



THE YELLA BOARD

Volume 42 Number 2

MONTICELLO RAILWAY MUSEUM
Where "I've Been Working On the
Railroad" Becomes a Reality

November-
December 2009



Circa: 1863, Mr. Lincoln arrives Monticello via MRM.

Photo Courtesy John E. Sanner

THE CONSIST
Volume 42 No. 2

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 Syl Keller General Manager
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**ARE YOU A
SAFE OBJECT ?**

Have you been to the museum lately to see what changes have been made the past year or what new equipment has been acquired or restored? Now is the time to come on out and see *YOUR* museum!!!

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THE
OBSERVATION
PLATFORM



Updates for 2009

John Scuitto, President

“GOALS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS”

Thank you to all the volunteers and contributors of the Monticello Railway Museum. The museum would not be in the positive position that we are in without the continued understanding and support of our wonderful volunteers.

Despite the economy, 2009 was a very good year for the Monticello Railway Museum. Steam again returned to the museum. Southern 2-8-0 #401 was successfully steamed up, leaks repaired and passed FRA inspection which cleared the way for boiler insulation, jacket and final assembly. When completed in 2010, steam will be used on certain weekends and special events such as Railroad Days. 1869 4-4-0 replica Leviathan #63 was brought in for Railroad Days to help welcome steam back to Central Illinois. Subsequent media coverage of Railroad Days resulted in national exposure for our museum. This exposure has created much more awareness in the railroad and preservation community and we have had many positive comments and inquiries about upcoming projects and future activities at the museum.

Additionally, car storage revenue paid for many improvements, particularly in rehabilitating the former Illinois Terminal main for use. Additionally, ridership for the year is up about 8%. This was accomplished by additional regular weekend riders, charter trains and special event ridership at Railroad Days and Polar Express. Both Railroad Days and Polar Express were double the ridership from 2008 levels. For 2010, extra capacity is being considered for Polar Express with additional cars and or additional trains or dates as options to add capacity to this very popular event.

Consistent with the new IRS 990 regulations, five new policies were adopted by the museum Board of Directors during the October meeting.

The museum was nominated and awarded the 2009 Facilities award for structures at the recent TRAIN (Tourist Railway Association, Inc.) annual meeting held in Williams, Arizona. The award was accepted by Syl Keller for our train shed. The membership should be very proud of this accomplishment and recognition.

Wabash business car #6 will soon be on the property after years of negotiations. This car will be another wonderful addition to our focus collection of Illinois Central and Wabash equipment.

For 2010, we will have #401 back in limited service. Target is by the 3rd quarter of the year. Additionally, we are hoping to continue working on Illinois Central dining car #4112 and possibly work on getting another coach back in service to add capacity to Polar Express. Initially, this looks like Illinois Central heavyweight coach #2855.

Although we are approaching winter, many projects and activities are underway at the museum and work continues all year. I encourage all members to come out and see for themselves the various projects at the museum and to help volunteer on any project in any way that they can.

Our major donation project for 2010 is going to be raising funds to build another car storage building north of Nelson Crossing to help preserve our beautifully restored and maintained equipment. In closing, please consider the museum in your year-end gift giving for donations to help facilitate projects such as this.



THE RIP TRACK

By Kent McClure

401: All Steamed Up!!

In 2009, Southern 401 had new firebrick installed in the firebox and a stack extension (which is an extension of the external smoke stack), burner controls, damper and control, were fabricated and installed. The tender was washed, primed, painted, and lettered and when plumbing was completed, a test was conducted by filling the tank noting no leaks had occurred. On July 16, 2009, a fire was lit in the new boiler and steam pressure allowed to build up to a point that would permit a check for leaks and any additional adjustments under steam. On August 7th, high pressure testing was done to set safety valves and operate the air compressor which passed federally required test. The mandatory testing witnessed by Federal Railway Administrators was conducted and approved. At this time lagging is being applied.

Much machine work has also been done this year with piston rods being ground, valves machined and new sealing strips made. Work has begun on valve gear and main rods to facilitate setting the valve timing. The main drivers will be placed on rollers and the main rods installed and pistons and crossheads applied.



On July 16, 2009, 401 demonstrates its ability to maintain steam pressure in its new boiler.

Courtesy John Scitutto

EQUIPMENT UPDATES

CN 15421 Steam Generator Car had its steam boiler acid washed this past spring using the wash pump ring assembled last year. This extracted much scale and dirt from the coils; increasing the efficiency of the boiler.

IC 892 Combine had its passenger compartment ceiling completed this past spring, returning it to "as built" appearance, including the pin striping and corner detail that was uncovered on the original ceiling panels.

IC 4112 Diner interior has received a blasting agent of dry ice and abrasive bearing sponge material to remove the old paint and a new coat of primer paint applied. A new electrical system was installed along with a new air conditioning system. Much work has been done in the kitchen and more exterior steel work continues to replace rusted out areas.

"My sincere thanks and appreciation for everyone who has helped make all this happen over the past year. Quite a lot of work has been done, but as always, it never ends.... I want to encourage all who would like to get involved in a project as there will be much to do this winter, with most of it being not highly skilled. So please, come and help when you can. Kent McClure, CMO"

Left; Wabash Business Car No. 6, secured on a flat car for transport, has arrived at its new home at the Museum and is secured back onto its own wheels; stored in the car shop building.

Courtesy of Kent McClure



**THE
TOOL
SHED**



MOTORCAR RESTORATION PLANNED

The workhorse of a railroad Maintenance-of-Way Department is the gas-fired motorcar which provide transportation for both manpower and equipment to isolated areas of the railroad. The museum's motorcar Illinois Terminal A-52 is such car and is need of a complete engine and transmission overhaul in addition to structural restoration, rebuilding and painting. It is targeted to complete this project over this winter and of course help is always welcomed!



Courtesy Dale Jenkins



Courtesy John Scuitto

IT MAIN RECEIVES UPGRADE

The biggest track project of 2009 was undertaken by placing the IT main back into service between IC Junction and County Road. The cost of this upgrade would be paid for with revenue from freight car storage on this main. During February and March 20 years of tree and brush growth had to be cleared before tie installation could begin. A contractor was employed to install 1,000 used (relay) ties over the distance of 6,000 feet. This would permit the tie installation of every third tie resulting in a restored track capable of storing approximately 100 freight cars. During this restoration, MRM members corrected rail and joint defects.

2009-2010 MUSEUM OFFICER'S ELECTED



Left to Right: Front Row; Doug Butzow, Brian Downing. **Back Row:** Russ Fischer, Stan Rankin, Dale Jenkins, John Scuitto, Rob Doyle, Derek Kouzmanoff

The Annual Meet was held on November 15, 2009 at the Monticello VFW Hall at 3 PM. The evening program began with the presentation of the interpretive film "Abraham Lincoln: A Journey to Greatness" in which part was filmed on MRM property. An update on new regulations was discussed and election of offices was held and approved by members in attendance. President: John Scuitto, VP: Rob Doyle, Board Members: Russ Fischer and Dale Jenkins.

CHALLENGE GRANT UPDATE

The "Challenge Grant" has been initiated by MRM member Bruce Backus to generate donations to the museum for the continued restoration of various pieces of passenger equipment. Bruce has offered up to the amount of \$2,500 and to date the museum has received a total of \$1,045.00. Send donations to:

Di-
aphragm
POB 401
Monticello, IL 61856

**THE
TRAIN
ORDER**

ILLINOIS TERMINAL RAILROAD COMPANY				
Order No.	37	Date	9-19	1954
To C. & M. Train	285	at	Edwardsville	
Train	Car	and Train	Car	will meet at
2796	285	203	1604	Edwardsville
2796	285	97	301	Edwardsville
Train	Car	and Extra		will meet at
Extra		and Extra		will meet at
Extra		and Extra		will meet at
<i>Motors 2796 and 285 run on lot and 2nd 76 Edwardsville to East Belt. All these five at Edwardsville have engine and reports.</i>				
CONDUCOR	MOTORMAN	TRAIL	Complete at	TRIP
Byers	Keebler	285	5:25 PM	74
Form - 4112 Old Form 345				



Above: In a huff of steam” the “Leviathan” departs Nelson Crossing enroute to Monticello. Below: “Pride on our rails”

Above and Below Courtesy John Sanner

Railroad Days 2009 were held on September 19th and 20th, and surpassed previous events held to honor this tradition of railroading. The event would be the first time that the steam powered locomotive “Leviathan” would venture into central Illinois and operate over the museum’s trackage. The locomotive is an 1869 replica of the sister engine to the Jupiter, which was one of the two locomotives at the golden spike ceremony of the transcontinental railroad at Promontory Point, Utah on May 10, 1869.

This engine would serve the purpose of being stationary at Nelson’s Crossing to afford both young and old the opportunity to tour the narrow cab space and inspect up-close the high-stepping driver wheels, hand polished boiler and brass steam dome with associated equipment. The locomotive would also see road service, in a dedication ceremony and announce its presence in downtown Monticello. On September 17th, the Leviathan made its premier at a museum sponsored media event.



The news media was offered the opportunity to board the locomotive to experience “live steam” operations and interview the crew members. The following day the Leviathan departed Nelson Crossing with 1908-built copula caboose NP 1280 enroute to the downtown depot with Abraham Lincoln in the cab. After a short dedication, the steam powered engine returned to Camp Creek Yards for further assignments.



Courtesy Dale Jenkins



THE LINCOLN DEDICATION

The official dedication ceremony of the State of Illinois “Looking for Lincoln” wayside sign was held on September 18, 2009 at the Monticello Depot. President Lincoln, portrayed by professional actor Fritz Klein, arrived aboard the Leviathan Steam Locomotive pulling Northern Pacific 1879 copula caboose with a group of ladies dressed in period costumes. Mr. Lincoln gave a speech dedicating the sign located adjacent to the depot to a cheering crowd of local citizens. After the speech, Mr. Lincoln, accompanied by his entourage, departed.

Photos Courtesy John Sanner



Left: An entourage of ladies, accompanying Mr. Lincoln, detrain at Monticello. **Right:** A crowd of citizens await the arrival of Mr. Lincoln at the Monticello Depot. **Below:** In an exceptional rare photo, MRM member Donna McClure wears (yes) a dress!!



The crew and Mr. Lincoln



Mr. Lincoln and Leviathan's crew

RAILROAD DAYS — 2009



The 2009 Railroad days was held on September 18th-19th on the museum grounds and was one with many featured operations. The attendance by the general public had exceeded past events and received much media coverage with the presence of the Leviathan steam locomotive.

Left: on September 17th, a night photo shoot was conducted. Jon Roma photo.

Below left; Conductor Neil Grant hi-ball's the mixed freight. **Below Right;** Conductor Rob Doyle loads passengers on the ICRR train consist at Monticello. Dale Jenkins photos



Above; The passenger run consisting of Illinois Central equipment arrived Monticello Depot. **Right:** The mixed freight with Wabash on the point prepares to depart Nelson Crossing.

THE THUNDERBIRD CAR SHOW

The 2nd Annual Thunderbird Car Show was held on museum grounds on May 24, 2009 showcasing these rare "Birds of Pleasure". Photo Stan Rankin



WABASH HISTORICAL SOCIETY RUN HELD



In true fashion of the Wabash Railway, the Wabash Historical Society held their annual meet at Monticello and chartered a "Wabash Special" train with Wabash 1189 on the point to

run from Monticello to County Road and return. The train is passing Nelson Crossing with a drumhead sign on the rear.



As part of the exhibition, the Norfolk Southern Executive Train units were on display at the Depot and Yards
John Sanner Photo



A parade of motorcars are returning to Nelson Crossing from a trip to County Road.
Dale Jenkins Photo



Above; The "Caboose Hop" operated between Nelson Crossing and Camp Creek Yard.

Dale Jenkins Photo

Right; A crowd mills about on the Nelson Crossing Depot platform.

John Sciotto Photo



The Norfolk Southern Operation Lifesaver Locomotive and OLS display were part of the event.
John Sanner Photo



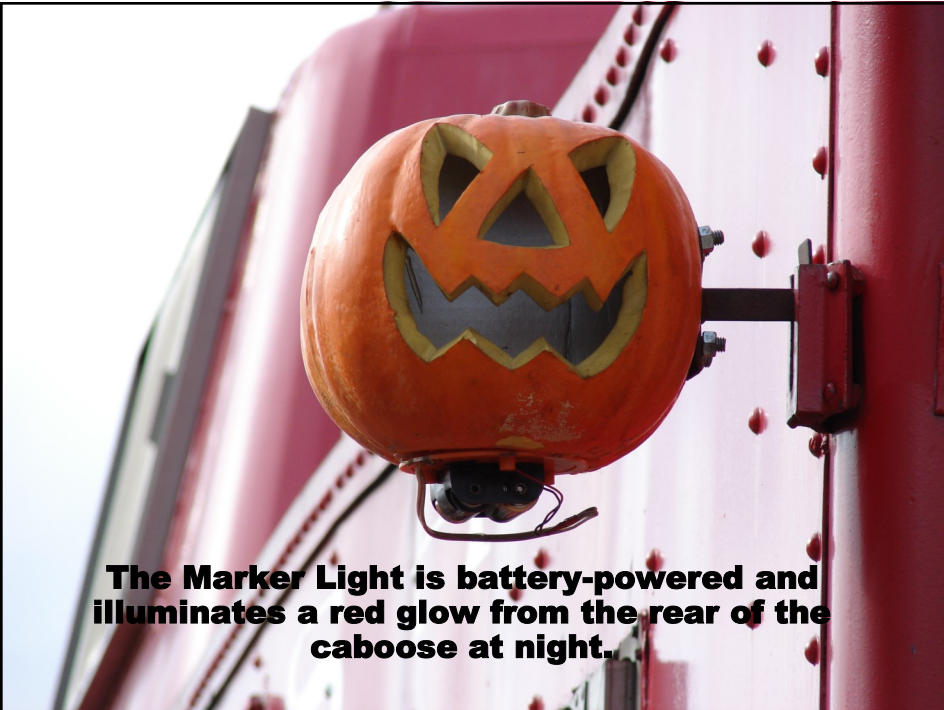
A collection of John Deere antique tractors were on display.
John Sanner Photo



HALLOWEEN 2009

Once again the Halloween Express was a *Spooktacular* success with attendance and presentation. Operated on October 23d-24th-25th and 30th-31st, the train carried passengers to the "haunted hollow" and return to the Nelson Crossing for a tour of the "Bad-News Boxcar".

Dale Jenkins Photos



The Marker Light is battery-powered and illuminates a red glow from the rear of the caboose at night.



The Dragon Greeter



Welcome aboard?????



Welcome to my graveyard.....



Have a seat.....



The Welcome Wagon???....



THE POLAR EXPRESS

The Polar Express once again ascended onto the rails of the MRM on November 27th- 28th and December 4th and 5th, filling each car with eager faces looking forward to meeting Santa. On December 4th-5th the young believers of Santa were aboard to share lunch with the jolly elf.

John Sanner Photos



LUNCH WITH SANTA



Looking for Santa Claus.....



Pondering the question.....



The Rock Island coach is decorated for the holidays and the Dancers are entertaining the passengers while waiting for Santa's arrival....



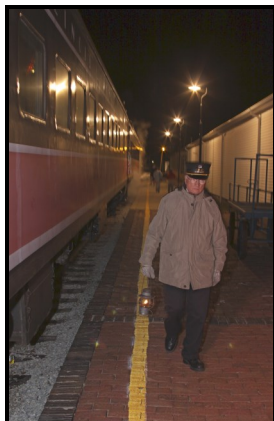
The Polar Express Departs the North Pole



"THUMBS UP!!!!"

MONTICELLO
RAILWAY MUSEUM
P O BOX 401
MONTICELLO, ILLINOIS 61856

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MONTICELLO RAILWAY MUSEUM



Charlie Sez;

Where are you? As a member you can ride the train or be part of the operations to make this happen or help maintain the equipment to keep it going. Come on out and join us in a day of railroading!!



ARRIVALS
&
DEPARTURES

- [Throw Mamma On The Train](#) - May 8th-9th: Mom ride FREE when accompanied by their children.
- [Fathers Day Weekend](#)—June 19th-20th: Dads ride FREE when accompanied by their children!
- [Fireworks Special](#) - July 3d: Ride the train from downtown Monticello to watch the Fireworks.
- [Railroad Days](#) - September 18th & 19th: Come ride our vintage passenger and freight trains on the former Illinois Central and Illinois Terminal trackage.
- [Ghost Train](#) - October 22nd-23d-24th 30th-31st: ALL ages can enjoy a train ride through Camp Creek Hollow with a stop at Cemetery Road... but only the BRAVE should check out our Haunted Boxcar!
- [The Polar Express™](#) - November 26th-27th and December 3d-4th: Read along with the story as the train makes its round-trip journey to the North Pole.
- [Lunch on the Train With Santa](#) - December 4th-5th A train ride and lunch with Santa!!
-