture Along the RR - Dan
Foley |
| Aug 20(7:00pm) | Board Meeting (Open to Members) |
| Aug 23(7:30pm) | Collection of Slides - Bob Gambling |
| Aug 30(7:30pm) | Video, Steam in the 50s & 60s,
Canadian Steam - Dick Shubar |
| Sept 6(7:30pm) | Slides; Delaware & Hudson -Roger
Coleman |
| Sept 13(7:30pm) | Slides; Berkshire Route - Ron Smith |

Be sure to look for the full color version of this
newsletter on our website: [www.danbury.org/drm!](http://www.danbury.org/drm)



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