



# NORTHERN NEWS

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

SEPTEMBER 1984

## locomotives to undergo heavy repairs

The locomotive department recalled 33 men on August 16, 1984. They will be working on 16 SD40-2's that will receive power pack and truck work in addition to the annual maintenance. The PP&T job consists of renewing power assemblies and reconditioning the trucks. At the rate of one locomotive per week, the project is scheduled to be completed by December 14.

## a look at the cabooses replacements

New rear-end markers are replacing cabooses on many trains. These devices have a photoelectric cell controlled, F.R.A. approved, flashing light that automatically turns on one hour before dark and during inclement weather conditions, and off one hour after dawn. The markers are equipped with an air gauge for performing air tests, rechargeable batteries, and carry a serial number in the 999000 series so that they can be accounted for. The Quality Assurance Department has assembled 26 units from component parts and another 60 units have been ordered direct from the Star Headlight & Lantern Company at Honeoye Falls, NY. The markers, complete with air hose and fittings, and a lock to secure them to a coupler, cost about \$315.00 each.

## on mergers and change

Just as interesting will be the determination of Milwaukee Road's future. Unlike Rock Island, which has been going through a liquidation process, Milwaukee is a viable, profit-making railroad, with good management and three suitors. This was not really expected. But, with the help of the reorganization court, Trustee Richard B. Ogilvie and President Worthington L. Smith have in fact made something of a winner out of loser, trimming off the West Coast extension and making the Midwest-based core system work. (excerpted from an article entitled "Change in the 80's - The Meaning of Merger" Gus Welty, Senior Editor Railway Age, July, 1984.)

## how well do you know your railroad?

The Milwaukee Road fleet of owned or leased railroad cars is:

15,442	9,153	7,689	13,452	10,043
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For the answer, please turn to the last page.

## more historical material goes to library

Three truck loads of historical material were transferred to the Milwaukee Public Library from the Milwaukee Shops on August 16. Tom Klatt and John Hartman from the wheel shop, Jack Gerard from the material division, and Terry Markovic from the locomotive department, worked on a very hot day to accomplish this task. The library was designated as official repository for the Milwaukee Road historical material in 1981.

portage area employee picnic a success

A hearty thanks to all who helped make our picnic a success. Approximately 200 people joined us for plenty of food and drink and fun---and good company!!

from the desk of bob hickle  
director of social counseling

I owe you an apology. Several months ago I started to tell you the three clues that I look for in diagnosing alcoholism, and then got side-tracked. An alert reader called this matter to my attention, so I shall finish what I started, this month and the next.

The first clue was the question: Does alcohol cause you problems in any major area of your life? We discussed this quite thoroughly in a previous newsletter, so let's move on to the second: Do you undergo a personality change when you drink?

Robert Louis Stevenson was an alcoholic, and he left us the story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. I think he meant to leave us a message. You all know someone who goes through this personality change. The person who is careful with money becomes a big spender when drinking. The gentle person becomes mean. The good father or mother neglects the family shamefully. The good employee loses all desire to do a good job---just seeks opportunities to drink and then cover up. The good friend becomes selfish and a loner.

Does it fit anyone you know? Does it fit you? If you are sick and tired of being sick and tired, call Gary or me, and we'll see what we can do. And if someone for whom you care fits the model, give us a call. We'll talk it over, and no one will ever know we got together.

I have had many people, who after hearing me describe an alcoholic, come up to me and say, "These things fit everyone I know who drinks, at least to some degree." My answer at first is usually a light one, "Well, maybe everyone you know is an alcoholic!" But then I give a serious answer too. "Does it fit you? If it does, let's talk about it."

answers to last month's trivia

What sport does FISA govern?

"Auto racing"

What country's lottery, known as El Gordo, gives the most prize money?

"Spain's"

Who was the sinister doctor of Sax Rohmer's novels?

"Fu Manchu"

north mil tower closed

In an on-going effort to rationalize plant and equipment to meet our current and future needs, North Milwaukee Tower was closed July 30, 1984. The two-story brick tower was put in service December 1, 1945.

### engineer-less locomotives to be tested in Canada

Canadian National Railways is about to start testing engineer-less locomotives at its Vancouver Symington classification yard. The yard handles 20,000 cars a week and the driver-less locomotives will be used for pushing cars up to the hump. The locomotives will be operated from a central control tower.  
(Traffic World, July 30, 1984)

### introducing jeff farrell

Jeff Farrell, 30, has been promoted to position of training officer with headquarters at Milwaukee as of August 1, 1984. Jeff began his career with the Milwaukee Road in 1973 as an apprentice machinist at the Milwaukee Shops. Over the past ten years he has worked in the locomotive back shop, air brake shop, and the wheel shop. His hobbies include hunting and fishing and he has been active in the Jaycees organization. He and his wife, Denise, and daughter make their home in Eagle, Wisconsin on six acres of land. They enjoy farming and raising some live stock.

### burnham bridge refurbished

The second and final phase of extensive repairs to Burnham Bridge (B-4) at Milwaukee were completed earlier this year by the System Steel Erection Crew led by foreman W. J. Hager of Kellogg, Minnesota and the division B&B crew led by foreman Jerry Ingham. During the winter of 1982-83, 101,000 pounds of steel were used in the first stage repairs to the circle girder, loading girders and floor beams. During the winter of 1983-84, repairs to the trusses, floor system, and west end lift machinery were completed using 73,000 pounds of steel. The work had to be done when the bridge could be closed to navigation. John F. Stanley, supervisor of bridge maintenance, Chicago, Rich Davis, Chicago and Jim Keene, Milwaukee, B&B supervisors oversaw the work. Burnham Bridge, located at the east end of Muskego Yard over Burnham Canal, was built in 1907 replacing a previous bridge. The double-track, swing span is 203 feet long and is powered by 2 - 18 hp., 500 volt D.C. electric motors.

### working conditions improved

Fines or gravel screenings to make it easier walking on the switching leads at Burnham Bridge are now being placed by our section forces. This action is a result of a suggestion processed through "Problem Eaters", the Milwaukee problem solving team. Incidentally, the PST could use more input from those in the operating ranks (switchmen, foremen, etc.) and clerks. Contact terminal manager Larry Kissel if you want to participate.

### bear in mind

On U. S. Railroads, 1 oz. of diesel fuel moves 1 ton 5 miles! In overland transportation, the diesel freight locomotive uses fuel four times more efficiently than any other mode. To conserve critically scarce petroleum;  
Ship By Rail. (from Electro Motive Div. General Motors)

problem solving teams do get results!!

You will remember previous newsletter articles regarding a problem our engine crews have with lack of suitable drinking water on engines. Due to the efforts of the problem solving team at Portage, a test period was authorized on Portage area engines. As a result of this test, the Milwaukee Road has ordered and begun installing small refrigerators on engines for use with individual bottles of drinking water. This will provide our crews with cold sanitary drinking water.

t.v. trivia

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

In the cartoon series, what does the Roadrunner say?

Name Ross Bagdasarian's three chipmunks.

(answers next month)

hazmat program well received

Approximately 250 members of the Northeastern Wisconsin Volunteer Firefighters Safety League met at the Town of Oneida (7 miles west of Green Bay) fire department on August 14 to attend a program entitled: "Safe Handling of Hazardous Material Emergencies". Phil Marbut, manager of hazardous materials - operating and Gene Denney, Northern Division director of customer service made the slide and tape presentation. Green Bay agent Bill Kopp also represented the railroad at this function.

severe hayfever season in 1984

a health tip from medical services

August and September are the most unpleasant months of the year for allergy sufferers. Experts state that this is the worst hayfever season in five years. Dr. Howard Zeitz, Director of Immunology and Allergy at Grant Hospital, says: "The unusually dry summer this year means high airborne concentrations of pollen and mold spores." Dr. Zeitz proposes four possible solutions for the allergy sufferer.

- 1) Take a vacation
- 2) Install air conditioning (with filters)
- 3) Close windows to keep out pollen
- 4) Take prescription drugs if the situation is serious

keeping track

Congratulations to Jeff and Denise Farrell on the birth of a daughter, Kassiani Lee, on August 12, 1984 at Waukesha Memorial Hospital. Jeff was recently appointed training officer at Milwaukee.

Maynard E. Sperle, 82, retired Milwaukee Terminal switchman, passed away at Waukesha Memorial Hospital August 17, 1984 after a lingering illness. Mr. Sperle retired in September, 1967. He was the father-in-law of R. L. Gast.

Gail and Steve Storvik are proud parents of a baby boy born August 2, 1984. Eric Leif weighed in at 7 lbs, 11 oz. Gail is a chief clerk in the mechanical department.

keeping track (cont'd)

Darcy Czachura, steno-clerk in the superintendent's office in Milwaukee, has transferred to Bensenville as of August 10, and will be working in the mechanical department. She will be missed.

Muskego Yard car distributor Dick Baxter's sales of 500 tickets for the annual Milwaukee Rate Club raffle was again tops. Dick has been a consistent leader in this effort for the past several years. Congratulations, Dick!!

Virginia and Donald Christian became grandparents for the third time. James Donald Christian, 8 lbs 6 oz. born to Donald and Sara Christian, July 30 in St. Louis, Missouri. Virginia is Roadmaster's Clerk at Milwaukee Depot and Donald is a Conductor in Milwaukee Terminals. Their son Donald also worked as a Sectionman for the railroad while he was attending college.

Edward "Eddie" M. Nowicki, 60, Assistant Agent at Muskego Yard retired July 31, 1984 with more than 38 years of service. Eddie began his career as a clerk at Milwaukee in 1946. He was promoted to Asst. to Division Superintendent at Perry, Iowa in 1965 and returned to Milwaukee as Assistant Agent in 1966.

Congratulations to Mark T. Quin, 33, on his promotion to the new position of assistant terminal manager - administration at Milwaukee, which was effective August 16. Mark began his career with the railroad as a yard clerk in June, 1967 and was promoted to position of terminal operations officer in August, 1981.

Martin Garelick, 62, former Milwaukee Road operations vice president, retired July 12, 1984 as vice president and general manager of NJ Transit Rail Operations, Inc. Mr. Garelick's retirement ends a career of high accomplishment in the railroad field. He graduated from Purdue University in 1947 with a degree in civil engineering and subsequently held positions in the engineering operating and marketing departments of the Milwaukee Road. He left the Milwaukee in January, 1978 to become executive vice president and chief operating officer of Amtrak, and then vice president for Wyer, Dick & Co. before taking control of NJ Transit.

Eugene G. "Stew" Stewart, 76, retired LaCrosse Division agent passed away August 10, 1984 at his home, Route 1, Ixonia, Wisconsin. Mr. Stewart came to the Milwaukee Road from the Rock Island in 1937 as an operator. He held agencies at Oconomowoc, Milwaukee Stock Yards, Wauwatosa and Watertown before retiring in 1971.

R. G. "Bob" Arntz, agent at Dubuque, Iowa suffered a severe heart attack on August 10 and is at Mercy Hospital in Dubuque. His home address is 1836 Carter Road, Dubuque, Iowa 52001.

Ray Krueger, Chief Clerk, Material Division is at St. Francis Hospital, recuperating from surgery. Doing well and would love to hear from his co-workers with get well messages.

keeping track (cont'd)

Dolores Gavin, clerk in the Material Division is grandmother to Connie Gavin, born at St. Francis Hospital, August 7. She is the daughter of Mike and Karen Gavin, Mike works at the Ladish Co. in Cudahy. Grandpa is John Gavin, Chief Clerk for the C&NW at Butler, Wisconsin. This is No. 7 for Dolores and John!!!

Frank Vjicick, boilermaker at Milwaukee Shops, retired August 1, 1984 with over 41 years of service. Frank has been off due to illness since May, 1984.

Dennis Warnken, technical inspector in the Quality Assurance Department, Milwaukee Shops, is the proud father of a baby girl, Marcie, 7 lbs 7½ oz. Born August 19 at West Allis Memorial Hospital.

bible verse for dieting "psalm 36-26-36"

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He maketh me lie down and do pushups.  
He giveth me Hollywood health bread.  
He restoreth my waistline.  
He leadeth me past the refrigerator for my own sake.  
He maketh me partake of green beans instead of potatoes.  
He leadeth me past the pizzeria.  
Yea, though I walk through the bakery, I shall not falter.  
For thou art with me.  
Thy Tab and thy Fresca, they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a diet for me in the presence of my enemies.  
Thou anointest my lettuce with low calorie dressing.  
My cup will not overflow.  
Truly, Rye Krisp and Deserta shall follow all the days of my life.  
And I shall live with the pangs of hunger forever.

(quote from Alex Thien's column, Milwaukee Sentinel)

gangway!

Did you ever glance into your rear view mirror while driving and see only the ominous grillwork of a huge truck riding your tail? Or maybe the behemoth is several hundred feet back but closing rapidly. It can be pretty scary.

That's the point, of course. You are supposed to feel intimidated by the trucker's blunt message: Speed up or get out of the way.

Motorists driving slower than necessary on the open highway surely can be a hazard, but such dangerous trucker tailgating is frequent even when the car in front is already exceeding the speed limit. And sometimes there's no open, adjacent lane to escape into.

Commendably, the Wisconsin State Patrol is cracking down on tailgating, the fifth most frequent factor contributing to traffic crashes. Let's hope the troopers get some of those pushy road hogs off the highways.

(Milwaukee Journal July 23, 1984)

the answer

As of August 1, 1984, we have 9,153 revenue cars owned or leased carrying MILW reporting marks. In addition, we operate a fleet of 3,431 TOFC units that carry MILZ marks.

quotes

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.

(Helen Keller)

What fire could ever equal the sunshine of a winter's day?

(Henry David Thoreau)

Memory is the diary we all carry about with us.

(Mary H. Waldrip)

When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us.

(Alexander Graham Bell)

Everything has its beauty, but not everyone sees it.

(Confucius)

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

Ron Boguszewski - Muskego Yard

Bob Voigt - Milwaukee Car Shops

Nancy Bidlingmeyer - Locomotive Shops

Dolores Gavin - Material Division

Editor: R. Milton Clark

Room 319 Milwaukee Road Station, 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.

annual retirement party

DON'T FORGET - the 2nd Annual Northern Division Retirement Party - September 22, 1984 at the Eagles Club in Milwaukee. Dinner tickets are \$25 per couple or \$12.50 a person. Raffle tickets are \$1 a piece or 6 for \$5. Let's all get together for an enjoyable evening and honor those who retired in 1983.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!

P.S. The sale of raffle tickets is not going as well as expected. We need everyone's full cooperation to make this party a success.

