

## **Facts about The Jamaica Train**

- 1912 it was built for use by Long Island Railroad by its parent company Pennsylvania Railroad. Manufactured by American Car & Foundry Corporation.
- Originally it was built as a Parlor Car and operated by Long Island Parlor Car Company which was a subsidiary of LIRR. It carried 26 passengers and did not have an Observation platform.
- 1925 it was reclassified as a business car for use by LIRR executives and renamed "The Montauk".
- 1930 it was rebuilt as an Observation Car with States rooms, a Solarium, Dining Room, Galley (kitchen) and Butler's Quarters as well as an Observation Deck.
- 1941 returned to Pennsylvania Railroad who air conditioned it.
- 1949 LIRR bought it back for \$26,434, renamed "The Jamaica" 1949-1957.
- 1962 Reclassified as a passenger car and served all of LIRR on Express Trains.
- 1968 It was retired and donated to the Wantagh Preservation Society and moved to its present location in October, 1972.
- It is a Heavyweight, 80 foot long, 14 foot high and weighs 80 tons.
- It had its own power generator, ice hatches for air cooling system, coal stoves and a fully equipped galley. A fan blew air over two 300 pound blocks of ice under the train to keep the car air-conditioned for a weekend at Montauk Point.
- It was heated by hot water circulated through pipes behind the baseboards.
- Has the original ornate hand applied pin striping in the interior.
- Has an Observation Deck to sit and enjoy cool breezes.
- The Railroad ties are original.

- Has an original Mail Crane on the north east end of the tracks.
- The Jamaica was supposed to be moved to Freeport for storage but it could not clear the Meadowbrook Parkway overpass. It was moved to Grumman's in Bethpage from Jamaica for storage. Three firms donated all labor and supplies and moved it to its present location on October 25, 1972. They removed the wheels via a crane and transported both parts on a flatbed truck. It had a police escort and overhead wires had to be held up so it could pass under. The trip took 2 hours and then 2 days to set up.
- The Jamaica was used by Governor Rockefeller.
- It was also used by President John F. Kennedy during his Presidential campaign.
- It was dedicated in 1996.

