



New Members

Last month, Greg and Teri Tyner joined MCRHS and have been helping out with events since then. On June 1, while helping to keep the caboose in Blue Rapids available to the public for the Blue Rapids Museum opening of “A Train Runs Through It - Railroading and Railroads in Blue Rapids”, Greg and Teri recruited new members Merrill and Lola Wolfe, from Washington, KS.

Blue Rapids Museum Railroad Exhibit

A special exhibit featuring railroads and railroading in Blue Rapids opened on June 1 and will run through December. The history of the Central Branch Railroad is a part of the exhibit. One of the items on display is an “O Scale” model of the Blue Rapids MoPac depot, constructed by Nathan Obermeyer.

Bike Across Kansas

Bike Across Kansas is an 8 day bicycle tour across Kansas that first occurred in 1975. As many as 700 cyclists participate in the event. This year the route passed through the cities of Waterville, Blue Rapids, and Frankfort in Marshall County. Frankfort was the location of the overnight stay on Thursday, June 13. Some of the participants toured the Depot Museum in Waterville on their way through town. MCRHS members Ann Walter and Pat Winkenwader prepared snacks and Kenny Winkenwader and Rod Lamoreaux provided tours.

A TRAIN RUNS THROUGH IT RAILROADS & RAILROADERS IN BLUE RAPIDS



A NEW EXHIBIT AT THE BLUE RAPIDS MUSEUM
OPENS SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 9 A.M. TO NOON.

Exhibit runs through December.
Hours are Saturday 9 a.m. to noon and Thursday 1-5 p.m.
or by appointment.

Free will donations accepted
Sponsored by the Blue Rapids Museum, #36 Public Square

For more information contact Lori Parker 785-713-9733



Early MCRHS/CBRR History

On August 25, 2000, Kyle Railroad Company (KYLE) and Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) jointly filed with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for UP to abandon and KYLE to discontinue service on a line of railroad known as the Frankfort Branch, between milepost 409.1 near Frankfort and milepost 472.0 at Ames (a rural unincorporated community in Cloud County). The Blue Rapids Depot is at milepost 425.6 and the Waterville Depot was at milepost 430.5.

As one might expect, the acquisition of abandoned railroad property is no simple or short task. Larry Parsons, a 1958 graduate of Blue Raids High School was very helpful in an advisory capacity. Larry is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway in Ohio. The W&LE RR is a class II railroad and the largest railroad in Ohio and one of the largest regional railroads in the United States. As president of the MCRHS, Ann Walter sent a letter to the National Surface Transportation Board indicating the intent to purchase a section of the track from 12th Road west to the Marshall-Washington County line. When the negotiations had reached an agreement, Ann Walter, a special education teacher at Valley Heights Jr-Sr High received a phone call from the National Surface Transportation Board. Ann recalls that personal phone calls were somewhat frowned upon during school hours but due to the nature of the call she was allowed to take the call. The MCRHS was given seven (7) days to raise \$45,000 dollars in order to acquire the rails from 12th Rd (4 miles east of Blue Rapids) to the Marshall-Washington County line (3.5 miles west of Waterville).

Charlie Weickert (Marysville) recalls that Ed Wieggers (Marysville) called him and asked if he would want to go with Gene Lott (Blue Rapids) and Ed to the Union Pacific headquarters in Omaha, NE and meet with Ray Alamong, a UP real estate representative. Charlie remarked "I had no idea what we were doing except it would be fun to see UP headquarters in Omaha!". They left the meeting with the understanding that in order to stop the abandonment, they would need to send a letter offering to buy the RR property. A Union Pacific contractor was already taking up rail east of Frankfort.

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Raising \$45,000 in seven days was a huge task but 17 donors, including the Helvering Trust Fund, for which Ed Wieggers was the executor, contributed a total of \$48,850 and the MCRHS became owners of 11.98 miles of track and right-of-way in early 2001.

Author unknown, but probably was Randy Rundle, former president of MCRHS.

UP 460 Steam Locomotive

It has come to the attention of the MCRHS board of directors that the city of Marysville, KS may be again entertaining the idea of disposing of the UP 460 2-8-0 steam locomotive that is currently on display north of the city park. UP 460 was built by Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1901. Locomotives of its class pulled UP RR train # 173 & 174, the daily except Sunday mixed train that stopped at Blue Rapids. The Kansas Steam Heritage Association, a newly formed group that is not yet a 501 (C)(3) organization has contacted the city of Marysville with the intention of acquiring the UP 460 locomotive and moving it to Ottawa, KS. KSHA had previously asked the city of Salina about acquiring the UP 477 2-8-0 locomotive but the city of Salina turned them down. The MCRHS board of directors would be interested in hearing any input you might have in regard to keeping the UP 460 steam locomotive in Marshall County. You can email the board at mcrhs-board@gaggle.email.