



The Western Maryland Scenic Railroad moved full steam ahead over the winter months and is well underway for the 2014 operating season.

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Passenger car enhancements and additional events promise to make the current season the most exciting one for the historic railroad.

Railfans across the country took note when Mike Gresham, general manager and chief operating officer, announced in January 2014 the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad had acquired the former #204 Western Maryland Railway Business Car. The heavyweight observation car is associated with the area and its return trip generated excitement among residents who turned out to witness the event.

The office or business car was originally built as a private car by The Pullman Company in 1918 for use by Peter Rouss of Winchester, Virginia. Four bedrooms, an observation deck, dining room, kitchen, crew quarters, and pantry rounded out the amenities. The car's ownership later transferred to Harry Whitney, a wealthy businessman who married into the famous Vanderbilt family. Mr. Payne, a

thoroughbred horse owner and racing enthusiast, arrived at the Kentucky Derby in style aboard the private car he dubbed "Adios." The American Railways Equipment Company owned the car from 1942-1943 before it was purchased by the Western Maryland Railway and renamed the #204 Business Car. Railroad officials used the #204 as a mobile office along its hundreds of miles of track. After more than two decades of service, the Western Maryland no longer needed the #204 business car and a decision was made in 1964 to sell it to the R.R. Johnson family. The car was transported to property at Deep Creek Lake where it became the Johnson's summer home and a reminder of Western Maryland Railway history. In January 2014, the Johnson family with the assistance and generosity of Carl Belt and The Belt Group decided to transfer ownership of the #204 car to the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad for restoration and public operations. Currently, the business car is undergoing restoration and the Western Maryland



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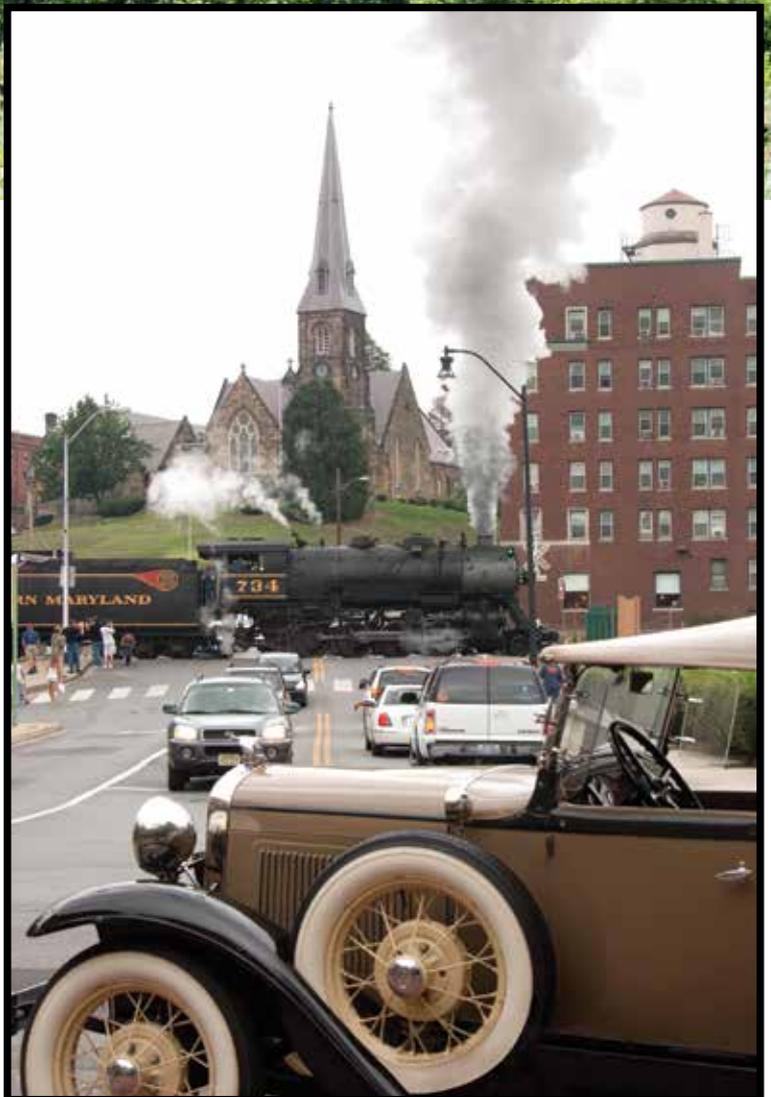
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Mountain Thunder winds its way through scenic mountains and countryside on its way to Frostburg, Maryland.

Scenic Railway Foundation is seeking support for the undertaking. The WMSR hopes to display the historic car during the September “Steel Wheels Festival” to be held in Cumberland.

Enhancements to the WMSR #200 car have been completed. Built in 1949 by the Budd Company for the Pennsylvania Railroad, the car recently served as a gift shop and diner. According to Mike Gresham, the #200 car has undergone a full rebuild including new electrical and mechanical work and extensive interior renovations. With the rebuild complete, the #200 offers a bar that serves custom labeled wine produced by Charis Winery of Canal Place in downtown Cumberland. “The 200 car is first class and was recently used by CSX officials and the Governor of Kentucky during the Kentucky Derby. The car will later go to Jacksonville to support various events. Western Maryland receives extensive publicity on each of these trips.”

The #107 car also experienced major work during the winter season. Originally used as a sleeper on



As in early times, the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad's steam engine passes through scenic Cumberland, Maryland, in sight of Model A Fords during special events.

the Norfolk and Western Railway, it was later modified by the Penn Central Railroad and Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) before being acquired by the scenic railroad in 2008. “We will use the #107 for Parlor Car service. New arm chairs have been installed that increases the comfort level for our guests. We now offer coach, premium coach, parlor car, and first class service on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad.”



Above: The former #204 Western Maryland Railway Business Car has recently been acquired by the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad for restoration and public operations. The WMSR hopes to display this historic car during the September “Steel Wheels Festival” to be held in Cumberland.

The premier fall event on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad will be “The Steel Wheels Festival” scheduled for September 26, 27, & 28, 2014. A highlight of the festival will be the arrival of Amtrak’s Exhibit Train. Through the display of artifacts, memorabilia, and interactive displays, visitors will be able to take a complimentary self-guided tour that tells the story of Amtrak’s passenger service and high speed rail initiatives. The car was created in 2011 to celebrate Amtrak’s 40th anniversary and will be open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday of the event.

The “Steel Wheels Festival” will also feature vendors and exhibits on the 3rd floor of the Allegany Museum located across the street from the WMSR station. A wide variety of railroading memorabilia is expected to be available for viewing and purchase.

Below: Enhancements to the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad #200 car have been completed. The car has undergone a full rebuild including new electrical and mechanical work and extensive interior renovations. It was recently used by CSX officials and the Governor of Kentucky during the Kentucky Derby.

