



NRHS

WISCONSIN CHAPTER



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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 75 Years

Visit the Chapter Webpage www.nrhwis.org



At Cut Off in the Menominee Valley. DME #6367 leads an eastbound freight as seen from WSOR locomotive in the yard. Photo by Mike Yanke

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Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

Upcoming chapter events

June 6 2025 Behind the Throttle with Mike Yanke.

Sept 5 2025 Annual "Favorite Photo Night"

Oct 4 2025 75th Anniversary Banquet Polish Community Center Franklin WI

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

Wisconsin Chapter officers are: Keith Schmidt President Ward Wells Vice President, Tom Marcussen, Secretary; Tara Grudzielanek, Treasurer. Directors: Dan Grudzielanek, Mike Yuhas, Ralph McClure and Neal Wegner. One Vacancy

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 ©2025, Wisconsin Chapter, Inc., NRHS.

Meeting Summary for May 2 2025

Introduction

President Keith Schmidt ran this meeting from our in-person meeting site in the basement of the North Shore Congregational Church in Fox Point. Keith welcomed all attendees to the May 2025 meeting at 7:31 pm. This is the 5-year anniversary of our first virtual meeting—in the Pandemic year of 2020. We had 16 in-person attendees in the physical meeting room, and 22 devices connected to Zoom.

Announcements

We will have an opportunity to return to the Christopher Transportation Museum, north of Sheboygan, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday, June 7. They are not usually open to the general public. They feature a large collection of railroad, airline, and other historic china. They have expanded, and added new exhibits, since our last visit. We will be there in the summer, and also have the opportunity to tour the gardens, this time. Members will be responsible for their own transportation to and from the museum. More details will be published in the June issue of Sparks & Cinders. Our Wisconsin Chapter Day at the East Troy Electric Railroad / Museum will be on Saturday, July 19. The museum will be open to the public, operating their regular summer Saturday schedule with Wisconsin equipment. Wisconsin Chapter members will enjoy unlimited rides at no cost. They will offer a special daylight photo session with the newly restored North Shore Line dispatch / merchandise car. The Chapter will have a display table. We are looking for volunteers to staff that table. The Chapter will be donating about \$5.00 for every non-Chapter member who purchases a ticket for that date. The exact formula for our donation amount is still being worked out. The day will end with a private evening excursion trip over the length of the line. We are looking at several Friday dates for our bus trip to the Railroading Heritage of Midwest America (RRHMA) (former Rock Island) steam restoration shop in Silvis, Illinois (just east of Rock Island in the Quad Cities area). There is no date or firm plan yet for our shared steam-up of Soo Line 2-8-2 #1003, at the Schlesinger Museum in Slinger.

Our 75th anniversary banquet is set for Saturday, October 4, at the Polish Center of Wisconsin, at 6941 South 68th Street (north of Rawson) in Franklin. The menu and cost are still being worked out. We are working on lining up a speaker.

Our next regular monthly meeting will be held on Friday, June 6. Former Wisconsin & Southern engineer Mike Janke will treat us to pictures and some full-motion video of a cab ride over the historic Milwaukee Road line from North Milwaukee Junction to the Canadian Pacific (CPKC) former Milwaukee Road yards in the Menomonee Valley.

Keith apologized for the late arrival of the May issue of Sparks & Cinders. He got it to the printer on time. There was a post office delay in getting the labels to Neal and Cathy Wegner. That caused it be mailed late.

Bob Joyce gave a large box to Dave Nelson containing almost a complete set of Sparks & Cinders. This is a treasure trove of historic information. Some of it will be published in print and on line for our 75th anniversary. This find will allow us to upgrade our historical "From the Archives" column in future issues of Sparks & Cinders.

Presentations

We had two presentations tonight, starting at 7:40 pm. Dave Nelson went first with a "Look Back at Wisconsin Chapter Excursions." Our very first one was in May 1950, when our Chapter was only two months old, on the short-lived Speedrail system that took over the Waukesha and Hales Corners lines of the Milwaukee Electric system. That was represented by a photo of a Speedrail car on the big viaduct over the Menomonee River and the Milwaukee Road main line near Grand Avenue Tower and the baseball stadium. That picture is unlikely to have been the real excursion. There were a number of such "stand-in photographs" for older events. There was a higher proportion of real-event photos as we got closer to more recent trips, nearly up to the present.

Keith Schmidt took over at about 8:15 pm, with "Older than 75 Years." His focus was on rolling stock and other equipment built or installed before 1950, and in service until very recently, or still in use today. We were treated to a number of full-motion videos of those things in action.

The two presentations lasted through about 9:00 pm. There was a combined question and answer session afterward. That ended about 9:05 pm.

There were 18 in-person attendees in the church basement. Your secretary saw a peak of 29 devices connected to Zoom during the presentations. Subtracting the one device in the church basement tonight yielded a total attendance of 46.

There was no opportunity for an informal on-line discussion group following the meeting. The host device was in the church basement, which required the Zoom meeting room to close quickly, so that the devices could be put away, and the room vacated, quickly after the physical meeting ended.

Respectfully Submitted

Thomas W. Marcussen

Wisconsin Chapter Secretary

From the President

May is turning out to be an interesting month. The weather has been wild to say the least. Tornadoes in Dodge County causing some major damage on Thursday May 15th. Hopefully everyone is OK. If you were affected I hope things will return to normal as soon as possible. I was affected by the May 15th storms. A tree was struck by lightning near my house and my power was out for 19 hours. The outage made me clean out the refrigerator. No other issues.

Memorial Day typically marks the beginning of the summer season. For the chapter it will mark the summer of our 75th anniversary and some events to celebrate the anniversary. We have some events already scheduled that hopefully you can be a part of.

Saturday June 7th the chapter has the privilege of being able to tour the Christopher Transportation Museum. The museum has the largest collection of railroad and transportation china. Also other items and beautiful gardens. There is more information inside about this.

Saturday July 19th is Chapter Day at the East Troy Railroad Museum. Chapter members can ride trains FREE all day. There will be some special photo opportunities and an evening charter for members. There is more information about this inside. Please join in these events to help celebrate the 75th anniversary of the chapter.

Like the late Jim Wrinn would say Get Busy Livin'

K

NRHS National Convention July 12-17 2025 East Lansing MI

The NRHS National convention is just east of Milwaukee in East Lansing MI. The convention runs from Saturday July 12th to Thursday July 17th. It looks to be a great convention. Some of the events planned include a presentation by our own Kevin Keefe on the early restoration efforts on the PM #1225. A diesel excursion on the Great Lakes Railroad. A steam excursion featuring NKP #765 on the Indiana Northeastern. Also tours of New York Central Museum, NS Elkhart Yard and the Adlake Factory. Greenfield Village and a visit to a restored Michigan Central depot in Detroit. To get more information about the convention check out www.nrhs.com/convention. Just a 4 1/2 hour drive from Milwaukee. Or take the Lake Express car ferry or even the "Big Ship More Fun" SS Badger.

Below #765 at Carland MI Elevator photo by Keith Schmidt



Check those photo books and slide trays

The chapter is looking for photos of Chapter events or meetings from the past. Please check your photos or slides to see what you might have. We do have the ability to scan and digitize the photo or slide so you don't have to give it up. It would be great to put something together for the Chapter 75th anniversary banquet in October. Let me know at president@nrhswis.org

Behind the Throttle on June 6 2025

Join us for the final meeting of the 2024-2025 season on Friday June 6 2025 at 7:30pm. Mike Yanke the presenter for this evening worked at WSOR for 16 years. In that time he got to Milwaukee a number of times, including holding the night switch job in Milwaukee. He was able to digitally capture a good swath of the territory that is usually inaccessible to civilians. His presentation will include a trip from Glendale Yard to Grand Ave, showing what's left of that formerly busy artery of commerce.

Join Mike and others at the meeting which takes place in the lower level of the North Shore Congregational Church, 7330 North Santa Monica Boulevard, Fox Point, Wisconsin. Arrive early to socialize with your fellow members. Doors open at 7pm on Friday, June 6 2025. Announcements and the presentation at 7:30 pm CST. The presentation will be available remotely on Zoom. For those participating remotely: This event requires advance registration. To register please contact membership@nrhswis.org to receive the meeting link. For more information about the chapter check out www.nrhswis.org



Traffic on Hampton Ave crosses the WSOR on what is a remnant of the old Beer Line. This is looking east. Photo by Mike Yanke.

Nickel Plate #765 Excursions

The Nickel Plate #765 2-8-4 Berkshire has a summer full of excursions. The #765 will be pulling a number of excursions on the Indiana Northeastern Railroad. This will also include "Throttle Time". You can be the engineer and run the big Berkshire. For more information and the complete schedule check out www.indianarailexperience.org.



NRHS Advisory Council Notes

On Saturday May 3 2025 Dan Grudzielanek attended the meeting of the NRHS National Advisory Council. Dan attended virtually. He passed along these discussion highlights from the meeting.

1. All communications to Advisory Council members will also be sent to chapter Presidents to increase communication.
2. The possibility of adding a few at large members to the Advisory Council is being explored. There are well over 1,000 NRHS members who do not belong to a chapter, for various reasons, and currently do not have their interests represented on the Advisory Council.
3. A survey will be sent to chapters to gauge interest in bringing back an annual report of chapter activities. Printed copies would probably be cost prohibitive, so would probably be produced in an electronic format. The project would be led by the Chapter Engagement Committee. The publication could be used as a recruiting tool for new members.

Union Pacific Unveils Abraham Lincoln #1616 Locomotive

Union Pacific has unveiled its Abraham Lincoln commemorative locomotive, honoring the president who signed the bill creating Union Pacific as part of the transcontinental railroad.

"Union Pacific exists because President Abraham Lincoln wasn't afraid to ask, 'What's Possible?'" Union Pacific CEO Jim Vena said at a ceremony in North Little Rock. "Our employees move the critical goods Americans use each day. We are proud of our heritage and look forward to sharing this special locomotive with the communities and people along the 23 states where we operate."

Officials including Arkansas Lt. Governor Leslie Rutledge, North Little Rock Mayor Terry Hartwick and Lincoln Presidential Foundation Chairman Emeritus Sergio "Satch" Pecori were among those taking part in the event.

The color scheme of locomotive No. 1616 — numbered to reflect Lincoln's service as the 16th president — is a nod to steam locomotive No. 119, one of two to take part in the Golden Spike ceremony at Promontory Summit, Utah, in 1869. The locomotive, painted at the railroad's Downing B. Jenks Locomotive Shop in North Little Rock, will serve as a traveling ambassador, the railroad said. It will make its first public appearance on May 10 at the Oregon Rail Heritage Center in Portland, as part of National Train Day. The railroad will announce additional details on the trip on its website and on social media.

Courtesy TRAINS Newswire Firecrown Media TRAINS Staff Photo



75th Anniversary Events

Visit the Christopher Farm and Gardens

As part of the 75th Anniversary of the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS chapter members have the unique opportunity to visit the Christopher Transportation Museum located at the Christopher Farm and Gardens near Sheboygan.

Jay W. Christopher developed an interest in transportation and railroads at an early age, by riding Chicago & North Western trains to family vacations in northern Wisconsin. Impressed by the ornate designs of the dinnerware, he made it his life's work to collect examples of dining car china. Much of this is exhibited at the Christopher Transportation Museum.

Railroad, steamship and airline china is the main focus of the collection, but there is plenty of other memorabilia on view. Our group will have the opportunity to explore the entire museum, including a room of newel posts, another of Mr. Christopher's passions.

Space is limited for this event. Please contact Mike Yuhas at membership@nrhswis.org to reserve your spot. No transportation is provided. Carpooling is recommended. Don't miss this chance to see this collection. There is no cost for this tour. The chapter will be making a donation to the favorite charity of Mr Jay W Christopher.

When Saturday June 7 2025 10am to 1pm

Where Christopher Farm and Gardens W580 Garton Road Sheboygan WI



Small portion of the railroad china



Plenty of newels on display too.



Jay Christopher visits with chapter members during the 2021 tour.

Wisconsin Chapter NRHS Day at East Troy Railroad Museum

Saturday July 19 2025

On Saturday July 19 2025 the Wisconsin Chapter NRHS will be hosting its Chapter Day at the East Troy Railroad Museum in East Troy WI. The day will feature equipment that ran in Wisconsin. Some of the equipment running, based on availability will include North Shore Car #761, Sheboygan Car #26 and the Milwaukee streetcar #846. The museum will be running its regular schedule and be open to the public.

The chapter will have a table setup with information about the chapter and rail history in Wisconsin. We are looking for people to help staff the table. If you are interested please contact Ward Wells at wwardw@hotmail.com

There will also be a special photo opportunity with the North Shore Merchandise Car. The car was recently restored. We are hoping to have some classic vehicles and setup several photo opportunities in the afternoon on that Saturday. That will hopefully start around 3pm.

The day will end with a evening charter for chapter members. There will be no cost for this evening charter. Right now we are looking at the evening charter starting around 6:30pm. We are still working on all of the details. There might be a special mailing that goes out once everything is completely set.



Free Rides All Day on Saturday July 19 2025

Chapter members are receiving FREE rides all day on Saturday July 19 2025. Present this to the ticket agent at the museum to redeem.



Valid only for regular trains running on July 19 2025.
No Cash Value.

Do You Know ?

by Dave Nelson

I prepared for my May presentation on Wisconsin Chapter NRHS excursions and activities of the past by doing a rather deep dive into the first 15 or so years of Sparks & Cinders. Former editor Bob Joyce had presented me with boxes worth of the prior issues, something I had not really explored until recently. There are things of interest and amusement to be found in those old issues and I've been looking for nuggets that have never made it into the monthly "From the Archives" column. Let's take a stroll through Volume 1.

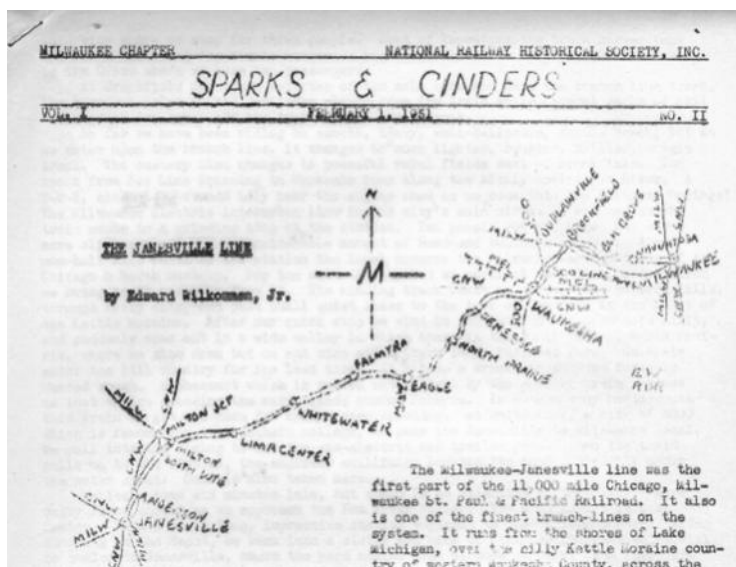
While the Chapter dates back to April 1950 when the NRHS recognized the newly-formed Milwaukee Chapter's application (the Kansas City chapter was formed a year earlier and K.C. and Milwaukee were the only Midwestern chapters for a quite a while), it was the Chapter's Board meeting of December 15, 1950, that approved the idea of a newsletter, and Vol. 1 No. 1 was published on January 2, 1951. The name of the new publication was not "Sparks & Cinders" but rather "?????????" Jim Scribbins was Chapter President, and the editor of ?????????? was R.D. "Don" Ross (who at the time had a small side business of selling railroad photos and later developed one of the great websites of railroad photos, Don's Depot. Don passed away just three years ago). National NRHS dues were \$2.50/year; Chapter dues were \$3.50. Cost of the new newsletter to non-members: 10 cents an issue or \$1 per year.

The big announcement in issue No. 1: "To allow members to have Friday evenings free, we have decided to call the January meeting for 8 p.m., Thursday, January 11th." The location was Jim Grace's Hobby Center, 1812 W. Atkinson Avenue and the program, apart from the business portion of the meeting, was an official Norfolk & Western color and sound 16mm film "Modern Coal Burning Steam Locomotives." This 1942 movie can be found on YouTube and note that in 1951 the N&W had yet to construct its last steam locomotives, at a time when most American railroads were starting to scrap theirs.

The next issue, Vol. 1 No. 2 for February 1951 introduced the name we still use, "Sparks & Cinders," and the top part of page 1 is shown (with Ed Wilkommen's hand-drawn map of Milwaukee Road's Milwaukee to Janesville line). The name made sense at a time when S&C was filled with plenty of anti-bus, anti-diesel locomotive, anti-truck, anti-highway, and anti-airplane venom. The February meeting was an auction. The elections for officers were actually contested, with 13 total voters present.

Vol. 1 No. 4 for April 1951 is interesting as, under the heading "One Year of NRHS in Milwaukee," it summarized news and activities for the nine months before there was a newsletter. The President complained that so many members "feel it is too much trouble to take an active part of the operations of their Chapter." Evidently an embarrassingly small number had attended a meeting at which Al Kalmbach was the presenter. One little news item: chapter member David P. Morgan (employed at Kalmbach but not yet editor of Trains Magazine) "became our first 'Blue Star' when he was called to the Air Force during September." The Korean War was raging and Corporal Morgan was assigned to Hamilton Air Force Base in California.

And that leads us to Vol. 1 No. 5, May 1951, which printed a lengthy letter Corporal Morgan wrote to Jim Scribbins about railfanning in the west. Morgan was not yet 30 years old and a good two years away from being named editor of Trains magazine, but all the elements of his famous prose style are in this letter, which is likely unknown to even his most avid admirers. It is almost criminal for the likes of me to try to excerpt the great Morgan's courtly clarity, but he started his letter wishing all Chapter members could enjoy with him "the spectacular railroad show continuously staged out here in the western states. It's not all sound and fury out over Tehachapi, or across Nevada desert. Two of the more soul-stirring sights I've seen west of Denver were Southern Pacific six-coupled switchers Nos. 1270 and 1276, which switch the Oakland pier. Both wear green boiler jackets and sport embossed numerals and tank lettering, not to mention chrome cylinder heads and white driver tires. Altogether, they're a vista remarkably remindful of similarly-attired Southern Railway 0-6-0's in Atlanta and Salisbury and Knoxville. (And frankly I hope it's a long time until Alco's or EMD's bump them down to Bayshore Shops for scrap, with apologies to efficiency.)"



From the Archives

June 1955—70 Years Ago

Convention Business: A planning meeting will be held at the 27th St. Library on June 24th. Things are really beginning to roll, now. The C&NW has granted our requests and the North Shore trip is well into the planning. The streetcar trip is routed and awaiting approval. Tickets and public-ty come out next. Kansas City Chapter is trying to secure enough members for a special car to Milwaukee on the South-west Limited. Iowa, Topeka, and other members in the area are invited....The June Chapter meeting will be at the Illinois Electric Railway Museum at North Chicago, Illinois, aboard an ex-CTA "L" car.

(The IERM was the predecessor of today's Illinois Railway Museum at Union, Ill. - ed.)

June 1960 - 65 Years Ago

C&NW Passenger Train Notes — North Western train schedules all changed one hour to conform with Daylight Saving Time, effective April 24th....The C&NW Wisconsin Lakes Special will again operate to Land O' Lakes providing passenger service on the branch north of Monico for the summer. It will operate north on Friday nights, and south on Sunday nights in July and August; the last "seasonal" train in the state. During the summer, the Flambeau 400 will provide parlor and lounge-diner service as far as Ironwood, Michigan, to accommodate vacationers....Carl Solheim recounted a less than-satisfactory trip on Brand-X Railroad (whose color scheme is two-tone gray) between Chicago and Cleveland.

June 1965 - 60 Years Ago

"Complete Circus Train Info in This Issue!" Substitute editor Jerry Hilton's feature article on this, the first Baraboo-Milwaukee Circus Train, was a complete railfan's guide to the operation. Included was introductory information, a schedule with times and mileage, several paragraphs of special photo notes and locations, a roster of equipment, and two detailed maps....The North Shore Congregational Church granted the Chapter use of their facilities for meetings indefinitely (the first meeting at the church was on January 10, 1964) Note the chapter still meets there 61 years later.

June 1970—55 Years Ago

The Schlitz Old Milwaukee Special (Circus Train) is scheduled to leave Baraboo at 6:15 a.m. on June 30, arriving at the Milwaukee lakefront at 2:15 p.m. the same day. Motive power will once again be diesel....The Antique Transportation Meet is scheduled to be held at North Freedom on August 15 and 16....The first EMD SD55s are being assembled at La-Grange. The 20-cylinder turbocharged units are rated at 4200 hp....The Flying Scotsman steam locomotive is scheduled to operate at the National Railroad Museum at Green Bay for five weeks this summer.

June 1975—50 Years Ago

The East Troy Trolley Museum is scheduled to begin operations for the summer on June 8. The season had been in doubt due to insurance problems coupled with rotary converter trouble.... The C&NW has recently acquired two rail testing trucks to perform ultrasonic testing. The units represent an investment of \$300,000.

June 1980 - 45 Years Ago

The Wisconsin & Southern Railway Co. has been selected to operate the former Milwaukee Road line from North Milwaukee to Oshkosh, according to the Wisconsin DOT. The operation will commence July 1....The ex-Milwaukee Road Mineral Point and Viroqua branches are now being operated by the Chicago, Madison & Northern Railway. A press release dated May 14, 1980, projects that if all goes according to plan, the restructured "Milwaukee II" will show a profit in 1983

June 1985 - 40 Years Ago

Ex-C&NW 4-6-0 No. 1385 is scheduled to power the Butler 400 on Sunday, July 28. An ambitious summer schedule for the 1385 showed operation throughout the C&NW system from June 15 through September 29....An update of Soo/Milwaukee power was published. It was noted that ten units from each railroad are to operate on the opposite railroad to "show the merger flag."

June 1990 —35 Years Ago

Detailed information on the operation of the Great Circus Train was provided. It will operate from Baraboo to Janesville on Tuesday, July 10, and from Janesville to Milwaukee, via Harvard, Crystal Lake, Arlington Heights, Lake Bluff, Kenosha, and Racine on Wednesday, July 11....The Kettle Moraine Scenic Railway opened its 19th season on Sunday, June 3....Amtrak inaugurated its Hiawatha Service between Milwaukee and Chicago with five daily round trips in October, 1989. Ridership counts for February, 1990, showed an increase of 52.7% over that of a year ago.

June 1995 —30 Years Ago

Ex-Milwaukee Road 4-8-4 No. 261 is traveling to Steamtown in Scranton, Pennsylvania, for the Grand Opening in July. The locomotive will operate from Minneapolis to Milwaukee on June 17 and from Milwaukee to Chicago on June 18....The first-ever Mass Transit Fans Convention will be held in Milwaukee from June 29 through July 2....CP has opened a newly-constructed operating headquarters building in Portage.... Ex-Frisco 4-8-2 No. 1522 will be powering excursions in Iowa and Illinois during the month of June.

June 2000—25 Years Ago

Dave Ingles provided a listing of trains on the CP and WC at Duplainville. He noted that CP averages 20 to 25 freights plus the Amtrak Empire Builder. WC averages about 22 freights plus local and rock trains....A number of unhappy shareholders let their feelings be known at the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Central Transportation Corp. on May 18. They had criticism for the way the present executives are running the railroad after the ouster last year of CEO Ed Burkhardt.

June 2005 — 20 Years Ago

Soo Line 4-6-2 steam locomotive No. 2719, which once pulled passenger trains throughout the Midwest, will be moving to a new home in Duluth. The locomotive, owned by the Locomotive & Tower Preservation Fund of Eau Claire, will be moved from its storage site near Eau Claire to the Lake Superior Railroad Museum (LSRM) in Duluth.... Jim Wrinn, editor of Trains magazine, was the speaker at the annual Chapter banquet on May 7. Jim entertained with an autobiographical talk entitled "14 Things To Do To Become Editor Of Trains."

June 2010 — 15 Years Ago

The longtime operator of Milwaukee Road 4-8-4 steam locomotive No. 261 will buy the engine for \$225,000 and continue operating it in excursion service. The deal, announced on May 8, ends a long-standing feud between the engine's owner and operator that nearly saw it returned to static display. Museum Operations Manager Bob Lettenberger said money the museum is raising through the sale will go toward restoration of rolling stock displayed there. Bob Young, the museum's acting executive director, said he's pleased the engine will continue to operate as part of the agreement.

June 2015 — 10 Years Ago

The Chapters 65th Annual Banquet almost didn't happen. Due to some miscommunication with the original location just a week before the event a new restaurant was found and things went well at the Pallas Restaurant. Several events are planned for the summer of the Chapter's 65th Anniversary. A ride on Car #26 at East Troy Trolley Museum with a pizza buffet before and ice cream is planned for August. Also a visit and tour of the roundhouse in Janesville is planned for August. The event was arranged by Chapter member Jeff Marker. The roundhouse is 110 years old and was originally used by the Milwaukee Road. The roundhouse is currently used by Wisconsin and Southern railroad. Note— Unfortunately this tour was cancelled.

June 2020—5 Years Ago

The chapter held its first virtual chapter meeting on Friday May 1 2020. This was done due to restrictions in place for the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic. The meeting seemed to go well. 47 visitors took part via the Zoom platform. There were presentations from 5 members on various topics. Dan G provided updated information on the local trains that the Union Pacific runs in the Milwaukee area.



The Big Picture



Also turning 75 years old the Norfolk and Western #611 is the Queen of Steam., Here the #611 is at Spencer NC at the Railroad Museum in Oct 2021. Photo by Keith Schmidt