

The Ghost Train Journal

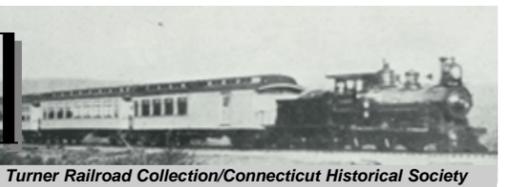
The Monthly Newsletter for the members of the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum,

Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society



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Tom Nanos Photo

The Monthly Newsletter for the members of The Connecticut Eastern Chapter of the NRHS & the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum
Tom Nanos - Editor in Chief | Bob LaMay - Editor
Volume 13, Number 2 April 2005

2005 Train Show

Photos by R.A. LaMay



From The Editor's Desk

Well, the start of the 2005 season is fast approaching, and we need to get the grounds ready for the new season. I know we've run it before, but Janet Atkins' excellent piece about light work is apropos for this time of year, so here it is again. News is a bit sparse this month because I've been busy in my personal life, but we'll pick things back up next month. Also in this issue is a story by Bob LaMay about the move of our ex-NH caboose from Old Saybrook to the museum, as well as an article by Dick Arnold on our newest acquisition - a 1972 Dodge Crane Truck. One tidbit of news - it looks like the 2nd Annual Night Photo Shoot is set for Saturday June 11, 2005. Once we confirm the date, we'll release the details and start selling tickets. Stay tuned!

Thanks for reading & enjoy the issue!
-Tom Nanos & Bob LaMay

The Lighter Side

By Janet Atkins

Are you of the opinion that the only work at the museum is heavy lifting, shoveling, and cutting trees? Well, I have learned from observation and experience that there really is much more that needs to be attended to and perhaps some of the following ideas will appeal to you:

- * Painting - Windows almost anywhere and doors on the round house
- * Raking - Leaves
- * Mowing - Spring will return
- * Pruning - Along the fences and on the grounds
- * Planting - Do you have some plants to share,

donate and plant?

- * Pavers - Catalog/diagram placement of the donated brick
- * Books - There are boxes of books that need to be sorted and shelved
- * Artifacts - Records are needed of items donated to the group/museum
- * Salesroom - Assist in selection of sale items and manning the MU Car salesroom
- * Booth - Assist at exhibits/shows
- * Admission - Assist in the booth when the museum is open
- * Docent - Interpret the museum exhibit to visitors
- * Promotion/advertising - Lots of opportunities - yearly calendar, auction, excursions
- * Sweep/dust - Clean buildings and exhibits make for a nicer appearance
- * Displays - Help develop displays for exhibits at shows and at the museum
- * Programs - 30-45 minutes of sharing of information, guest speakers
- * Auction - Solicit donations for auction - a real money generator
- * Excursions - Plan, advertise, take reservations, greet travelers. Do they always have to be on the rails?

Yes, you have heard it before - Many hands make light work. When you evaluate your 2005 individual goals perhaps you can find a few hours for the museum and the organization.

Help to make the Railroad Museum a viable asset to the community. Enjoy the friendship of others who appreciate the mission of the organization. It can happen - many hands make lighter work!

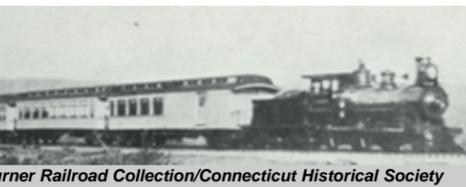
Calendar of Events

- Apr 17** Memberhsip Meetring
- May 1** Buisness Meeting
- May 7/8** Museum Opens for the 2005 season
- May 14/15** The Ghosts Of Windham - Historical skits at various locations around town - watch for more details.
- May 15** Memberhsip Meeting
- May 22** Willimantic Riverfest - Watch for more details
- Jun 5** Buisness Meeting
- Jun 11** 2nd Annual Night Photo Shoot - Watch for more details soon
- Jun 19** Memberhsip Meeting



Thomas J. Nanos photo

Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum & Connecticut Eastern Chapter, NRHS, Inc.
P.O. Box 665
Willimantic, CT 06226



1972 Dodge Crane Truck

By Richard Arnold

The idea of acquiring a 1972 Dodge Truck Crane came about at the Chapter's 11/7/04 business meeting. Mark Granville mentioned that member Carl Matson of Waterbury knew of a truck crane that could be donated to the museum. Both Dick Arnold and Bob Hassett said they would contact Carl and arrange to inspect the truck and see if it would serve the museum needs.



R.A. LaMay photo

On 11/12/04 Dick Arnold and Bob Hassett met with Carl at a local donut shop in the Waterbury area, which was a short distance from where Burton's Monument Shop, Inc. was located. A short time later that morning everyone met with Dick Burton. Dick Burton said he had a 1972 Dodge Truck Crane and that he had purchased a newer replacement, which had a longer crane. After the discussions everyone went outside where Dick Burton then started up the truck and demonstrated how the crane worked. The Dodge is powered by a Cummins diesel engine, which had been rebuilt a year earlier.

On 11/24/04 Dick Arnold and Bob Hassett returned to Waterbury to accept the donation and prepare the transfer of ownership paperwork. During the inspection it was noted that a couple items needed to be taken care of. The charging system wasn't working, so both the alternator and voltage regulator were removed so they could be checked out. A window in the cab was broken and the tires weren't roadworthy. Due to these problems the truck crane would be move to the museum on a flat bed

trailer.

Dick Arnold made contact with Botticello Construction Co. of Manchester to see if they would donate the move from Waterbury to Willimantic. They agreed and on 12/4/04 Dick Arnold and Bob Hassett installed the rebuilt alternator, which was purchased by Bob Hassett for \$75.

Rick Botticello and his son Ricky arrived with their low bed trailer. The truck crane was loaded and went to Willimantic. It was noted

during the loading of the truck crane the air brake cans were damaged. Another Botticello family business, Botticello Used Truck Parts came to the rescue by donating two good brake cans. These were installed on 12/11/04.

The history of the truck crane started with the Penn Central Railroad. Once Conrail took over most of the bankrupt northeast freight railroads the truck crane continued operating for Conrail. Once Conrail decided it didn't need the truck crane it ended up with Burton's Monument Shop Inc.

A cash outlay of \$75, the donation of parts and transportation, and the work of three museum members brought a very important and useful piece of equipment to the Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum.

A BIG THANK YOU to all involved.

NHRR NE-5 Caboose #618

Story & Photos by Robert LaMay

Built by Pullman Standard in July 1944, the New Haven Railroad caboose was classed as a NE-5. The Penn Central merger took the New Haven under its wing on January 1, 1969. After the merger Penn Central changed the New Haven numbers and its class designation. They were renumbered from the 3-digit NE-5 500 and 600 series to a 5-



Railroad Museum of New England in 1997 and stored in Old Saybrook until it was moved to Chester, Conn. A crew from the museum went to Chester on 3/17/05 and prepared it for its trip to Willimantic. Sat. March 19, 2005

another crew gathered at the museum's Bridge St. Yard to place the caboose onto a set of trucks. After this was completed it was moved to the museum later that day.

Here are some dimensions;

Carbody length - 27' 9 1/2"
Carbody width - 9' 5"
Carbody Height - 11' 2 15/32"
Cupola Height - 13' 9"
Typical Weight - 43,500 lbs.



digit 19000 number and were reclassified to NE-6. The NHRR #618 was renumbered 19882, which stayed with the caboose even after the Conrail was set up on 4/1/76.

The caboose was acquired from the



The next scheduled meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will be at Windham Community Memorial Hospital 112 Mansfield Ave., Willimantic, CT on Sunday, April 17th @ 7:00 PM. Please note: The monthly business meeting will be held on Aug 1st at the same location. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Museum & Chapter Contact Information

Chapter Leadership

President Mark Granville
mgranville@charter.net
860-456-3956

Vice President Duke York
860-423-1878

Treasurer Jeff Laverty
jefflr@cshore.com
860-429-7961

Asst-Treasurer Bob LaMay
cermf19@aol.com
860-228-9671

Secretary Bill Robinson
billrobinson@charter.net
860-456-4903

National Director Ray Axelrod
860-228-3197

Ghost Train Journal

Editor in Chief Tom Nanos
webmaster@railfanzone.com
860-729-0955

Editor Bob LaMay
cermf19@aol.com
860-228-9671

Ghost Train Journal Publication Schedule

Committee & Department News Deadline:
Monthly Membership Meeting (3rd Sunday)

Member's Submissions:
Monthly Membership Meeting (3rd Sunday)

Mailing to Members:
First Thursday after the next Business Meeting

