

The Railyard Local

Volume 10, Issue 5

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

July 2011

44-tonner in Service

Former industrial switcher heads consist

We are singing the praises of our 44-tonner and the volunteers involved with getting it in service. (Tennessee Ernie Ford would have been happier with our tune than with "Sixteen Tons".) Beginning this month we began training and qualifying engineers and train crew on this piece of motive power for our train rides. This is the first time it has been in service here since it arrived here by rail on June 26, 2006. The Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics in Groton, CT donated this former Union Pacific locomotive as well as a former New Haven 44-ton industrial switcher. More to follow in future issues.



Bottom photo, taken by Chuck Sager, pictures the newly operating 44-tonner pushing the RS-1 across the turntable

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Railroading around Bethel

Danbury Railway Museum and the Bethel Historical Society collaborated to present a program on Sunday, May 15th about railroading in and around Bethel, CT. The featured guest speaker was Pete McLachlan, who had chosen an interesting assortment



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DRM Members' Picnic

All current members are invited to attend the Annual Members' Picnic which will be held beginning at 5:30pm following the Danbury Railway Day celebration on August 13th. Please sign up or call the Front Desk at 203 778-8337 to let us know how many will be attending the Picnic. A \$5.00 donation will be appreciated, and any donations of salads, chips, or desserts will be welcome. This is a festive occasion and the best opportunity to enjoy great food while socializing with other members. Often we members are at the Museum at different times, so this is a wonderful occasion to visit with some members we might seldom have a chance to see. Hope to see you there!

If you are looking forward to a "hand on the throttle" experience as engineer (with supervision, of course), plan on coming by immediately before the start of the picnic. This traditional part of our picnic, for members only, will start at 4:15pm and continue until 5:15pm, then resume after the picnic, thereby ensuring that all the rides will be concluded during daylight hours.

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.**

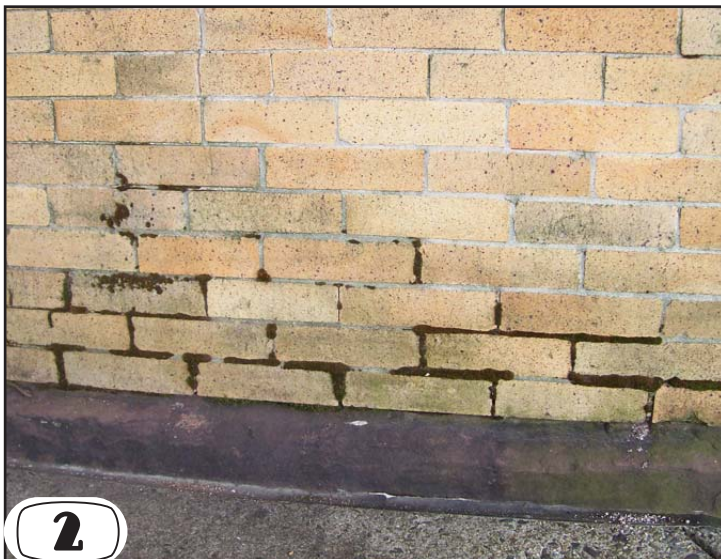
- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Emily McGuire | Danbury, CT |
| Robert Detlefsen | Putnam Valley, NY |
| Richrd T. Layton | New Milford, CT |
| Dane L. Gordon | New Haven, CT |

Masonry Help Needed!

One of the responsibilities of the Vice President is the maintenance of the "Station"(our Museum building). While the City of Danbury is responsible for major repairs, we must tend to its upkeep. A problem was brought to my attention that has to do with the brickwork at the base of some of the exterior walls. Moss and mildew are growing on the bricks and in the mortar. This is a result of a buildup of moisture and the walls being shaded by the canopies.

I want to ask "Is there someone amongst our members who can come in and work on the task of cleaning the brickwork and re-pointing the mortar?" We will supply the materials. I do not see this as being a big job, but it needs to be done. If you can help, please call me at 203 746-0804.

Thanks,
Stan Madyda



Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

Whether it is 2011 or 2001, the DRM has always needed volunteers. Back in the summer of 2001 we were busy preparing for our next "Day Out with Thomas." Not only were we looking for members to help with that event, there was also an immediate need for front desk help on Sundays and with the Birthday Parties. Back in 2001, members would assist with the activities of the party.

Nancy Sniffen reported that the RDC-1 #32 was powered up in November 2000. She thanked the many volunteers that contributed to the project but also stated that there was still plenty of work needed to be done. Among the 2001 projects were restoring the walk over seats that were acquired from the Green Mountain Railroad and laying new floor tile.



The RDC #32 provides train rides during the cold weather months, as shown here for the Santa Express event. The beautifully restored walkover seats are pictured below.



An update on the progress of getting the RS-11 to Danbury was also included. A group of Museum members traveled to the quarry in Georgia to assist with the swapping of trucks. We had sent trucks from our FA on a TTX flat car we had access to. With the aid of two cranes, quarry staff and several paid professionals, the swap was made. Additional work was securing the locomotive for shipment to Danbury and the installation of new couplers. Paperwork for the

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Words from Our New President

July 2011 President's Report

In this issue of *The Railyard Local* we can share a plethora of progress reports, Museum accomplishments, and individual successes: Tops of the list is the connection and operation of our first 44-Tonner. Originally under a Union Pacific flag, it now functions under the DRM flag. Thanks to the hard work and efforts of Justin Chapin, Jeff Van Wagenen, Bob Pitcher, Rob Bell, Jim Teer, and J.R. Mitchell, among many others that deserve recognition, the Museum can celebrate a significant and monumental milestone. Thanks to all who participated on this project. With training for some already completed, and more engineers and crew currently in training, work will continue and refocus on our "Little Diesels". Thanks, General Dynamics!



May, June, and July will have seen birthday parties, a graduation party, a music video shoot, maybe even a wedding photo shoot. Work continues on the New York Central caboose, the Tonawanda Valley, the first of our pavilion and waiting shelter structures, G-gauge layout and interior exhibits and displays. The Glenbrook catenary supports are close to being relocated to the Museum property and an ongoing yard cleanup project is making the yard look more presentable to our visitors. Our lease extension and lot line limit redefining is close to being signed. We continue to make progress with our programs thanks to the many members who share their talents and expertise with each other. This level of cooperation has an exponential effect on the extent and success of our accomplishments.

A recent small bump in the road: the location of a pole by a utility company in front of a major display in our railyard was averted due to the diligence of some alert and vigilant members.

In the works: We have renewed discussions with the parties involved in attempting to save and relocate the Albany sequestered locomotives. Keep

your fingers crossed! We are currently planning a night photo shoot in conjunction with the Candlewood Camera Club and will keep you apprised of progress as we get closer to its proposed date. In addition, we are negotiating toward some new interior exhibits/displays that should be of interest to many (railfans and visitors alike).

Please check the Wednesday schedule for a program that might be of interest to you, stop by to



The first pavilion is almost completed. It provides a comfortable shaded location to relax, be entertained by the G-gauge layout, await the next train ride, enjoy refreshments and socialize.



see our progress, or even consider helping with an existing project, or proposing a new one. We look forward to members' visits, comments, concerns, and input. In addition, consider this your personal invitation to join us at the Members' Picnic in August.

On behalf of the Danbury Railway Museum,
Wade W. Roese

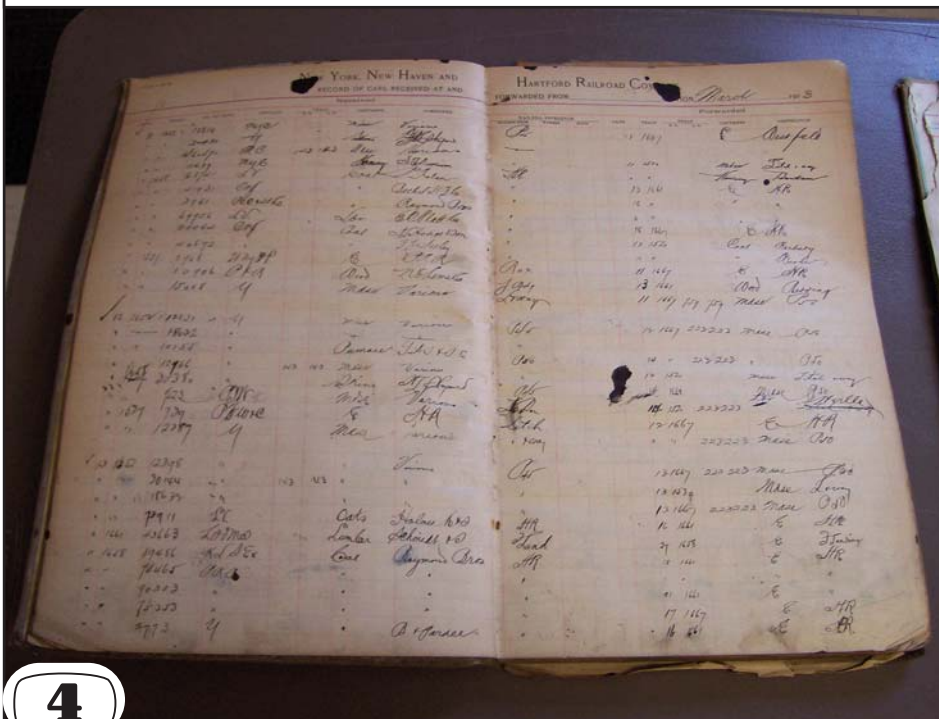
Railroading around Bethel, *Continued from Page 1*

of slides on the topic to accompany his colorful oral commentary on both their content and his railroading experiences. The same groups had sponsored successful programs in the past. This one presented new material.

The two members of the DRM Reference and Research Library staff made a great effort to put together an intriguing visual display of historical railroad information. Gerry Herrmann salvaged artifacts when the Bethel train station was renovated this past January. Just sorting through the material, determining what could be saved from the old, and mostly very deteriorated items has been a major undertaking. From the salvagable items, he prepared a number for display and preservation. Stan Madyda created the signage. Those attending, many of whom are DRM members, spent quite some time studying and learning from the displayed items. If you are interested in viewing these and other artifacts included in the collection, please contact the DRM Library. Both the slides and artifacts brought back memories for many of the railroad and local history buffs. As with all the outreach activities by our members, the programs also are opportunities to publicize the DRM.



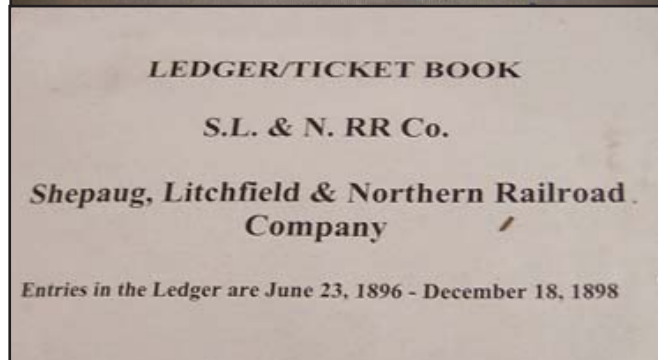
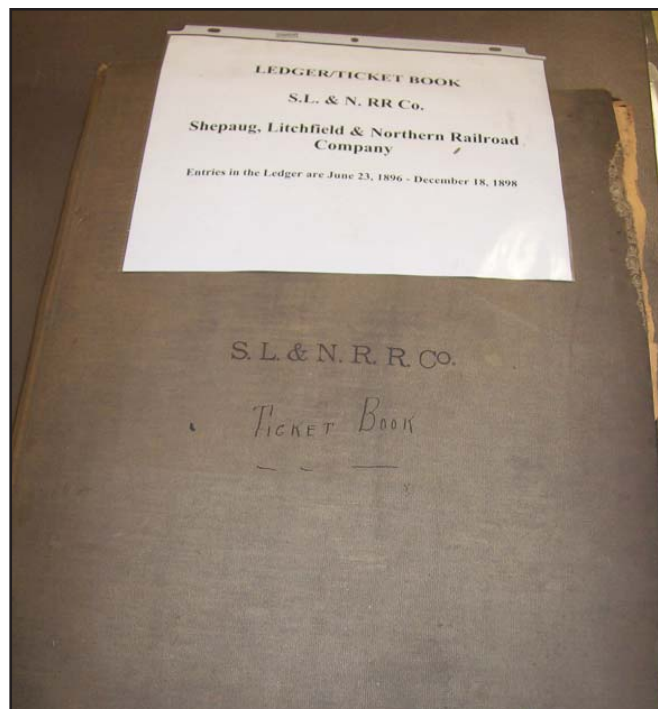
Above, the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company Form F-439c Perishable Card Manifest, controlled by Station Agents and Clerks; Below, an 1890's Car Record ledger from Bethel Station filled out by Freight Agents.



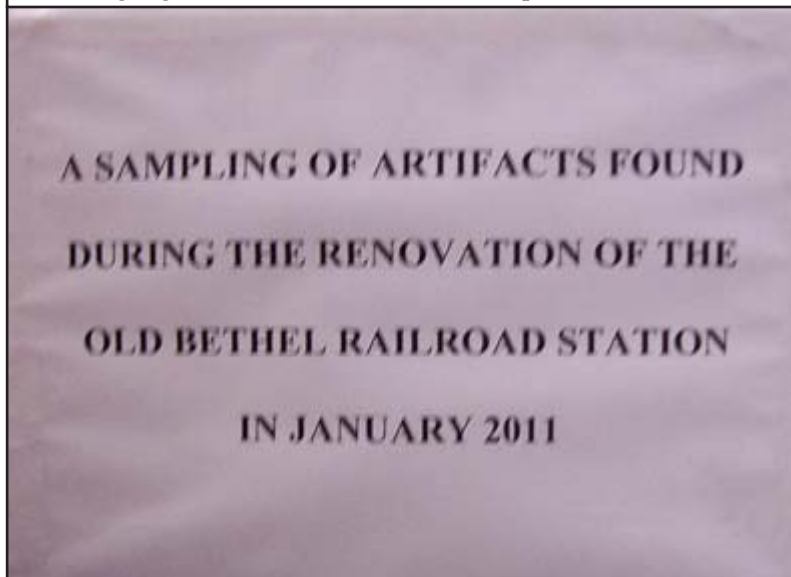
Railroading around Bethel, Continued from Page 4



New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company Form F-439 Card Manifest, Controlled by Station Agents and Clerks. Displays by Gerry Herrmann; all signage by Stan Madyda.



Below, signage for the exhibit and artifacts pictured above.

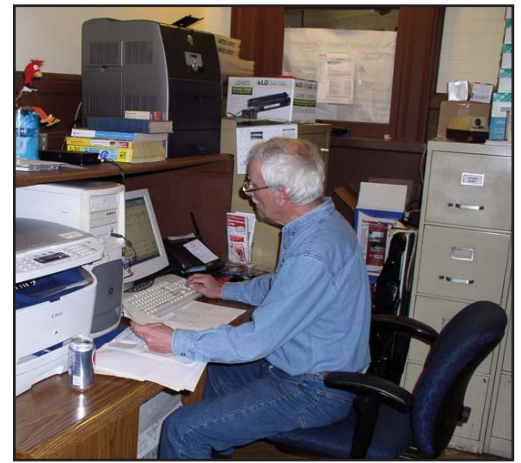


DRM's Main Track

Volunteer Dave Roberts

At the Danbury Railway Museum Dave Roberts wears many hats, and somewhere on them they all say DRM. He was the Project Leader in the restoration of the NH 33732 box car, which entailed stripping the surface with a wire wheel, applying a primer and finally a top coat - about 1 1/2 years of work. During the nine years in which he has been a member Dave has helped in virtually all areas of activity at the Museum and assisted all the project leaders in the organization. He has maintained the grounds from the parking lot to "Dave's Ditch" by Track 42. As the Treasurer's Assistant many hours are spent managing the day-to-day financials and doing reports. He may be found manning the Gift Shop, attending Events Committee meetings (and DRM Board meetings as a guest), maintaining layout trackage, and helping Tuesday nights on the layouts. You might spot him lubricating or otherwise maintaining the steam locomotive bell which our guests love ringing, or assisting Gerry Herrmann with restoring the NYC & HRR wooden caboosé. Christmas time seems to bring out the elf in him as he transforms the New Haven forge into Santa's workshop. Dave has pitched in to assist the DRM Library, Mechanical Crew, Front Desk, and been part of the Train Crew. The semaphore and its building were projects he

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Baggage Wagon Restored

A highlight of late spring was the arrival of a magnificently restored baggage wagon. Member Bill Nicholson had previously lent his expertise and time to help with restoration of the RPO car interior. In this case, he has transformed a baggage wagon which had literally caved in at the middle into a completely restored, brilliantly painted railroad artifact. Bill and his wife Junis took a moment to pose before the wagon was wheeled into the DRM's Great Hall.



DRM's Main Track, Continued from Page 6

worked on. When volunteers have been needed for trackwork, if Dave has not been committed to another task for the Museum that day he will replace ties. The historic turntable has benefited from Dave's attention in clearing out the pit, maintaining its mechanics, and operating the turntable for rides. When there are issues with the computers at the Museum often Dave has been able to fix the problem. When it comes to events, past and present, Dave can be counted on for help before, during and afterward. Dave was the "Pretengineer" for the three years when the Little Engine That Could came to the DRM and helped restore the interior of the Reading coaches used for that event. He has helped with cosmetic restoration of the steam locomotive and the CN 660 coach used as an events car. In past years Dave has represented the Museum at train shows year-round, and still assists at the "Big E" in January. What he likes best is Car Hosting and chatting with guests by the layouts in the building. He appears he also may like variety in what he does!

Dave's interest in trains began as a child living near the LIRR when he had an HO train layout in the basement of his home and saved up money for additional equipment for his hobby. He stopped by the DRM the first year it was open and remembers how sparsely decorated it was at the time. After becoming a member in 2002 he began helping by cleaning up the railyard. He has been assisting here ever since!

Dave, the DRM has been VERY fortunate to have you as a volunteer. THANK YOU!

Ten Years Ago, Continued from Page 2

move was completed and the locomotive was sent on its way. Problems with the air were discovered when the unit arrived in Selkirk Yard. In order for the locomotive to continue on its route, the problem would have to be corrected by the CSX shop forces in Selkirk. However, Selkirk's priority is keeping CSX engines running and the RS-11 would have to wait its turn. The report was optimistic saying that the hope was to have the RS-11 repainted soon as New Haven 1402.

A Treasurer's Report by Tony White summed up the fundraising activities of the Museum and acknowledged the many individuals and organizations that donated money in 2000.

Dan Foley wrote an article about a recent trip he made to Colorado for the Durango and Silverton Railroad Railfest 2000. During his week-long visit he saw a number of narrow gauge steam engines operating, rode some trains and photographed historic pieces of railway equipment.



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MUSEUM CALENDAR

July	20(7:30pm)	Wisc + Minn. RRs - Bob Kessler
July	21(7:00pm)	Board Meeting - Open to Members
July	27(7:30pm)	To be announced
Aug	3(7:30pm)	1980 Local Action - Pete McLachlan
Aug	10(7:30pm)	B & A Revisited - Ron Smith
Aug	17(7:30pm)	So. America Steam - Pete McLachlan

Museum hours: Mon-Sat 10-5pm; Sun 12-5pm

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



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