THE WORLD OF
PASSES AND OTHER COLLECTABLES
for MODEL RAILROADS

Presented by BOB VAN CLEEF
of the North River Railway
ORIGIN OF THE BUSINESS CARD

• Business cards came into existence well before passes but somewhat paralleled their development.
• The first Business cards appeared in 17th century among those in the French court.
• Messages or promissory notes scribbled quite literally on playing cards.
• Paper was not common but cards were readily available.
EARLY TRADE CARDS

• English courts soon expanded card use but expanding commerce demanded more information.
• Streets without numbers and sometimes without names.
• Printing slowly became available and expensive cards showed landmarks or even pictures to advertise location and products.

Sample trade cards circa 1830
EARLY CARD OF A POLITICIAN

- Trade cards were gradually augmented by business cards. These are (2) two early business cards are from an early American president.
- They were much plainer than the trade card.
- The one on the left was real; the one on right is thought to be a political “dirty trick” around 1864 anticipating his defeat in an upcoming election by his opponent.
VISITING CARDS

• Visiting cards saw a brief but very important role in The American upper class society of the 19th Century.
• They were sort of a social resume and letter of introduction for the owner, and a symbol of status for the recipients.
• Whole sections of etiquette were devoted to its use and design.
LAST VESTIGE OF TRADE CARDS

- Modern print and video media have made trade cards all but obsolete.
- Visiting cards also have disappeared.
- Only the business card is still used today although they too are becoming increasingly rare.
ONCE UPON A TIME

• Originally anyone who wanted simply “hitched” a ride so everyone rode free.
• Eventually passengers were asked to purchase a ticket.

• The concept of buying a ticket for an event was well known before trains.
• While tickets helped, train crews still had to remember who was entitled to ride the rails for free.
PASSES USED AS TICKETS

- Tickets were good for only a single ride.
- Something was needed for frequent passengers or “persons of importance”.
- Passes were used as Railroads grew too large for train crews to know who could ride free.
- They were issued originally to family and close friends of the railroad owner.

Passes became a form of permanent ticket
Pass for Heads of Other Lines

- Riding privileges were soon extended to not only friends and family of the railroad.

- Then it was extended to heads of other railroads, their families and close friends.
EMPLOYEE’S PASS

• It wasn’t long before almost everyone connected with a railroad had a pass.
• Passes began to differ as to the privileges allowed.
A FEW MORE AUTHENTIC PASSES
TICKETS CHANGED TOO

- The line between passes and tickets gradually blurred.
- Passes could be purchased by anyone for a given time span instead of a given destination (above).
- Passenger could purchase a pass to a special event from anywhere on the railroad (below).
The era of feather quill, dip and fountain pens lasted up to and just past WWII.

Blotters were a common household item.

Many railroads along with many large financial companies used blotters as advertising.

Railroads were a common theme.
AN EARLY MODEL RAILROAD PASS

• I believe the first mention of exchanging passes was made in 1955
• The First pass exchange listings appeared in late 1956.
• The result was this primitive pass made from a design cut in linoleum and the rest printed commercially in February 1957.
MORE EARLY PASSES

- Early Mimeographed pass
- Early Commercial Pass

- Passes soon ranged from simple mimeographed paper to more complex printed cards with graphics.
- They were used as an invitation to visit or as a souvenir of a visit.
- Either way, they were generally collected and put on display much like the earlier visiting cards.
A TYPICAL PASS

• This pass was created by a commercial printing firm from stock images and fonts.

• It was traded in all Fifty states plus several countries around the world.

• Railroaders from as far away as Australia, China and Switzerland have actually visited the North River.
EARLY PASSES FROM CONNECTICUT
MORE CONNECTICUT PASSES

---

**York Haven R.R.**

*"The Scenic Route"*

**Pass**

Issued To: John R. Klots, Pres.

Date: July 29, 1972

Subject to conditions on reverse

No: 059

**Conditions**

1. Good on any train that will run.
2. Children must be chained.
3. No Ash Trays allowed on scenery.
4. Diesel fans will remain quiet.

**Main Offices:**
70 Rustown Drive
Stratford, Conn. 06497

---

**Orange Valley & Susquehanna R.R.**

*"The Catskill Mountain Route To The West"*

General Offices: 81 Kenwood Circle
Bloomfield Corn. 06002

Reservations: 203-212-5160

Issued to...

No: 1719

**Regulations (HO Gauge)**

- Passes are valid for 30 days after the date of issue.
- Passes are not transferable.
- Children under 12 years of age are not eligible for a pass.
- Passes are non-refundable.
- Passes are valid for the entire period of issue.
- Passes are not valid for any other associated HO or narrow gauge railways of OVES.
- Passes are subject to regulations of the individual railways.

---

*Richard M. Hanschke, Pres. & Gen. Mgr.*

*Evelyn M. Hanschke, Chairman of the Board*

*Ruth M. Hanschke, Shop Superintendent*

*Doretta M. Hanschke, Road Superintendent*
AND HERE ARE A FEW MORE
TRADE CARDS REVISITED

• Merchants in the hobby have their own trade cards.
• This may look like a pass at first glance but it was actually a genuine trade card of modern times.
• Note that this card promotes a business rather than an individual even though the store was surrounded by a layout.
COMPUTER GENERATED PASSES

- Advances in software with lower cost has made it much easier today to design and print passes on a home computer system.
- Pass exchanges continue today though not at the rate as earlier.
- This hardcopy pass is currently in use.
E-PASS – A NEW INNOVATION

• The virtual E-Pass is the modern electronic equivalent of a traditional pass.
• It, like the hardcopy pass is an open invitation to visit both physically and virtually.
• For those with websites it has the advantage of increasing visibility on search engines.
DESIGN CONVENTIONS

- E-passes are designed to appear much like their hardcopy cousins.
- They are either GIF or JPEG images.
- Pass should be about 550 by 250 pixels with a resolution of 72 dpi
- File size should be 110KB or less. This is to insure fast downloading of the image.
CD-PASSES

• Pocket CDs can also be used to create a pass.
• These can be the same size as a traditional pass, a clipped CD, or even in the shape of a locomotive or car.
• This media can store several web (.html) pages, pictures of a pass collection or even a mini-web site.
CAR INTERCHANGE

- Railroads have, do, and always will exchange cars. Some, Like the LaSalle and Bureau County more than others.

- This has also been done on model railroads in many different aspects.

This New Haven car was one of the cars re-lettered by the LS&BC
SMALL SCALE INTERCHANGES

• Almost any track can be used to interchange cars.
• This simple siding represents a connection to the outside world.
• A harbor wharf is another common method where a “ferry” quite literally moves cars on and off the railroad.
• A virtual exchange can occur anywhere on a layout.
CAR SWAPS

This was more popular several years ago. Cars could range from simple plastic kits to fully scratch built cars with custom decals.

Simple Plastic kit with common lettering

Car built up from kit with modified lettering
MORE SWAPPED CARS
TRADING CAR LETTERING

- Custom decals are an alternate way for modelers to trade road names.
- These can range from the Herald only to a complete set for lettering a car.
- Modelers can even make their own custom decals for trade.
STOCK CERTIFICATES

- Stocks are yet another example of collectable memorabilia.
- Stocks are much older than passes.
- Many contain interesting pieces of art work.
- Stock types come in many varied forms.
- The small print text often reveals the history of the road.
STOCK FOR A MODEL RAILROAD

- Some “stock” traders make their own stock.
- Various stock backgrounds are available.
- Templates are used to “fill in the blanks” to individualize the certificates.
- The result is something that can be traded like a pass.

Certificate made from printed form
TWO MORE “PRIVATE” STOCKS
STOCKS ARE AVAILABLE

Cancelled stocks provide many design ideas and are readily available on E-Bay and other sources from $2 - $10.

These Stocks can be copied, cut into their component parts and re-used assembled into whole new documents.
AN EXAMPLE

NORTH RIVER RAILWAY

This certifies that

SPECIMEN

is the broad owner of

ONE HUNDRED

fully paid and assurable and useless shares of the UNCOMMON NON-CUMULATIVE CAPITAL STOCK of the North River Railway Company of the par value of One hundredth Dollar ($1/100) each, non-transferrable except in person or by the present of these shares or surrender of the certificate duly endorsed. Holders of all shares of stock of the Company shall have equal voting rights, which is to say no voting rights at all. Preference is hereby made to the Agreement of Consolidation (copy on file with the Secretary of the State) under which the Company was formed to all the provisions of which this certificate and the rights of the holder of the stock represented thereby are subject for a statement of the rights and privileges of and the cost limitations upon the successors to the company's stock and the obligations of the Company with respect thereto and for its provisions generally and further as set forth in full. The holder hereof by the acceptance of this certificate assigns all of the provisions of said Agreement of Consolidation and consents to and authorizes each action as may be necessary to carry the same out, and registered by the Registrant but then briefly not executed.

In Witness Whereof, the Company has caused this certificate to be signed by its proper officers and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed.

Dated:
MAY 22 2011

/s/ A. Van Cleef
Chief Executive Officer and Financial Advisor

/s/ Robert A. Van Cleef
President of Wye and Operations
THE REAL NORTH RIVER RAILWAY
LET’S NOT FORGET ABOUT STAMPS
MORE STAMPS

Stourbridge Lion
1829

USA 22

Brother Jonathan
1832

USA 22

DAYLIGHT
1899

33

Electric Toy Train
1968

32

USA

SUPER CHIEF
1949

33

USA

Charter
THE BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD CHARTERED FEB. 28, 1827
125 YEARS OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION

3 CENTS

HONORING RAILROAD ENGINEERS OF AMERICA
UNITED STATES POSTAGE
PERSONALIZED STAMPS

- Not many model railroaders actually collect stamps but they make a nice touch to your correspondence.
- You can have stamps made in any denomination and using any picture you provide.
- Yes, they do cost more than regular stamps but they look real nice.

This could be your layout
ANYONE CAN MAKE A STAMP

• Stamps.com is one company that provides postal supplies including several varieties of stamps.
• The United states licenses such companies to make legal U.S. postage stamps.
• Still other companies provide this service outside the USA for foreign countries.
• Select any picture you want.
• Then use your desktop publisher or MS Word to add text or anything else you want.
• Upload your image for PhotoStamps.
• The stamp company will add the border to complete the stamps.
For More Information...