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Press Contacts:



Operation Toy Train of New York, Inc.
Rudy Garbely, Director
rgarbely@operationtoytrain.org
973-800-9251 (cell)



Tri-State Railway Historical Society, Inc.
Richard J. King, President
richie@tristaterail.org
908-578-1323 (cell)



Danbury Railway Museum, Inc.
Jose Alves, President
j.alves@danburyrail.org
203-460-6972 (cell)



Delaware & Ulster Railroad
Todd Pascarella, General Manager
director@durr.org
(845) 586-2929 (office)

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THREE HISTORIC 44-TONNER LOCOMOTIVES TO BE RETURNED TO OPERATION

PORT JERVIS, NY / BOONTON, NJ / DANBURY, CT / ARKVILLE, NY – Four non-profit organizations have partnered to restore three identical historic locomotives to operation in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

Middletown & New Jersey Railroad No. 2, Hoboken Manufacturers Railroad No. 700, and New Haven Railroad No. 0814 are all 44-tonner locomotives constructed by General Electric in the mid-1940s. All are important surviving examples of early diesel-electric industrial switching locomotives, produced using relatively new technology at a time when U.S. railroads were still primarily powered by steam. The No. 0814 was donated to the Danbury Railway Museum in Danbury, Connecticut in 2006. The

No. 2 and No. 700 were preserved in a joint 2021 purchase campaign, titled "Operation 88," that ultimately saw No. 2 acquired by Operation Toy Train of New York in Port Jervis, New York and No. 700 acquired by the Tri-State Railway Historical Society in Boonton, New Jersey.

While none of the three locomotives are currently operational, all three are in good shape and are excellent candidates for restoration to operating status. However, the youngest of the three is 75 years old, and spare parts for these rare GE products are equally hard to find. The Delaware & Ulster Railroad of Arkville, New York owns a fourth 44-tonner, former Western Maryland Railway No. 76, that was taken out of service several decades ago due to the already dwindling supply of available parts. After years of storage, the condition of the No. 76 is such that it cannot economically be made operable again, but it is still largely complete and retains many of its original mechanical and electrical components. "While it can't run again, the No. 76 is a great candidate as a part source," said Richard King, President of the Tri-State Railway Historical Society. "While it would be cost-prohibitive for our organization to acquire an entire locomotive just for the few parts we need to restore our HMRR No. 700, a group of organizations would benefit greatly from using all of No. 76's available components."

The Delaware & Ulster has graciously offered to donate No. 76 as a contribution towards the restorations of Nos. 2, 700, and 0814. In return for the contribution of No. 76, volunteers from the other three organizations are providing support services to the Delaware & Ulster Railroad as it conducts repairs and restoration work on its own antique railroad equipment. One of the pieces being analyzed for restoration by this collaborative team is the Delaware & Ulster's historic New York Central "Doodlebug," built in 1928 by the J. G. Brill Company. "These donated services and the efforts of these experienced volunteers will save the Delaware & Ulster tens of thousands of dollars in expenditures over the next several years, far more than the sale or scrap value of our inoperable locomotive," said Todd Pascarella, General Manager of the Delaware & Ulster. "We are greatly appreciative of the connections and knowledge that this partnership has already afforded us, and we look forward to continuing to foster these new, positive relationships."

Operation Toy Train, Tri-State, and Danbury will be splitting the cost to remove No. 76 from its current storage location in Roxbury, New York. In the late summer of 2023, No. 76 will be moved by truck to the Port Jervis Transportation History Center in Port Jervis, New York, where internal components will be removed by these three organizations. The parts present on No. 76 fill important, major voids in the outstanding parts lists for all three restoration candidates. As Nos. 2, 700, and 0814 all require different parts, the contribution of No. 76 will directly facilitate the restoration of all three locomotives to operation in the next few years.

The Danbury Railway Museum also owns another 44-tonner, GE demonstrator No. 1399, that is already operational. It, too, will be the benefactor of several parts from No. 76 to improve its reliability and keep it in service well into the future. "We have been searching for spare parts for No. 1399 and the missing parts to restore our New Haven No. 0814 for years," said Jose Alves, President of the Danbury Railway Museum. "Being able to share this opportunity and restore two other locomotives at the same time is an amazing bonus, and it speaks to the overwhelmingly supportive nature of the people involved that we were able to bring this many organizations together successfully to make this project a reality."

After mechanical and electrical parts are removed, the shell of No. 76 will remain on display at the Port Jervis Transportation History Center under Operation Toy Train's ownership. It will be repainted in the colors of the local New York, Ontario & Western Railway, representing a piece of Port Jervis history that has otherwise been lost to time. "We are grateful that we've been able to work with three other amazing organizations to not only restore our own M&NJ No. 2 to operation, but ensure that every piece of the No. 76 will serve a purpose going forward," said Rudy Garbely, a director for Operation Toy Train of New York. "Collaborative efforts like this are the future of railroad preservation, and it's an honor to work with this fantastic group of leaders in the industry to achieve a common goal."

Operation Toy Train of New York, the Tri-State Railway Historical Society, and the Danbury Railway Museum have each launched fundraising campaigns to cover the restoration costs for their respective locomotives, including the acquisition and installation of parts salvaged from No. 76 and the repainting of each to its historically accurate paint scheme. Grants, corporate donations, and contributions from private donors are welcomed. To learn more about the project or to donate, visit www.44Tonner.org.

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Operation Toy Train of New York, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community benefit organization that operates a special annual collection train in northern New Jersey and southern New York during the first two weekends of December. Each year, the train collects over 25,000 donated toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation, which redistributes them to underprivileged children within the collection area. The organization also displays its historic railroad equipment year-round at the Port Jervis Transportation History Center in Port Jervis, New York. For more information, please visit www.OperationToyTrain.org.

The **Tri-State Railway Historical Society, Inc.** was formed in 1964 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization dedicated to the preservation of New Jersey's rich railroad heritage. The group actively restores and operates historic railroad equipment, publishes The Block Line magazine and other railroad books, and holds railroad events to involve the public in New Jersey railroad history. Learn more at www.TriStateRail.org.

The **Danbury Railway Museum** is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the preservation and education of railway history in the northeast United States. Located in downtown Danbury, Connecticut, the museum campus includes Danbury's original 1903 train station, a ten-acre railyard, and over 75 pieces of historic railroad equipment. For more information, please visit the DRM website at www.DanburyRail.org, or find the organization on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

The **Delaware & Ulster Railroad** is the operating arm of the Catskill Revitalization Corporation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit economic development organization that owns much of the former Catskill Mountain Branch of the New York Central. The Delaware & Ulster is a heritage railroad that operates historic railroad equipment on special event and dinner trains along the line between Arkville and Roxbury, New York. For more information or to book your ride, visit www.DURR.org.