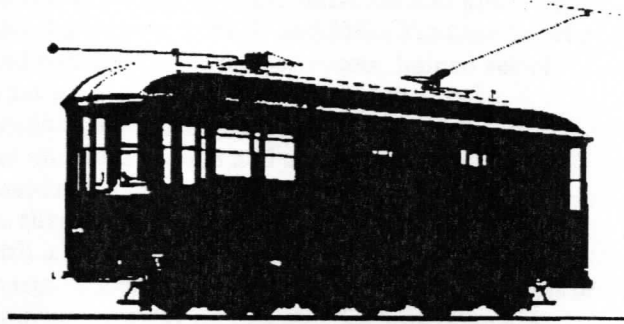


TRANSFER

v02 n02
Good from Dec. 31, 1992
for STOPS at

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DESTINATION

Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
Authorized by *Alfred Barten*

Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum
12 Water Street, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
Telephone 413/625-6707

1 — SPECIAL



1992: A Year to Build On

SFTM has just completed its first full year. It was a year that saw the first restorative steps taken on car number 10, the gift shop and display area opened, and a documentary video project proposed.

Membership has grown to 70. News of the museum and its activities has crossed the country and reached foreign shores. From comments made in letters to the museum and by visitors to the gift shop, SFTM seems to have generated interest among tourists as well as rail, transportation, and history buffs.

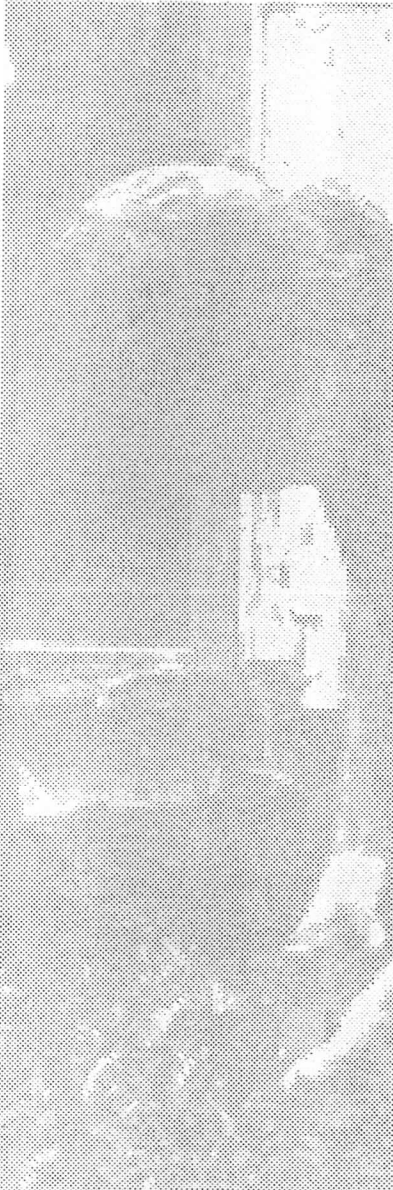
The year's progress sets the stage for 1993, in which the museum hopes to step up the pace of number 10's restoration, expand the gift shop offerings and museum displays, increase educational activities in the community, and increase fundraising efforts.

Restoration of No. 10 Underway

Work on number 10 was officially launched with the August 15 work bee at Johnson's farm, site of number 10. The launching was also a lunching—courtesy of the senior Johnsons (Marshall and Grace) and the younger Johnsons (Peter, wife Mary, and Peter's sister Diantha). When not loading up on tasty casseroles and other offerings, participants raised the car's body, positioned it level on sturdy railroad-tie supports, and covered the roof and upper body with a tarpaulin. In previous weeks, members had removed the old tires and concrete blocks from the roof and emptied and cleaned the interior.

Helpers spotted at the session by the *Transfer* were Marshall Johnson, Peter Johnson, Dan Moscato, Tom Lynde (with moral support from wife Gail and young daughter), Dave Bartlett, Mike Fontanella, Brian Carr, Lincoln Shaw, Bob Coliskey, and Dan Fleuriel.

Brian Carr will head the restoration efforts in 1993.



Gift Shop and Museum Open

July 4 marked the opening of the museum and gift shop to visitors, thanks largely to Ruth and Mike Fontanella, who cleaned and painted the first floor rooms, helped select stock and set up displays, and organized the books.

Gail Lynde made the wooden sign that now hangs outside the museum for one and all to see.

The museum was open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons throughout the summer and fall tourist season, with a number of members and friends taking turns as hosts. A look at the guest register reveals a list of visitors from as far away as France, England, Canada, and San Francisco, though most were from the Northeast. Visitors who happened by on days when Marshall or Grace Johnson was there were treated to first-hand memories of number 10.

Video Planned

In November, the museum began work on what could be an important contribution to the area historical record. The project would produce a video of taped interviews with residents who remember the Shelburne Falls & Colrain Street Railway and life in the hill towns during the trolley era. It would also include shots of the right-of-way still extant and restoration work on number 10. Several local grants have been applied for and potential videographers lined up. Most of the cost will be for the professional-grade video tape to be used and for rental of editing facilities.

Mike Fontanella, Ann Emanuelli, and Al Barten have done the initial work on the project and prepared and submitted applications for local grant money. Because funding is limited in these slow times, it is likely that additional grants will have to be applied for and the project stretched over a longer time period than originally hoped for.



Trolleysaurus Seen Alive and Well

SFTM's Trolleysaurus Treks program begun in October 1991 was expanded this past year. The museum conducted the popular "trolley" bus tours for the Fourth of July celebration, the August 8th McClassic foot race, and the August 12th Granger Fair. The Shelburne Falls Business Association handled operations during the fall tourist season.

SFTM Assists Heritage Park

In October, SFTM loaned track materials, track tools, books, and videos to Holyoke's Heritage Park Museum to support a presentation of The Lining Bar Gang. The Lining Bar Gang is a group of sixteen retired track workers from Buckingham, Virginia, who travel around the country demonstrating the chants used by gandy dancers to coordinate their work. Their syncopated call-and-response songs recall an earlier time when track was laid and maintained by human power.



2 — DISPATCH



3 — FLAGSTOP

Training Kids

Tony Jewell introduced children at the Buckland-Shelburne Regional Elementary School to rail transportation last spring. The six two-hour classes were highlighted by a day trip to Boston, where teacher, chaperones, and kids "chased the ghost of Charlie around the MBTA."

SFTM Big News

Train show buffs enthusiastically welcomed SFTM's presence at the Big E in West Springfield last February and at Chester, MA, last May. The Big E show is New England's largest railroad show. Last year the two-day event drew over 17,000 visitors. Next year the show's organizers, the Amherst Railway Society, expect to expand beyond the confines of the main exhibition hall. A few years ago the show's popularity led to the two-day format. SFTM hosts at various times were Bob Coliskey, Mike Fontanella, Arnold Terrill, Brian Carr, Ryan Manewich, Stan Stillwell, Tony Jewell, and Al Barten.

News of SFTM's activities has appeared in a number of magazines, including *Electric Lines*, *Rail Classics*, *Locomotive & Railway Preservation*, *Rollsign*, *Scale Model Traction & Trolleys Quarterly*, *Trolley Talk*, and *Light Rail and Modern Tramways*. This last publication is a light rail (modern day term for trolley) advocacy organ based in London. It has an international following.

Dues are Due

Dues do what we need them to do—enable us to do the things we do. So, to help us do the things we do, do remember to send in your dues for 1993 (not '92).

Seriously, we do need your support. And if you know someone who might like to be a member, give him or her a little encouragement.

A form is attached. This is the only notice you will receive.

Funding Fathers (and Others)

A number of people and organization made noteworthy contributions to SFTM since the last issue of the *Transfer* was distributed in April. The museum wishes to publicly thank the following for their donations:

The Massachusetts Central Railroad for rail and other track materials, which we sold to **Monsanto Corporation** for cash;

Riegel Brothers and Shelburne Falls Greenhouses for labor and equipment time to help move the rail from Mass Central to Monsanto;

The Amherst Railway Society for its cash gift;

Don Bascom for cleaning the museum rug;

The Shelburne Falls VFW for leasing the 12 Water Street building at a rate we can't refuse;

Indus-Rail for heat and power;

Dufresne Henry for the Bridge of Flowers engineering drawings;



Ann Kolokoski for her painting of #10 on the Bridge of Flowers;
Herb Arons for the Third Avenue Elevated stained glass pieces;
Florence Davenport for the SF&C pass;
Wilfred Miller for 1930's O-gauge model railroad cars;
Sonny Rainville for a lock and map;
Al Barten for HO-gauge trolley models and kits;
Lou Hebert for the fare box;
Margaret Jones for the book on the Hoot, Toot, & Whistle;
Barb Giguere for the post cards;
Merry Lion for loaning Bridge of Flowers construction photos;
Beverly and Bob Wickline for the original SF&C survey map.

Want to Get Involved?

SFTM is for its members. Got an idea? Want to be active? Let us know.

4 — LOOKING GLASS

John J. Keep, Railroader

SFTM's first member, John Keep, died suddenly on January 14, 1993. He was 75. Jack was a professional railroad man who never got over his boyhood fondness for trains and trolleys. Though he lived in Tarrytown, NY, and summered in Mt. Washington, MA, he was the first to join SFTM, sending in his check before we had a chance to formally announce our existence. He never tired of asking how things were going at the museum or of receiving (and sending) clippings of rail news or historical gleanings from aged journals. A pace-maker limited his endurance over the last ten years, but never his enthusiasm for anything that rolled on steel rails—whether in Brooklyn (where he rode the trolleys as a boy), France (where he served in World War II), England (where he visited after the war), Grand Central Station in New York (where he presided as the building's chief engineer for a number of years), the Midwest (where he rode the interurbans as a railfan), the Pioneer Valley (where he went to college and rode the first trolley excursions run by Roger Borrup, one of the trolley museum movement's founding fathers), or at home (where he was active in the Tappan Zee Model Railroaders Club). Those of us fortunate enough to know Jack will miss him. Farewell, friend.



5 — TIMETABLE

The Big E

February 6 and 7, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. This is New England's biggest train show. Look for SFTM's booth. Stop in and give us a hand if you like.

Annual Directors' Meeting

The annual Board of Directors' meeting will be held on February 16, at 6:00 p.m. at the Harvest Inn.