



# 1946 Cadillac Series 62 Rail Car

## West Virginia Railroad Museum

### Restoring a Beautiful Piece of Railroad History



The restoration of the Western Maryland Railway Car #6, 1946 Cadillac Rail Car Project, is a unique undertaking, recreating an authentic rail car as it appeared over 63 years ago. Restoration began March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 by volunteers when the car was moved from its long-time storage location in Beverly, West Virginia to B&B Auto in Elkins, West Virginia.

As restoration began sadly many areas of the car were more deteriorated than the initial assessment reflected. It has also been discovered that much of the side chrome and stainless trim has been lost or misplaced during moves from one location to another. The remaining chrome/stainless pieces have been sent off for estimates on straightening, polishing and rechroming.

To date all of the doors, deck lid, hood, and quarter panel extensions have been removed and repaired. The quarter panels, fenders, and main body still has to be finished. The trunk area and inner fenders were badly hacked at the time of transformation in the Cumberland shops and will need to be addressed.



The wheels have been removed and now the long, daunting process of identifying the rear axle, all four hubs and spindles to order new bearings and brakes has started. We are awaiting estimates on sandblasting the wheels to determine the next step with them.

The original cowcatcher has been located and is being cleaned. The original brass bell has been located and we hope to acquire it once the car is restored. Unfortunately, the original turntable has not been located and help is going to be required to design and build a new one.

During the restoration process, we realized that during the road to rail conversion, the WMRY employees narrowed the frame in the rear by approx. 6", modified the trunk area, interior quarter panels and body mounts. They also highly modified the rear axle by adding spindles and removing the front coil springs and A-arms while installing an I-Beam style of front axle (suspected from a large 2-1/2 to 5-ton truck). They also installed spindles on each corner to accommodate the highly modified late 1800's railroad wheels. Amazingly enough, all four wheels are totally different in their modification. The steering wheel was removed as the car would now run straight like it was on rails. Pun intended.



The WVRRM is reaching out to vintage car enthusiasts that could provide us with valuable knowledge and technical know-how during the restoration project. Please contact Bryan Totten at 304-678-9067 or [BTotten@Mac.com](mailto:BTotten@Mac.com) if you have any information you would like to share to assist in the restoration process.

The WVRRM is currently accepting donations to aid us in restoring WMRY Car # 6 to its former glory. With your help, we'll soon see this rail car back in action. It will be used for tourism excursions and special events on the very tracks that it ran so often 63 years ago.