

The Railyard Local

Volume 5, Issue 10

-The Monthly Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum-

October 2006

Turntable Deemed Historic

DRM to celebrate wonderful turn of events

As a result of the efforts mainly of DRM President Ira Pollack and Bruce Clouette, the Danbury Railway Museum's operating railyard turntable has been given historic designation and listed on the National Historic Register. The Museum, having recently received a plaque for it, has planned a ceremony to recognize the turntable's historic designation and dedicate the plaque. The occasion will be on Saturday, November 18th, beginning with the 1:30pm train ride to the turntable. Members are welcome to attend.



RPO News & Notes

By Bill Britt, Project Leader

Things are moving right along and the outside of the car is well underway toward completion. The entire car has been wire brushed; the roof has been epoxy primed and epoxy coated black. The rest of the car has been wire brushed and epoxy primed. The TUSCAN RED epoxy coating has been delivered and we hope to start on it this week. Weather permitting. (Editors Note: Weather permitted. See photo opposite.)

When the outside is complete we expect to work inside. The first thing we hope to do is to get lighting in the car. There are several lighting fixtures that are missing, and we have been looking around to locate parts to replicate them; this may prove to be difficult on such an old car, but we will do our best.

There will be some carpentry work that can be done at home; if there are any carpenters reading this that might like to help in this regard, please see me.

DID YOU KNOW? Under normal operating

Continued on Page 6

In This Issue

~Ten Years Ago - page 2

~Kids Tracks - page 4

~The Yard Inside - page 5

plus . . .

DRM Express Track and New Members

Restoration of the RPO Car Continues Post Haste

Art Slothower and Bill Britt have worked determinedly during the week and on weekends to keep the restoration of the Rail Post Office car moving forward. Members and guests to the DRM have given the results of the exterior restoration thus far their unqualified stamp of approval.



The RPO car's glossy epoxy coated black roof and Tuscan red sides have dramatically transformed the exterior of the car, making it a real eyecatcher!

Event Reminder:

**Pumpkin Patch: Oct. 14-15th, 21-22nd, 28-29th
Saturdays 10 - 5, Sundays 12 noon - 5**

Our vintage train will be giving rides to the pumpkin patch, where apples and cider also will be served. Face painters, turntable rides, model railroad layouts and other attractions will be greeting guests attending our annual Pumpkin Patch event. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$7 for kids 3-12 yrs, 2 and under free. If you would like to help out, please contact Sue Thomas at (203) 792-1981.

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!

Pat Burns	Hadden Hts., NJ
Dennis Caffrey	Stratford, CT
Kathryn A. Casella	Somers, NY
Ronny Castillo	Danbury, CT
William B. Cole	Wassaic, NY
Kelsey Connors	Milford, CT
Ethan Dubrosky	Fairfield, CT
Melissa Fisher	Stormville, NY
David Insoft	Pound Ridge, NY
Melissa Marchewka	Danbury, CT
Deirdre McCann	Wilton, CT
Lisa Nyden	Monroe, CT
Dennis Rosenbaum	Poughkeepsie, NY
Judith & Del Ryan	Danbury, CT
Robert Shand	Milford, CT
Erin Tyson	New Milford, CT

Volunteer Will Be Missed

The DRM received the sad news that long-time and Life member Peter King recently passed away. We



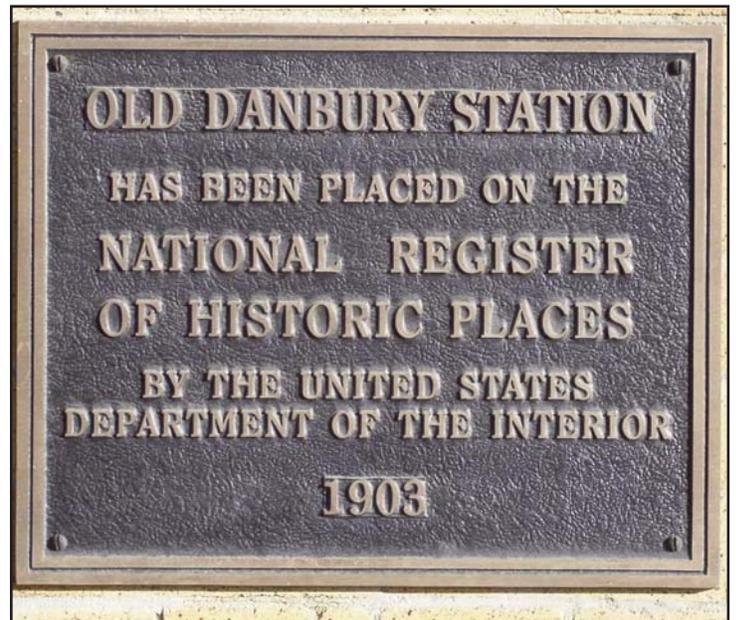
will miss him, and send our condolences to the members of his family. Peter volunteered at the Museum, and frequently was seen wearing a conductor's uniform as a costume at events, such as at the Pumpkin Patch event, shown here. In addition, his love of trains and knowledge of model railroading were an asset to the Museum.

2

Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda

October 1996 saw the Danbury Railway Museum's First Annual Fall Train Show held on October 19 and 20. The two-day event featured Fall Foliage trips. The Saturday trip was an all-day affair to Hopewell Junction, New York. The Sunday trips were to Dover Plains, New York in the morning and Towners, New York in the afternoon. Weather forecasts for the Saturday were for heavy rain and wind which hindered ticket sales for that ride. Sunday was a better day and sales improved. Mike Salata had the foresight to bring along a chain saw in the event we would have to clear the line west of Danbury. Sure enough, fallen trees did need to be removed by Museum members. The trips were delayed and the afternoon train did have a very unhappy passenger who accused the DRM of kidnapping him and threatened to sue because we were late. He almost became our first and only passenger to be removed from a train. Back at the station, the main waiting room had been cleared out and dealer tables were set up. Attendance for the weekend was 1700 people.



In other news, the Museum received the bronze plaque that now is fastened to the front of the building stating that the Old Danbury Station has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is interesting to note that Danbury Union Station was not used because research at the time did not show that the station on White Street was ever called that. "Union" signifies that a station was serviced by more than one railroad, and in 1903 when the White Street station was built, the New Haven was the only railroad providing service to Danbury. It was suggested

Continued on Page 6

DRM Express Track

By Ira Pollack, President

This month I would like to give you some updates as to what's been happening at the Museum, both inside the building and out in the yard.

Work progresses with the layouts in the Great Hall, and the newly finished display cases have been filled with early examples of model railroading equipment. On Tuesday nights we have a regular group of volunteers coming in to work on our exhibits. There is much camaraderie within this ever-growing group of modelers and of course everyone is welcome to join them with their projects. They generally meet from about 7:00 p.m. and work until about 10:00 p.m. It is very encouraging to see their enthusiasm and the progress that is being made on our varying exhibits in the building.

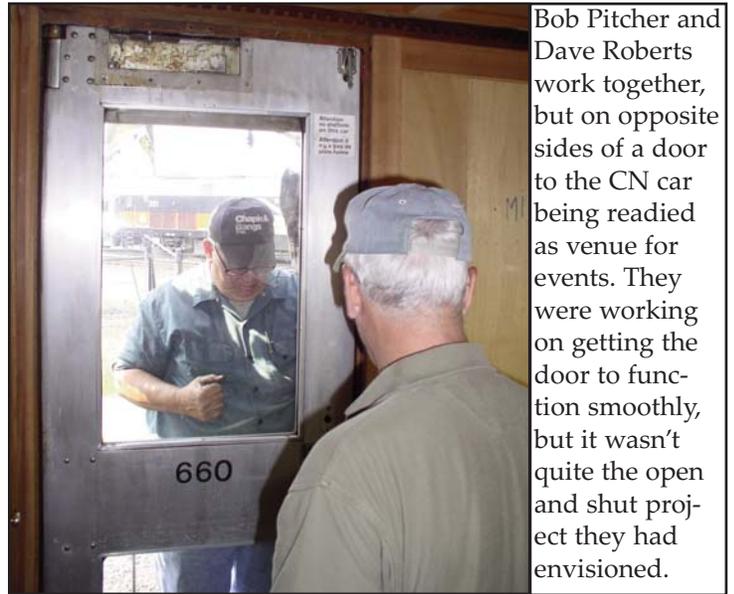


Buildings, scenery, rolling stock, tracks, electronics - it's all coming together now on the HO layout.

Our Library staff also meets on Tuesday nights and continues the large task of categorizing our ever-growing historic archive. This has, and probably will always be, a monumental feat. Now the library and the archive have started an annex in one of the CN passenger cars to help with the overflow of donations. This certainly shows that there is an abundance of donated items coming into the Museum on a regular basis.

Our birthday party room is clear once again for the upcoming cold season. We used it as a temporary storage area for our gift shop inventory this summer. Incidentally the birthday parties have turned into a great financial success for us with bookings almost every weekend. This has proven to be a relatively easy-to-run-event with limited people-power or volunteer needs.

In the yard we have four major projects going on with great success. The RPO car has been painted Tuscan Red over the last several weeks, the NYC wooden cabooses is getting its sheathing replaced, the



Bob Pitcher and Dave Roberts work together, but on opposite sides of a door to the CN car being readied as venue for events. They were working on getting the door to function smoothly, but it wasn't quite the open and shut project they had envisioned.

RS11 is being primed, and work continues on the CN passenger car, soon to be called the Party Car.

There are many different events, projects, and happenings going on at the Museum and, of course, I want you to be part of it if you can. We still have many voids in our operation and need your most appreciated help. In this month's newsletter our editor has started a "help-wanted" column. This column will describe some of these very important positions that will help our organization continue to grow. Please come forward to help out.

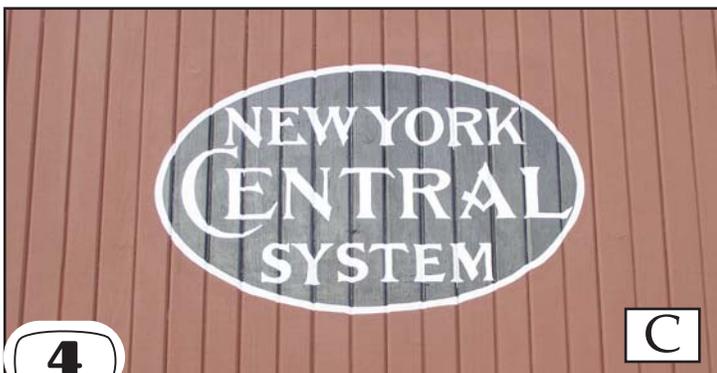
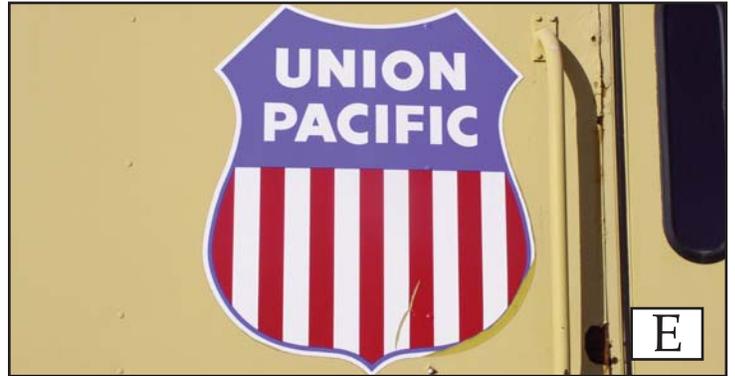
In closing this month's President's report, I would like you to know things are doing OK at the Museum. We have been fairly successful this season with many new members, new projects in the yard being worked on, and certainly many great reports and compliments from guests visiting our facility. We must continue the good work though, keep our Museum growing, and keep the ideas new and fresh.



Joseph Cote and Jim Teer painted in the CN car.

Kids Tracks

Each picture on this page shows part of a piece of equipment or display in our Museum railyard. Can you tell what each is, and what it is part of? Photos of the entire piece of equipment or display are on Page 7 in this issue. Are you able to match the photos on this page with the ones on Page 7? Answers are on Page 5.



The Yard Inside

By Wade W. Roesé

Layout Status:

Z Gauge: We don't have any yet, but would be very grateful to anyone that could share some with us

N Gauge: We have not done much with the N gauge lately, since Bill Britt keeps a good rein on its maintenance. We do, however, invite anyone interested in constructing a new building to give one a try. The white paper ones are hopefully only temporary.

HO Gauge: The HO gauge layout continues to move forward. J.R. has almost completed the upper level yard trackwork, while Marty has been designing, constructing, and testing the electronic control circuits. Painting and other scene enhancing operations are underway. Anyone interested in assisting, please come to the Museum Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. Welcome to Gary Bentley.



Marty Grossman and Jeff Van Wagenen, part of the "Yard Inside" crew, try out the electronics on the HO layout.

S Gauge: The new display we mentioned last issue has come to fruition and many pieces of our S gauge collection are now on static display.

O Gauge: Thanks to the efforts of Ron Huppert, we are the grateful recipients of brand new Ross O gauge track and switches which will form the "base" for a new O gauge plan. Anyone interested in getting in on the ground floor of this project, please contact me or Rich Shubar, project leader.

Standard Gauge: Some "new" old standard gauge pieces have been placed on exhibit in our new display case as noted later in this update.

G Gauge: We have received some new G gauge donations and are planning the outside layout mentioned in a previous newsletter.

We (the Tuesday night work crew) have recently completed construction of four new display cases: three of which will be utilized to display various

gauge models; the fourth will be used for library collections that have not been displayed previously. Additional displays and exhibits are in the process of being changed, revised, or updated. Lots of new stuff coming. Please join us; we look forward to your participation.



Answers to Kids Tracks

A, the signal portion of the Wilton semaphore, goes with #6, the Wilton semaphore and operator's shed.

B, the cables for operating a crane, goes with #4, the New York Central double ended crane.

C, the herald for the New York Central caboose, goes with #3, the 1909 New York Central wooden caboose.

D, The cowcatcher of the steam locomotive, goes with #2, #1455, the Boston & Maine steam locomotive.

E, the Union Pacific emblem, goes with #1, the Union Pacific hi-rail flaw testing car.

F, the CN symbol and identification number, goes with #7, the red CN caboose.

G, part of the support for the overhang to the freight house that once stood in Danbury railyard, goes with #5, the display of all that remains of that freight house.

On your next visit to the DRM's railyard, will you be able to locate each of these items?

conditions ships have the right of way at draw bridges and trains must wait for ships to pass, however the above is reversed when the train has mail cars as part of the consist.

Thank you for your continued interest in our RPO and its progress of refurbishment. Unfortunately we must again ask for any monetary gifts you can send to us. Any stories, tales and yarns about Railway Post Office cars are always welcome.



Art Slothower spent long days painting the RPO car.

Help Wanted

Following are special positions that need to be filled for the Museum to continue to operate smoothly.

Advertising Director - Requirements of Position

1. Produce budget for upcoming year (possibly using past year as a guideline).
2. Advertise upcoming events at Museum (Santa, Pumpkin Patch, Easter Bunny, First Night, etc.).
3. Inform public of happenings at Museum (turntable, new equipment and displays, etc.)
4. Market our product - regionally, locally.
5. Create contacts with newspapers, TV, and radio. Find agencies interested in informational stories about the Museum.
6. Make sure press releases are accurate and on time.
7. Generate flyers for events; collaborate with the Webmaster.
8. Report monthly to the President.

Volunteer Coordinator - Requirements of Position

1. Chair a Volunteer Committee.
2. Welcome in new members to the Museum.
3. Integrate new members into our volunteer staff (yard, building, crew, etc.)
4. Maintain record of volunteer hours.
5. Make sure building is staffed as needed, including Front Desk and Yard Tour Staff.
6. Collaborate closely with Events Committee and their need.
7. Report monthly to the President.



8. Collaborate with Advertising Director for promoting events.

that the older station now situated on Leahy's property could have been called Danbury Union Station since two railroads serviced it – the New Haven and the New York & New England.

It was announced that Mickey Silberbauer was elected to the board filling a newly created spot. An organizational change was made with Peter McLachan put in charge of the Operations Department which included the Yard Group, and Mechanical Group headed by Ed Blackman and Geoff Knees respectively. Other groups within the Museum at the time included the Marketing Group and the Accessions Group. Two new groups were named – the Station Group headed by Terri Stramiello and the Exhibits Group with both Terri and Peter in charge. The Station Group was responsible for the building and grounds while the Exhibits Group was to plan and implement exhibits in the station.

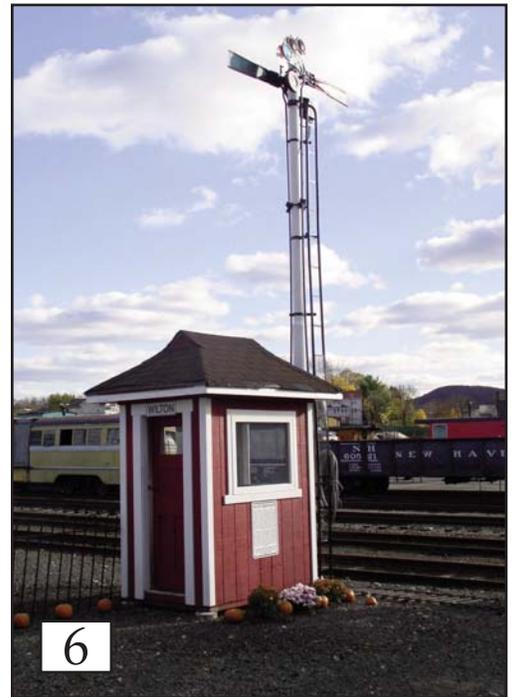
A painting program was outlined for some of the equipment in the yard. New Haven caboose C-627 was already in new paint and plans were for the Mack Rail Bus, Pennsylvania box car 112432 and the RS-1 locomotive to be painted as soon as money and volunteers could be secured.



Ten years after the new paint job, the New Haven C-627 Class NE-5 caboose is an example of how maintenance of our equipment has to be ongoing. This caboose is in need of rust removal and tarring on its roof, plus a new coat of bright red paint with fresh lettering. Our equipment is exposed to adverse weather conditions year-round, since even sunlight can fade and weather paint. While we pursue restoration of newly acquired items, we also must constantly work at maintaining equipment and displays which we have already restored.

Flyers were already being circulated for the Third Annual Holiday Express to be run on December 7 & 8.

Kids Tracks(cont'd from Page 4, answers on Page 5)





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MUSEUM CALENDAR

- Oct 19(7:00pm) Board Meeting (Open to Members)
- Oct 25(7:30pm) NY, NJ, PA lines - Bob Kessler
- Nov 1(7:30pm) New England and Canada - Roger Coleman
- Nov 8(7:30pm) Video of Cass + Mower Logging - Dick Shubar
- Nov 15(7:30pm) Berkshire Rte, Pt 2, slides - Ron Smith

Be sure to look for the full color version of this newsletter on our website: www.danbury.org/drm/



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Change of Address

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