

Hello Everyone,

Meet 92813

In 2006, the Town of Ridgely, Md. received a caboose from Rev. Gary Morganstern (AKA Dr. Peter), who used it as a vacation home in Westover, Md.

Ridgely liked the idea of having a caboose on its existing tracks, parked in front of their train station located in the center of town. However, for the past 5 years budgets and administrative personnel have come and gone... leaving the train to become almost abandoned.

Two years ago, Rick Schwab (Ridgely Historical Society member) did research on the caboose number and discovered through a curator supervisor, Bradley K. Smith in the RR museum of Pennsylvania, that this same caboose was very "unique". It was one of twenty cars built in 1931 and equipped with cast steel under frame and Taylor Trucks. They were the NMh class.

With this information, Rick and his wife contacted Ridgely Town Hall and asked to see the caboose file. There was not much information in this file but they found an article from the U.S. Post Office...Peninsula Express dated 1985, stating that Dr. Peter was the previous owner. In its lifetime the caboose was owned by Reading RR from 1931 until 1970 when it was sold to a Reading engineer, who leased it to New Hope and Ivyland and later to the Black River and Western RR. Another article from the Daily Times in Salisbury, Md, quoted Dr. Peter as saying..."It's the prototype for the American Flyer model train."

During its career, the little caboose was used during WWII to deliver company and U.S. mail to small towns on fast freights. The mail slot desk is still inside and in good condition.

In 1980, Dr. Peter and his wife purchased this caboose from the Reading engineer but, it remained in service to the Black River & Western for another 4 years while they looked for property to place it on. They used this caboose for a vacation home until 2006 when they donated it to the town of Ridgely, Md.

Rick and his wife Cathy have recently been in contact with Dr. Peter and he is excited to help with renovation of the caboose. We are a non-profit organization (Ridgely Historical Society) and plan to use volunteers and donations. Dr. Peter was a Reading station master at the Philadelphia, PA terminal and was the youngest station master in their history. He is now the only surviving station master from Reading. We are so grateful to him for the information he has shared with us so far and look forward to working with him on this project.

The caboose will be in a park that has been in existence since the 1930's, the track that it sits on dates to 1909, and a new Rails To Trails was completed last year next to the tracks. The RR Memorial Park is intended to show locals and others what this little town has gone through in 100 years. It is our hope that the train station can also be restored to its original glory one day making the park an even more amazing area.

The Ridgely Historical Society has been in touch with a local area model train club and they have emailed their "friends" about this unique caboose...and we are happy to say that we have started to receive donations towards the restoration of 92813 !!

Donations are gratefully appreciated and can be sent to:

Ridgely Historical Society
P.O. Box 155
Ridgely, Maryland 21660

Make checks payable to: CCHS / Ridgely Chapter

In Memo please put: Ridgely Caboose

Sincere Thanks,
Cathy & Rick Schwab
Ridgely Historical Society
Web: ridgelymd.org (for updates on caboose)

