

THE MARKER LIGHT

NUMBER 5

THE PORT HURON & DETROIT RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING 2010

FED 501 RECEIVED!

EVENTS CALENDAR for 2010

2010 LIMITED-EDITION CALENDAR AVAILABLE

CASTLEBLAYNEY UPDATE

HIDDEN AWAY: PH&D #1068

RESTORATION NEWS

TRAINS MAG: *ROUNDHOUSE*

ACQUISITIONS: *THE PULLMAN COMPANY STEPBOX*

DBC&W/DC&S NEWS

REMEMBERING TRUDE SCHMIDT

PANCAKE & BACON FUNDRAISER



4-WHEEL "BOBBER" #51 ca Early 1940's

COVER: This 4-wheel "bobber" caboose #51 didn't sit well with the crews. Being too light, they got bounced around!

PG. 2: From Where I Sit; 2010 CALENDAR of EVENTS

PG. 3: 2010 EDITION CALENDAR

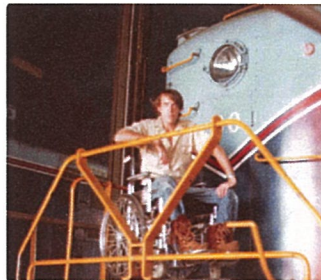
PG. 4: *Castleblayne* Update; PH&D #1068

PG. 5: Office Restoration News; Trains Magazine: Roundhouse!

PG. 6: ACQUISITIONS: The Pullman Company Stepbox

PG. 7: DBC&W CLUB; Remembering Trude Schmidt

PG. 8: FUNDRAISER: Pancake & Bacon Breakfast; Join!; Purpose; Board of Directors



Dear Friends of the PH&D,

In a letter from the Internal Revenue Service dated February 16, 2010, we received the following notification: *"We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the code."*

FROM WHERE I SIT

This is great news to all of us who have the dream of creating a transportation museum at the 32nd Street "wye", honoring the railroads of the thumb region. This gives us the green light to go after grants, endowments, gifts, and other funding sources.

The 32nd Street complex, which includes the former offices and roundhouse of the Port Huron & Detroit Railroad, is the most unique in all of the U.S.: no other facility has within a clearly-defined footprint, everything that makes a classic short line railroad. We have an historical asset that exists in only a mere handful of states.

The finance committee has already begun work on a plan to develop a capital fund drive. Shortly, we will have the funds to replace the roof on the west office building and to install glass in the windows of the Agent's Office. As we progress, you loyal PH&D railfans will certainly have a chance to help us go forward.

The calendar looks great this year. We have 4 events planned which will give you and your friends the opportunity to come and experience an active rail yard from a comfortable and safe vantage point. All but one event is scheduled to be within the "wye". See you this summer!

Sandy Duffy, Editor

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PORT HURON MODEL RAILROAD SHOW	SUNDAY, APRIL 25 ~ 10 4:00PM	McMORRAN PLACE
SPRING RAILFAN PICNIC	SUNDAY, JUNE 20 ~ NOON - 3:00PM	PH&DRR "WYE"
HOBIFEST 2010	FRIDAY-SUNDAY, SEPT 17, 18 & 19	" "
FALL RAILFAN BBQ	SUNDAY, OCT 3 ~ NOON - 3:00PM	" "
CHRISTMAS SEASON SOCIAL	SUNDAY, DEC 12 NOON - 3:00PM	QUAY ST. BREWING CO.

THIS SPRING, RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIPS & GET THE NEW 2010 CALENDAR!

THE PORT HURON & DETROIT RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2010 EDITION CALENDAR



\$15.00

(Photo from the Kurt Stetzer Collection)

2010 EDITION CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

PH&D Railfans! The 2010 Edition Calendar is now available, with a sturdier binding allowing an easy flip to the next month. It's perfect for birthdays, gifts, and those interested in local railroad history. Don't fail to obtain this edition to add to your collection! Those who managed to snag the rare Premier Edition 2009, will certainly want this to add this to keep current.

12 unpublished photos of vintage scenes from long ago grace this year's calendar. Among the photos included are a rare 1941 shot of the Marine City "wye", an interior of the roundhouse detailing the tire-changing apparatus, and a Michigan Railroad Club "extra" consist, parked along the west "wye" in Port Huron, waiting to head south all the way to Marine City.

Like last year, limited copies are available, so order now! \$15 !



At the GoldCoast Museum siding, photo by Amaro Rocha

CASTLEBLAYNEY UPDATE

As of April 12, a request for invoice was submitted to the FEC (Florida East Coast). We hope that by waving a check in front of their eyes, a move will finally be initiated. Mechanically, the car is ready and inspections have been made and or agreed upon. Owner DeWitt Chapple is trying to get them to route the move from FEC, NS, then to the CN in Detroit where the car may come up the Mt. Clemens subdivision for the CSX interchange. No word as of April 18. Everyone pray!



OFFICE RESTORATION NEWS

The Finance Committee has identified three funding opportunities to help pay for restoration work on the office. Our goals this year are to complete a roof replacement and install glass windows in the corner Agent's office.

The first event will be held on Saturday, July 10th, during Cruise Weekend, at the 24th annual Dome Reunion, now known as *Reunion 2010*. We expect to raise money from sales of merchandise throughout the night.

The next morning, on Sunday, July 11, the Society will be receiving a second infusion by splitting the proceeds with another non-profit from a pancake and bacon breakfast. And third, we are starting a marketing

campaign in May to promote ticket sales for the annual Hobo King and Queen leading up to the Port Huron Hobofest, scheduled for the weekend of September 17th.

In other news, the Society has applied for and received a construction drop for electrical power which gives us the means to power up hand tools and temporary lighting. As soon as the weather permits, we plan to schedule a number of work weekends to clean out some of the more usable office rooms, remove more debris caused by the leaky roof, and bring in lighting equipment. We will send out fliers to all members so you'll know when to join us. Usually it's on a Saturday, and we will provide coffee, donuts, and maybe an order from Mancinos!

Spring time also means we need to do some landscaping, to clean up after winter. We'll need a lawnmower, weedwackers, and handtools, such as shovels, hoes, and rakes. Keeping our property neat and tidy deters those who might have malicious intent.

So keep an eye out for a flyer coming your way!

ROUNDHOUSE NEWS

Inside the March issue of Trains Magazine is an extensive article on "The Rise and Fall of the American Roundhouse".

As members, we know the importance of our PH&DRR roundhouse. Being one of nine surviving examples in Michigan makes our building a true rarity. The Trains issue helps hammer this reality home and comes at a time when we can promote our Society.

People in our community need to know about our roundhouse and how they can play a part in helping to save and eventually restore it to an operating vintage historical structure.

While we don't have title to the building, we can let people know that this is worth saving. The lucky communities that do have surviving examples are **New Buffalo, Adrian, Niles, Holland, Manistee, Saginaw, Bay City, Alpena, and Port Huron.**

If you are interested in becoming a roundhouse savior, come to our June 20 picnic where you can see firsthand what the real McCoy looks like.

WISHFUL THINKING DEPT.

One Matt Voelker found PH&D #1068, buried on a siding at Utica, New York in September of 2009. And you didn't think any of these were left! Be nice to take a road trip to try to track this down.



Photo courtesy of RR Picture Archives.net by M. Voelker

Sister car #1066 was seen at the east leg of the wye in the early 1980's. Both cars were part of a lease agreement which sent a number of these 50' 1000 series XM cars to the PH&D, built and registered through SSI, a leasing company.



Photo by H. Fleming, Duffy Collection

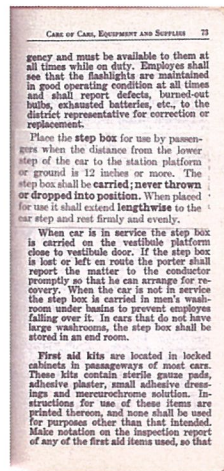
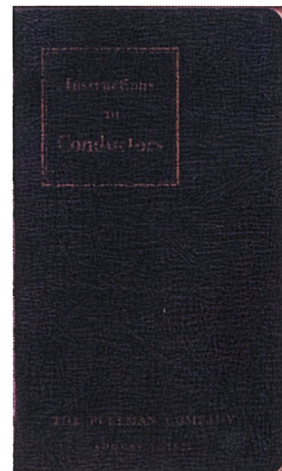
ACQUISITIONS: THE PULLMAN COMPANY STEP BOX

Any rail museum collection always includes the famous Pullman step box. It was the first thing placed for passenger use and the last to be taken up.

Conductors and porters were issued rule books which spelled out in great detail how they were to handle themselves on passenger trains. Every employee had to become familiar with these books to ensure the safety and comfort of their passengers. On all trains and in all stations, the step box was the first piece of equipment that initiated contact with the departing and arriving passenger. It was an important part of the ritual of greeting and acknowledging. The Pullman Company couldn't emphasize enough the value of that first contact with the customer, and the step box played a crucial role making the passenger feel welcome.

On page 73 of every book, special instructions described the handling of the step box.

Even today, that same ritual occurs in countless Amtrak stations across America and employees everywhere repeat the process of welcoming guests, just like their counterparts from the days of Pullman service.



Obtaining the Pullman step box isn't that difficult; they appear regularly on Ebay. Curiously, condition is in reverse to value. As long as it's in decent shape, with no dings, dents, or cracks, and all four rubber feet relatively intact, these will fetch anywhere from \$100 to \$300 each, depending upon origin. Provenance has to be solid.

Class I railroad boxes will always generate decent prices. Locally, if the connection to the Grand Trunk Western, The Pere Marquette, or the Chesapeake and Ohio Pullman service is identified, those step boxes will command higher than average prices.

Pullman Company artifacts continue to attract buyers, nostalgic for that era of classic rail passenger travel and the PH&DRRHS acquisition team is always on the lookout for items which we will feature in our displays in the future.

If you have items you wish to donate to be displayed with your name or your relative's rail connection, contact us!



Many companies produced the Pullman step box and all adhered to strict design standards. All had the raised diamond pattern with "Pullman" in the center.



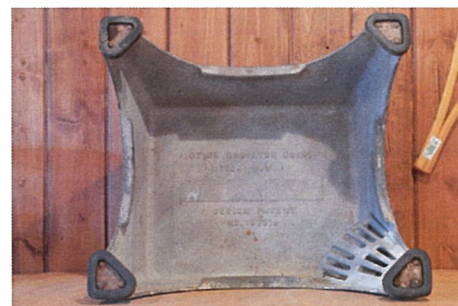
Although all boxes were virtually identical, some were delivered custom painted. Note the similar rubber foot-pads on both this example and below.



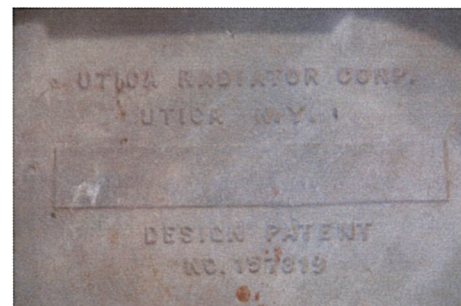
Magline Inc., of Pinconning, still exists. Although many others put out the same step box, having one in our inventory from a Michigan company is a plus!



Collectors can find these metal boxes in fairly decent shape. Having a well-used step box doesn't detract from its value, as long as it's free of dents and cracks.



"Design Patent No. 157319" was embossed on all boxes, regardless of manufacturer.



Utica Radiator Corporation, founded in 1928, was a manufacturer of heating systems for home and offices. It merged in 1999 as part of the ECR company.

DBC&W/DC&S NEWS

Hello, my name is David Cenci, unofficial head of the Detroit Bay City & Western/Detroit Caro & Sandusky Historical group. Our pursuit of the DBC&W began back in 2005, while researching the former GTW "Cass City Sub (exPO&N). From our initial research (the interchange at Wilmot), we have witnessed the flow of information go from a trickle to a river in a short time. Things really began to come together, information-wise, with our first DBC&W/DC&S "Road Rally" (Wilmot to Bay City) in 2006. Since then, we have seen interest and information come in like an avalanche; interest peaked to the point that we went ahead and set up our second DBC&W/DC&S "Road Rally" (Wilmot to Port Huron) in the spring of 2008.

The DBC&W/DC&S group officially came together with the PH&D group in the spring of 2009 when we held a "History Summit" in Caro. Mr. Sandy Duffy was in attendance. The 2 Handy roads were, for the first time since the late 1920's, back together again. Our main goal is to bring the history of this ill fated railroad out for everyone to enjoy. As much as we have found, we still have lots of information yet to find or verify. Model railroaders have also become interested in the railroad and plan to model or base a railroad on the DBC&W.

The DBC&W/DC&S group is hosting our 2010 "Road Rally" on April 24th. We'll cover the north end Pontiac, Oxford & Northern branch (PO&N), which was a Handy brothers' railroad for a short time. The Rally runs from Clifford to Caseville. Lunch will be optional and a poyluck dinner will be provided when we arrive in Caseville, with a sidetrip to the Huron & Eastern Railroad yard in Bad Axe. Details on where we start, contact me at Railnut19@Yahoo.com

For those with information, or have a question regarding the DBC&W/DC&S, feel free to contact my-

REMEMBERING TRUDE SCHMIDT 1927-2010



Trude Schmidt was one of our first *Castleblayney Club* donors. When she learned that we were raising funds to pay to move the car from Miami to Michigan, she insisted that she be included among the initial group who generously committed to help out. She was always cheerful and always inquired about the status of the car.

Trude attended the first meetings of the Society and really enjoyed seeing how many people were so excited about getting involved. She especially enjoyed learning about the history of the railroad, as she had taught the subject in Belleville area high schools.

She was a woman who always thought positively in spite of her own illness. We will all miss her style, her spunk, and her smile.

FUNDRAISER: PANCAKE & BACON BREAKFAST

We need about a dozen volunteers to help serve as many as 1500 breakfasts on Sunday, July 11. The Society is splitting the proceeds of a pancake and bacon breakfast with another group. We must have manpower to get our half of the dough.

Our duties are very simple: we serve what comes off the grills. That's it. The grills will be handled by the Port Huron Masons. As the goods come off, we load the plates and the customers will take them to the syrup and butter bar. That's it. Easy work for potentially big bucks for the roof job.

Please email me (whlrydr@aol.com) or call (810-984-1931) to add your name to the list. Thanks! And be sure to bring the whole family!

PH PORT HURON and DETROIT RAILROAD CO.
- St. Clair Blue Water Route -

D PORT HURON & DETROIT RAILROAD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP CARD

NAME: _____

JOINED: _____ MO _____ YR

PRESIDENT: _____

New regulations regarding access to U.S. rail yards are in effect, administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and subject to local enforcement agencies. Accordingly, those with PH&DRRHS membership cards must stay on the west half of the "wye" parking area (PH&DRRHS property) and be able to present their cards to authorized personnel from either CSX, CN, or St. Clair County Sheriffs, if requested.

The purpose of
The Port Huron & Detroit Railroad Historical Society is:

To collect, archive, preserve, and present, all for the education of the community, historical documents, photographs, drawings, artifacts and equipment relating to The Port Huron & Detroit Railroad Company and its predecessors, The Port Huron Southern Railway and The Detroit Bay City & Western Railroad, as well as the Grand Trunk Western/Canadian National, the Pere Marquette/Chesapeake and Ohio/CSX.

To obtain, restore and maintain the roundhouse at 32nd Street for use as a museum, as well as other structures, artifacts, and rolling stock, as they may become available;

To accumulate, conserve, and index all data relating to the above-named railroads for the use of scholars, rail fans and scale modelers.

JOIN NOW AND GET ONBOARD!

The Port Huron & Detroit Railroad needs your talent. There is so much to be done, especially at these beginning stages.

We need you to help out committees, contribute your time with hands on restoration projects, and be on board at this early, critical stage.

Membership, publicity, web design, resource development, restoring the office, lawn mowing, and acquisitions, are just a few of the areas that you can help out with.

You'll get 4 nifty newsletters, and a chance to be a part of creating the area's first railroad transportation museum complex!

**BOARD of DIRECTORS
2009-10**

- George Y. Duffy, Jr.**
- Ted Frantz**
- Thomas Grambau**
- Joseph Mericka**
- Bruce Sawdon**
- Earl Shoulders**
- James Watson**

OLD PHOTOS? WE'LL SCAN & RETURN!
EMAIL whlrydr@aol.com or
CALL 810-984-1931

GET OTHERS ON THE MAILING LIST!
EMAIL tom.grambau.trw.com