

CARVER, 1952
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EDAVILLE RAILROAD

**FORMER CRANBERRY FARMER BEGAN POPULAR DESTINATION
WITH PERSONAL TRAIN COLLECTION**

A family attraction in Carver still open to the public

The name Edaville was derived from Ellis D. Atwood's initials, EDA. He was born in Carver and became involved in the cranberry industry at an early age. By the 1930's, he was one of the largest independent cranberry growers in the country and was admired for his generosity and involvement in civic affairs. In 1933, Mr. Atwood erected an elaborate Christmas display on the lawn of his home in South Carver which continued every year, drawing thousands of visitors.

Atwood's interest in railroads led to the purchase of narrow gauge railroad steam engines, tracks and equipment from Maine, which he put to use on his 210 acres of bogs. He also gave train rides to his personal friends. By 1947, his "Cranberry Belt Line" was completed and his working freight railroad for the bogs became a popular attraction for visitors.

At the time of Mr. Atwood's death in 1950, Edaville Railroad had grown into a major tourist destination, particularly during the Christmas season. Two railroad stations were erected along the 5 1/2 miles of track and the large and unique cranberry storage building housed the Edaville Museum. Mr. Atwood's wife, Elthea, began the Edaville Christmas Festival as a memorial to her husband. In 1955, Elthea Atwood sold the property and since then it has had several owners. In 1993, the trains and equipment were sold to a railroad museum in Portland, Maine. Today, due to the efforts of a new owner, Edaville continues to entertain the public with the Christmas Festival and summer attractions.

Brought forward by the Carver Historical Commission
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