

The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

Cars Moved to Museum



Due to a non serious fire in the baggage car, both wooden cars were recently moved to the museum. (Story inside). (Jean Lambert Photo)

New Addition Arriving Soon



The Dining Coach that once stood in front of the Yankee Siversmith at Wallingford, CT. will be coming to the museum soon. See story inside. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 12/7/08 - Business meeting - Windham Memorial Hospital - 7:00PM
- 12/21/08 - Monthly combined Business - Windham Memorial Hospital - 7PM
- 1/4/09 - Monthly Business Meeting - Windham Memorial Hospital - 7PM
- 1/18/09 - Annual Banquet - Meeting will be held during banquet. (Details inside)

Connecticut Eastern Chapter, NRHS, Inc.
 Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum
 PO Box 665
 Wallingford, CT 06226

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The next scheduled meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will be held at Windham Memorial Hospital on

**Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008 @
7:00 PM**

Please note business meeting will be Sunday Dec. 7, 2008 at the Windham Memorial Hospital at 7:00 PM.

**Please note! If you have photos, short articles, or just want to make a comment – please forward them to:
Robert A. LaMay - Editor
@cermf19@comcast.net**

Fire Causes Move of Cars

By Richard Cizik, Jr.

Willimantic, CT. Sunday, 11/9/08. James Key, Howard Raphaelson, and Rich Cizik, Jr. were at the museum discussing the day's events and working on various projects. Around 4PM Howard left and shortly thereafter James also left. As I was getting back the project I was working on I received a call from James saying the driveway was blocked by a fire truck. The firemen were in the process of hosing down the interior of the No. 3841 baggage car. Mark Granville, Jeff Laverty, and Cliff Lund were also down there by the time I closed up and got to the baggage car. Apparently someone squeezed into the baggage car through the west door which was secured by a cable. There was just enough slack in the cable to allow the person through. This individual took a piece of PVC sewer pipe, about 18" long, stuffed it with paper, leaned it against the left jamb of the southwest baggage car door and lit it. Luckily someone saw it and called the fire department. The firemen broke through the compound gate and squeezed

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in through the cabled door to open the slides to start putting the fire out. Results of all this is there is a 7" scorch mark on the floor and a small section of the wall was charred through about 1/2 of a layer of siding. Also there was some light charring above that all the way up to the clearstory roof. It could have been a lot worse if the call hadn't gone out so soon.

Preparing to Move the Cars...

Willimantic, CT. Tuesday, 11/11/08. Walt Dumas, Dick Arnold, Rolf Johnson, Cliff Lund, Bob Hassett, Carolyn Stanich, and I met at the compound for the next phase of our project. Walt and Cliff started clearing the flange ways where the track crossed driveway. While they were doing that I started to hack back the brush and vines in the track and switch areas to determine what ties needed to be replaced. Shortly afterwards Dick and Rolf showed up and said a minimum of three ties needed to be replaced for safety reasons. Place one under the switch points and the other two under the frog for the siding. Also since

the switch stand for the second yard track was missing it was decided to clamp the points of the switch closed using the clamps from a gauge bar and the length of threaded rod. Around mid-day Carolyn made a few trips with the three wheeled vehicle for more items needed to complete the project. It took most of the day to switch out and tamp the timbers. Around 3:30PM we were ready to get the 25 ton locomotive to start moving the cars out of the compound.

The Move.....

So while Cliff and I cleared the tracks and put various car parts into the baggage car, Rolf, Dick, and Bob brought the 25 ton locomotive back along with some oil. This would be used for the bearings of the two cars. The cars were then pulled out of the compound one at a time and placed on the Air Line track. Once both cars were out, they were recoupled. After everything was checked and double-checked, the compound gate was closed, and the train headed west towards the museum. It's been sometime since a passenger train consisting of a baggage car and coach had traveled along the Air Line. The train arrived at the museum around 4:30PM. The cars are currently sitting inside the fence at the east end of the museum.



Cliff Lund (left) and Walt Dumas clear the flange-ways along museum driveway. (Jean Lambert Photo)



Rolf Johnson and Rich Cizik, Jr. help with the installation of a replacement tie. (Jean Lambert Photo)



When was the last time you saw a fully fledged passenger train moving along the Air Line? Here's one arriving at the museum at 4:30PM on 11/11/08. (Jean Lambert Photo)



The 25 ton locomotive moves the coach across the drive-way after extensive track work took place. (Jean Lambert Photo)

New Container Arrives

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One of two containers is shown above being unloaded at Columbia Junction behind the roundhouse. (Photo by Bob Hassett)



This photo shows the train shortly after it arrived inside the gate at the museum. (Jean Lambert Photo)

Annual Banquet January 18, 2008 At Leventi's Restaurant

Our annual banquet will once again be held at Leventi's located in the Columbia Shopping Center at the junctions of Route 66 and 6 in Columbia, CT. This year's speaker will be noted photographer and author John H. Roy, Jr. He has recently authored 'A Field Guide to Southern New England Railroad Depots & freight Houses'.

Our meal choices will be English Cut Prime Rib, Broiled Sea Scallops, and Baked Stuffed Chicken Breast. The costs will \$32.00. Reservations should be made by sending your check payable to CERM by 1/5/09. Do it soon as seats are limited. Please mark the check 'Annual Banquet' and indicate your meal selection. Mail check to:

**Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum
PO Box 665
Willimantic, CT 06226-0665**

Realizing that some of you travel from great distances and the weather may be of some concern, you are welcome to come on the 18th without a previous reservation. Meal selection will be limited to Prime Rib or Baked Scallops. -----

Yankee Silversmith Car No. 104 - Coming to Willimantic

By Richard Cizik, Jr.

There used to be a popular restaurant located near the junctions of Route 5 and Route 15. It was pretty easy to see since there was nicely decorated railroad coach located right in front of the restaurant. The restaurant's name was the Yankee Silversmith Inn.

The coach that stood in front of the restaurant started out as the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad No. 910, either built in 1892 by Pullman Car Works as a class PAg or in 1902 by Osgood Bradley as a class Pak car. Either way she was built as either a First Class or Parlor car, as the interior is outfitted with Quatersawn Oak that has some nice inlaid ribbon like veneer work. In December 1926 Belfast & Moosehead lake Railroad in Belfast, ME, purchased the car and one other car from the Philadelphia & Reading, and it

became B&ML No. 11. In 1960 the Black River & Western Railroad located in Ringos, NJ purchased the car and it became BR&W No. 104. In August 1970 the owner of the Yankee Silversmith Inn of Wallingford, CT purchased the car and brought it to Meriden, CT on flat cars. Trucks were on one car and the body was on another. On August 26th, 1970 there was a small parade from the Meriden railroad yard to the site of the inn where a panel track was put in place for the car to sit on.

In July 2007 there was a fire in the attic of the inn and the subsequent water damage from the sprinklers was too much to repair and keep the inn open. Luckily the sprinklers in the coach did not activate. So the owners approached multiple historical societies to see if anyone was interested in the coach. Some were interested, but the quotes from moving and storage companies were much too expensive to accept. For us, we got a break as we found an affordable way to move the car. A museum member stepped forward to front the funds for the move, of which one half will be a three year loan and the other half will be considered a donation. Currently the cars are located just inside the east gate just before you get to the main entrance to the museum village area.



This is the view of what people see as they drive by the coach that sits next to a very busy Route 5 in Wallingford, CT. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

What's New Around the Museum



This photo shows the latest progress on pit track No. 3. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



This photo shows the latest progress taking place of the Central Vermont No. 4052 caboose. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

Goods & Services Auction Went Well



Auctioneer Ernie Eldridge barks out the bids as museum president Mark Granville handles the goods. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

Train Display Opens Portland, Ct.

The Connecticut Cellar Savers Fire Museum will be open on weekends from 11:00AM to 4:00PM from Nov. 28, 2008 to Jan. 11, 2009. People and families should visit and view the multi-gauge layouts. For more information please call 860-342-1187.



Tracy Ives points out some things for her son Tyler at the display in Portland, CT. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)