

Railroad Museum of New England hosts Thomaston fourth graders

Article and photos submitted by STEVE CASEY, President, Railroad Museum of New England

On Tuesday, June 19, the Railroad Museum of New England (RMNE) in Thomaston, Conn., gave a history lesson to Thomaston Center School fourth graders that they will never forget.

The "lesson" included a trip back in time with a ride in 90-year-old passenger coaches and a tour of the 137-year-old Thomaston Train Station. Just like the passengers of long ago, before the arrival of automobiles, the 65 students and teachers walked from their school to the station and back.

"Students in the fourth grade at Thomaston Center School have ridden the train at the Railroad Museum of New England as part of their year-long history program for the fifth year in a row," according to teacher Kristin Mosimann. "We are thankful for the partnership of the museum officials and their generosity. The ride on the train is a great way to end the school year and is a highlight of our program. Students look forward to this trip every year."

"Thomaston Station was the point of arrival and departure for all people and product moving in or out of Thomaston," RMNE president Steve Casey said. "From 1849 to 1910, before the advent of the automobile, everybody and everything was transported in and out of town by rail. This was true for every city, village, and hamlet that had a railroad running through it."

Each child also had a tour of the cab of the locomotive that pulled their train, as well as the 1939 diesel switcher and the 1921 rebuilt caboose on the Thomaston display track.



FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS and teachers from Thomaston Center School at the Thomaston Train Station were welcomed by Railroad Museum of New England President Steve Casey.



AT MUSEUM — A large group of students from Thomaston Center School visited the Railroad Museum of New England. The trip is an annual ritual for fourth graders.