



## *Railroad History* 216: Wreck of the *Federal* in 1953

*Railroad History* #216, the journal of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, has the full story of the wreck of The Federal, NH/PRR train #173, at DC Union Station on January 15, 1953. This is the wreck where the GG1 wound up in the concourse of the station and fell into the baggage room in its basement as the floor collapsed under its weight. Its story has been full of misinformation, such as that the locomotive was cut into a few large parts and removed, or hoisted out of the basement. The 32 page article is entitled "Now What, and Who's Going to Pay for This?" It is based on the ICC, US Senate, PRR, and FBI investigations. Documents from the archive of the PRRT&HS show why the railroad rebuilt the GG1 and official photos show its many, many cut-up parts on the ground at Altoona. It uses the up-to-now unseen FBI report, based on early fears it was caused by sabotage, obtained with a Freedom of Information request, and previously unpublished photos. How was the wreck cleaned up and the GG1 removed? How did the station recover only days before the Eisenhower inauguration? Why did the train have brake problems in Rhode Island, early in its trip? How was another potentially similar incident discovered and corrected later in the month and result in tests that confirmed the cause of the first one? Who paid what for the wreck and its aftermath and how long did it take? And what did Pullman-Standard do wrong in the design of the NH cars and how did they both correct and pay for this? Copies of RRH #216 are available to non-members at \$15 postpaid through Alden Dreyer at [aldendreyer@gmail.com](mailto:aldendreyer@gmail.com), 91 Reynolds Rd, Shelburne, MA 01370, 413-625-6384, or at [www.rlhs.org](http://www.rlhs.org).