

NRHS

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Volume 74 Number 2

EST 1950

February 2024

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.

Preserving Wisconsin Railroad History for 74 Years

Visit the Chapter Webpage www.nrhswis.org



CP #8757 "Every Child Matters" unit stands out in a March 2023 snowstorm. The #8757 is leading an eastbound train rounding the curve at Waterford Ave in Milwaukee WI photo by Keith Schmidt

in This Issue

- ◆ *From the Editor*
- ◆ *Board Member Biographies*
- ◆ *Winter Weather Issues for Amtrak*

Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

Upcoming chapter events

February 2 2024 Chapter Annual Business Meeting and Movie Night. (See Page 3 for more information)

March 1 2024 To Be Announced

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. For more up to date information on meetings and speakers, and also any weather cancellations, check the chapter's webpage at www.nrhswis.org.

Doors open by 7:00 pm, so arrive early to socialize. Meetings start at 7:30pm sharp. Please bring a friend! Our meetings are live-streamed on the Zoom platform. Connection details are shared with chapter members and other interested persons via email the day of the meeting, or before. To ensure you are made aware of this info, we must have a working email address on file - send yours to president@nrhswis.org.

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

The Big Picture is your page!

We've changed the format of the Sparks & Cinders back page, giving us room to run a large photo. Member submissions are solicited. Please send one or two of your outstanding pictures to Keith Schmidt, editor@nrhswis.org.

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 June, 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.nrhswis.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 Mike Yuhass membership@nrhswis.org (or via USPS at PO Box 070758 Milwaukee, WI 53207).

Wisconsin Chapter officers are: President (currently vacant) Keith Schmidt, Vice-President; Tom Marcussen, Secretary; Tara Grudzielanek, Treasurer. Directors: Dan Grudzielanek, Mike Yuhass, Andrew Roach, Ward Wells and Neal Wegner.

Contributions to Sparks & Cinders should be sent to Editor Keith Schmidt at editor@nrhswis.org (or USPS at PO Box 070758 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 ©2024, Wisconsin Chapter, Inc., NRHS.

Meeting Summary for January 5 2024

Introduction

Former President Mike Yuhass and current Vice President Keith Schmidt ran this meeting from our in-person meeting site in the basement of the North Shore Congregational Church in Fox Point. They started recording at 7:30 pm. Keith Schmidt opened the meeting by bidding all attendees a good evening and welcome at 7:31 pm.

Announcements

Keith Schmidt said our next regular Chapter meeting is on Friday, February 2. That will be our annual business meeting, with election of officers and directors, for 2024. If you are considering running for an office, please do so. You have to be a National NRHS member to run for office, vote, or discuss Chapter business. Subscribers and guests can attend, but may not participate, in the business part of the meeting. We will try to keep that part short. There will be a board meeting sometime in January to set up an agenda, which will be published in advance.

We have signed up for a table at the annual Mad City Railroad Show at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison on Saturday, February 17 and Sunday, February 18. We are looking for volunteers to staff our table. Ward Wells will be coordinating this event. He can be reached at wwardw@hotmail.com. Further details are on page 3 in the latest January 2024 issue of Sparks & Cinders. This will be the largest local show this winter, and the second largest of 2024. Train Fest will return to State Fair Park in November 2024.

We are already looking ahead to our 75th anniversary year in 2025. We need to get started soon to be ready. Keith is looking to set up a first meeting sometime in January. If you are interested in working on this, please contact him at kschmidt626@gmail.com or president@nrhswis.org.

Membership Chair Mike Yuhass took over for the membership announcements. Our presentation for the next meeting on Friday, February 2, will be Movie Night. We will have 3-5 presenters. Brian Buchanan, who worked for Wisconsin Central, Cana-

dian National, and Watco / Fox Valley & Lake Superior (FOXY), will present his evolution as a railfan. This will include movies taken by his grandfather. Gordon Smith, a former Delaware & Hudson dispatcher who now lives in Minneapolis, will be showing Canadian Alco diesels of the 1980s. Matt Brozowski will be showing some of his aerial drone videos. We may have one or two other presenters.

Mike offered acknowledgements for help received. "It takes a village," behind the images that people see, to set up and maintain all of the computers and IT equipment to present our meetings. Dave Nelson comes in early each month to open up and bring out our equipment. Sal Ciofani is our usual IT / Internet / Zoom specialist / lead person behind the scenes. We also get significant help from Keith Schmidt and Dan and Tara Grudzielanek.

If you are a member, and have not yet renewed for 2024, please pay up promptly. There are three ways renew (or join). The first way is very easy. Our Treasurer Tara Grudzielanek is here, accepting dues payments (\$20.00 by cash or check), tonight. The second way is on-line payment via our website at nrhswis.org. That second option includes an extra \$1.00 fee for credit card processing costs. The third way is to send a \$20.00 check to Wisconsin Chapter NRHS, P. O. Box 070758, Milwaukee, WI 53207. If you are not currently a member, and see value in what we are doing, please consider joining us. Dues payments support Chapter meetings like this one, other activities and publications. Your support is much appreciated.

A new chapter, the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter, has been accepted into NRHS. Their representative Barb Nemes is in the Zoom meeting room tonight. She presented a basic introduction to what they are about. They are in the 1889 Milwaukee Road depot in Darlington in Lafayette County. They are restoring a "Milwaukee Road" (originally Missouri Pacific—similar design) caboose. NRHS National President Tony White, in attendance via Zoom, extended a warm welcome to the new chapter, and Happy New Year greetings to both the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter and the Wisconsin Chapter. Barb offered some interesting historical information. The line through Darlington was built by the then-independent Mineral Point Railroad, from an Illinois Central connection at Warren, Illinois (just south of the border on IC's Iowa Division main line) north to Mineral Point. The Milwaukee Road took over after extending its Janesville to Monroe line west to Gratiot (crossing the Mineral Point), and Shullsburg. (Your secretary's Milwaukee Road East book shows the Warren-Gratiot-Darlington-Mineral Point line was built by the Mineral Point in 1857. The Milwaukee Road extended west from Monroe to Gratiot and Shullsburg in 1881. No date is shown for the Milwaukee Road taking over the Mineral Point.) They are still working on setting up their own web site. Until it is ready, they can be reached through the Lafayette County Historical and Genealogy Society web site.

The Wisconsin Chapter is now a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization registered with the Internal Revenue Service. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Thank you to Treasurer Tara Grudzielanek for doing the paperwork needed to set this up. She will soon begin sending out receipts to donors.

We have two new in-person attendees in the church hall tonight. Joe and Chris are here from Manitowoc. Presentation

Mike Yuhas introduced Jim Rindt. Jim is a leading historian of Sheboygan area railroads, both steam / diesel powered and electric. Jim's presentation tonight was on the street and interurban railways of Sheboygan. They started with a net

From the Editor

Well winter has arrived finally. Cold and Snow are here. The snow can make for some great train photos. It's tough to go out in the cold but the results can be great. Just Be Careful !!

The February meeting will include the annual business meeting. The meeting will include treasurer and membership reports. There will be some discussion on the upcoming 75th anniversary of the chapter. There will also be an election. There will be an opening on the board of directors. Please consider running for the board position. If you want to be more active in the chapter this is a great way to do that. Get out safely and enjoy the winter weather. Although sometimes it's nice to sit at home by the fireplace (if you have one) and watch some trains virtually. Check out Virtual Railfan and Steel Highway for various cameras throughout the US. Thank You

meeting summary continued

work of Sheboygan city cars. They added a short-lived (12 years) interurban line extending west to Kohler, Sheboygan Falls, and Plymouth, and from there north to Elkhart Lake. All of that became part of the Wisconsin Power & Light Company before abandonment. Jim treated us to many rare old photos, with the history behind them, of those operations. He brought a bell from WP&L freight motor #116.

The presentation ended at 8:48 pm. There was a short question and answer session. There were 25 in-person attendees and 42 Zoom-only attendees, for a total of 67.

Discussion Group

The recording stopped at 8:52 pm. Mike Yuhas turned the host role over to Ward Wells. An extended informal on-line discussion group on various railroad subjects continued until about 10:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas W. Marcussen

Wisconsin Chapter Secretary

Now's a great time to renew

Hat tip to the 109 members (at press time) who have renewed their support of the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS for 2024. If you haven't, it's incredibly easy. Just go to www.nrhswis.org, click the Join or Renew link, and follow the instructions. Simple! Or mail \$20 to Wisconsin Chapter NRHS, PO Box 070758, Milwaukee WI 53207. Or, hand \$20 to Treasurer Tara Grudzielanek at our meeting. Thank you!

Madison "Mad City" Train Show

Alliant Energy Center John Nolan Drive Madison WI

Saturday February 17 9am to 5pm

Sunday February 18 9am to 4pm

Come and visit the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS table at the show. Also see model train layouts from Z scale to G scale and more. Historical societies and Railroad museums will be on hand with information. Purchase model trains and railroadians too.

For more information about admission check out www.nmra-scwd.org

Business Meeting and Movie Night on Friday February 2 2024

Join the Wisconsin Chapter on Friday February 2 2024 for its annual business meeting. The meeting will include reports and elections. All are welcome. In order to run for office or vote at the meeting you must be a member of both the chapter and the national NRHS. Join the meeting in person at North Shore Congregational Church or remotely via Zoom.

Immediately following the chapter's annual business meeting, get ready for Movie Night! Three presentations are on the docket:

- In "Becoming a Railfan," Brian Buchanan looks at how the influence of his grandfather led him to a lifelong interest in railroads, and a successful career in railroad-ing.
- Gordon Smith trained his video cameras on "Canadian Alcos in the 1980s." This footage promises to be a treat for locomotive fans!
- Matt Brozowski will share aerial footage and more - scenes taken by one today's most creative young rail-road enthusiasts, in a production entitled "Freight in Motion"

Chapter Election Open Board Position

Every year the chapter has an election for all of the board positions. Right now the chapter is looking for a board member. All of the positions will open for someone to be nominated. If you have an interest in getting more involved in the operations of the chapter please let me know. You can get in touch with me at kschmidt626@gmail.com. Nominations for each position will also be taken at the meeting on February 2nd. Please consider helping out. With the new 501c3 designation for the chapter and 2025 being the 75th anniversary there will be plenty to do.

Riverside and Great Northern Railway acquires Milwaukee County Zoo Steam Locomotives

In 1961, the Sandley Light Railway Equipment Works of Wisconsin Dells, WI constructed the #1916, a 4-4-2 Class D Atlantic type locomotive for the Milwaukee County Zoo to increase the pulling capacity and assist their smaller 4-4-0 American type #82.

Approximately 11 years later a supplement to the #1916 Atlantic was to compensate for the increased train size once again and the #1924, a 4-6-2 Pacific type locomotive was built to handle the task,

In accordance with the Riverside & Great Northern Railways mission statement of preserving the Sandley Legacy, an opportunity was presented that could not be passed up. It is with great excitement that the R&GN would like to announce the acquisition of both the #1916 Atlantic and #1924 Pacific locomotives from the Milwaukee County Zoo! Both engines will return permanently to the R&GN during the 2024 season with more details to follow.

The R&GN would like to thank Mr William Gardner of Henderson NV as the opportunity would not have been possible without his generosity. We would like to thank the Milwaukee County Zoo for their dedication to keeping these two locomotives in pristine condition during their many years of service at the Zoo. - Press Release from R&GN Railway

Chapter scores 501c3 designation

Thanks to the efforts of members Jerry Krug, Doug Fast, Bon French, Rich Hawthorne, board member Ward Wells, and Treasurer Tara Grudzielanek, Wisconsin Chapter NRHS has been designated as a 501c3 public charity under the Internal Revenue Code. This recognizes the educational work we do in promoting the collection and dissemination of railroad history. Donations made to the Wisconsin Chapter may be deductible as permitted by law.

Don Ross Chapter Founding Member Passes Away

While listening to Jim Rindt's presentation on January 5th on the Sheboygan street car lines he mentioned Wisconsin Chapter member R. Don Ross. Don Ross was a charter member of the Wisconsin Chapter and served as the first Treasurer-Secretary. Don also served as the first editor of Sparks and Cinder from January 1951 to June 1951. Don also served as President from 1955-56.

Don was well known for his "Don's Depots" website. The website contained photos of depots from many railroads and locations. It was very well organized and I personally used it many times for research. Below is the obituary for R Don Ross who passed away on January 18, 2022. *by Keith Schmidt*

Don Ross, of Don's Depot of Railroad Photos, expired on Tuesday, January 18th in his home. Don was born in 1931 and was raised in the Milwaukee area. Don had several medical issues over the past several years. He died still loving to record more photos that he claimed had kept his interest during the time before his death.

Don was a graduate of Marquette High School and Marquette College with a Masters Degree in Religious studies. Later in life, Don was ordained a Perpetual Deacon in the Catholic Church. He served in this capacity to several churches in North Texas. A photographer all his life, Don had given of himself to helping others, including supplying photographs to many writers, and his photos are parts of many books. In one of his last moments with a friend, Don was awaiting the receipt of a new book, which will feature Don's Collection of Korean War photos, taken when he served in Korea as a train dispatcher.

Don was active with many early museums and groups. Don was an early supporter of IRM and was instrumental in finding the present site for IRM. For a bio of Don, please see the home page of Don's Depot and look for "The Autobiography's Editor (<http://www.donsdepot.donrossgroup.net/dr077.htm>)" in the Table of Contents for more information.

Don has been a member of the R&LHS for many years. Don has donated his railroad collection to the DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University, which will continue the Don's Depot feature for use by the public for access.



Wisconsin Chapter NRHS Board Member Biographies

Mike Yuhas, candidate for board (incumbent)

Mike, a native of Long Island, first joined NRHS in the mid 1970s, rejoined in 1985, and has been a proud member ever since. For 30 years, Mike was the chief ad sales guy for Trains and Classic Trains magazines until retirement in 2020.

He was elected to the Wisconsin Chapter board in the early 2010s, and was chapter president 2016-2023. He's been back on the board for the last year.

He is a member of four NRHS chapters, and recently began serving as a volunteer with NRHS, assisting on the membership and convention committees.

Mike has photographed trains for over 50 years. He can frequently be found trackside almost anywhere in Wisconsin and elsewhere. A gallery of over 7,000 of Mike's railroad and marine images resides at www.mikeyuhas.org. He has never been comfortable writing about himself in the third person.

Thomas W. Marcussen
Big Bend, Wisconsin
Wisconsin Chapter Secretary

I grew up in South Milwaukee, from the late 1950s through the early 1970s, the son of a Chicago & North Western brakemen and then conductor. My father worked on the local freight that served Cudahy, South Milwaukee and Carrollville / Oak Creek. My mother's father had worked section for the C&NW, and then on the Pere Marquette railroad car ferries based in Ludington, Michigan, serving Milwaukee, Manitowoc and Kewaunee, when he was young.

I am retired from an electrical / engineering / project management career working on power plants in Chicago (1975-1984), and then with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (1984-2014). I have been a Wisconsin Chapter member since December 1990. I have been serving on and off (more on than off) as Wisconsin Chapter Secretary since January 2005. I would like to continue serving.

My only other rail membership is with the Center for Railroad Photography and Art. I joined in 2020 when I saw the quality and value of the images they were saving.

I have been collecting information for many years on where almost all of the railroads in Wisconsin, Upper Michigan, and NE Illinois went. I am still working on getting my maps organized enough to publish, and trying to clear enough space out at our farm to set up an HO scale layout depicting NE Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

Tara Grudzielanek
St Francis
Chapter Treasurer

I have attended chapter meetings with my husband Dan. I enjoy supporting Dan's interests in trains and have loved the opportunity to travel on Amtrak and accompany him trackside as a rail fan. We both enjoy travel and exploring historical sights together.

I worked for 21 years as an accounting assistant for customs brokers which arrange for the transport of products into the country by various means including railroads. I have been the chapter Treasurer since January 2020.

Keith Schmidt Candidate for President
Milwaukee, WI
Amateur Radio KC9LHK
Occupation Deputy Sheriff - Retired
Currently - William K Walthers Repair Technician
FAA 107 Certified Drone Operator

Born and raised in the Milwaukee/St Francis area I grew up with the CNW just a few blocks away. I would spend hours watching the semaphores and trains moving around the St Francis interlocking. My Grandfather also worked for the Milwaukee Road in Wisconsin from 1919 to 1952.

My main interest is rail photography and has been since I was about 18 years old. I have now incorporated the use of a drone to broaden my photography. I am also a N Scale model railroader since I was 12 years old. I have a home N scale layout based on the Midwest and my previous experiences.

I have been a member of the Wisconsin Chapter for over 26 years and hope to continue as the new President of the Chapter

Additional railroad related memberships
Milwaukee N Southeastern Model Railroad Club
Nevada Northern Railroad Museum
Center for Railroad Photography and Art

Ward Wells Vice President Candidate
Riverside, CA
Amateur Radio: W6WRW
Occupation: Credit Union CIO

Growing up in Cincinnati, I first spent time by the rails in the early 1970's on a B&O line in the suburb of Madeira. After brief stops in Peoria, IL and Las Vegas, NV, I'm wrapping up 34 years in Los Angeles and will retire in Madison this summer.

My main interests are in rail and transportation infrastructure history, with books and maps as my favorite sources. Upon retirement, I'm looking forward to tracing abandoned right of ways throughout Wisconsin and the upper Midwest, immersing myself in Wisconsin history and finally attempting to build a CNW themed HO scale layout.

In addition to the Wisconsin Chapter and national NRHS, my rail-related memberships include:

- Corona Model Railroad Society
- Los Angeles Railroad Historical Foundation
- Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society
- Union Pacific Historical Society
- Chicago & North Western Historical Society
- Green Bay & Western Historical Society

I joined the Chapter in 2020.



Wisconsin Chapter NRHS Past Presidents

Dan Grudzielanek
St. Francis, WI
Occupation: Firefighter

My interest in railroads can be traced back to when, while growing up, my father worked for Kalmbach and would bring home copies of *Trains* and *Model Railroader* magazines each month. That exposure to the world of trains and railroading combined with living a short distance from the then C&NW, now UP, lines in St. Francis began what has become a life-long passion for railroad history, modern-day operations and railroad photography.

In addition to growing up in St. Francis, I continue to live and work there. I have been employed by the St. Francis Fire Dept. since 2001. I began as a Pain-On-Call firefighter and have been employed there full-time for the past 16 years. My wife, Tara, and I have been married for 15 years. We enjoy traveling and visiting museums and historic sites (and, of course, seeing some trains along the way). Tara also serves as the NRHS Wisconsin Chapter Treasurer.

I have been a member of the Wisconsin Chapter since 2000 and a board member since 2019. I am looking forward to continuing to serve on the board and supporting the Chapter's mission of preserving and sharing railroad history.

Neal Wegner
Brookfield WI

My name is Neal Wegner and I'm running for election of one of the board of directors positions.

My interest in railroading goes back many years and has provided my wife Cathy and I with many enjoyable hours, riding rail excursions, attending many National NRHS Conventions and photographing historical rail locations around the U.S. and Europe.

I've been a member of the Wisconsin Chapter and National for 40 years with the last 6 years being on the Wi. Chapter board.

Andrew L. Roach
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Wisconsin Chapter Board Member

I grew up in Brown Deer along the Milwaukee Road. I have been interested in trains for as long as I can remember. A friend of mine in the 1970's belonged to the same church as Art Schultz, who would take the neighborhood children to NRHS and the Milwaukee Model Railroad Club on National Avenue. I started attending NRHS meetings in the late 1970's, and when I turned 18 I became a member. In addition to being a NRHS member, I also belong to the Milwaukee Road Historical Association and the Chicago and Northwestern Historical Society.

I have been a board member for over 7 years, and I enjoy being involved in supporting the mission of the Wisconsin Chapter. I would like to continue being on the board. Currently I am interested in anything train-related in Wisconsin, especially when it involves history.

1950-51 Jim Scribbins	1983-84 Larry Trovinger
1952 Jim Grace	1985-86 Jerry Hilton
1953-54 Bill Koehler	1987-88 Dorothy Wiener
1955-56 Don Ross	1989-90 Greg Mross
1957 Gil Ziemann	1991-92 Al Baker
1958-59 Carl Solheim	1993-94 Mike Patrick
1960-61 Jim Scribbins	1995-96 Gary Children
1962-63 Carl Solheim	1997-98 Bob Baker
1964-65 Dan Platz	1999-2001 Greg Mross
1966-67 Jerry Hilton	2002- Bob Baker
1968-69 Bob Bullermann	2003-2005 Al Baker
1970-71 Larry Trovinger	2006 Curt Richards
1972-73 Bob Joyce	2007 Pam Mross
1974-75 Tom Hoffmann	2008-2009 Jeff Marker
1976-77 Larry Trovinger	2010-2011 Bob McCleod
1978-79 Arnie Burchardt	2012-2013 Bob Baker
1980 Tom Kidd - Rick Barrington	2014-2017 Dave Nelson
1981 Rick Barrington	2018 Bob Baker
1982 Chuck Porter	2019-22 Mike Yuhass

TRAINS Magazine 1,000th Issue

At a chaotic time in history — World War II, atomic bombs, the birth of the Cold War — founder Al Kalmbach published the first issue of *Trains* Magazine. Many great things were happening in the 1940s alongside the many bad. For instance, the Slinky was also invented around this time. In the transportation industry, passenger trains were the popular choice for long-distance travel — and steam locomotives ruled the rails. Highlights include a section with a 1,000 theme. "I'll leave you with this thought. Very few magazines make it to 1,000 issues. Perhaps as few as 50 magazines have ever reached this number. Kalmbach Media now has two of them. Thank you for being part of our success story." — *Trains* Editor Carl Swanson

Winter Weather Affects on Amtrak

Amtrak continues to assess efforts to operate in subzero Midwest temperatures and make cancellation decisions less than 24 hours before departures.

He explains, "Amtrak leadership will continue to marshal its workforce in shops and maintenance facilities to get equipment that has failed because of extreme temperatures back in service as quick as possible. The extended brutal dip in temperatures will, frankly, make that challenging in the coming days." James adds, "Our priority will remain keeping customers safe, so in some instances not dispatching trains into conditions that jeopardize our passengers and crews is the wisest course."

Empire Builder departures are now cancelled in both directions through Wednesday, Jan. 17, over the train's entire route, leaving 37 communities it exclusively serves without a train in at least one direction since Wednesday, Jan. 10.

None of the westbound long-distance trains — the Builder, Southwest Chief, Texas Eagle, or California Zephyr — departed Chicago Jan 15 2024. The City of New Orleans is only operating as far as Carbondale, Ill., but there is no advisory that mentions it isn't running to or from New Orleans. The northbound City was terminated at the unscheduled stop of Gilman, Ill., Jan 14 2024, according to an Amtrak Alerts notice, though it was shown as more than 9 hours late into Kankakee, Ill., further north. Elsewhere in the Midwest, the Chicago-Grand Rapids, Mich., Pere Marquette; Chicago-Port Huron, Mich., Blue Water; Chicago-Quincy Illinois Zephyr; and two Chicago-St. Louis round-trips leaving Monday and returning Tuesday are all cancelled. *Courtesy TRAINS Newswire Kalmbach Media*

From the Archives

February 1954—70 Years Ago

Steam and juice movies will be featured at the February 26 meeting of Milwaukee Chapter. Don Hofsommer, of Spencer, Iowa, a member of Iowa Chapter, will show films of IC, CMStP&P, CB&Q, C&NW, etc., in the Tall Corn State. You'll also see a snowy winter in northwest Iowa, some wrecks, and a journey up to the Iron Range. Don will also show films of the Fort Dodge line and other Iowa interurbans, a ride on an M&StL freight from Spencer to Fort Dodge and return, and on a mixed from Bluffs, Illinois to Keokuk. He will also have some scenes from the St. Louis NRHS convention.

February 1959 - 65 Years Ago

The first Flexi-Van load out of Milwaukee was sent on January 14 on Milwaukee Road train 59 and was delivered in St. Paul. Plans have been announced to expand Flexi-Van service to the West Coast....The General Pershing arrived in Oakland, California, after 42 years of military service. The loco was built by Baldwin in 1917 and was used as a switcher by the Army until 1947 when it was sent to Korea. It was retired by the Korean government and will be on display at the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay.

February 1964 - 60 Years Ago

The Chapter is meeting temporarily at the North Shore Congregational Church (We're still here 60 years later - so much for "temporary" - ed.)....A detailed account of the trip of Russ Porter's Car 40 (which he had just purchased from the EJ&E) from Joliet to Rondout was recounted. Russ and company braved the icy February blasts to ride the open platform. Car 40 was hauled from Rondout to the Dells by the Milwaukee Road where it was restored and converted to a summer home and art studio. (Your previous editor and many of our more senior members had the privilege to visit the car, which was a truly magnificent example of a railroad president's private car.)

February 1969 - 55 Years Ago

A severe winter with record volumes of commuters and tonnage have caused a serious power shortage for the C&NW. After years in freight service, Geep No. 1651 has been frequently used on Chicago-Green Bay passenger trains 121-206 to help out the aging E7s. This is one of two Geeps with serviceable steam generators. On weekends, Cummins alternator-equipped F7s from suburban service are working freight in sets of three or four....L&N received permission to discontinue the Hummingbird, but the way they did it will go down in history as a lowlight of public relations. Most passengers were dining enroute when the conductor announced, "We've discontinued the train. Get your baggage. We'll put you on a bus." And that's exactly what they did

February 1974—50 Years Ago

A Regional Transit Authority designated to revolutionize mass transit in six counties, with Chicago as the hub, will come into being on July 1 if a March 19 referendum approves the idea. State funds, including proceeds from the state lottery, will help to hold down fares and improve service. All Chicago commuter railroads will be affected by the plan....C&NW and BN will jointly construct a new 90-mile coal line north from the C&NW at Douglas, Wyoming, into the Powder River basin

February 1979—45 Years Ago

Serious snow problems at the Milwaukee Road's Bensenville Yard have necessitated interchange with Conrail trains in Milwaukee. Solid Conrail trains, including power and caboose, started rolling into Milwaukee on January 20....The Rock Island's Peoria and Quad Cities Rockets made their last runs on February 1 after losing their subsidies

February 1984 - 40 Years Ago

C&NW has signed up its first customer for the new Wyoming coal line, scheduled for completion in mid-November. C&NW, UP/MP, and Arkansas Power and Light have executed a 20-year transportation agreement under which the railroads will haul about 11 million tons of coal a year beginning in 1985.

February 1989 - 35 Years Ago

WICT is now operating into Chicago via trackage rights over Metra and Belt Railway of Chicago to Clearing Yard. With the Chicago service, WICT grows to 375 miles....A replacement station at Wisconsin Dells will be dedicated on June 10. The station replaces one destroyed in a derailment a number of years ago.

February 1994 - 30 Years Ago

WSOR has finished construction on its \$1 million paint facility in Horicon....The SP GP20s stored at Horicon will be put back into service in the coming year as WSOR expands service.... Chapter member Bob Baker is looking for material for the new Chapter publication "Wisconsin Rails II."

February 1999 - 25 Years Ago

The Great Blizzard of 1999, which began on January 2 and continued for several days followed by sub-zero cold literally brought Chicago freight rail operations to a stand-still for several days. The Amtrak Hiawatha service survived the blizzard but was done in by the extreme cold which caused the annulment of several trains on account of frozen equipment.... Amtrak reportedly is reassigning the three Florida Fun Train F40s to the Chicago-Milwaukee Hiawathas. The U. S. Postal Service is scheduled to issue a series of five 33-cent stamps commemorating great American passenger trains. The stamps will depict the SP Daylight, PRR Congressional, NYC 20th Century Limited, Milwaukee Road Hiawatha, and AT&SF Super Chief. All will be represented in paintings by rail artist Ted Rose

February 2004—20 Years Ago

The second annual Wisconsin Chapter Railfan excursion on the East Troy Electric Railroad will be on Saturday, April 24. This year we will be using ex-South Shore Car 30. There will be ample photo opportunities....A 13-year quest for an Amtrak station at General Mitchell International Airport will come to fruition in 2005. The station will be near Grange Ave. on the CP main line. Ex-Milwaukee Road 4-8-4 No. 261 is scheduled to visit the Milwaukee area in June.

February 2009 — 15 Years Ago

The National Press Photographer's Association has accused Amtrak of harassing photographers in violation of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, the association's magazine, News Photographer, has reported. The passenger railroad has come under increasing scrutiny since one of its officers arrested a photographer in New York Penn Station who was taking photos for the Amtrak calendar. In a letter sent by its general counsel, the association asked Amtrak "take immediate steps to remedy the railroad's unconstitutional treatment of law-abiding photographers."

February 2014 — 10 Years Ago

Arctic-like temperatures combined with nearly a foot of snow hit the Chicago area Sunday morning, Jan. 5, like a runaway train. For nearly two-weeks it left America's top-rated commuter railroad trying to recover from an almost "knockoutpunch." A combination of up to minus 22 degree weather, 16 inches of very fine and light blowing snow and an unprepared railroad resulted in countless cancellations, delays and inconvenience to Metra's more than 310,000 daily riders.

February 2019 — 5 Years Ago

The annual chapter elections were held. Mike Yuhas was elected President of the chapter. Mike replaced Bob Baker. Bob had served as chapter President several times and was a fixture on the board of directors. Bob decided to retire and just enjoy the chapter. Illinois Railway Museum is looking for donations to bring two pieces of TMER&L equipment back to service. Motors L-4 and L-7 need some major mechanical and body work to bring them back into service. East Troy Railroad Museum acknowledged a gift of \$500 from the chapter.

Derailment on the UP in Milwaukee

Word starting spreading of a derailment on the Union Pacific (former CNW) on the southside of Milwaukee on Saturday Dec 3 2023. It was true. The UP had a derailment near Chase Ave very close to the CPKC bridge over the tracks. Below is a photo of the wreckage left behind. Photo by Keith Schmidt



The Big Picture



The view looking east from the 35th Street Viaduct in Milwaukee. This shows the shop and servicing area of the Milwaukee Road yard in Milwaukee. What a collection of power seen in this photo. Unknown Year. From the collection of Jeff Haber