

ESSEX STEAM TRAIN & RIVERBOAT

Contact: Susan Dee
860-767-0103
susandee@snet.net

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Essex Steam Train & Riverboat Exhibits Black and White Photography **“Remembering Steam Locomotives” by Frank Barry** June 3 – August 29, 2010

Essex, CT, May 18, 2010 - - Essex Steam Train & Riverboat is delighted to present “Remembering Steam Locomotives” with an opening reception for the photographer, Frank Barry - - **Thursday, June 3, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Oliver Jensen Gallery.**

“Remembering Steam Locomotives” is an exhibit of black and white, steam locomotive photographs taken in the United States, Canada and Mexico between 1955 and 1985. The locomotives and the men who ran and cared for them are portrayed along the railroad line, in the roundhouse and in the repair shop. They are shown in urban settings and remote rural areas including deserts, rugged canyons, forests, and snowy, mountain passes. The photographs portray the essence of these majestic machines that so effectively captured the imagination of travelers, songwriters, poets and others -- young and old -- during the steam era.

“We’re especially delighted to present Frank Barry’s work in the *Oliver Jensen Gallery*, says J. David Conrad, VP and Chief Mechanical Officer of the Valley Railroad Company. Dave continues, “Oliver’s founding vision for The Valley Railroad Company was to preserve the heritage of the Age of Steam in America and Frank’s photo essay keeps that dream alive. As a devout historian, founder and publisher of *American Heritage Magazine*, and chief of the division of prints and photographs at the Library of Congress, Oliver would certainly appreciate Frank’s use of black and white imagery to record the final years of the steam era.”

“*Remembering Steam Locomotives*” contains 26 silver gelatin prints on archival paper. It was originally prepared for, and exhibited at the Herbert Johnson Art Museum at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. during the summer of 2008. The Johnson Museum brochure described the images as “beautiful and dramatic...emotional...and haunting.”

Frank Barry, born in 1937, resides in Groton, New York. He began photographing steam locomotives when he was just 9 years old and learned to develop his own film at the age of 10. He has since traveled in 20 countries on 4 continents to record steam engines on film. His photographs and articles have been published in over 50 books, magazines and newspapers. For more information, contact: fb12@cornell.edu.

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The Valley Railroad Company

Incorporated in 1969, The Valley Railroad Company opened to the public in 1971. Today, the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat attracts 150,000 visitors a year and is one of Connecticut's most vibrant tourist attractions. Tour goers enjoy a 2½ hour narrated steam train and riverboat journey through the scenic Connecticut River Valley. Special events include *Day Out With Thomas*, *Fright Train*, *Lomax: The Hound of Music*, *Murder Mystery*, *Santa Special*, and the *North Pole Express*. Please visit www.essexsteamtrain.com.

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