

# GAS-ELECTRIC CAR M39

Because of limited numbers of passengers or high operating costs, many railroads opted to run single powered railcars instead of passenger trains.

Car M39 was built in July 1929 by the J.C. Brill Company of Philadelphia, PA, for the Pennsylvania Railroad. It was later sold to the Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain RR in west-central Pennsylvania, where it served for many years as #27. Shortly after the railroad went out of business in 1954, the car was purchased by Dr. Stanley Groman for his Rail City tourist operation north of here at Sandy Pond. With the demise of Rail City and eventual sale of its equipment, the car was acquired by the CNY Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. Restoration began in December 1994.

This car is very similar to railcars once operated through Central Square by both the New York Ontario and Western RR, and the New York Central.

The rear compartment was used for freight and baggage, and also housed two 275 hp Hall Scott gasoline engines. The engines in turn ran high-powered generators that supplied power to electric traction motors located in the trucks between the wheels.



**LENGTH: 75 feet**  
**WEIGHT: 150,000 pounds**  
**BUILT: 1929 – J.G. Brill Company**

