



The Short Line

October
2025

On October 15, Lou and Judy rode with me on the Everett Railroad Autumn Adventure and we had a lovely trip. Lou had this to say about the trip *"First, thanks for suggesting that we take this trip. It was very enjoyable. The colors were not as bright as we might have liked but that is how it is all around us now. We found the accommodations (seating) and the car itself to be very good. I have been on other trips when it was not as comfortable as this was. I see no reason to pay their higher price for any upgrades. I highly recommend this trip to our members, especially those who are within two way driving distance."*

The only disappointing part of the trip to me anyhow was as I drove afterwards to Olive Garden in Altoona, the clouds had vanished there was nothing but blue sky overhead and I wish it had been the way as we rode the train as I think the autumn colors would have been brighter. I was hoping to get at the station a little earlier than I did as when I came off I-80 at the Woodland exit, I noticed two long transport trucks each with a heavy square load on it, but they made good time to Phillipsburg. Then going on route 350, they had traffic backed up for quite a distance and I happened to be in spot where I could turn around and went back into town and got on route 322 east to I-99 south and then I was able to get to the train station. Judy took a nice picture of the station which the Everett Railroad built for



their train excursions as the original Pennsylvania Station was long gone. She also took a nice

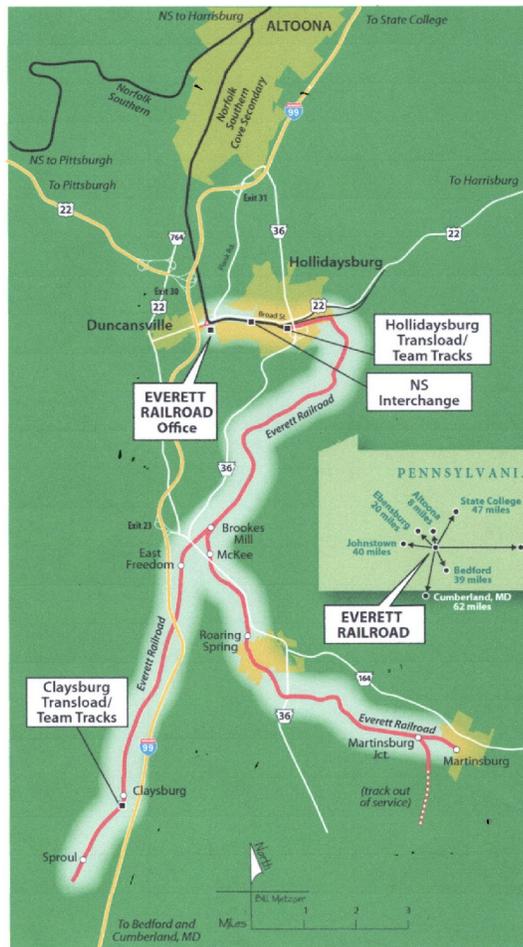
picture of the train ready to go.



As you can see we had the Everett Railroad 2-6-0 and 4 passenger cars. We had bought coach or general admission tickets and were seated in the very last car. The tickets were \$45 per person and our car was fairly full. Note the decorations in the car and the nice woodwork. Our car was lettered outside



for the Everett Railroad and was numbered 997.



I have included the same map I had in the last issue of the Short Line to show where we went. We rode from Hollidaysburg to almost Martinsburg although I guess where the wye was located in Martinsburg. The engine uncoupled and turned on the wye. Then we became the first car in the train. Folks in the car got up and watched the steam engine crew shovel coal from the tender to the engine although I doubt they could see the firebox. I wondered why on the way back it seemed colder than on the way to Martinsburg. Not until we arrived back at Hollidaysburg did I realize that some passengers had opened the windows although I am not sure why as the passenger car door was open so folks could see the tender.



The engine as you can see is 2-6-0 and pulled the train with ease.



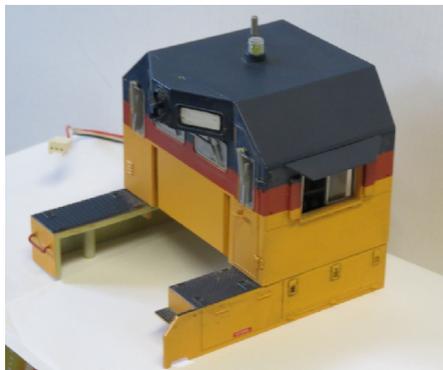
The railroad has a few more trips this year that you might enjoy including the Santa Express which you can take your kids or grandkids for a one hour ride. see:

<https://everetrailroad.com/attractions/santa-express/>

which is steam powered in November and December. The Strasburg Railroad also has a Santa Train.

Now I know many of you in the NCPM GRS says you do not need anymore trains which if the tariffs come to bear, new garden trains might be thing of the past unless you are willing to pay the cost. Train World has already raised some of it products that are made in China and Germany such as Bachmann, LGB, and other brands. Piko is made in Germany.

I got an interesting project where a fellow from Maryland sent me the C & O cab from a SD40-2 and wanted it changed to Western Maryland and renumbered. I erased to C & O lettering and the cab numbers, clear coated it and made decals to fit the cab. In the time period of a day, I had the project done and shipped to my customer who now can have a WM Chessie SD40-2 on his layout.



I painted 2 undecorated American series reefers into fantasy paint scheme. The first is lettered for Herricks Hunckleberry Farm. I painted the car a very light blue and used a dark blue roof from one of my own new reefers. The other was lettered for the Ever Green Dairy which was located in Bolivar, NY. I painted that car T H & B cream with a black roof. The cars came out nice.



Herrick Hill Huckleberry Farm reefer



**Ever Green Dairy
reefer**

These cars were painted for Steve Sanford as he asked me to paint two reefers for names he grew up with.

My next painting project will be 2 out side braced boxcars for the P S & N. Both cars will be painted freight car red with white lettering. It was nice of the P S & N RR HS to provide a picture of a boxcar in their latest quarterly magazine "The Cannon Ball" which gave the idea for doing the cars. One for Steve and one for my garden layout.

My next several projects will be some pieces for a friend of mine in Canada as I have MofW train to paint him including a Power & Light car, a Search light car, a water tank car, a snow plow which I have yet to build, a material boxcar, and several other cars including 2 BCR extended Vision cabooses. But I will have to store them until Canada postal strike ends as I am not sure they are accepting boxes yet.

I was not happy with paper mill structure on my On30 layout, so I have been looking at real paper mills on line. The Claremont Paper Company I think made paper from pulp originally, but that plant closed in 1990. Then 10 years later a company called APC started the plant up again and got truck loads of recycled paper from which they were able to shred and than made paper again. That plant is part of network of plants owned by APC that make recycled paper. However I am modeling the Claremont plant when it got supplies by rail as it was in 1975 although I won't be able to make an exact copy, so it will be a combination of pictures I have of various paper mills.

George Poknis is building another Halloween layout in his front yard to entertain the kids in the neighborhood. see the layout on the next page and he will run three trains at once. This year he will have all his building lit up. Then next month he will make a Christmas layout, but after Christmas, he will take it down until next year.



I am always looking for articles to put in the Short Line. Send me your ideas.

The last picture is Steve Sanford's Pittsburg Shawmut & Northern train running on his new garden layout in northeast Pennsylvania. Notice the stone work he did to make his layout level.



Cheers,
Jeff