

# Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society 19 Incorporated 71 NEWSLETTER

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## — B&MRRHS CALENDAR —

- MAY 3, 1997** Our 25th Anniversary Extravaganza. Members meeting and slide presentation will be presented in the Boott Mills complex beginning at 1:30 PM. Our banquet will be at 7:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you there to help celebrate 25 years of the B&MRRHS.
- JUNE 21, 1997** We're heading to the Hobo Railroad for a trip from Tilton to Lincoln and return. Please see the enclosed flyer for further details and ticket ordering information. We look forward to seeing you there.
- JULY 25-27, 1997** We will again be manning the B&M Combine for our exhibit during the Lowell Folk Festival. Volunteers are needed and please drop a note to the Society's PO Box in Woburn or call and leave a message on "TAD." No regular meeting this month in Lowell.
- AUGUST 1997** At press time nothing is set, but there is a possibility of the dedication of the B&M #410 with National Park, Guilford, and Lowell officials attending.
- SEPT. 20, 1997** Our annual trek to the Conway Scenic Railroad in the North Country. A flyer will be enclosed with the next issue. There will be no regular meeting in Lowell during the month of September.

**REMEMBER THE MEETINGS ARE AT 7:00 PM AND WILL BE IN THE  
BOOTT MILL COMPLEX (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED).**

**DIRECTIONS**—at the traffic light near the Mogan Center, take a right or left depending on which way you come down French St., go past the little guard shack, between parking lot and Boarding House Park, and over the trolley tracks and bridge. Into the courtyard bear to the right and go to the end. The doorway will be lighted and there is plenty of parking and security. Also look for signs.

## RAILROAD TO TAKE BACK PROPERTY

OSSIPEE, N.H.—The Boston & Maine RR is going to take back some property the town of Ossipee took for taxes by mistake. According to town Administrator Tom Gaydos, the mistake goes back to 1982, when the B&M sold some of its land and buildings, including the railroad station on Rt. 28 in Ossipee Village. The area in question is the lot next to the station, however town records show it was sold.

CTP Properties of Wolfboro was incorrectly entered as the owner. The town took the property for nonpayment of back taxes. It is deeded to the town which had officials worried over the responsibility of cleaning up possible oil spills from old tanks on the property.

After the mistake was discovered, letters were sent to Guilford Transportation Ind. And any other possible owners, said Gaydos. Guilford claimed the property and offered to pay back taxes but asked since it was the town's mistake that interest and penalties be waived.

Selectmen voted unanimously to waive penalties and interest and to authorize Tax Collector Barbara Adams to enter into negotiations with a representative of the B&M. Adams said she spoke with a GTI representative who agreed to pay \$7,932 in taxes owed from 1992 to 1996, subject to approval of his superiors.

*(Granite State News)*

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## FORMER B&M BRANCH NOW A WALKWAY

MARBLEHEAD, MA.—With the addition of two new bridges and the digging up of abandoned rails, the former Marblehead Branch is now open for walking and biking. According to Dennis Curtin, a local environmentalist, the trail was once used for train service but now all that is there is "ghost trains."

For now it is part of the folklore along with the Lead Mills that once produced bullets for the Revolutionary War up to WW II. The mills burned down in the 1960s.

He just recently walked the path with a 70-year-old woman who said "the last time I was on the line was when trains ran." Curtin hopes that after all the work that has gone into the walkway that vandals do not ruin it. At the present time there are no signs along the path.

The walkway starts at Lafayette St. in Salem (Forest River station) and goes the entire distance to downtown Marblehead.

*(Salem Evening News)*

### **"There's No Business Like Show Business..."**

If you or someone you know would like to do a slide or movie presentation for the B&MRRHS, please contact our Program Chairman, Jim Byington. He can be reached through the Society's telephone at (617) 628-4053, or by dropping a line to Jim at the B&MRRHS P.O. Box in Woburn.

## MBTA CONSIDERS ENDING AMTRAK PARTNERSHIP

BOSTON, MA.—Dissatisfied with the level of service, the MBTA may drop Amtrak as operator of its commuter rail service. State Trans. Sec. James J. Kerasiotes, who also is chairman of the MBTA Board of Directors, (I see conflict of interest here—Ed.), said Amtrak's maintenance and on-time performance were not up to snuff.

"Either Amtrak shapes up, or we get out," Kerasiotes said. "I don't think anybody's satisfied." Members of the board put off action to await a report the MBTA staff is preparing on Amtrak service.

Amtrak officials said that rider complaints have dropped 45% since July 1 and trains are on time more than 95% as required by the MBTA. "Day-in and day-out, Amtrak's commuter rail service equals or beats the performance of any commuter railroad in the country," said Rick Remington, a spokesperson for Amtrak.

"The fact that we achieved this performance under adverse conditions, caused by the closing and razing of the former Boston & Maine Engine Terminal, is a tribute to the hard work of the men and women of Amtrak," added Remington, referring to the new MBTA northside maintenance shop.

*(Boston Herald)*

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## LRTA REPORT: N. BILLERICA DEPOT MAY BE SUITABLE

Billerica, Ma.—The historical buffs seem to be winning the battle over the "to raze or not to raze, but to rehabilitate" the North Billerica train station.

Robert Kennedy, director of the Lowell Regional Transit Authority, said that a structural engineer hired by the LRTA to assess the old train station indicates "the building is in a lot better condition" than originally thought.

The LRTA wants to pump more than \$1.1 million into improvements to the site, including paving and lights in the parking lots. The original plan was to tear down the old depot and spend \$250,000 building a bigger and better one with ticket, food and restroom facilities. The depot with its crumbling roof and questionable foundation, has been condemned by the town building inspector.

Local historical groups balked at razing the 128 year-old station, but LRTA officials said they would walk from the project if the old depot was razed. Now officials seem more agreeable to rehabilitating the station after an appeal by the Mass. Historical Commission. The depot, which is on the State and National Registers of Historical Places, is under the Mass. Historical Commission, who has power over the project.

The structural engineer's findings are being analyzed by SVT, a Cambridge based consulting firm. They will submit a report that will include cost estimates for the depot.

*(Lowell Sun)*



## FOR THOSE WITH ACCESS TO THE WEB...

Here are a few web-sites to check out on the internet:

*RUMORS & SIGHTINGS ON AND AROUND  
SPRINGFIELD TERMINAL*

[www.tiac.net/users/terwilli](http://www.tiac.net/users/terwilli)

*UNOFFICIAL GUILFORD RAIL SYSTEM*  
[pages.map.com/jdietz/grs.html](http://pages.map.com/jdietz/grs.html)

*HOOSAC TUNNEL*  
[www.intac.com/~jsumberg](http://www.intac.com/~jsumberg)

## FIRE DESTROYS FORMER FREIGHT HOUSE

WINCHESTER, N.H.—A former railroad warehouse on Elm St. burned to the ground about 2:00 am on 3/19/97. Nearby neighbors could hear exploding paint cans in the 30 X 50 foot building and called the Southwestern N.H. Fire Mutual Aid dispatch center in Keene.

Firefighters from Winchester, Hinsdale, and Swanzey were able to contain the blaze to the building, which was being used to store pallets. Flames were extinguished by 2:30 and the adjacent passenger depot and a 100-foot shed were spared.

The building originally was used by the Boston & Maine Railroad as a freight depot and had been abandoned for some time, then used as a lumber yard and was just recently occupied by a company that was going to repair pallets, explained Winchester assistant fire chief Smith Pratt.

There were no injuries at the fire and the cause of it was unknown. This was on the former Ashuelot Branch that ran from Keene to Dole Jct. on the Conn River mainline of the Boston & Maine.

*(Manchester Union Leader)*

### NOTICE OF ARCHIVES HOURS

The B&MRRHS archives are located in the Patrick Mogan Culture Center at 40 French St., Lowell, Ma. They are generally open Mon.—Fri. 9 to 5 and Sat. 10 to 3. Closed Sun. and holidays. For further information and to see if they are open call 508-934-4997 or 4998. This is in the same building as where we have our monthly meetings.

## ARTIFACTS AND HELP SOUGHT FOR MINUTEMAN BIKEWAY

The Lexington chapter of the Friends of the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway is seeking ways to remind bicyclists that their path has a rich history as the Lexington Branch of the Boston & Maine Railroad. Specifically we would like to restore some of the railroad artifacts that remain along the right-of-way and acquire others that can be installed there. Examples are:

- Restoring the old "telltals" hanging from a pole just west of the Lexington Depot.
- Recovering an old switch mechanism from the woods near Camellia Place, restoring it, and installing it near the depot.
- Acquiring and decorating a baggage cart for the depot platform.
- Placing old railroad signs along the right-of-way.
- Placing old B&M photos on the depot wall or elsewhere in town.

We welcome help from anyone who is willing to work on such a project or who can tell us where to search for railroad artifacts. If anyone has other ideas for re-emphasizing the bikeway's historical role, please contact one of the following individuals...

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Tom Fortmann   | (617) 861-7296 |
| Jerry Van Hook | (617) 862-7043 |
| Bob Sawyer     | (617)862-6517  |

Interested parties from Lexington or elsewhere are encouraged to come to our monthly meetings, which are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in Room G-15 of the Town Office Building on Massachusetts Avenue in Lexington Center (located between the Post Office and the Police Station).

### — FALLEN FLAGS —

#### *Fredrick C. "Bucky" Dumaine*

Perhaps one of the highest profile figures in New England transportation and industry during the past half-century passed away in March. During his career as head of the Amoskeag Bank and other affiliated corporate entities including Bangor & Aroostook Railroad, Mr. Dumaine championed the formation of a large regional railroad formed of the B&M, New Haven, BAR and Maine Central. His vision and energy will be sorely missed.

#### *Theodore "Ted" Wells*

We are saddened to learn of the sudden passing in mid-April of long-time B&MRRHS member Ted Wells. Ted was a professor at Milton Academy in Milton, Mass. and, in addition to his many accomplishments, was an avid railfan with a keen interest in railroad signalling. Our sympathies go to Professor Wells' family and friends upon their recent loss.

**LIMITED  
RUN!**

**B&MRRHS Silver Anniversary  
HO-Scale Caboose Kit**

Using the popular N-5 style caboose produced by Bowser, we have had a LIMITED PRODUCTION run of these spiffy looking vans done in maroon with gold lettering complete with a custom designed stylized "Minuteman" herald surrounded by a ring of stars and B&MRRHS insignia. This commemorative model is sure to become a collectible.

*\$13.95 + \$3.50 P&H (P&H good for up to two kits)*

**SAFETY FIRST! TEE SHIRT**

Back by popular demand! This time we are offering this shirt in sky blue with white lettering. There are also a VERY limited number of black with white lettering versions remaining, although not all sizes are available. If ordering, please include alternate color preference

Made in USA and available in Medium, Large, X-Large and XX-Large.

*\$9.95 + 3.50 P&H Up to 2 shirts may be shipped for \$3.50*

**BOSTON-MAINE AIRWAYS**

You can no longer fly B&M Airways' Stinson Tri-Motors to Bangor or St. John, but this striking tee-shirt will help you relive that exciting era.

Printed in Orange and Black on White, you'll be the hit of the flight line or the photo line with this colorful tee designed by our own Richard Symmes. Made in USA and available in Medium, Large, X-Large and XX-Large.

*\$9.95 + 3.50 P&H Up to 2 shirts may be shipped for \$3.50*

**A PINPRICK OF LIGHT:  
*The Troy and Greenfield Railroad  
and its Hoosac Tunnel***

We are pleased to offer the updated edition of this superb book which chronicles the fascinating story of the building and operation of the "Great Bore." Authored by **B&MRRHS Charter Member Carl Byron**, and re-published by New England Press, this second edition features additional photos and text. First run copies are virtual collector's items, and this promises to become one of the most treasured books in any B&M library! 152 pages, Softbound, 5 1/2" X 8 1/2"

*\$16.95 + \$2.50 P&H*

**Boston  
and  
Maine**

**Shadow Script Sweatshirts – Tee-Shirts!**

You can turn back the thermostat and the clock as you recollect the era of name passenger trains pulled by sleek Pacifics on the Boston & Maine in one of these heavy 9 oz. 50/50 blend Sweatshirts. Black with red and gold herald, these promise to be a big hit with the winter railfan. Made in USA and available in **Large and Extra Large for \$19.00 each plus \$3.50 P&H (for up to 2 shirts) or in XX-Large for \$21.00 each plus \$3.50 P&H (for up to 2 shirts)\***

**Tee-Shirts:**

Same color and style as above, except in a quality Tee-Shirt. Available in sizes adult M-XL \$9.95 each plus \$3.50 P&H (for up to 2 shirts) or in adult XXL for \$10.95 each plus \$3.50 P&H (for up to 2 shirts) \*

\*Note: There is NO SALES TAX ON CLOTHING in Mass.

**B&M 410 Restoration Effort**

*Help support the ongoing cosmetic restoration of 0-6-0 No. 410—All proceeds from the sale of the items advertised below go directly to the 410 Restoration project.*

**PATCHES**

**410 "Manchester Locomotive Works" Cloth Patch**

2 1/2" Round embroidered cloth sew-on patch. Blue with silver trim. **\$2.50 each plus .50 P&H (up to 3 patches)**

**TEE-SHIRTS**

Screen printed front and back with original drawings, sketched at Iron Horse Park by our friend Sandy Shepard, these distinctive shirts are available in either Ash (light gray), Jade Green, or Paprika.

Sizes M (Jade Geen only), L, XL and XXL **\$12.00 plus \$3.50 P&H (up to two shirts or per one shirt and one hat combination).**

**BASEBALL HATS**

Made in U.S.A. Blue with custom-emroidered 410 logo, Manchester Locomotive Works, B&M Lowell on front. Available in the following styles:

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Corduroy  | <b>\$13.00</b> |
| Twill     | <b>\$12.00</b> |
| Mesh Blue | <b>\$12.00</b> |

All hats are "One-size-fits-all". Please add **\$3.50 P&H (for up to two shirts, or per one shirt and one hat combination).**

**PLEASE USE THE ORDER FORM ON THE REVERSE SIDE TO ORDER ANY ITEMS ON THIS PAGE**



## SIDINGS...

NASHUA, N.H.—Mayor Don Davidson has met with Gov. Weld to talk about getting commuter rail line service running from Boston to Nashua. The 12 miles of rail line from Lowell to the N.H. state line would have to be upgraded at a cost of about \$15 million. An estimated 35,000 people commute daily from the Nashua area to work in Boston.

*(Union Leader)*

HAMILTON, MA.—The MBTA plans to increase the parking at the Hamilton-Wenham commuter rail stop but to also charge for the use of the lot. The million-dollar project would also include moving the "train shelter" back so that vehicular traffic would not have to back up when a train is stopped. The cost of the project is being footed by state and federal funds. Plans call for increasing parking space for the close to 200 cars that are parked in the lot. This is one of a few MBTA lots that do not charge for all-day parking. Rates would be \$1.00 per day at an assigned space.

*(Salem Evening News)*

MANCHESTER, N.H.—March 8th saw your editor late for work as he was stopped at one the grade crossings in town while the Bow coal train passed through. The 80 car train was powered by Conrail units #6198, #6262 both C40-8W's and # 6788 an SD50.

While returning home from work on 3/19, I spotted New England Southern #503, GP18 with about 10 cars heading towards Nashua. I was scoping this action out by the former tower when the boys in blue kindly asked me to leave the premises.

WOODSTOCK, N.H.—Woodstock Station is a micro-brewery and restaurant located on Main St. The rear section of the brewery was the former Boston & Maine Railroad station at Woodstock, on the Pemigewasset Valley Branch. During the 1940s, when ski trains brought people from Boston and New York, the station saw plenty of activity.

The station was sawed in half and moved to its present location in 1984 and has been a wondrously popular eatery/bar since.  
*(Excerpted from the Manchester Union Leader)*

BENNINGTON, VT.—Amtrak may expand its western Vermont route to include Bennington. Federal officials are encouraged by the success of the Ethan Allen Express, which runs from New York to Rutland. Ridership on the train is 50% higher then anticipated. Amtrak executives will discuss routing from Albany, N.Y. to North Bennington and points north with the state's rail council.

*(Boston Globe)*

OXFORD, ME.—The Sunday River Express ski train with 108 skiers aboard slammed into a tractor-trailer truck. No one was hurt according to authorities, probably due to the fact that the train was traveling slower then usual because of the winter storm that swept through Maine on Friday and Saturday (3/14-15). The driver of the truck was unharmed but his rig was badly damaged. Even though the speed of the train was about 25 mph it pushed the entire truck 100 yards down the line.

*(Maine Sunday Telegram)*

BRADFORD, VT.—Restoring rail traffic on the White River Jct. to Wells River or Woodsville line has been further hampered by a fairly serious washout about 1/2 of a mile south of the former Piermont station at the beginning of March.

JACKSONVILLE, FL.—An Amtrak train had an overturned car when the train slammed into a truck that was stalled while trying to make a "U-Turn" on a crossing. 15 people were injured.

*(Nashua Telegraph)*

MERIDEN, CT.—Two people riding an all-terrain vehicle were killed when they were struck by a southbound Amtrak train on April 5th. There were no injuries according to an Amtrak spokeswoman. The train from Springfield, Ma. was heading to New Haven and was traveling about 50 mph.

*(Boston Globe)*



#5 B&M #1729 GP9 blt. 5/57 at Portland St. crossing in Rochester, N.H. in Oct. 1981. *Steve Cook Photo*

Ed. note: Last issue of the Newsletter had three steam era photos taken by Preston Johnson.



## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The February meeting was a slide presentation by Russ Munroe on Canadian steam.

The March meeting was a slide presentation by Dick Symmes on the Boston & Maine in the late 60's and early 70's. We were taken to almost all spots on the system and included shots of the B&M #200 in its Bicentennial paint scheme. Many of the places Dick took us to are no longer served by the railroad and some of the former lines are now tourist lines.

### NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the July/August issue is June 7th, 1997. Please send any items to Newsletter in care of the Woburn PO Box.

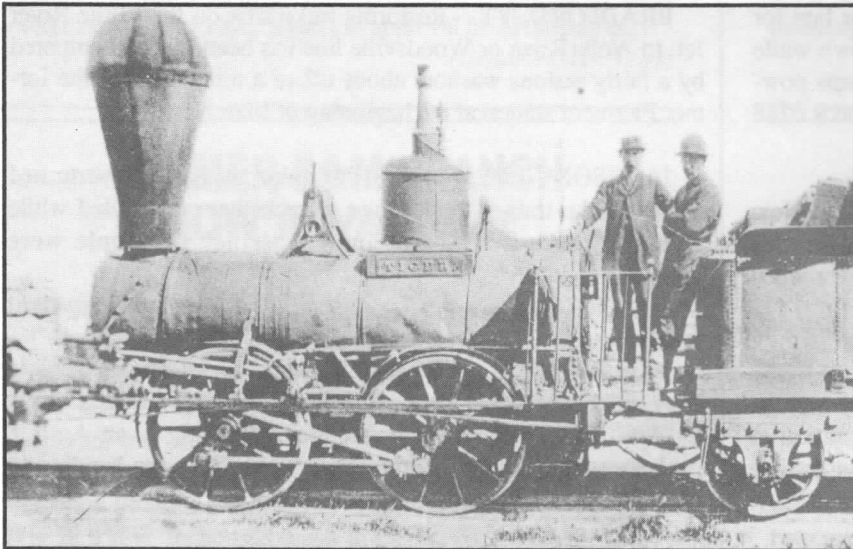
## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please note that when sending in your renewals for membership that the address is on the form and it is:

B&MRRHS MEMBERSHIP  
P O BOX 9116  
LOWELL, MASS. 01852

### THE LOWELL FOLK FESTIVAL...

Will take place on the last weekend of July and YOUR SOCIETY is looking for volunteers to help man the railcar exhibit. You do not have to be there both days and it is always good to see new faces. So if you are interested contact the Society through the Woburn PO Box or give a jingle on the Society's phone. Thank you.



#1 The Tiger: first steam engine of the Boston & Lowell Railroad. Collection of Buddy Winiarz

### THE INTERCHANGE

Member Dr. David Large is looking for copies of the B&M Bulletin from Vol. 1 #1 to Vol. 8. If anyone has these issues they are willing to part with please drop him a postcard in care of the PO Box in Woburn.

David Jakubiec has about 65 soft & hard covered books on railroading, postcards, various B&M Bulletins (1976 thru Vol. 15 #2), various N. Haven Shoerliners (1978 thru 1988) and various New England States Limited (1978 thru 1982) for sale. He may sell them individually or as an entire lot. Contact him at 17448 Rexwood, Livonia, MI 48152-3433. Please enclose a large SASE (\$.32) for listing.

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST...

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| MAY 3, 1997   | B&MRRHS 25TH Anniversary meeting and banquet.   |
| MAY 17, 1997  | 24TH ANNUAL Spring Model RR Show, John Fuller School, Pine St. N. Conway N.H. 10-4.   |
| JUNE 21, 1997 | "The Lincoln Limited." Come join the B&MRRHS on an excursion from Northfield, N.H to Lincoln, N.H. (see enclosed flyer).  |
| JUNE 26, 1997 | Salisbury Point RRHS annual dinner/meeting at Busters Restaurant in Salisbury, Ma. 7:00 PM. \$15.00 per person. Lloyd E. Neal, Jr. Will be guest speaker. Contact SPRRHS at PO Box 499 Amesbury, Ma. 01913 for information. |
| JUNE 28, 1997 | Mass Bay RRE trip on the Conway Scenic. Contact MassBay RRE PO Box 475 Nutting Lake, Ma. 01865 or 617-489-5277 for info.  |