



# MRHC Newsletter

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

September 2007

From the President's Desk  
John Givan

Greetings from cloudy, misty-moisty Montevideo.

The dog days of summer have departed, it would seem. As I write this column on Aug. 22, the skies have been cloudy all week and we have received over two inches of rain since last Friday. The drought that has beset the region this summer appears to be over and the lawns are green and growing like mad. So are the weeds, but what else is new?

We still have many projects remaining on our "to do" list this year. The control house on the turntable still needs repainting, the interior of our 200-ton crane X-19 still needs to be cleaned up and painted, track still needs to be laid from the turntable to the sand house (although filling and leveling is under way to prepare for this), and we are replacing ties on the turntable lead. Strong backs and strong arms are still needed, but we're getting by.

We do have some progress to report around the roundhouse. We poured more than 60 cubic yards of concrete in the area of the former locker room and around a couple of the easternmost stalls. It looks much improved, and we will have a good foundation for our new roundhouse when the time comes. A big, huge, tremendous, THANK YOU is in order for MRHC member Casey O'Neil who donated an additional \$10,000 to the roundhouse restoration fund. We have raised close to \$40,000 for this project this year, but it is a drop in the bucket for an undertaking of this magnitude. Estimates are that it will cost about \$150,000 for just three stalls. We are seeking grant opportunities to help fund this, and we are hopeful we will be able to find the funding to allow us to proceed without "breaking the bank."

The model railroad is still making progress. Summer is not the best time to find guys to give up a Saturday or two each month, so we have not made as much headway as we will once the weather turns cooler this fall. The lower level and both helixes to the upper level should be completed by October, and then work can begin on the upper level. This too will involve some significant expense, but we will do as much as we are able. Toys for big boys are expensive.

Speaking of big boys' toys, the newest addition to our collection, an SW-1 switcher donated by Xcel Energy, arrived last month. It is in operating condition and is a great addition to our collection. It is currently painted as it was when Xcel owned it, but we intend to paint it in Milwaukee Road orange and black. We also have the half-cab training unit donated to us by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway thanks to Jerry Ross going and getting it. The unit was used to train locomotive engineers, and we think it will make an interesting, interactive display for the public when we get the first stalls of the roundhouse erected.

As I stated in my last column, we on the board of directors appreciate the support of our members. We all believe strongly in preserving the history of The Milwaukee Road, and we know you do too. With your continued assistance, we believe we can accomplish our goals.

That said, I have to reiterate that new members are vital if we are to continue our efforts, so please put in a good word for us among your friends, family and business associates. Montevideo is a great community, but we do not have the population base to rely solely upon local supporters.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, North Star Rail Intermodal LLC began operations in early April, shipping containers loaded with agricultural commodities to the East and West Coasts. Business is better than expected, with more than 1,200 containers shipped as of this date. The Twin Cities & Western Railroad has been taking at least one train a week to the Twin Cities for interchange with CP Rail. Expectations are that this traffic will eventually grow to at least five trains a week within a couple of years seem well within range. It is good to hear the sound of trains blowing for the grade crossings again.

Finally, we need to replace some board members who have resigned because of personal commitments. Mary Gatzmeyer left us earlier this summer, and Bob Lark submitted his resignation earlier this month. Bob's wife, Madell, has been battling cancer and a recent check-up revealed it has returned. Our thoughts and prayers are with both of them. On a happier note, Gil Tyckoson is recovering well from his medical trials and tribula-

tions of the past year.

If any of you are interested in serving on the board, please let one of the current board members know.

Until the next newsletter, keep the Milwaukee Road alive in your memories and we'll do our best to keep it alive here in Montevideo.

**MILWAUKEE ROAD HERITAGE CENTER**

ATTN: JERRY ROSS  
301 STATE ROAD, STE 1  
MONTEVIDEO, MN 56265

**THE MILWAUKEE ROAD**

**ALL ABOARD!**

**Roundhouse Building Fund:**  
A board is being made up that will show names of donators.

**1st Phase of Structure**  
6-15-07

*Let's All Make It Happen!*

Your name will show on board in color you choose.

<b>Maroon</b> - \$0 - \$49	<b>Red</b> - \$300 - \$999
<b>Yellow</b> - \$50 - \$299	<b>Orange</b> - \$1,000 & Up

Many good things are going on at the Heritage Center.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Members & Friends,

Our committee again thanks all of you for the support you have given to our roundhouse restoration fund, and report our progress this year 2007.

On May 16, 2007 we let the contract for cement work to include removal of old cement, adding new footings and floor, cleaning old pits 1 thru 5 stalls, and cementing work areas between each.

We have paid the following bills:

J & J Concrete	11,525.00
Albertson Concrete	6,280.00
Crosby Gravel	11,500.00
Lauritsen to clean pits 1 thru 5	1,150.00
Total	20,455.00

This was accomplished along with many volunteer hours and hard work from all our members.

The balance in our restoration fund is \$15,530.00. We will do our best fertilizing for winter growth so that we can build structure in spring.

Our depot looks great as ever and is open to the public daily Monday through Friday 9 AM to 4:30 PM sets 555 miles west of Chicago should you be out driving around.

We have also have a 1939 year 600 HP EMD switch locomotive donated to us from Excel Energy. It was always well taken care of by them and runs like a top. We will soon be painting it in Milwaukee colors.

We all owe a big thank you to board member Max Hinde who worked hard for five years on this acquisition. Thanks Max.

Well, the block signal went green, gotta go.

God Bless,

Jerry Ross, Jim Ruether, Max Hinde & Mary Gatzmeyer your committee.

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**We would love to keep history alive.**

The following picture is the past. Anybody know who these people are and what year? If members are interested of enlarging the picture in sections in the next few newsletters--please make comments on our website [montevideomrhc.org](http://montevideomrhc.org).

