



# 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***

Preserving Wisconsin Railroad History for 70 Years

Visit the Chapter Webpage [www.nrhswis.org](http://www.nrhswis.org)



The CP #7020 specially painted to honor the Canadian Military passed through Milwaukee on Sunday December 1, 2019. It was leading train #199 westbound. Here #7020 sporting a drab military green color passes through Cut-Off in Milwaukee beginning its westward trip. CP# 7020 is one of five units painted by Canadian Pacific to honor the Canadian military. Photo by Keith Schmidt

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# Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule



Friday January 3, 2020 Railfanning in 1969 by Tom Hoffmann  
Friday February 7, 2020 Morse Telegraphy by James Wades  
Friday March 6, 2020 The Milwaukee Road by Fred Hyde

## Railfanning in 1969 with Tom Hoffmann

Tom Hoffmann, long time chapter member, is retiring after 34 years as the chapter Treasurer (thanks, Tom!). On Friday January 3, 2020, Tom will share photos he took 50 years ago. In 1969 Tom was approaching two years of active duty in Abilene, Texas. In April of that year Tom purchased a used SLR camera with several lenses, a big upgrade from his previous camera, but it didn't have an internal light meter. With the SLR purchase, photography possibilities increased due to the addition of a telephoto lens. Looking back 50 years will include shots from various locations in Wisconsin and Illinois, plus Texas and Louisiana and possibly more. Read Tom's story about the presentation on Page 4.

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](http://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](mailto:engine1385@aol.com)

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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](http://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](mailto:treasurer@nrhwis.org) (or via USPS at 1102 Aspen Dr, Waukesha, WI 53188).

Wisconsin Chapter officers are: Mike Yuhas, President ([president@nrhwis.org](mailto:president@nrhwis.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](mailto: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.

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## Meeting Summary December 2019

The December meeting was opened by President Mike Yuhas at 7:30pm. One new member was recognized at the meeting. At least three visitors were present who had never attended a meeting previously. Several announcements were made about upcoming events with the chapter. One announcement was that the January meeting will be chapters annual business meeting and elections. Just a reminder that only members of the national NRHS organization are allowed to vote and participate in the business meeting portion. Also the annual banquet will be moved to June in 2020 instead of May as it has been in the past. With 41 people in attendance Mike decided not to do the usual introductions and went right into introducing the evenings speaker.

Jerry Krug gave a nice two part presentation. First half was a slide presentation featuring photos Jerry has collected over the years including shots loaned from Bob Baker and Dave Nelson. During the intermission Cate Kratville-Wrinn gave away two Kratville Publications hard cover books as door prizes. The prizes went to Randy Bedore and Patti Orzel for having birthdays the closest to December 6th. Thank You Cate.

The second half of the presentation was digital photos taken by Jerry during several visits to the Twin Ports area of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Both presentations were well done. The meeting wrapped up about 9pm. Holiday Wishes were passed along to all in attendance.

# Notes from the Prexy

Happy New Year

A lot has happened in railroading over the past year: precision scheduled railroading, or some iteration of PSR, has become all the rage on many Class I's around the country... rail traffic has declined... Union Pacific celebrated the 150th anniversary of the completion of the first transcontinental railroad by restoring Big Boy 4-8-8-4 4014 and sending it on a publicity tour around the UP system.

The Wisconsin Chapter has been busy, too. We've held a variety of well-received meeting programs: Keith Schmidt presented "Coal is Still King" in January; Dave Nelson regaled us with a program about Wisconsin Central and Wisconsin & Southern in February; Brian Siegl had a nice look at railroads around Fond du Lac in March; Kevin P. Keefe showed iconic railroad photographs by Wallace W. Abbey in April. While we didn't hold a meeting per se in May, we did have our banquet, which featured Norm Carlson, chairman of Chicago's Metra, as keynote speaker. Also in May, members of the chapter were treated to a tour of the Talgo facilities in Milwaukee, where Los Angeles Red Line cars are undergoing rebuild.

Our June meeting featured a program by Lou Gerard, from Chicago, which was heavy with scenes of his favorite roads South Shore and Soo Line (and lake boats). After a summer break, meetings resumed in September with the annual members favorite slide night. The year wrapped up with a presentation by Scott Lothes of the Center for Railroad Photography and Art about their project, "After Promontory" in October; the one-year anniversary of the Milwaukee streetcar line, The Hop, was the subject of the November program, presented by The Hop's Terry Mulcahy, Brookville Equipment's Alisha Adaway, and Milwaukee Alderman Bob Bauman; and Jerry Krug presented his programs on Green Bay & Western and the Twin Ports and Minnesota's Iron Range to a packed house in December.

I should also point out that a new look was introduced to Sparks and Cinders in 2019, thanks to our friend, graphic designer Drew Halverson, and S&C editor Keith Schmidt. Drew also designed the full-color spread of Big Boy photos by our members in the September issue.

Looking ahead to 2020, we'll be doing more of the same. Is there something we're missing? Any ideas for programs, trips, or other events? Please share your thoughts with any member of the board. Remember, this is your chapter; we want your experience to be beneficial

Finally, one of the most important items on the agenda of our annual business meeting January 3 is the election of officers. I tip my hat to my fellow officers and board members, and I salute their dedication to Wisconsin Chapter. After over 30 years of service as Chapter Treasurer, Tom Hoffmann has announced his

intention to retire. He's earned it, and we'll miss him. His absence will leave a longevity void on the board, so to ensure that we continue to benefit from Tom's wisdom and institutional knowledge, I'll be appointing him as Special Advisor to the President immediately after our election.

On the ballot will be all of your incumbent directors, except Tom Hoffmann. If elected, Tara Grudzielanek has agreed to serve as Treasurer, though we have no expectations that her term will last 34 years. Those are the nominees as we know them at press time; any NRHS member may be nominated from the floor up until the time of the election.

The business meeting should be brief, and it'll serve as a prelude to the meeting program, presented by Tom Hoffmann. Over the years he's presented countless "look-back" programs of rail action of twenty or thirty years ago; this time he's stretching fifty years, for his look back at 1969. See the info elsewhere in this issue; it's a program you won't want to miss.

I wish that 2020 brings you health and happiness. See you at the meeting!



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## The Extra Board - Upcoming Events

NRHS National Convention  
[www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com)  
2020 National Convention Fullerton, California  
June 9-13, 2020

TMER&THS (Traction and Bus Club)  
[www.tmer.org](http://www.tmer.org)  
Waterstone Bank  
Saturday December 21, 2019 - Members Christmas Party  
Bring a dish to pass and enjoy a variety of presentations

WISE Division NMRA [www.wisedivision.org](http://www.wisedivision.org)  
No Meets Currently Scheduled  
Watch for Updates.

C&NW Historical Society  
[www.cnwhs.org](http://www.cnwhs.org)  
National Convention  
May 28- May 31 Mankato, MN

Milwaukee Road Historical Association  
[www.mrha.com](http://www.mrha.com)  
2020 National Convention - Elgin, IL No Dates  
June 18-21, 2020

Soo Line Historical and Technical Society  
[www.sooline.org](http://www.sooline.org)

## In Memoriam - Jim Yanke

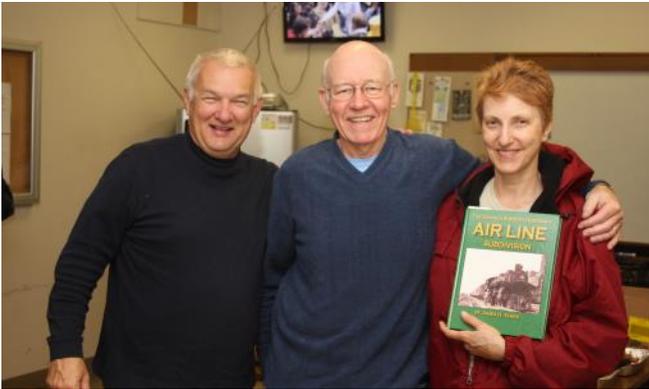
Jim was born on December 16, 1941 in Milwaukee, WI, and died peacefully in Milwaukee at age 77 on November 25, 2019. He was a good husband to wife Ellen and father to daughters Laurie and Linda and son Jim, as well as a proud Grandpa.

He started his career as a railroader on the Chicago and North Western in 1960, retiring in 2002 after forty two years as a brakeman and conductor. It was hard work: on call at all hours of the day or night and many days away from family. But he thrived, making many friends for life. While working for the Union Pacific, he was on the railroad's Safety Committee. He was also a founding member of the Milwaukee Chapter of the UP's Employee Club, making many train trips on all parts of the vast UP system.

An excellent photographer and historian, he loved doing research on railroads, specifically on the passenger trains of the C&NW. Jim was a member of the C&NW Historical Society and Wisconsin Chapter NRHS. He was the author of the 2009 book, "The Chicago & North Western's Air Line Subdivision." Jim also enjoyed spending time with fellow railfans at the regular gatherings of the Tuesday Night Slide Group.

Jim was a loyal family man, dedicated in his career, and a good friend to many. He will be surely missed.

Memorial by Bob Baker Photo by Mike Yuhas



Jim Yanke, Center with Dave and Ruthann Hawley Oct 29, 2012, Ruthann is holding Jim's "Airline" book mentioned above

## Great Tri - State Rail Sale

Hobby Sale - Model Railroad Flea Market - Swap Meet  
300 Vendor Tables

When Saturday January 25, 2020 9am to 3pm

Where LaCrosse Center 2nd and Pearl Streets  
La Crosse, WI

Cost \$5.00 Children under 12 are FREE

For information contact  
The 4000 Foundation Limited  
PO Box 3411  
La Crosse, WI 54602  
608-781-9383 or 608-498-9522  
www.4000foundation.com

## Tom Hoffman - Looking Back 50 Years

By early 1969 I was approaching two years of active duty at Dyess AFB in Abilene, Texas. We refrained from taking leave over both Christmas and New Year, so I made the decision to come back to Wisconsin to welcome in 1969. I was able to enjoy some time for train activity, including getting a Milwaukee FP45 on #6. Back at the base, weather was more reasonable. Several trips were made over to Fort Worth, covering several of the Class 1's at various locations. I made two trips to Shreveport, including one over Memorial Day weekend that saw three of us making a day round trip to Siloam Springs, AR, aboard KCS 1 and 2. In late April I purchased a used SLR camera outfit, that included several lenses, though it had no built-in light meter. That broadened the ability to take advantage of telephoto opportunities. Summer leave to Wisconsin enabled me to use the Texas Chief complete with sleeping car accommodations. Friend Gilbert Norman met me at Joliet Union Station, and we spent the better part of the day getting ATSF, RI and GM&O action. Some afternoons were spent in Oconomowoc helping my sister cover the course used by the DOT for drivers licenses. I managed to schedule these sessions when MILW No. 6 was due to make its station stop. Perhaps thirty days or so after returning to Dyess, I received a call from Personnel about my assignment. What assignment? "Oh, you are assigned to APO 96307." Not having zip codes memorized, I soon learned that my new location was going to be DaNang Airbase in South Vietnam, with a report date of 6 November. Usually one received such an assignment with 6-months notice. It was obvious that I was pencilled in for somebody else. Another leave home yielded my last photos of the Afternoon Hiawatha, and activity at Grand Central Station in Chicago just before B&O and C&O trains were shifted to North Western Depot. It was still a rewarding ten months of observing trains. Hope you enjoy the program.



## Annual Business Meeting Minutes January 4 2019

January 4, 2019—NRHS Wisconsin Chapter Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Vice-President Keith Schmidt reminded all attendees that business meetings are for members only. Only dues-paying members of NRHS National are Chapter members. Subscribers are only receiving copies of Sparks & Cinders, and are not members. Guests and non-members were asked to not participate in the business meeting. Keith Schmidt then called the annual business meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

Tom Hoffmann moved that we approve the minutes of the previous annual business meeting on January 5, 2018, as re-printed on Page 4 of the January 2019 issue of Sparks & Cinders, and the minutes of the special business meeting on December 7, 2018, as printed on Page 3 of the January 2019 issue of Sparks & Cinders. Bob Joyce seconded that motion. It passed by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer Tom Hoffmann had no report yet. He is waiting for a final bank statement before closing the books for 2018. All of the numbers that he has to date match up. The check-book balances.

The next topic of business was the election of 2019 officers and directors. Keith Schmidt read the names of the current 2018 officers and directors. Those that were present raised their hands on hearing their names.

Current President Bob Baker is not running for re-election. Keith then nominated Mike Yugas for President. Mike is out of town on business. He has indicated his ability and willingness to serve to the current officers. Tom Hoffman seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations for President. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed, and that Mike Yugas be elected President. This motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Similar more abbreviated procedures were followed for the other officers, resulting in the re-election of Vice-President Keith Schmidt, Treasurer Tom Hoffmann, and Secretary Tom Marcussen.

The special business meeting on December 7, 2018 had eliminated the automatic election of the Past President to the Board, and reduced the number of other at-large directors from six to five, resulting in the elimination of two positions. Three of the current board members are leaving the board: Al Baker, Bob Baker (current president), and Dave Nelson (who was in the Past President position). Mike Yugas, who was an at-large director, has become President (above). Four other current at-large directors—Ralph McClure, Andrew Roach, Cathy Wegner, and Neal Wegner are willing to continue on. That leaves one vacancy among the five at-large director positions. Keith Schmidt called for nominations. Dave Nelson nominated Dan Grudzielanek. Dan is also out of town on business. He had indicated his ability and willingness to serve. Tom Hoffmann seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed, and that the above five candidates be elected as at-large directors. This motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Keith Schmidt indicated his appreciation for the services rendered by the departing President Bob Baker, and the departing directors Al Baker and Dave Nelson.

Dave Nelson moved that the business meeting be adjourned. There was a second. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. The business meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Thomas W. Marcussen  
Wisconsin Chapter Secretary



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## Dues Renewal Reminder and Contact Information Update

This form is for the renewal of Chapter Dues Only. National Dues must be paid directly to NRHS. Paying National Dues can be done online at [www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com). Follow the directions on the webpage. Also dues can be mailed to the National Railway Historical Society Attn Membership Renewal PO Box 31074 St Louis, MO 63131.

Chapter Dues are \$20.00 for the year. This includes a subscription to Sparks and Cinders. Please include this form with payment. The chapter is trying to utilize contact information especially email to keep people up to date on changes and important information. Thank You

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ NRHS Member Number \_\_\_\_\_

Payment of only Chapter Dues can be made to our Treasurer Tom Hoffmann at Chapter meetings or by mailing this form to him at Tom Hoffmann 1102 Aspen Dr., Waukesha, WI 53188. Please fill out this form whether mailing in dues or paying person. Thank You.

## Benefits of Membership in NRHS

Infographic by Mike Yuhas

You certainly remember the commercials with the tagline “membership has its privileges.” The sentiment also applies to the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society.

Full membership in the NRHS (\$50 annual dues, paid directly to national at [www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com) or by mail at 505 South Lenola Road, Suite 226, Moorestown, NJ 08057) is a prerequisite for membership in the Wisconsin Chapter (\$20 annual dues, paid to Treasurer Thomas Hoffmann, address elsewhere in this issue). When paying national dues, please be sure to mention your membership in Wisconsin Chapter. When paying local dues, please provide your NRHS membership number to our treasurer. This double-check ensures proper credit is given to all.

Persons who wish to support the chapter but not affiliate with the national may pay \$20 locally, for a one-year term as a subscriber of Sparks & Cinders.

The full list of benefits available to members and subscribers:

<i>Benefit</i>	<b>Full NRHS member</b>	<b>Sparks &amp; Cinders subscriber</b>	<b>Friend</b>
<b>Attend meetings for free</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Read Sparks &amp; Cinders on the web</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>May attend Chapter annual banquet</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Pay discounted member banquet rate</b>	<b>YES</b>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
<b>Receive Sparks &amp; Cinders in the mail</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<i>no</i>
<b>Receive NRHS publications in the mail</b>	<b>YES</b>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
<b>Qualify for discounts on Chapter trips</b>	<b>YES</b>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
<b>Membership helps preserve railroad history</b>	<b>YES</b>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
<b>Participate in Chapter business meetings</b>	<b>YES</b>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
<b>May be elected to Chapter leadership</b>	<b>YES</b>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
<b>Can vote in Chapter elections</b>	<b>YES</b>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>
<b>Receive secret decoder ring upon payment of dues</b>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>no</i>

Whether you choose to only attend an occasional meeting, or subscribe to Sparks and Cinders, or make the full NRHS commitment, thank you for your support!



# From the Archives

## December 1954- 65 Years Ago

At the NRHS National business meeting on November 14, The Milwaukee Chapter -NRHS was chosen to host the NRHS National Convention on September 3, 4, and 5, 1955.

## December 1959 - 60 Years Ago

The Milwaukee Road and the Rock Island are studying the possibility of merger, it was announced recently. The Milwaukee, with 10,590 miles of track, and the RI, with 7,584 miles, generally run in different areas with the exception of the Chicago and Omaha-Kansas City lines....The Burlington announced recently that it will retire and preserve the original Zephyr No. 9900.

## December 1964 - 55 Years Ago

The Annual Chapter Railroadiana Auction was a success, netting some \$27 for the Chapter treasury. A new system for settling accounts will be in place for next year's auction, eliminating some confusion in this year's settlements after the auction.

## December 1969 - 50 Years Ago

The annual Chapter election of officers featured a contest for President with Carl Solheim and Larry Trovinger as candidates. After the election, the Chapter sponsored a photo contest which was judged by Bill Rau, Harold Edmonson, and Fred Tonne. The annual auction was again a great success, netting \$74.20 for the Chapter treasury....The Santa Fe announced plans to discontinue the San Francisco Chief effective January 5, 1970. This will leave only the California Zephyr and the City of San Francisco on the Chicago-San Francisco route.

## December 1974 - 45 Years Ago

The Milwaukee Road has repainted SD40-2 No. 156 in a red, white, and blue bicentennial paint scheme. Local fans opined that the MILW design was superior to N&W's No. 1776.

## December 1979 - 40 Years Ago

The laying of welded rail on the eastbound Milwaukee Road main between Hartland and Elm Grove has been completed and operations are back to normal....President Carter signed "The Milwaukee Road Restructuring Act" on November 4 and the Milwaukee Road is "restoring full operation as fast as operationally possible

## December 1984 - 35 Years Ago

Russ Porter's program "Not All Cars Used in Railroad Are Scrapped" highlighted alternative uses for retired railroad equipment....The run of the Heartland Special, the Reagan campaign train which ran on the B&O from Dayton to Perrysburg, Ohio, was chronicled by Dave Ingles, with additional information from the Chessie System....The impending demise of the West Allis Car Station, at 84th & Lapham, was noted.

## December 1989 - 30 Years Ago

The Chapter's recent fan trip on the WICT was a complete success - a beautiful fall day and an interesting trip....NORTRAN, the public transportation agency for areas north of Chicago, has proposed running commuter trains on the WC from Des Plaines to Mundelein.

## December 1994 - 25 Years Ago

The new Chapter publication, Wisconsin Rails II: A Passage of Time by Bob Baker, was offered for sale at Trainfest. 1,000 hardcover and 2,000 softcover copies have been printed.... Mid-Continent Railway Museum's ex-C&NW No. 1385 once again has sound running gear. Steam Operations Corp. of Birmingham, Alabama, found and repaired 68 cracks in the driving wheel spokes....Norfolk Southern announced that it was discontinuing its 28-year-old steam program effective January 1, 1995. No. 611 will be returned to the Roanoke Transportation Museum. The disposition of No.1218 and passenger cars is pending....New national officers of NRHS are: President Greg Molloy; Vice-President-Public Relations Dick Davis; Secretary David Ackerman; Central Region V-P Robert Ernst.

## December 1999 - 20 Years Ago

The Chapter scheduled a railroadiana auction for Friday, December 3. Members were urged to: "Sell - all the old junk that has been gathering dust in your basement. Buy - all that neat stuff from someone else's basement."...Gardner Realty, an affiliate of Wisconsin & Southern Railroad, has purchased the Janesville roundhouse from the estate of the late Glenn Monhart. Janesville is the operating hub for the Southern Division of WSOR....UP announced a two year locomotive re-numbering plan since not enough contiguous number blocks are left to accommodate planned locomotive purchases. Locomotive numbers cannot exceed four digits because of computer system limitations....UP is considering whether to discontinue publication of its wall calendars because of budgetary constraints....The Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society received a \$340,000 USDOT TEA-21 grant to restore ex-NKP 765 to service. The FWRHS must raise \$85,000 in matching funds for the project.

## December 2004- 15 Years Ago

The CP Holiday Train visited the area on December 9 and 10.... A man from Alaska was sentenced to four years in prison for making bomb threats against the Empire Builder while it was traveling through Juneau county on July 6 last year....A Pennsylvania woman has sued Norfolk Southern after she was hit by a train. She claimed that the railroad failed to warn pedestrians that trains travel on the tracks. (I don't make this stuff up, folks -ed.)...Lionel LLC filed for bankruptcy on November 15. The filing was prompted by a \$40.8 million judgement against the company for alleged misappropriation of a competitor's designs by a sub contractor....Railroad video produced David Goodheart passed away suddenly on November 10 shortly after a three-day "photo freight" outing he organized with Soo No. 1003 on the WSOR....The B&O Railroad Museum re-opened its doors on November 13. It had been closed since a February 2003 snowstorm caused the roof to collapse on the 1884 roundhouse.

## December 2009 - 10 Years Ago

It was announced the Milwaukee Road #261 would be returning to the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay, WI after the Friends of the #261 and the Museum couldn't come to terms on a long term lease. The Museum hopes to restore #261 and continue to have the steam locomotive pull excursion trains (note - The Friends of the #261 ended up buying the locomotive from the Museum the following year it has been restored and is running in Minnesota) Warren Buffet announced his Berkshire Hathaway Company is purchasing the BNSF Railroad in its entirety. The deal is said to be valued at 34 billion dollars in equity and 10 billion in BNSF debt.

## December 2014 - 5 Years Ago

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has awarded more than \$20.3 million in grants through the Freight Railroad Preservation Program (FRPP). In addition, WisDOT is awarding \$3.8 million in loans through the state's Freight Railroad Infrastructure Improvement Program (FRIIP). Recipients of 2014-2015 FRPP grants and FRIIP loans include: Port of Milwaukee - A \$1,449,184 FRPP grant was awarded to cover 80 percent of the costs of a \$1,811,480-reconstruction of the Lake Yard at the Port of Milwaukee facilities on Jones Island. The funds will be used to improve deteriorated tracks. Canadian Pacific and Union Pacific serve the yard and the Port of Milwaukee. The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad received four project awards including: Fairwater to Markesan - A \$4,116,160 FRPP grant and a \$514,520 FRIIP loan was awarded to replace 4,000 ties, five public road crossings and six switches. WSOR will also install 4,000 tons of new ballast with tamping and surfacing, and 7.2 miles of continuously welded rail. The state and the East Wisconsin Counties Railroad Consortium own the Fairwater-Markesan line.

Sparks & Cinders  
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Waukesha, WI 53188

**FIRST CLASS**

## The Final Frame



A silent sentinel standing guard over the tracks for many years. The coaling tower at Clyman, WI on the former Chicago and Northwestern, now Union Pacific stands the test of time. Photo by Keith Schmidt