



**RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Real Trains. Real History. Real Excitement.

# NEWS RELEASE

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*The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is administered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, with the active support of the Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania non profit organization.*

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## **RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA COMPLETES RESTORATION OF HISTORIC CABIN CAR**

*Strasburg, Lancaster County, PA*—The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania recently completed a restoration of the historic Pennsylvania Railroad ND cabin car No. 478396. Built in the Altoona Shops in 1913, No. 478396 was used on the Pennsylvania Railroad Middle Division—Harrisburg to Altoona— and was one of the last four-wheeled “bobber” style cabin cars in use.

No. 478396 was sold by the Pennsylvania Railroad to the Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain Railroad in 1940. The car was eventually sold by the Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain Railroad to the Everett Railroad, and finally to Larry H. Williams of Saxton, Pennsylvania. Williams donated the car, along with a variety of Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain Railroad artifacts and archival materials, to the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in 1998.

The cabin car was returned to Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain livery during its recent restoration, which was carried out variously by skilled Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania staff, volunteers, an intern from Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology and contractors. The cabin car restoration included the following comprehensive tasks:

- Removing the wooden protective covering.
- Removing all exterior siding and replacing with historically correct siding.

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## (2) RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA COMPLETES RESTORATION OF HISTORIC CABIN CAR

- Removing and replacing non-original interior siding.
- Stripping paint from the undercarriage and brake rigging, and repainting.
- Rebuilding the air brake system.
- Cleaning and oiling the wheel journal boxes.
- Needle scaling the frame and steps and replacing the missing wood stair treads.
- Removing and replacing old roofing material.
- Rebuilding all existing windows.
- Scraping and sanding the interior surfaces.
- Completing an historic paint analysis.
- Installing bunk beds, oil lamps, a sink, tool box seat cushions, hardware and other accoutrements.
- Fabricating and installing pieces of missing hardware using historic blueprints.
- Repainting the interior of the car to match original colors.
- Repainting the exterior of the car to the historically correct color.
- Relettering the car sides.

Introduced in 1903, the ND class of cabin car represented a major advance in design due to the introduction of a steel frame, which was both stronger and larger than the previous classes of NA, NB and NC cabin cars. The pedestals were bolted to the steel underframe instead of to a visible pedestal timber, typical of earlier wooden frame cars.

Work on the restoration of No. 478396 was begun at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in the fall of 2006. Approximately 9,700 man hours were expended in completing the project, and the cost of materials totaled \$32,000. The shining, bright red and yellow car is now on display on Track 3 in the Railroad Museum's Rolling Stock Hall behind Pennsylvania Railroad H3 steam freight locomotive No. 1187.

(3) RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA COMPLETES  
RESTORATION OF HISTORIC CABIN CAR

“The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania was the first major railroad museum to develop and place into action detailed, long-range collecting and conservation plans. With over a hundred pieces of historic rolling stock on the premises, careful prioritization is a must,” explains director Charles Fox.

“The Railroad Museum’s restoration projects are generally becoming larger in scope and ever more complex, challenging and expensive as time passes. The cabin car No. 478396 was selected because it was in relatively good condition compared to many of the other pieces we have restored. Both the relatively small budget and relatively short amount of time needed for completion were critical criteria in choosing it as a focus restoration project,” he says.

Fox reports that the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania’s current equipment restoration project is Pennsylvania Railroad E6s Atlantic locomotive No. 460, the Lindbergh Engine, the last of her kind in existence. Approximately \$155,000 has so far been raised for this project. Donations for the Lindbergh Engine may be made conveniently and securely on line on the Museum’s web site or forwarded to the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania advancement office, P. O. Box 125, Strasburg, PA 17579.

Some of the major pieces which have undergone various stages of restoration or preservation work since the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania’s restoration shop facility was built in 1999 include the Buffalo & Susquehanna combination car No. 35, the *John Bull* locomotive, the Coudersport & Port Allegany snow plow, the Pennsylvania Power & Light fireless steam engine, the Plymouth locomotive, the Cumberland Valley Railroad coach, the Pennsylvania Railroad air brake instruction car, the three-domed ACF tank car and the GP-38 freight engine cab simulator, as well as eight locomotives which have had asbestos abated.

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(4) RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA COMPLETES  
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Currently, more than 1,300 Railroad Museum volunteer hours are spent in restoration annually and three permanent, fulltime restoration staff members are employed at the Museum. Persons who are skilled in welding, metal fabrication, cabinet making, painting and pipe fitting are particularly welcomed as volunteers in the restoration shop. Individuals who wish to consider joining the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania's volunteer corps in any capacity are invited to contact Elizabeth Myers, volunteer/program coordinator, at (717)687-8628, ext 3009.

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania offers tours of its restoration shop, Monday through Saturday at 12:00 noon and 4:00 p. m. and Sunday at 1:00 p. m, conditions permitting. The 45-minute tour highlights the current work in progress—funded variously by the Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, state, federal and private sources—to preserve the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania's great iron treasures of American history. Proceeds from the shop tour, at cost of \$10.00 per person in addition to the regular Museum admission, benefit the Museum's preservation projects. Individuals interested in taking a restoration shop tour may sign up at the Railroad Museum admissions desk the day of the tour. Tour groups also may be accommodated, with advance registration.

The official railroad museum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, with the active support of the Friends of the Railroad Museum.

For more information on the Railroad Museum's collections, programs, operations and events, visit [www.rrmuseumpa.org](http://www.rrmuseumpa.org) or call (717)687-8628. The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania also may be found on Facebook.

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