



NORTHERN NEWS

THE NORTHERN DIVISION LABOR-MANAGEMENT ACTION GROUP NEWSLETTER • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

OCTOBER 1984

improved phone system coming

Milwaukee will soon be getting a new computer operated telephone system. Manufactured by the Rohm Corporation of Santa Clara, California, it will have many advantages over our present, obsolete, system including touch-tone service, call forwarding and transfer, and provide ease in setting up conference calls. The system will be less costly to operate and provides for better record keeping of how the phones are being utilized. The computer has the ability to route calls to destination via the least costly means, choosing between company lines, WATS, or long distance. It is expected that the new system will be in operation in late November.

depot doings

Because several departments from Milwaukee Shops will be moving to the depot later this year, a major consolidation and remodeling of this facility will take place. In advance of this, several departments have been relocated as follows: Claims (John Martin, Jim Lemont, and Ted Marino) to Room 255; Rules (Carl Machande) and Traveling Engineer (Gerry Stuckey) to Room 327, the former north end dispatchers office; Sales (Dick Baruch and staff) to Room 108, the former depot police office on the first floor; Customer Service (Gene Denney) to Room 333, (Milt Clark and Larry Abraham) to Muskego Yard Office; Freight Claim (Ed Knapp) and Freight Service Inspector (Bob Gast) to Room 347, temporarily.

A contract for the remodeling has been let with the Platt Construction Company of West Allis, WI, a general contractor. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by the end of the year. Upon completion, the Mechanical Department and Purchases and Materials will be relocated to the 3rd floor of the depot; the Regional Data Office, Freight Claim and Freight Service Inspector to the 2nd floor.

more on changes at the shops

With the sale of shops land to the State of Wisconsin (reported in the July newsletter), the following relocations will occur at the Shops: Signal Lab to the Power House (LD-32); Communications Lab to the ABC Building west of the depot; Quality Assurance to CD-50 Office Building, 1st floor; Mechanical Engineering to the 2nd floor of CD-50; and Material Division to LD-1 Roundhouse and other locations in the Shops.

soo line open houses well attended

A total of 2135 Milwaukee Road employees attended a series of open houses, held at a number of points around the system, held by the Soo Line Railroad in August. Designed to acquaint us with the Soo Line Railroad and their position with regard to the Milwaukee Road acquisition, the sessions were informative and afforded

soo line open houses well attended (cont'd)

those attending an opportunity to view a slide presentation and ask questions. Colleen Gormley, Soo Line avp - human resources, hosted the meetings.

safety slogan

If you are too busy for safety, then you are too busy!

a helping hand

North and South Dakota are experiencing a bumper crop of wheat this season requiring additional railroad cars to move it to market. Railroads generally have car fleets that meet average demand. When peak movements occur, extra equipment is sought on a short term lease or assistance from connecting railroads. This year, the Milwaukee Road has been in a position to assist the Burlington Northern and Soo Line with several hundred jumbo covered hoppers to help alleviate this shortage. Our cars, some temporarily idle due to slack demand for the movement of corn and soybeans, are now earning off-line car hire. Conversely, we are now experiencing heavy demand for compartmentizer type DF box cars to handle shipments of canned goods. Who's helping us? The Santa Fe, Fruit Growers Express, and Soo Line have provided some equipment. Through these cooperative efforts, the needs of the railroad shippers are being met. Working together, getting things done doesn't just apply to the LMAG movement!

operation life saver program begins on green bay line

Through the combined efforts of Brown County Sheriffs Department, Mr. Joe Lydick of the F.R.A and our Special Agent Doug Clark, the Operation Life Saver program held its seminar September 4, 1984 at the Brown County Library. The program was attended by bus line owners, operators and school board representatives and was well received. Future plans are to involve all counties our line passes through on the old Superior.

surplus cabooses popular

Over 100 surplus cabooses have been sold by Material Disposition over the past several years to businesses, individuals, and municipalities for use as summer cottages, back-yard retreats, motels, or displays. Prices on these artifacts have ranged from about \$1000 to \$5000 depending on their condition. The most recent acquirer of a caboose (991950) was the town of New Lisbon, WI. A display in a park is planned.

engineering developments

The southbound main track between Tomah and Wisconsin Dells is being upgraded with the installation of 16,000 crossties, ballast and surfacing. Continuous welded rail is scheduled for installation on the northbound main track between Ixonia and Watertown, Wisconsin later this year. 6500 crossties will be installed between Cornus and Rosemount, Minnesota on the St. Paul - Austin line which will maintain the lines current class 2 status.

from the desk of bob hickle
director of social counseling

This is the third and last article in a series describing some clues to the illness we call alcoholism. The first was the question: Does alcohol cause problems in any major area of your life? The second: Do you undergo a personality change when you drink?

This is the third: Do you drink more than you intend to? If I could ask only one question, this would be it. In the beginning, this happens on rare occasions, and one writes it off as an accident. However, it begins to happen more frequently, and in the final stages, the alcoholic gets drunk every time, providing the booze is available.

I must admit that there are many who do not agree with me. They argue that most everyone has problems sometimes when they drink, undergoes some personality changes when they drink, and sometimes drink more than they intend to. Let's look at it from a different way.

You will note that I have said nothing about when one drinks, early or late, how often one drinks, what one drinks, whether one drinks alone or in a crowd, and how long one goes between drinks. The focus must be on what happens when one drinks. If nothing bad happens, no problem. If bad things do happen, the time has come to seek help.

Alcoholism is a strange and wonderful illness. It seems to be physical, but the only way we can diagnose it is through behavior. But treating the behavior of the alcoholic does not do anything for the illness. We must treat the physical part by taking away the alcohol. But taking away the alcohol does not cure the illness, it makes possible only the treatment of the mental, social and spiritual problems of the alcoholic. But if the alcoholic returns to drinking, no matter how deeply he has been in the recovery program, all the old woes return, worse than before. I have been studying the illness for 35 years, and sometimes feel I know less than when I started!

answers to last month's trivia

Who starred in "The F.B.I." as Inspector Lewis Erskine?

"Efrem Zimbalist, Jr."

In the cartoon series, what does the Roadrunner say?

"Beep beep"

Name Ross Bagdasarian's three chipmunks?

"Alvin, Theodore, Simon"

meet ron boguszewski

Ronald J. "Bogy" Boguszewski, 39, clerk at Muskego Yard has been promoted to position of field instructor with headquarters at Milwaukee effective September 1. Ron began his career with the Milwaukee Road in March, 1968 and has served as a yard and train clerk, time revisor, and home-route clerk. He has been active in the BRAC organization having held the position of financial secretary and vice president of Victory Lodge 1233. Ron, his wife Gloria, and two daughters, Lisa and Gina, make their home in the Milwaukee suburb of Greenfield. He enjoys bowling and soft ball. Ron's territory as field instructor will include the Milwaukee Terminal and Green Bay.

t.v. trivia

What 1960s show was entirely a singalong format?

In "Bonanza", Ben Cartwright had three sons. Name two of them.

Chuck Connors starred in what cavalry show as a soldier named Jason McCord?
(answers next month)

fire prevention week october 7-13

Unlocked and open cabooses containing fusees and torpedoes create not only an attractive nuisance, but an extreme fire hazard as well. Oft times cabooses are entered by adventuresome youngsters, who when armed with available fusees, become delinquent youngsters. Frequently railroad property, including the caboose itself, is set on fire.

This year Fire Prevention Week will be observed October 7-13. It is an excellent time for all of us to not only think about, but to resolve to practice fire prevention throughout the year.

Won't you please help save money, jobs and lives by joining the Fire Prevention Team.

newport tower closes

Newport Tower and dispatching office was closed September 19. The territory between St. Croix Tower and Division Street in St. Paul, a double-track joint operation with the Burlington Northern, is completely controlled by C.T.C. (Centralized Traffic Control) operated by the BN East Hump Dispatcher at Northtown (Minneapolis). Newport Tower was placed in operation in 1904.

1984 united way campaign

United Way Campaign is now under way for Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington and Ozaukee Counties and will run thru November 9, 1984. Supervisors will be contacting employees soon. Let's all back this campaign.

the biomechanics of lifting
a health tip from medical services

Most back injuries result from improper lifting. According to the principles of biomechanics, the worst lifting situation occurs when the body is extended over the load: the lower back becomes a fulcrum supporting the weight of the body plus the load.

Remember these pointers:

- 1) Get a firm footing
- 2) Bend your knees
- 3) Tighten stomach muscles
- 4) Lift with your legs
- 5) Keep the load close to your body
- 6) Keep your back upright

how well do you know your railroad?

Our locomotive fleet totals:

257 units 309 units 549 units 823 units

For the answer, please turn to page 7.

retirement party - big success

On Saturday, September 22, the Second Annual Retirement Party was held at the Eagle's Club in Milwaukee.

A total of 326 people attended to honor the 1983 retirees. Everyone there had a good time seeing old friends, eating good food and enjoyed the variety of music provided by WRPM Music Service.

Many thanks to the committee and all those who helped to make this party a success. Also special thanks to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle.

keeping track

Michael G. Kohn, machinist at Milwaukee Shops and son of sales representative Norbert J. Kohn, and Karen Schmidt were united in marriage at Calvary Memorial United Church of Christ on August 18. Best wishes!

Congratulations to Connie L. Beisker, relief clerk at Wausau on her promotion to position of field instructor at Nahant, Iowa as of August 16. Connie started with the railroad in February, 1981.

Jim Teal, former field engineer at Milwaukee, has moved to Indiana. His new address: 20409 County Road Two, Bristol, IN 46507.

Congratulations to Bernard "Bernie" J. Farrell, 35, on his promotion to position of yard office supervisor at Muskego Yard as of September 1. Bernie began his career with the Milwaukee in June, 1967 as a clerk and was promoted to supervisor of car utilization July, 1978. He was named division supervisor of customer service in October, 1980 when that department was established.

More fishing news from customer accounting. Harold Gromacki was vacationing at his summer home at Crescent Lake, Rhinelander, WI. on September 5, he caught a 3½ lb. bass. After landing it in the boat, he fell in the water to recover his fishing pole which the fish had broken. He had to swim 300 feet to get back into the boat by himself. Next time you better take a friend along, Harold.

George Dietrich, messenger, Milwaukee regional, is recovering at home after surgery. Hope to see him back at work soon with improved health.

Congratulations to Larry Abraham, 28, on being promoted to position of division supervisor of customer service at Milwaukee effective September 24. Larry was a revising clerk in the Chicago regional data office.

keeping track (contd')

Stephen H. "Red" DuPuy, 76, retired Milwaukee Terminal clerk passed away September 3. "Red" began his career in the old Fowler Street freight house in March, 1942 where he worked a number of positions. In 1965, he came to Muskego Yard and held a number of jobs before retiring August 1, 1973. He was active in the BRAC organization and will be remembered for the union picnics that he and his wife Dorothy ran for years.

Milwaukee Terminal lost a dear friend on August 30, 1984, when Engineer Joe Valadez, 58, passed away. He was survived by his wife, Aurora, and 5 children, Michael, Frank, JoAnne, David and Elaine.

Joe was an exemplary employee throughout his nearly 38 years of service as exhibited by the fact that he never lost a single day's work for disciplinary reasons. To still have a clean roster record after operating a switch engine for 37 plus years in a major terminal such as Milwaukee is truly an accomplishment that Joe's family and friends may always be proud of.

Joe was very active within the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers serving as Local Chairman in Milwaukee for many many years. He also served shorter stints as both Vice General Chairman and General Chairman during his career with the Milwaukee.

Off the railroad property, Joe served a total of 34 years with the U. S. Navy and U. S. Naval Reserve retiring with the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

His fellow workers exhibited their respect and admiration for him when, at his funeral, his pallbearers consisted of 3 fellow engineers, 2 switchmen and a yardmaster.

All of Joe's many friends and fellow workers will surely miss him and we extend our condolences to his family.

Congratulations to Frank Motola, Chauffeur in the Material Division, on the birth of his first grandchild, Robin Amber, born August 23, 1984, 6 lbs 5 oz. She is the daughter of Richard and Connie Motola.

Clarence Kleser is in Menomonee Falls hospital recuperating from surgery. Would love to hear from his former co-workers.

Green Bay recently held its 4th annual picnic at Bay Beach in Green Bay. A good time was had by all approximately 150 people who attended. A big thank you to those who helped in making our event a success.

Jerry Fencil, 83, retired Milwaukee Road conductor with 45 years of service, passed away August 26, 1984. Jerry resided in Florida since 1964, but returned to Green Bay every summer and most recently attended our annual picnic.

Russell Longrie, 70 former Green Bay switchman with 17 years of service, passed away June 26, 1984 after a long illness.

keeping track (cont'd)

Congratulations to Donna and Bob Huck on the birth of a baby girl, Melissa Marie, on September 5. Donna was formerly a train dispatcher in the Milwaukee office and Bob is a ticket clerk for Amtrak.

how well do you know your railroad quiz answer

Our current locomotive fleet consists of 228 road locomotives and 81 switchers for a total of 309 units that develop 690,500 horse power.

safety clips

Do you sometimes wonder when it's dark enough to turn on your headlights? Here's an easy rule: if you're wondering, you should turn them on.

Roads are slippery during the first few minutes of a rain, when the water has raised oils but not washed them away. Be careful driving right after it begins to rain.

A cigarette can ignite the spray from some aerosol cans. Don't smoke when you are using an aerosol of any kind.

(from the Sept., 1984 issue of National Safety News)

news items and information wanted for newsletter

We need news items and information about our fellow employees for the Northern News. What's going on out there? Please contact the correspondent listed below that is in your area or drop a note direct to the editor. You'll be glad you did!!

northern news correspondents

Jerry Magnuson - Green Bay
Margaret Lange - Portage
Gene Porter - Wausau
Chuck Kowalke - LaCrosse
Ray Shisler - Tomah Shops

Marilyn Carlson, Milw. Regional Data
Bev Radtke - Milwaukee Depot
Bob Voigt - Milwaukee Car Shops
Nancy Bidlingmeyer - Locomotive Shops
Dolores Gavin - Material Division

Editor: R. Milton Clark

Muskego Yard, Milwaukee, WI - Telephone Ext. 315. Material for publication should be forwarded to the editor or contact one of the correspondents. Deadline for material is the 15th of the month preceding the issue date.