

The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

P&W waits for Ethanol Extra



Five P&W locomotives wait just west of Bridge St. for the ethanol extra which the NECR was interchanging with P&W at Willimantic, CT. A short time after leaving Willimantic the train incurred a major derailment. See complete story inside. (Thomas J. Nanos Photo)

Eagle Scout Plan Approved



The Chaplin Shanty was lowered onto a flatbed trailer and will be delivered to a location where Owen Pender will work on his approved project of restoring the shanty to its finished condition. Watch for more on this. (R.A. LaMay Photo)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- 5/1/2010 – Museum Opens for 2010 Season with Heritage Metal Fest 9:00AM – 4:00PM
- 4/18/2010 – Monthly membership meeting – Windham Memorial Hospital – 7:00PM
- 4/4/2010 – Monthly business meeting – Windham Memorial Hospital – 7:00PM

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

Vol. 32 Number 3– March 2010

The next scheduled meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will be held at Windham Memorial Hospital on **Sunday, Apr. 18, 2010 @ 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

Ethanol Train Takes New Turn

By Robert A. LaMay – Editor

Very early in the morning an eighty car ethanol train was making a normal trip from North Dakota. The Canadian Pacific Railroad delivered the train to the Vermont Rail System who took the train south and delivered it to the New England Central Railroad. They in turn brought it to Willimantic, CT where P&W Railroad locomotives were waiting to take the train on its last leg to Providence, RI. Once the power exchange took place the P&W continued its eastern trip. Everything so far was going according to plan. Once the train crossed the Shetucket River something went terribly wrong. It was approx. 3AM when four cars near the end of the train derailed resulting in three of the four cars to roll down an embankment. The fourth car derailed but remained upright. The last five cars on the train didn't derail. The area was quickly secured and R. J. Corman, noted railroad wreck clean-up Company was called. For the next week the clean-up continued while local fire departments remained on the scene with round the clock coverage. Once it was determined it was safe to do so, the remaining cars on the train continued onto its destination of Providence, RI. During the ensuing days the derailed cars uprighted the ethanol was offloaded. The last derailed car was emptied and re-railed. The last five cars were removed from the scene and went to Providence.

Winter 2009

Chapter Leadership

President Mark Granville
mfgranville@charter.net
860-456-3956
Vice President Duke York
860-423-1878
Treasurer Jeff Laverty
jeffr@cshore.com
860-429-7961
Asst-Treasurer Vacant
Secretary Bill Robinson
wer384@att.net
860-456-4903
National Director Ray Axelrod
860-228-3197
Newsletter Editor – Bob LaMay
860-228-9671

Cermf19@comcast.net

Museum Website -

www.cteastrrmuseum.org



Looking along the tracks where a P&W ethanol train derailed. Three cars derailed in the background on left. (Photo courtesy - Chaplin Volunteer Fire Department)



R.J. Corman workers assess the derailment scene to determine how the clean-up should be completed. Three loaded cars rolled down the embankment (on right) these cars were turned over and then unloaded. (Photo courtesy- Windham Center Volunteer Fire Department)



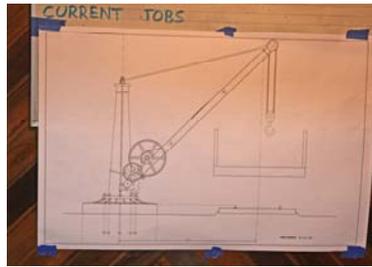
Equipment from various fire companies gathered in an open area not too far from the derailment scene which was behind the trees where the fire truck is parked in center of photo . (Photo courtesy - Chaplin Volunteer Fire Department)



The fourth car to derail didn't overturn. Here R.J. Corman rerails the car so the car can be off-loaded and towed away. (Photo courtesy - Windham Center Volunteer Fire Department)



This photo courtesy Windham Center Volunteer Fire Department shows 2 of the 3 cars that were turned upright so the ethanol could be offloaded. The truck can be seen through the trees behind the derailed railroad cars.



A drawing of the museum's pillar crane hangs inside the section house. Once the weather turns warmer work should begin on this project. (R. LaMay Photo)

What Goes Around Comes Around Janet Atkins

It's time of the year again for sprucing up the museum grounds and it will include some activities in the parking lot gardens. You have shown your support by working to establish the garden, contributing plant stock and enjoying the continuing blooms through the seasons which are attracting hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. The job is not done yet and so we are looking for some workers on Saturday April 17, 2010 at 10AM. If necessary, we will set a rain date of April 24, 2010 at the same time. Bring your rakes, your gloves and a happy attitude to help us prepare for the 2010 season.

Planting will not begin until later in the spring but we need have you keep an eye out for catnip and Walker's Low. Purple bee balm would add to the bee balsms reds and pinks already planted and seem to be very happy with this setting. If you know anyone who would like to contribute from their own gardens, or give plantings in memorial or honor of someone, we would be most appreciative. This year's goal is to basically get the plantings done and move into the maintenance area.



Work has begun on the restoration of Pit No. 2. Photo shows Adrian Adkins putting wooden stakes so alignment strings can be attached. This will help during the restoration of Pit 2. (Photo



Art Hall Jr helps with the lowering of the Chaplin Shanty onto the awaiting flatbed trailer. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



After getting clearance the ethanol extra with its 71 cars continued its journey. Shown here approaching Rte 14A in Plainfield, CT. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

The Ghost Train Journal

Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society



John Ference applies his masonry skills during the restoration of the brick walls in Pit 2. John is shown here repairing the end wall facing the turntable pit. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Photo above right shows Matt West And son Ben at Spring Train Show (Photo By Robert A. LaMay)

Trail Walks – June & July 2010

Ray Axelrod

We need guides for additional Walktober dates. On June 5, 2010 Ray Axelrod will be leading a walk on the Hop River Trail for the Columbia and Lebanon Historical Societies and the Columbia Lions. You are welcome to join these walks. We will be discussing history during the walks, especially in the area of the Hop River Village, station, and the railroad. The walk will be about 1 to 1 ½ miles in length. Rain-date will be Sunday June 6th, or Sat. June 12th. On Sat. July 10th there will be a follow-up walk on the Airline Trail from Chesboro Road which contains a deep fill and bypass area. Please contact Ray 860-228-3197 for additional information.

Winter 2009



Andrea Brandi along with son James from Middletown, CT. are enjoying our Spring Train Show. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)



Is Rolf Johnson working on a new archiological dig? No – he’s involved with the museum’s newest project – Big Dig at Columbia Jct. Restoration of Pit 2. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)