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RAILROADERS MEMORIAL MUSEUM DEACCESSIONS THREE RAILCARS

[ALTOONA, PA, AUGUST 19—] The Railroaders Memorial Museum (RMM) has deaccessioned three pieces from its rolling stock collection. Deemed unsafe and unsalvageable by multiple preservation professionals, these railcars are scheduled to be dismantled and removed from the museum's 1200 9th Avenue complex within the next month. Key remnants will be removed prior to deconstruction. These saved artifacts will be utilized for future preservation efforts such as exhibit development and other restoration projects. The following pieces have been deaccessioned and are scheduled to be dismantled:

Elkhart 250 Ton Industrial Brownhoist Crane & Boom Car: This former New York Central piece has been deemed non-pertinent to the organization's mission. This 250T crane was primarily based out of Elkhart, Indiana. Additionally, due to the nature of the railcar's size and complexities, such as its intricate rigging, this 1948 crane would require constant maintenance and substantial funds. Its sister cranes, Selkirk and Conway, were previously moved to other museums. These two cranes are now preserved at the National New York Central Railroad Museum and the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, respectively. Surplus parts have been offered to relevant museums and other rail preservation organizations.

Pennsylvania Railroad Business Car #7511: This former PRR business car, called the "Duquesne," was built at the Altoona Passenger Car Shops in 1929 as a class Z74D. Previously owned by the Horseshoe Curve Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, it was on the market for several years. This piece still has no successful bids despite it being offered for free. Having been stored outside for the entirety of its existence, the car has been exposed to years of unforgiving elements. With portions of the floor completely rotten, it has been deemed structurally unsound. Hand railings, cabinets, and other unique fixtures will be removed for preservation. Railcars similar to this are maintained elsewhere, such as PRR Business Car #120, which is preserved by the Juniata Terminal Company.

Pennsylvania Railroad Sleeper Car #8351: This former PRR sleeper car, called the "Birch River," was built in 1949 by the Pullman Company as a 10-6. The damage done to this piece was deemed irreversible 15 years ago. It had been scheduled to be scrapped, but this deconstruction never occurred. Since then, the car has continued to deteriorate further while also utilizing valuable track space. The trucks of the "Birch River," along with several other fixtures, will be saved for reuse on other compatible cars in the collection.

For inquiries, please contact content@railroadcity.org or call (814) 946-0834.

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