

# The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

## New Crane Used in Night Shoot



This excellent photo by Tom Nanos shows off our new crane recently donated by the P&W RR. Please read a more detailed article inside. (Tom Nanos Photo)

## Progress at the Landing



This photo taken 11/12/16 is looking east and shows up to date progress in the Landing. Please see detailed article inside. (Robert A. LaMay Photo)

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

## Mark Your Calendar:

12/18/2016 – Monthly Business Meeting – 7:00PM – Windham Hospital  
12/02/2016 – Trains, Toys & Trees Event – Details Inside  
01/15/2017 = Annual Banquet – Details Inside



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

Vol. 41 No. 11 – November 2016

The next scheduled meeting of the Connecticut Eastern Chapter, National Railway Historical Society will be held at Windham Memorial Hospital on **Sunday, Dec 18, 2016 @ 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**

## Locomotive Crane Arrives

By Adrian Atkins

Providence & Worcester Railroad Company offered us a 25 ton locomotive crane in October 2013. Our response was an astounding YES, especially when they agreed to deliver it at no cost to the museum. The rail mounted American Crane with a 40' lattice boom, model #825G now sits on our tracks at the west end of the museum. It had P&W number TC0401. It was built around 1945 for one of the railroads in Maine which was eventually purchased by the P&W RR. P&W had been using it for various MOW projects, mainly bridge work. This would be the last crane they would own.

The crane is in relatively good condition. It was overhauled in 1978 and had a major overhaul of the lattice boom in 2011 that included new cables.

In June 2015, the P&W RR delivered it to the siding along our driveway. Their track condition between where the crane sat and our western gate was in deplorable condition. So the crane sat and time

Fall 2016

## Chapter Leadership

President Mark Granville  
mfgranville@charter.net  
860-456-3956  
Vice President Duke York  
860-423-1878  
Treasurer Jeff Laverty  
jeffrr@cshore.com  
860-429-7961  
Asst-Treasurer Jean Lambert  
860-942-1071  
Secretary Vacant  
National Director Ray Axelrod  
860-228-3197  
Newsletter Editor – Bob LaMay  
860- 530.1278

[Cermf19@comcast.net](mailto:Cermf19@comcast.net)

**Museum Website -**

[www.cteastrrmuseum.org](http://www.cteastrrmuseum.org)

Like Us on Face Book

passed. Finally on August 26, 2016 a P&W MOW crew started up the crane and slowly inched its way, under its own power as everyone watched to be sure the rail didn't spread. All went well and a short time later it was on museum property. As it turned out it was a big hit for Railroad Day and it was used a couple of times during our annual night photo shoot. A BIG THANK YOU to the P&W RR for everything they've done.

## Trains, Toys & Trees

Pieter Roos

Prep work is underway for the 2016-2017 Trains, Toys, & Trees exhibit which will take place at the Mill Museum December 2, 3, 4; 9, 10, 11; 16, 17, 18; and 1/6, 1/7, 1/8/2017. Much work needs to be

done in preparation of this event. The Mayor has agreed to portray Santa. This should prove to be an exciting event. For more info please contact [Pieter\\_roos@yahoo.com](mailto:Pieter_roos@yahoo.com).

## Land Expansion Progress

By Adrian Atkins

The present expansion area on the west end of the museum is expanding. We had previously filled the landing area in order to provide a level usable area. Fill depths approach 12 feet. Earlier this year the State of C DOT granted permission to fill in the gulch between our present landing and the P&W RR siding to the north (Near Rte 66 overpass).

We have requested the State add this area to our lease. They have agreed to this verbally, but nothing has been received yet. There may be some technical difficulties. In any event, at the extreme west end of the landing fill, our chain link perimeter fence is at the bottom of the 12' high fill. With a 2:1 fill slope this means the top level of the usable area of our fill is 24' in from our property line. By permitting us to fill the gulch and level out this area, we are raising our perimeter fence vertically 12'. This gives us 24' more usable area with no change to our lease. If they permit us to move the fence we will gain more usable area. As I see it, this is the only chance for the museum to obtain more land looking ahead.

The land clearing portion of the project has been completed. This was a delicate operation as trees sizes were up to 18" in diameter and were quite tall. All we had was a narrow drop zone between our perimeter fence and the P&W RR tracks.

# The Ghost Train Journal



Photo Credit: Turner Railroad Collection/Connecticut Historical Society

Overhead power lines along Route 66 were also a concern as well as Route 66 itself. Many trees had a decided inclination to lean over our fence. A stout cable, snatch block and the back hoe made these trees decide to change direction when they fell. Paul Bunyans – in training – namely, Art Hall, Jr., and Dan Ditullio, Jean-Paul Violette, and Ed Sheckleton, and others, provided the muscle needed.

With the trees out of the way, we now started hauling the fill, stockpiled from the trail project, and raising our perimeter fence. Ed Sheckleton has developed a technique to get a sling around the fence post and chain link fabric all at once; with his long fingers he was able to work on both sides of the fence at the same time. Once the sling was attached to the backhoe we raised one post 12". By working back and forth the fill was going in and the fence is rising at the same time. On the east end the fence is all the way up and is about 1/2 way up to the west end. Now you can start to see the benefit of this project.

Work has now started on a slope drainage ditch at the west end. Weather permitting we may complete this project this year.

.....

The photos to the right show the progress since April 2016. The top 2 photos were taken by Adrian Atkins and the bottom photo by Bob LaMay.

Compare these to the photo on the front page to see what progress has been made to date.



