



SPARKS AND CINDERS

Our purpose as members of Wisconsin Chapter—National Railway Historical Society is to gather, preserve and disseminate information, both historic and current, pertaining to railroading in Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest.

Since 1950

Visit the Chapter Webpage www.nrhswis.org



A Skytop Lounge sits at the Everett St Station in Milwaukee, WI in 1951. Photograph by Wallace W. Abbey, collection of the Center for Railroad Photography & Art, www.railphoto-art.org

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Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule



Friday April 5, 2019 - Photography of Wallace W Abbey - Kevin Keefe
Saturday May 4, 2019 - Chapter Banquet - Norm Carlson
Friday June 7, 2019 - Soo Line, South Shore and More - Lou Gerard

Photography of Wallace W Abbey presented by Kevin P. Keefe

Join us for a program featuring the photography of Wallace W. "Wally" Abbey, former Trains magazine staff member and Soo Line and Milwaukee Road public relations executive. The images come from the 2018 book "Wallace W. Abbey: A Life in Railroad Photography," from Indiana University Press and the Center for Railroad Art & Photography (CRPA). Our presenter is Kevin P. Keefe, a CRPA board member, who co-authored the book with Scott Lothes, CRPA executive director. The program will cover Wally Abbey's entire career as a photographer in the steam and diesel era, from his early photos of the Santa Fe, through his work for Trains in the 1950s, through to his years at Soo Line and the Milwaukee Road. The book is a testimonial to Abbey's bold, inventive approach to making train pictures.

Keefe worked for 29 years for Kalmbach Publishing Co., including eight years as editor of Trains.

Monthly meetings are held in the lower level of the North Shore Congregational Church at 7330 N Santa Monica Dr. in Fox Point. The church is handicap accessible. Refreshments are available for a donation. For more up to date information on meetings and speakers, and also any weather cancellations, check the chapter's webpage at www.nrhwis.org. Doors open by 7:00 pm, so arrive early to socialize. The meeting will start at 7:30pm sharp with introductions and railroad-related news and announcements. Please bring a friend!

If you have a program idea please contact Program Chair Dave Nelson at engine1385@aol.com

Sparks & Cinders is published by and for the members of the Wisconsin Chapter, Inc., National Railway Historical Society monthly except for July and August. The Chapter meets at the North Shore Congregational Church, 7330 N Santa Monica Blvd, Fox Point, Wisconsin, on the first Friday of each month, except May, July and August, at 7:30 p.m. The Wisconsin Chapter is a not-for-profit corporation, affiliated with the National Railway Historical Society and the Wisconsin Historical Society, organized to preserve the history of railroading in Wisconsin and the surrounding area. Additional information is available on the chapter's website, www.nrhwis.org.

Membership in the Chapter is open to anyone having an interest in any aspect of railroading who is also a member of the NRHS. Paying \$20 annually to the Chapter will entitle you receive Sparks & Cinders. Paying the National dues of \$50 to the NRHS will entitle you to membership and subscriptions to the NRHS Bulletin and NRHS News. Full NRHS membership is required to participate in chapter business discussions and to vote in annual chapter elections. All address changes should be sent to Tom Hoffmann, treasurer@nrhwis.org (or via USPS at 1102 Aspen Dr, Waukesha, WI 53188).

Wisconsin Chapter officers are: Mike Yuhas, President (president@nrhs.org); Keith Schmidt, Vice-President; Tom Marcussen, Secretary; Tom Hoffmann, Treasurer. Directors: Dan Grudzielanek, Ralph McClure, Andrew Roach, Cathy Wegner and Neal Wegner.

Contributions to Sparks & Cinders should be sent to Editor Keith Schmidt at editor@nrhwis.org (or USPS at 3286 S Springfield Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53207) by the 15th of the month to be considered for the following month's publication.

All original material published in Sparks & Cinders may be reprinted in other railfan publications provided credit is given to "Sparks & Cinders, Wisconsin Chapter, NRHS." If an author is indicated for the item or article, credit must also be given to the author. The views, opinions, and comments published in Sparks & Cinders are those of the authors and do not reflect the policies of the Wisconsin Chapter or the National Railway Historical Society. Copyright ©2019, Wisconsin Chapter, Inc., NRHS.

From the President

There's a lot going on in the Wisconsin Chapter!

First off, hearty thanks to Brian Siegl for presenting an outstanding program about railroading in and around Fond du Lac at our February meeting. Brian's high-energy presentation style ensured that the material was fresh and entertaining. Most impressive was that he conveyed an extraordinary amount of information without benefit of notes! We are grateful to Brian for his efforts in creating the program, and he mentioned he has plenty more material for a future program. Also thanks to the 45 or so people who joined us at the meeting.

Speaking of meetings, I'm pleased that our "snack experiment" has proved popular. Started last year, the program has evolved to include a self-service cooler of soft drinks & water, and numerous single-serving bags of chips, cookies & crackers. Take what you'd like, all we ask is for a donation of whatever you feel is appropriate.

You may have noticed some changes to the look and feel of Sparks & Cinders. I asked my friend and former colleague, graphic designer Drew Halverson, to take a look at the newsletter and advise what we're doing right, and to make suggestions to bring the newsletter into the 21st century, while still respecting nearly 70 years of tradition. Editor Keith Schmidt responded enthusiastically to Drew's ideas, and you saw the results in the February edition. Keith has continued with a few more refinements in this issue. Keith and I welcome your feedback - please send us an email with your thoughts, or buttonhole either one of us at the next meeting.

- From the President Continued

Elsewhere in this issue is full information about our annual chapter banquet, May 4. I'm looking forward to fellowship, homestyle food and the keynote speech by Metra Chairman Norman Carlson. Ticket prices remain at 2016 levels, \$22.50 per person for members and guests. There are a limited number of seats available, so please make your reservation promptly to avoid disappointment.

Also in May, our friends at Talgo are opening their doors to Wisconsin Chapter members and subscribers for a tour of their facility. Talgo, one of the only railroad industry manufacturers in the Milwaukee area, is busy overhauling Los Angeles Metro cars. This event is strictly for NRHS members and Wisconsin Chapters subscribers. If you are not a member or subscriber, see Treasurer Tom Hoffmann with \$20.00. The tour takes place at 8:00 AM sharp on Saturday, May 18; full details may be found elsewhere in this issue. Hat tip to Gary Young, Talgo's facility manager, and Jeff Marker for facilitating this event.

As always, if you have any ideas on how we can improve your Wisconsin Chapter NRHS experience, please share them with me at the next meeting or via email at president@nrhswis.org. Thank you!



March Meeting Summary

President Mike Yuh started the meeting at 7:32 pm. At least 46 people were in attendance. Two new members—Bill Krohn and Rick Woods—joined the Chapter tonight. There were also several first-time attendees. Tonight's ice-breaker question was: "State your name, and your favorite era." There was a very wide variety of responses. (A note to the "ghost railroad hunters:" The Chapter has some good maps that can help you. See Tom Marcussen.)

Mike Yuh expressed his appreciation for the work of *Sparks & Cinders* interim editor Keith Schmidt and long-time editor emeritus Bob Joyce. Keith has made some changes to font and format. The main driver is improving readability. More changes may be coming. All will respect the above editors' long tradition of providing information to members and subscribers.

Mike Yuh again asked that everybody who has not already provided us with an e-mail address do so. Having those makes meeting reminders (which he is trying to send out about a week in advance) and other notices easy to send out. Mike reminded all of us that individual notices of meeting cancellations (usually for weather, but also for any other reason) are not sent—but instead posted on the Chapter web site at nrhswis.org. Everyone should check that site, especially but not only in bad weather, before leaving for meetings.

Presentations

Dave Nelson introduced Brian Siegl. Brian took over at 7:47 pm with "Fond du Lac—Gone but Not Forgotten." Brian had given us a very detailed history of the railroads of Oshkosh almost exactly five years ago. He proceeded to do the same for Fond du Lac tonight. We were treated to highly

detailed maps, rare historical photographs, and evidence / traces of long-gone railroads and tracks still out there today. All railroads that ever served Fond du Lac, from the 1850's up through 2018, were covered. There was a bonus feature on the tree of Milwaukee Road branches extending north from Horicon through Waupun and Ripon to Oshkosh, Winneconne, Berlin and Markesan. The presentation went right up to the 10:00 pm limit on our being in the church.

The April 5 meeting will have Kevin Keefe presenting the photographs of Wallace W. Abbey.

Respectfully Submitted
Thomas W. Marcussen
Wisconsin Chapter Secretary

The Extra Board - Upcoming Events

NRHS National Convention
www.nrhs.com
May 7-11, 2019 Salt Lake City, UT
Check the webpage for information on 2019 Convention

TMER&THS (Traction and Bus Club)
www.tmer.org
Waterstone Bank
6560 S 27th Street Saturday April 20, 2019
Doors Open 2pm Meeting at 2:30pm
Dick Pfeiffer - Milwaukee Streetcar Memories

WISE Division NMRA
www.wisedivision.org
Monthly Division Meet
Sunday April 28, 2019 12:30pm to 4:00pm
Four Points Airport 5311 S Howell Ave
Swap Meet and Clinics
Layout Tour at 4:00pm

C&NW Historical Society
www.cnwhs.org
National Convention
May 30th - June 2nd
Milwaukee, WI

Soo Line Historical and Technical Society
www.sooline.org
National Convention September 14 2019
Wisconsin Dells, WI

The Green Bay & Western Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting and Banquet in Green Bay on the evening of Saturday, April 27, 2019. It will be held at the Best Western Green Bay Inn Conference Center, 780 Armed Forces Drive, Green Bay. Check out <http://gbwhs.org/>

2019 Chapter banquet features Norm Carlson



Mark your calendar for the social event of the year: the 2019 Wisconsin Chapter annual banquet. We're back at Meyer's Restaurant in Greenfield on Saturday, May 4. Arrive at 5:00 pm and enjoy fellowship and a cash bar; a family-style dinner of comfort food will be served at 6:00pm.

After we've had our fill of beef tips, broasted chicken, mmm-mashed potatoes and more, Norman Carlson will address the group. Norm is the president of the Shore Line Interurban Historical Society and the chairman of Metra, Chicago's commuter railroad. He will present a program on Metra, its successes and challenges, history and plans, operations and political considerations. Mr. Carlson's unique position as both a student of railroad history and Metra chair will make this a lively and memorable presentation:

"On Track to Excellence and Regional Vitality"

This is Metra's 35th Year. Railroading is a 24/7 outdoor sport. Each weekday Metra moves a number of people that is equal to the population of Naperville (142,000) in a service territory that is equal in size to Rhode Island and Delaware combined. Adequate funding is one of Metra's greatest challenges. Mr. Carlson will discuss what Metra has done to meet those challenges, its capital programs and vision for the future to enhance service to the public and regional vitality.

About our speaker: Norman Carlson was appointed to the Metra Board of Directors in April 2013, and was elected Chairman in October 2016. Mr. Carlson spent 34 years with Arthur Andersen Co., appointed North American Rail Industry Head in 1985 and Worldwide Managing Partner of the Transportation Practice in 1990. He served in that capacity until exercising the early retirement option in 2000. In 2000 he formed Carlson Consulting International, serving as a short-term executive in challenging situations including as non-executive chairman of RailWorks during its successful bankruptcy reorganization. Mr. Carlson is active in supporting Catholic Charities with a focus on veterans programs, a member of the Business Advisory Committee to the Transportation Center at Northwestern University, moderator of the monthly railroad discussion group at Northwestern, and pro bono advisor to the City of Lake Forest on transportation matters. Mr. Carlson is a graduate of the University of Illinois with a BS of Accountancy degree and is a certified public accountant. He served as a U. S. Army Infantry officer in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

Banquet price is \$22.50 for NRHS members and guests. There is a strict limit on number of attendees; please make your reservation early to avoid disappointment.

Annual Chapter Banquet Saturday, May 4, 2019 Cash bar 5:00 pm Dinner served 6:00 pm
Meyer's Restaurant, 4260 South 76th Street, Greenfield

*More info: Mike Yuhas, president@nrhswis.org, 414-698-6625
\$22.50 per person. Make checks payable to Wisconsin Chapter NRHS and mail to
Tom Hoffmann, 1102 Aspen Drive, Waukesha WI 53188*

Name _____ No. Attending: _____
Address _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____
City, ST ZIP _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Tour of Talgo Facility

It's been nearly five years since Talgo closed its manufacturing operation in Milwaukee. They've returned, re-purposing the building into their North American Coach Rehab Facility. On Saturday, May 18, 2019, Talgo opens its doors to the Wisconsin Chapter. The facility tour includes an overview of Talgo's complex, once used to manufacture high-speed trainsets, now loaded with plenty of Los Angeles Metro Red Line A650 cars. We'll see the work in progress, and learn all about the scope of this ambitious rehabilitation project.

Saturday, May 18, 2019, 8:00 am sharp (tour expected to adjourn about 10:30 am) Talgo, 3533 North 27th Street, Milwaukee

This tour is open to NRHS members and Wisconsin Chapter subscribers only (if you're not a member, send \$20 to Treasurer Tom Hoffmann as noted elsewhere in this issue of Sparks & Cinders). Reservations are required. Please email Mike Yuhas with your reservation, president@nrhswis.org, or phone/text 414-698-6625.



Shots of Talgo Facility from May 28, 2014. Photos by Keith Schmidt

Changes are Coming - Hold on Tight

Change can be difficult. Some people don't like change at all. Some people embrace change as a way to see what else is out there. Well as you see there has been a change to Sparks and Cinders. The change is most noticeably in the font being used for the newsletter. Hopefully this will be easy to read. Also the "From the Archives" has gone from two columns to three. There maybe more changes coming. Please let me know about the changes at kschmidt626@gmail.com. Or you can let me know at the April 5th Chapter meeting.

Gold in the Back Issues of Sparks and Cinders

After receiving back issues of Sparks and Cinders I have spent time scanning them into PDF format for archival purposes. Also for possible use in Sparks and Cinders in the future. Quite often I quickly scan the page before I scan it just to see what is being talked about. All I have to say is WOW!! These past Sparks and Cinders are a testament to the early members of the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS. These issues are full of information from a number of familiar names. Contributors like Bob Joyce, Tom Hoffmann, Jerry Hilton, Paul Bergen, Russ Porter and many others seemed tireless in the collection of information and passing it along. THANK YOU to all those involved.

One other note is that at the time the Editor of Sparks and Cinders had a STAFF. At least 3-4 associate editors for various areas of railroading interests. I guess my staff is now called the internet and a computer.

Below is one nugget I found in a Sparks and Cinder from the 1970's. It is announcing Mr Wallace Abbey as the speaker for the chapters annual banquet on May 21st. Interesting that the presentation at this April 5th meeting is about the photography of Wallace Abbey. - by Keith S.

CHAPTER BANQUET SET FOR MAY 21 WALLACE ABBEY TO SPEAK
Mr. Wallace Abbey, Director of Corporate Communications of the Milwaukee Road, and formerly with the Soo Line, will be our speaker at this years banquet which will be Friday, May 21st. Our banquet will be at a new spot this year, The Hoffman House, between Bluemound Ave and I-94. Cocktails will start at 7 PM, dinner at 8. Price will be \$7.00, reservations must be made with Chapter Treasurer Don Reck before May 17. 2129 S. 33rd St., Milwaukee Wis. 53211 Ph 384-7663.

Union Pacific Announces Schedule for Big Boy #4014 and #844.

On the next page is the schedule for the UP Big Boy #4014 and UP #844 steaming to the 150th Anniversary of the Golden Spike in Promontory, UT. The highlight of the trips will be the meeting of #844 and #4014 in Ogden, UT. It is believed that this is just the first schedule for the steam engines. Hopefully there will be more trips coming throughout the UP system.

NOTE - The return trip from Ogden, UT to Cheyenne, WY will be a doubleheader. UP #844 and UP #4014 will doublehead the trip back to Cheyenne, WI. A 4-8-4 and a 4-8-8-4 doubleheading in May 2019.

Schedule for UP #844 May 2019

Saturday, April 27

Depart 8:00 a.m. MT Cheyenne, Wyo. UP Steam Shop
Arrival 9:00 a.m. MT Laramie, Wy
Depart 9:30 a.m. MT Laramie Historic Railroad Depot
E. Kearney and S. 1st St.
Arrival 11:30 a.m. MT Medicine Bow, Wy
Depart Noon MT Hwy. 30 at Medicine Bow-McFadden Rd.
Arrival 1:10 p.m. MT Rawlins, Wy
Depart 1:40 p.m. MT Rawlins, Wy Rawlins Depot
100 W Front St.
Arrival 2:35 p.m. MT Wamsutter, Wy
Depart 3:05 p.m. MT Near Water Tower Broadway Street
Arrival 4:45 p.m. MT Rock Springs, Wy 501 N. Front St

Sunday, April 28

Depart 8:00 a.m. MT Rock Springs, Wy 501 N. Front St
Arrival 8:45 a.m. MT Green River, Wy
Depart
9:15 a.m. MT Green River Depot 200 E. Railroad Ave
Arrival 10:00 a.m. MT Granger, Wyo
Depart 10:30 a.m. MT Main Street crossing
Arrival 12:30 p.m. MT Evanston, Wy
Depart 1:00 p.m. MT Evanston, Wy Evanston Depot
10th St
Arrival 2:30 p.m. MT Morgan, Utah
Depart 3:00 p.m. MT Morgan Depot 98 Commercial Street
Arrival 4:30 p.m. MT Ogden, Utah Ogden Union Station
2501 Wall Ave.

Monday, April 29 – Saturday, May 4

On Display: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. MT Ogden, Utah
Ogden Union Station
2501 Wall Ave.

Experience the Union Pacific Rail Car

Sunday, May 5

No Public Display Ogden, Utah

Monday, May 6 – Wednesday, May 8

On Display: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. MT Ogden, Utah
Ogden Union Station
2501 Wall Ave.

Experience the Union Pacific Rail Car

Thursday, May 9

Celebration 10:30 a.m. MT Ogden, Utah
Ogden Union Station
2501 Wall Ave.

On Display: Noon – 3:00 p.m. MT Ogden, Utah
Ogden Union Station
2501 Wall Ave.

Experience the Union Pacific Rail Car

UP #4014 Big Boy Schedule May 2019

Saturday, May 4

Christening
Depart 9:30 a.m. MT Cheyenne, Wyo.
10:00 a.m. MT Cheyenne Depot Museum
121 W. 15th Street
Arrival 11:15 a.m. MT Harriman, Wy
Depart 11:30 a.m. MT County Road 102 Crossing
Arrival 12:30 p.m. MT Laramie, Wy
Depart 1:15 p.m. MT Laramie Historic Railroad Depot
E. Kearney and S. 1st St.
Arrival 2:30 p.m. MT Medicine Bow, Wy
Depart 3:15 p.m. MT Medicine Bow, Wy
Hwy. 30 at Medicine Bow-McFadden Rd.
Arrival 4:45 p.m. MT Rawlins, Wy
East Railroad St & Higley Blvd.

Sunday, May 5

Depart 8:00 a.m. MT Rawlins, Wy
East Railroad St & Higley Blvd.
Arrival 9:15 a.m. MT
Depart 10:00 a.m. MT Wamsutter, Wy
Near Water Tower
Broadway Street
Arrival 11:15 a.m. MT Rock Springs, Wy
501 N. Front St

Monday, May 6

Depart 4:00 a.m. MT Rock Springs, Wy
501 N. Front St
Arrival 4:55 a.m. MT
Depart 5:10 a.m. MT Green River, Wy Depot
200 E. Railroad Ave
Arrival 6:15 a.m. MT Granger, Wy
Depart 7:00 a.m. MT Main Street crossing
Arrival 8:45 a.m. MT Evanston, Wy
1500 Main St.

Tuesday, May 7 No Public Display Evanston, Wy
1500 Main St.

Wednesday, May 8

Depart 8:00 a.m. MT Evanston, Wyo.
1500 Main St.
Arrival 9:30 a.m. MT Echo, Utah
Depart 9:45 a.m. MT Echo Road Crossing
Arrival 10:00 a.m. MT Morgan, Utah
Depart 10:15 a.m. MT Morgan Depot
98 Commercial Street
Arrival 10:50 a.m. MT Ogden, Utah
No Public Access

Thursday, May 9

Celebratory Event 10:30 a.m. MT Ogden, Utah
Ogden Union Station
2501 Wall Ave.

From the Archives

April 1954 - 65 Years Ago

Train service which began in 1871 from Fond du Lac to Princeton, and later to Marshfield, on what is now a part of the C&NW, ended on April 5 when a ten-wheeler brought train 10 into Fond du Lac....Milwaukee Road train 23, Milwaukee to Madison, is currently leaving Milwaukee behind diesel power but at Watertown crews and engines change and the train continues on to Madison behind steam power. The process is reversed for train 12.

April 1959 - 60 Years Ago

"Wisconsin Railroads," published by Don Dietrich, gave additional data on the latest Milwaukee Road diesel order. The 52 units being disposed of are FTs. They will be traded in on GPs....SP has applied for permission to abandon its narrow gauge lines between Keeler, Owenyo, and Laws, California

April 1964 - 55 Years Ago

Milwaukee Road bi-level coaches will appear in Milwaukee as the Girl Scouts make a Milwaukee-Watertown round trip April 4 "just for a train ride."...CERA's two volumes on the North Shore "Interurban to Milwaukee" and "Route of the Electroliners" are available from CERA for \$9.00 each....Milwaukee Road summer passenger schedules have been announced with the advent of daylight saving time. Several less-than-one-hour adjustments were made since Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota cannot agree on DST start and end dates - there are two starting and three ending dates

April 1969 - 50 Years Ago

This year's operation of the Schlitz Circus Parade Limited has been tentatively set for July 1. An engine has not been selected as yet as Dick Jensen's ex-GTW No. 5629 will not be able to pull the longer train up some of the grades, ex-CB&Q No. 4960 is not in serviceable condition, and other steam engines are too heavy for the North Western's track....Severe flooding is expected this spring on the Mississippi River so be on the lookout for unusual train movements through Milwaukee....A reenactment of the driving of the golden spike is scheduled for 1:47 p.m., May 10, 1969, at Promontory, Utah. The original spike and maul will be used. Unfortunately, Promontory is no longer on a rail line.

April 1974 - 45 Years Ago

Soo Line will resume laying of welded rail north of Duplainville - the work had been halted for the winter.... Burlington Northern has closed its Aurora Shops. Commuter cars will now receive heavy repairs at Como Shops in St. Paul....The C&NW will install 100 miles of 136-pound rail (the heaviest ever put down on the C&NW) in 1974 and 1975 between Proviso Yard and Nelson, Illinois.

April 1979 - 40 Years Ago

Sixty-eight cars of the Broadway Limited will be converted to all-electric heating and air conditioning. A similar program is under way for cars on the Lake Shore Limited. Amtrak's new Superliner coaches were officially introduced into revenue passenger service on Monday, February 26, on a regularly scheduled train out of Chicago's Union Station. The cars are being operated in the Chicago-Milwaukee service for the next few weeks in order to familiarize crews with their operation.

April 1984 - 35 Years Ago

Taconite trains made an appearance on the C&NW Wisconsin Division for the first time since 1978. The 100-car trains of ore jennies are received from the DM&IR at Itasca Yard in Superior and handed over to the EJ&E at Upton, Illinois....Butler Railroad Days will take place during the last weekend in June. The Butler 400, powered by ex-C&NW No. 1385, will run again....A change in its plan to acquire the bankrupt Milwaukee Road was offered in Federal bankruptcy court on March 5 by the Grand Trunk Corp. The modification would give rail operating rights and joint facilities over Milwaukee Road lines to its acquisition competitors, the Soo Line and C&NW. This proposal grants to the Soo Line and C&NW the bulk of the operating benefits each was seeking through their individual plans.

April 1989 - 30 Years Ago

A funeral train of 28 wrecked cars made its way to WC's Shops Yard at North Fond du Lac following a wreck at Colgate.... Reports from Colorado indicate that despite the damaging fire, the Durango & Silverton will be operating this summer as scheduled.

April 1994 - 25 Years Ago

The next few years will be good ones for major locomotive manufacturers. BN has ordered 350 SD70MACs from EMD, CSX has ordered 300 locomotives from GE. Santa Fe has ordered 50 Dash 9-44CWs. Closer to home C&NW is taking delivery of new Dash 9-44CWs. Other railroads are also purchasing new power....An ambitious excursion schedule is being planned for this summer for ex-Milwaukee Road No. 261....Mr. John Goldman, President and Chairman of the Minnesota Commercial Railroad will be the featured speaker at the Annual Chapter Banquet on May 6.

April 1999 - 20 Years Ago

WC and Amtrak have quietly been discussing the possibility of extending Amtrak service to Fond du Lac. The route would be Chicago-Milwaukee-Duplainville via CP and Duplainville-Fond du Lac via WC....The Midwest Regional Rail Initiative proposed 110 mph service between Chicago and Milwaukee

Continued from below -

beginning in 2003 with 13 round trips daily. Six trains would continue on the Madison, also at 110 mph. Empire Builder service between Chicago and the Twin Cities would increase to three round trips daily....WC has completed signal and track upgrades in Waukesha. The searchlight signals have been replaced by tri-color and a power switch installed at the WSOR connection. Several signal locations were changed during the upgrade....On March 9 Amtrak unveiled its new 150 mph Acela tilt-train which will operate between Boston and Washington, DC via New York. The scheduled running time is 5 1/2 hours, 2 hours faster than the previous schedule

April 2004 - 15 Years Ago

The City of Burlington, Iowa, filed suit against BNSF Railway over the proposed closing of the West Burlington shops. The City claims an 1858 agreement prohibits the railroad from moving the shops out of the city. Soo Line No. 2719 will be heading west next month to Livingston, Montana, under a 10-year lease to 2719, Inc. of Portland, Oregon. The move was necessitated by the razing of the ex-C&NW roundhouse at Altoona, where it was stored. Excursions are planned on Montana Rail Link

April 2009 - 10 Years Ago

A freight train ran into about two dozen cattle that had strayed onto railroad tracks in southwestern Dodge County on February 25, leaving bloody remains scattered for about a mile and a half. Sheriff Todd Nehls said the collision killed 20 to 25 steers, but there was no damage to the Canadian Pacific train and no rail workers were injured. According to the sheriff, a herd of about 35 cattle had escaped from a pasture in the Town of Elba and walked on the railroad tracks toward Columbus for about a mile before the eastbound freight going about 50 mph hit the animals at 1 p.m.

April 2014 - 5 Years Ago

The long awaited day when Union Pacific's Big Boy No. 4014 will return to the national rail system is at hand. Mark Jan. 26 as a red letter day in the history of American steam railway preservation. Early in the morning that day, crews will sever Metrolink's track just outside the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds, slide the track over, and connect this giant of the rails to the outside world. The work that began months ago to prepare the 1941 Alco 4-8-8-4 for its return is about to pay off with the locomotive's move from its display location of 52 years to UP's shop at West Colton, about 40 rail miles away. *-ed. The #4014 is scheduled to be under steam in May 2019.*

Sparks & Cinders
1102 Aspen Dr
Waukesha, WI 53188

FIRST CLASS

The Final Frame



B&O's northbound Cincinnati at Deshler, Ohio, in 1952, as a train on the east-west main waits to be cleared.
Photo by Wallace Abbey collection of the Center for Railroad Photography & Art, www.railphoto-art.org