



MRHC Newsletter

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

montevideomrhc.org
Special December 2006

Keep April 21, 2007 open on your calendar.

The MRHC is having a special get together for all members in Montevideo. More information in our next newsletter.

From the President's Desk

John Givan

Holiday greetings from Montevideo.

Just a brief message this time around from my desk. There is a lot going on at this time of the year, and I am sure we are all more than busy.

Ballots for election of board members are being sent to all current MRHC members, based on the latest list of paid members we have available. We have some new names in the mix this election, and that bodes well for the future of your group. Please return your ballots to us as quickly as possible.

Plans are in the works for a spring membership get-together/fund raiser in late April at the historic Hollywood Theater here in Montevideo. Your board of directors thought it would be a good idea to have an event at which the members could gather and socialize, as well as provide some input on what they would like to see happen here in Montevideo. More details will be included in a future newsletter, but plan to keep April 21 open. A new sign will soon be attached to the front of the depot, apprising people that Montevideo was on the route of the famous Olympian Hiawatha and telling the distance from Montevideo to Chicago on the east and to Seattle on the west. A sign will also be placed at the sand house in memory of Arnie Anderson, since the sand house was "his" pet project.

Work has begun again on the model railroad layout. More bench work was built in late October and work will continue throughout the winter. If all goes according to plan, we should have some track laid by the end of March.

Funding, as always, will be crucial to what we can accomplish in 2007. We have apprised Casey O'Neil of the projects we anticipate we will undertake next year and have asked once again for financial support from the Casey T. O'Neil Foundation. Other grant opportunities will be pursued this coming year. The planned round-house restoration project will require a significant amount of planning and financial support. Another funding option we have discussed is planned giving. If you feel strongly about preserving the history of The Milwaukee Road and believe in what The Milwaukee Road Heritage Center is doing, please consider us as you do your estate planning. Because we are a 501(C)3 non-profit organization, bequests and gifts may have favorable tax advantages for donors.

In closing, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support of the MRHC. We could not do it without you. With your continued support, there is much more that we can accomplish.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Crews have been working on the (model) railroad
By John Givan

Members of the Milwaukee Road Heritage Center who enjoy model railroading have begun to work again this fall on the model railroad that will occupy a former two-car garage near the sand house in the railroad park. Work first started on the framework late last winter but was put on hold during the summer months. MRHC members John Givan, Wayne Spiess, and Brian Wordes have been helped by members of the Minnesota River Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association. These include Dave Anderson, Sam Sherman and Jon Bratt. MRHC member Nick Bergner also lent a hand Nov. 11, and we are thinking we might make a model railroader out of him, as well.

Brian Wordes is a former MRHC board member and lives on a farm between Sacred Heart and Renville. He is an accomplished model railroader and is building a home layout, focusing on the Milwaukee Road and the M&St.L. Nick is a new MRHC member from Maynard who is just plain interested in railroads Dave Anderson is from Renville and is also a model railroader. Wayne Spiess is a current MRHC board member and also is a model railroader. Yours truly is also a model railroader, and I also have a home layout. My primary modeling interest is in the Milwaukee's arch-rival, Great Northern, but I also model the Milwaukee and the Rock Island.

Our model railroad will represent Montevideo in the autumn of 1953, a time when steam locomotives still were running, there were still passenger trains running through Montevideo, and the railroad yard was the hub of the community. The plan is to have only model railroad equipment that is appropriate for the time period on the layout. The buildings that used to line the tracks will be recreated as accurately as possible, as will all the other buildings that were a part of the railroad at that time. This includes the roundhouse, sand house, coal tower, depot, freight house, elevators, coal sheds and ice house. We plan to recreate the track and industries that were in Watson, also. The railroad will run from Wegdahl to Watson, with the main feature being the Montevideo yard.

The layout is being built of metal studs and two-inch-thick styrofoam insulation. The materials are light weight, less expensive than lumber. Also, using metal and styrofoam will eliminate problems caused by fluctuations in humidity and temperature. The trains will be powered using the latest development in model railroading - digital command control. Each locomotive will have its own digital receiver inside, which will be controlled by wireless, radio-control throttles. Up to 99 trains can be run at the same time using this type of system. There will be a lot of trains running at any given moment, just as there were in 1953 in Montevideo.

We are excited about the model railroad project. It will take a few years and a lot of dollars to finish, but it will be a marvelous addition to our museum and will help preserve the memory of the Milwaukee Road.

Wayne Spiess and Nick Bergner put together a leg for the metal bench work that will support the model railroad.



Looking over their day's handiwork at the model railroad building last month were (from left) Brian Wordes, Nick Bergner, Dave Anderson and Wayne Spiess. The four, along with John Givan, had spent the day completing the lower level bench work of the model railroad layout. In the foreground is the base ring of one of the two helixes that will take trains from a lower level to an upper level on the railroad. The turntable and roundhouse will be on the upper level above this helix.



The metal framework for the model railroad is taking shape. This view shows the layout looking from the southeast corner of the train room. The main yard will be on the top level and a hidden staging yard will be located underneath it on the left side of the photo.



Current 2006 Board of Directors

John Givan	President	Jerry Ross	Director/Membership Director
Max Hinde	πVice President	Gil Tyckoson	Director
Scott Vaubel	Secretary	Bob Lark	Director
Teresa Patton	Treasurer	Jim Ruether	Director
		Wayne Spiess	Director

Building Committee

Jerry Ross	Chairman	Max Hinde	Electrical
		Jim Ruether	Sewer/Water

MRHC Board of Directors Elections -- 2007

Teresa Patton: My interest in the MRHC is simply for the purpose of trying to help preserve a piece of American history for my children and the children to come after them. I think the railroads played such a huge and important part in our development and history - it's important to remember. I ma relatively new to Montevideo - 4yrs. We moved here from Wichita, KS for my husband's job. We have 3 children, two of whom are in high school here in Monte and one who is attending college at UMD (Duluth). I currently am employed as the manager at Java River.

Scott Vaubel: I got into trains when I was very young. My grandpa's farm was split down the middle by the Milwaukee Road in Ridgeway Iowa. One of my uncles worked as an engineer out of Calmar Iowa. From there, I worked as a car attendant on 328 (MTM locomotive) and on the traction gang of the streetcar line in Mpls. To me this is a continuation of my hobby and what I love to do. I would like to see while I am a board member the rebuilding of the roundhouse stalls and to take the switcher out for public rides.

Wayne Spiess: I live in Dawson and farm my 160 acre farm south of town. I am married and have two children, four grandsons, one granddaughter and one great grandson. Being semiretired I have more time to devote to other interests like the Milwaukee Road Heritage Center. I am currently a member of the board and have worked on several projects including the depot, yard and especially the model railroad layout.

Debbie Moe: I work full-time at the library. I am also trying to get a part-time business started making slideshows for special occasions and selling baby booties on the internet. I am also starting up a web site called www.debmoe.com. I had several relatives employed at the Milwaukee Road, one being my dad. I'm the editor for the MRHC and would love to see the Railroad like it use to be--coming through Montevideo again. Just to keep the tradition of the Railroad in our family.

Mary Gatzmeyer: My father, A.W. Gatzmeyer, worked for the Milwaukee Road from 1926 - 1968. I would like to be involved in helping to preserve the history of the railroad and the vital role it played in Montevideo.

 Terms Begin January 2007

There are three Board of Director slots. The following individuals have been nominated. Check the box next to any of the candidates you wish to vote for. If you wish to write in candidates for any position, please do so. Vote for a maximum of three members.

Teresa Patton , Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scott Vaubel , Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wayne Spiess , Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>
Debbie Moe , Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Gatzmeyer , Board Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Write In	<input type="checkbox"/>



Milwaukee Road Heritage Center

Milwaukee Road Depot 301 State Road Suite 1 Montevideo, MN 56265

I want to be a member of the Milwaukee Road Heritage Center

Please complete this form and return with your check or money order payable to:

Milwaukee Road Heritage Center - Milwaukee Road Depot
Attn: Jerry Ross, Membership Chairman
301 State Road - Suite 1, Montevideo, MN 56265

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Evening Phone _____ Day Phone _____

Email _____

New Member - \$25 2007 Renewal - \$25 Sustaining Membership - \$50
Volunteer worker Roundhouse / Turntable Restoration Fund \$ _____