

“The Second Section”
 Monticello Railway Museum
 P.O. Box 401
 Monticello IL 61856



**MONTICELLO
 RAILWAY
 MUSEUM;**
**Where “I’ve Been
 Working on the
 Railroad” Becomes
 a Reality**

THE SECOND SECTION

2009
 JANUARY/FEBRUARY
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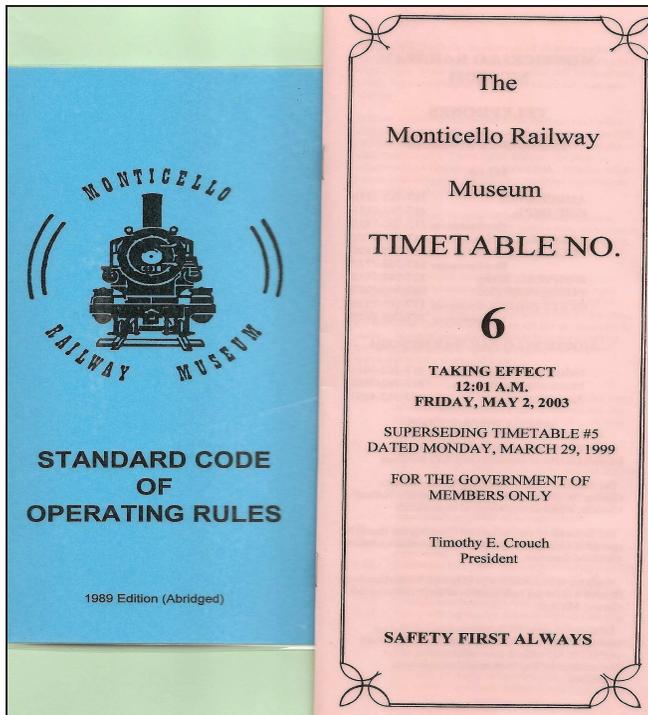
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ANNUAL RULES CLASS TO BE HELD March 14, 2009 2:00 PM

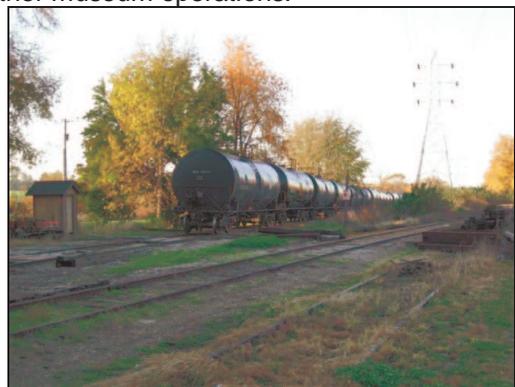
VFW HALL –Across from the Depot

The annual operating rules class will be held for members of the Monticello Railway Museum who are involved in duties that require the occupation of museum trackage. This will include train service (engineer, conductor, flagman, brakeman, trainee), Maintenance of Way members, motorcar operators, and other related responsible positions or interested persons. The classes are mandated by Museum policy as well as the Federal Railroad Administration and require the completion and passing of a written test involving, but not limited to, the operating rule book, timetable and bulletin notices. The class will consist of review, written test and discussion of rules. Rule books and timetables will be available for sale in class.



BOARD MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The MRM Board of Director’s held their first board meeting of the year at the Red Wheel Restaurant on January 24, 2009. During this meeting, the board has elected member Rob Doyle to position of Chairman of the Board in addition to being Vice President. Member Doug Butzow has been appointed to position of Treasurer. It has been approved the museum enter into contracts to store rail cars for Union Tank Car Co., and ADM of Decatur. The resulting revenues will be used for the upgrading of the IT main line from IT Jct. to County Road which will be used for storage of these cars and further museum operations.



Tank cars in storage near Harper’s Shed

2008 TRACK REPORT

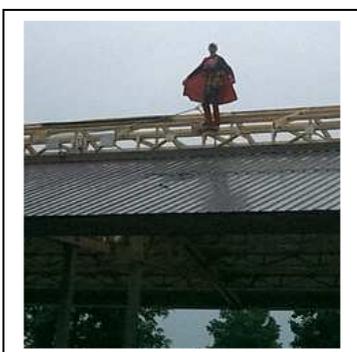
Track Superintendent Tom Hatchard reports that 1958 was the last year that any significant track work on the IC main from county road crossing to White Heath occurred. No question, 50-years is a long time and our 2008 track program began to redress this long-neglected portion of track with the installation of 400 new and 800 relay ties. Tim Crouch, operating a rented track machine, had all the old ties extracted and their replacements inserted and by June 28th we had enough ties plated and spiked to accommodate The Little Engine That Could™ Rail Tour train ride to mile post #1. We also have had the University of Illinois Railroad Engineering students visit MRM and pitch in on track work; set tamping, plating and shoveling

ballast as our work point approached Meridian Street in White Heath. There are about 250 more ties to tamp, plate, and spike between Meridian Street and Commercial Street in White Heath. We have removed a significant amount of brush near White Heath which has provided a new look along these portions of the right of way. Doing all the work using our volunteers has greatly increased the time frame to restore this track back in service but it has also greatly reduced the amount of money that would needed to be spent. As always, thanks are owed to our track volunteers. As one of our more senior members so succinctly stated: "no track, no train."



Museum receives 2008 Honorary Achievement Award

The Monticello Railway Museum was awarded the 2008 Honorary Achievement Award. The award was presented by the Piatt County Journal Republican and the Monticello Chamber of Commerce at the 2008 Chamber Dinner held on Monday November 3, 2008 at the Allerton Retreat Center. The award is given annually to an all volunteer, not-for-profit organization within Piatt County. This year, the Monticello Railway Museum was nominated and received the award. Donna McClure and John Sciuotto attended the dinner and accepted the award on behalf of the museum. During his introductory comments, incoming Monticello Chamber President Mr. Mike Heiniger praised the efforts of the Monticello Railway Museum and its volunteer members. The Chamber calculated that the museum has brought in over 250,000 visitors, from all over the country, to Monticello since the early 1970's. Mr. Heiniger said that during the review process of the nominees, he was astonished to learn of the accomplishments of the museum and that all of the work was done by volunteers. The museum was recognized for the numerous special events conducted throughout the year that benefit the community, particularly Lunch With Santa, and the ongoing efforts of the volunteers to build a museum by acquiring and painstakingly restoring railroad locomotives and cars one at a time and the museum's overall efforts to improve and expand the museum. Donna and John accepted the award and thanked the Chamber members present, stating; "none of this would have been possible without the efforts, commitment and hard work of all the volunteers of the Monticello Railway Museum." The award will be displayed in the ticket office of either the Nelson's Crossing Depot or Wabash Depot for all of our members and visitors to see.



It's a bird... it's a plane... why...no....its....uhhh, Superman? Checking out the construction of the new train shed at Nelson Crossing, the shed was placed in service in September over display tracks No. 1 and 2 to protect equipment from the elements of weather.

YAHOO WITH MRM ON THE INTERNET

The Monticello Railway Museum mailing list (MRM-L) has recently moved from Prairienet to Yahoo! Groups. The list is a discussion group for MRM members and volunteers and a place for museum officers to make announcements to members and volunteers. The list is currently administered by Bruce Backus, Brian Downing, and Jon Roma. Yahoo! Groups recommends that you join a group via the group's Web page at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MRM-L>. This requires having a Yahoo! account and allows group members to read group discussions via the web and to access other web features like group photos and files. However, those who prefer to receive group discussions via email and don't want the other features can simply sign up for the mailing list for the group. To subscribe to the MRM-L group's mailing list via email, send an empty email to the address MRM-L-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Once subscribed to the group, you can send email to all group subscribers, either by using the group's Web page (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MRM-L>) or by sending email to the address MRM-L@yahoogroups.com. Once you've subscribed to the group (either via the Web or via email), you can contact the list administrators for assistance by sending email to MRM-L-owner@yahoogroups.com.

CHALLENGE GRANT APPLIED FOR

Museum volunteer Bruce Backus notes that passenger car diaphragms are one of the little things that make a car restoration complete. Without them, a car just doesn't look complete and passenger safety becomes most notable, although a few of the cars used in regularly train service run without diaphragms. The Rock Island coach is a classic example of never having them, even when new. On the other hand, the Illinois Central coaches we sometime use on our trains do have diaphragms. This is where the Challenge Grant comes in; call it too much Public Radio lately, but here's the deal. We need three sets of diaphragms for IC 2920, 2612 and D&H 405 baggage car in the display line. The diaphragms comes from an outfit in Canada, with total cost around \$5,000 for the three sets.

Although more pressing projects are taking the Museum's funding resources (401, 4112, Wab #6, The Gulfport, track, and other pressing needs), Bruce has pledged half of that amount (\$2,500) if the membership will match it. Members interested in making a contribution should send their checks directly to the museum marked "Diaphragm".



Passengers board the Polar Express at Monticello Depot.

The Board of Directors has approved to extend the runs of the Polar Express during the 2009 operating season. This event has generated much excitement with the traveling public as the below sample e-mail demonstrates; *We took a ride on the Polar Express on Saturday and LOVED it. We just wanted to email you and thank you for making such a wonderful event possible for our family. It will be something we will forever treasure and we hope that you plan on doing this event again next year because we want to make sure we can ride the Polar Express again. Thanks for keeping the magic alive! You all did a wonderful job with every thing*

MIND YOUR SAFETY THEN SAFETY IS ON YOUR MIND!