

The Long Island R.R. in the course of the one year 1905 experienced three changes of presidents and the loss of two of its best men. In the spring of 1904 **President William H. Baldwin** became seriously sick and was taken to the German Hospital on 77th St. N.Y. He underwent an exploratory operation in June and a second in July revealed that he had a cancerous growth on the intestines. In September 1904 the patient was moved by special train from the hospital to his estate "Standish Farm" in Locust Valley. X-Ray machinery, then very new in this country, was set up in his home to treat him. In the succeeding months, despite this treatment and fresh air sorties in his wheelchair, Baldwin slowly sank. Ironically, as his condition grew worse, the bulletins issued by the doctors grew increasingly optimistic. As late as a week before his death, Christmas greetings full of hope were sent to all LIRR officials and the family characterized all alarming reports as exaggerations. **The president died on the morning of Jan. 3, 1905,** a month short of his 42nd birthday. The news of his death created a profound sensation on the LIRR and occasioned lengthy obituaries in the newspapers. It was revealed that he held directorships in 26 business corporations and life insurance companies. One of his main charitable preoccupations was the higher education of blacks; he was a large contributor to the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and a co-worker with Booker T. Washington. After a private funeral service a special train, including his private car #2000, conveyed the body to Boston and Forest Hills Cemetery, where, after a Unitarian service was said, the body was cremated. **On Jan. 11, 1905 during a memorial service at which Booker T. Washington spoke, all trains on the Long Island R.R. and all ferryboats of the company stopped wherever they happened to be from 4 P.M. to 4:02 P.M. out of respect for the late president. This was a rare honor, duplicated only once before in September 1901 during the funeral of President McKinley.**