



# MRHC Newsletter

Milwaukee Road Heritage Center  
301 State Road Suite 1, Montevideo, MN 56265

[montevideomrhc.org](http://montevideomrhc.org)  
October 2006

**From the President's Desk**  
**John Givan**

Greetings from Montevideo.

No doubt many of you are wondering what is happening with the Milwaukee Road Heritage Center since it has been a long time since our last newsletter. We hope to bring you up to speed with this edition.

In short, it has been a difficult year for your organization. After a promising start to the new year, which saw the re-election of yours truly to the board of directors along with former board member Jerry Ross and newcomer Scott Vaubel, we ran into a stretch of rough track. MRHC founding member and long-time board member Arnie Anderson passed away this spring. Although he had finished his term on the board at the end of 2005, Arnie was still an integral part of this organization. His loss will be keenly felt.

The second slow order we hit came with the illness of board member and newsletter editor Gil Tyckoson. Gil had surgery for colon cancer this spring and was ready to head for home after what was apparently successful surgery when he had a serious infection lay him low. He has been fighting to recover his strength ever since, has undergone more surgery, and faces the prospect of undergoing chemotherapy when he is strong enough. Our best wishes go out to Gil, along with our prayers as he fights this battle. Needless to say, the newsletter has not been a top priority for Gil, but we hope to get it back on track and out to you on a regular basis.

Despite the setbacks we have suffered, the MRHC has been making progress this summer. Our efforts have focused on cleaning up our park and presenting a good image. There is no end to trying to keep ahead

of the weeds and brush that keep coming back year after year, no matter how hot and dry the weather. It's an ongoing battle, but the grounds do look good. We put new decking on the 50-foot flatcar we got from CP Rail last year, and have put it with our wrecker, X-19, as a boom car. The entrance road into the park has been graded and graveled this fall thanks to a donation from the Lac qui Parle Lake Association. The arrangement with our tenant in the depot, the Land Stewardship Project, is working out well. The depot is open most days during the week so visitors may walk through it, and we are making enough from the rent to put money aside for future maintenance and other projects.

We will continue to work on our model railroad layout, which finally got under way this past winter. It will be a two-level layout based on Montevideo in 1953. It will extend from Wegdahl on the east to Watson on the west. Board member Wayne Spiess, yours truly, former MRHC board member Brian Wordes, and modeler Sam Sherman, who works for the Minnesota Prairie Line, put in several weekends working on the layout this winter. We will take pictures for future newsletters to document our progress.

At the board of directors meeting Aug. 9, a new slate of officers was elected. In addition to yours truly being elected president, Dick Ryman was elected vice president, Scott Vaubel was elected recording secretary, and Jerry Ross was elected treasurer. Past president Jim Ruether is heavily involved with the local Boy Scouts and wanted to have more time for that. Past vice president Bob Lark, who lives in Edina some 130 miles from Montevideo, decided to step down in favor of a local member in the vp's spot. Jane Connell, who was our treasurer for many years, resigned in May because of family and work commitments. Dick subsequently resigned from the board for personal

reasons, and Max Hinde was elected vice president in his place. Teresa Patton was elected to the board for the remainder of Dick's term, which expires at the end of this year. Jim, Dick and Bob will remain active with the MRHC, and we thank them for all they have done and will continue to do.

In closing, I would like to say that I look forward to serving as president of the MRHC. We have a good group of volunteers on the board, and we will work hard to preserve the history of the Milwaukee Road. But I would also ask for your support, as well. A membership form will be mailed separately from this letter and I would ask that when you receive it you pay your 2006 dues if you have not already done so. And, if you are so inclined, we will gladly accept your 2007 dues as well. One of my goals is to improve our annual dues process and make it more "user friendly" ala the system used by the Milwaukee Road Historical Association. Please note that any correspondence to the MRHC should be sent to Suite 1, 301 State Road to avoid it being sent back to you by the postal service. The Land Stewardship Project also gets mail at 301 State Road and the postmaster is being very uncooperative about putting our mail in our box without the proper address.

Thank you for your continued support of the MRHC. With your help we can keep the memory of the Milwaukee Road alive!

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

Please send in anything of interest to the newsletter. The editor works two jobs and typing this newsletter is volunteer work so please send in of interest pertaining to our local Milwaukee Road. Preferably by our temporary e-mail at [montevideorailroad@yahoo.com](mailto:montevideorailroad@yahoo.com) or mail it to us at Milwaukee Road Heritage Center--Suite 1, 301 State Road --Montevideo, MN 56265

If you would like to publish your emails just send it to the e-mail at [montevideorailroad@yahoo.com](mailto:montevideorailroad@yahoo.com). At the same time let us know what you think about sending this newsletter by email--it would save us alot on postage cost, paper cost, and time.

## Web sites of Montevideo Milwaukee Road

I love the internet so when asked to be the editor I did some searching on the net for Montevideo or Chippewa Milwaukee Road. I found these which I hope is of interest. The MRHC is looking into having a web site on the net again. If you find a web site of the MRHC please mail it into us or send it to our temporary e-mail address to [montevideorailroad@yahoo.com](mailto:montevideorailroad@yahoo.com).

Someone sent into this forum some pictures around this area:

<http://www.trains.com/TRC/CS/forums/818730/ShowPost.aspx>

A family tree look down to Number 12:

<http://home.att.net/~mensch-family/McRodenTree.htm>

12d. Janie Norman was born in 1881 at "Norman Ridge", near Bloomingdale, NY. When 1 year old, she moved with her family to Chippewa County, MN, near Montevideo. She married 1st John Bird on 17 Jun 1897. John was a brakeman with the Railroad. John died in a railroad accident. Janie & John had 2 children: Ethel & Norman. Janie married 2nd to Joseph Parkins on 13 Dec 1909. Janie & Joseph had 1 child: Fannie Bridge Parkins (6 Jun 1911-16 Jul 1980) m. Julian Olson-Fannie & Julian are buried in Sunset Memorial Cem. in Montevideo, MN

Another forum at <http://www.mrha.com/gbook/>  
Phil Anderson ([rsa5@earthlink.net](mailto:rsa5@earthlink.net))

Sunday, September 24, 2006@ 1:57 PM

Do you know

I'm 82 years old. My Dad retired at Montevideo, MN as a Trainmaster-Traveling Engineer in 1970. I worked as a clerk in the rip yard, Mpls, for Hollingworth in 1945, while attending U of M. It's a long shot, in view of the years, but I'd like to hear from anyone who know my Dad, Philip W. Anderson. My many Slomske Uncles from Wausau Wisconsin also worked on the Milwaukee. In 1940 I road with my Dad as he fired a freight run from St Paul to LaCrosse and return. I'd like to hear from anyone who know my Dad.

Some pictures of some Milwaukee trains at <http://community.webshots.com/album/17926913ipjAIRBfaY>

The following from <http://www.the-land.com/column.php?storyid=2302>

Story published: February 11th, 2005

**Still chugging along  
Milwaukee Road Heritage Center, Montevideo  
By Denice F. Woller**

**The Land Correspondent  
Milwaukee Road Heritage Center, Montevideo  
Denice F. Woller**

**Milwaukee Road Heritage Center, Montevideo**

For 16 years, train lovers have been preserving the history of the Milwaukee Railroad. More than 150 members of the Montevideo-based Milwaukee Road Historical Association continuously work toward restoring the railroad line's past for future generations.

Every month, members are working on something and their plans only continue to grow for their Heritage Center.

They have restored the depot to its original condition and gotten it placed on the National Historic Register. They have cleaned up the forest that had grown up around the abandoned train yard. They have converted the still operational turntable to a hydraulic system so it's easier for the group to use when changing cars. And that's just a few of the projects they have accomplished.

Visitors are welcome to peruse the train yard and look at the restored cars, cabooses, crane and other equipment. Posted informational signs help guide visitors. Soon there will also be a model train house for viewers to see a replica of how the yard once was.

Montevideo used to be a major hub for this railroad system. And while the trains may not frequent the city like they used to, the members of the Milwaukee Road Historical Association are anxious to preserve its history so it doesn't become just a whistle in the distance.

Bigger picture from the previous article is at <http://www.the-land.com/graphics.php?gid=230>

**Your New Editor  
Debbie Moe**

The president wants me to write a few lines introducing myself.

I graduated from Montevideo High School and went to Willmar Vo-tech for clerical. From there I worked at several businesses in Monte including Ray-art Company, The Outpost, Cashway grocery store and Young America Corporation.

I live in Montevideo two blocks away from the railroad tracks and now work at the Willmar Library Administration Office entering data for each item that belongs to 32 branches of the Pioneerland Library System and trying to start a part-time job at home doing musical slideshows for weddings, funerals, etc. from pictures. When done my web site will be [debbie-moe.com](http://debbie-moe.com).

My memories of the railroad was to take the passenger train to Minneapolis with Irma Alstad and my mom Nellie. We would play Racko close to the engineers.

We had a dog Penny that was really dad's dog because everytime the railroad whistle would blow Penny was outside waiting for him to come up the hill.

I have had several family members have worked on the Milwaukee Railroad:

My dad Albert Olaf (Mons) Moe was an engineer until he died in 1969.

My uncle Clinton (Blackie) Paugh worked for 32 years as a roundhouse man for the Milwaukee Road.

My uncle Alvin (Al) Moe worked from 1936 to 1978 from a fireman to an engineer when he retired with more than 42 years of service.

My brother-in-law John Ruether worked from 1962 to 1964

My brother Tom Moe worked in 1974

My cousin Vickie Koch's husband Ron Koch worked her until transferred to Aberdeen, SD..