

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Carol A. Murray, Commissioner

For Immediate Release

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FIRST PHASE OF “FLYING YANKEE” RESTORATION TO BE UNVEILED
HISTORIC STAINLESS STEEL TRAIN RAN FROM 1935 TO 1957

The public will get its first look at a fully restored car of the historic “Flying Yankee” train when the Flying Yankee Restoration Group rolls out the “B” car on the tracks of the Claremont Concord Railroad in Claremont on November 17, 2001 at 11:00 am.

This completes the first phase of the restoration of the three-car Flying Yankee. The second phase will be complete in the spring of 2002, and the train will be fully restored by the fall of 2002. The State of New Hampshire owns the train. The restoration effort is being done with private donations and Federal Transportation Enhancement Funds.

The B car features the original stainless steel siding, and accurately recreates the interior using remolded Masonite, cove lighting, and original seat frames recovered with mohair mauve fabric reminiscent of the 1930’s Art Deco era. Glass has been refitted into the original window frames, and the mechanical door openings and step retractors have been rebuilt using the original parts. Over 400 parts per door set were disassembled, cleaned, polished and reassembled.

The Flying Yankee train ran 2.7 million miles from 1935 to 1957 when it was retired to a rail siding on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. A New Hampshire businessman, the late Robert S. Morrell, brought the train back to New Hampshire in the early 1990’s to plan its restoration.

When fully restored, the Flying Yankee will be fully operational and provide excursion service. It will be based in Concord, New Hampshire and will be capable of visiting anywhere in the country. While offering excursion service, the train will differ from a traditional tourist railroad by having specific educational and economic development goals.

The future of the Flying Yankee will compliment the restored Pioneer Zephyr, which is on permanent display at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

Scores of donations large and small are being received with more sought to finish the project. Contributions can be made at the web site www.flyingyankee.com.

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