



# NORTHERN NEWS

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

JANUARY 1985

## northern news coverage expanded

Coverage of the Minnesota Region begins with this issue of Northern News. Trudy Hauge, steno-clerk in assistant superintendent J. P. McMullin's office, is the correspondent for the Twin Cities area. Please contact her with news items for inclusion. We need a volunteer to cover the Austin-Mason City area. If interested, please contact the editor. Kemma Johnson will continue with her efforts of special editions of the IMAG Newsletters with feature articles.

## the heats on

About \$250,000 was spent to heat the Milwaukee Car Shop building CD-50 for the 1981-82 season, the last time it was heated! For the past two seasons, the men have worked without heat in the building. The car shop Quality Circle, "Seekers of Quaility", tackled this problem and presented it to management. Constructed in 1930, the CD-50 is a huge structure with over 7 million cubic feet of air space to heat with scant insulation. The QC looked at three possibilities: an independent boiler system, tapping back into the existing shops steam boiler system, and utilizing portable propane heaters, with the latter being chosen. Their plan called for twelve heaters, rated at 500,000 BTU each, to be installed in the work areas supplied by four 1000 gallon tanks located on the outer perimeter of the building. With an outside temperature of zero, the heaters will maintain an inside temperature of 30 to 40 degrees using only about \$4 worth of propane per hour per heater. Moreover, the heaters are supplied free by the propane supply company along with free maintenance and service. The estimated cost for the 1985 heating season is a mere \$40,020 including the purchase of some transformers and labor for the installation of the heaters! "Seekers of Quality" is made up of carman-welders M. L. Bugge, R. J. Buschmann, J. J. Ciofani, T. Kintis, R. J. Potrykus, G. W. Reed, M. D. Willms; and blacksmith-welder G. R. Koenig. R. R. Voigt, chief clerk-car shop is the QC leader and T. R. Marino, facilitator. The management presentation took place December 13 with marketing vice president P. C. White, R. F. Nadrowski, avp-chief mechanical officer, B.J. McCanna, director IMAG projects, and others present. The project was approved December 20 and the heaters should be in operation by the first of the year. "Seekers of Quality" wish to thank those attending the presentation and especially assistant shop superintendent R. L. Laszkiewicz to whom the presentation was directed.

## 1984 was a good year; but 1985 outlook is cloudy

Traffic (on most U. S. railroads) rose substantially this year; but the future depends not only on the economy but also the industry's ability to obtain more production from labor and equipment and to defuse the agitation against the Staggers Act.

(Modern Railroads magazine, December, 1984)

from the desk of bob hickle  
director of social counseling

Let's leave alcohol alone for a bit and talk about another drug which is used by many Milwaukee Road employees. The drug is marijuana. It has been called everything from "harmless" to "killer weed", and as is so often the case, the truth lies somewhere in between. Let's talk about it.

Marijuana is an illegal drug and most of the more potent drug comes from outside the country. It is usually smoked, but may also be eaten. Use usually results in a feeling of euphoria, disorientation, inability to judge time and space, and in some cases, panic attacks and hallucinations. Experienced users sometimes nip a little, but most users want to get "high". With grass, you most usually are or aren't.

Marijuana is not a drug of violence such as alcohol and the user often becomes withdrawn and remote. Because of its effect on judgment, coordination, reflexes and reaction time, it is extremely dangerous to use before doing such demanding tasks as driving a car or working on a railroad. The effect of one dose will last up to four hours.

Evidence is just commencing to emerge that it may be more dangerous in long-term use than anyone realized. The smoke itself has toxic effects on the lungs, and may be implicated in lung cancer and emphysema. There is pretty good evidence that heavy use damages both the male and female reproductive genes. In men, heavy use has been shown to reduce the output of male hormones and therefore also affects sex drive and performance.

We have been raised and are living in a chemical-saturated society. One has only to watch the TV commercials or to walk through the over-the-counter section of a drug store to realize to what extent we use chemicals. We are taught from our earliest childhood that if you don't like the way you feel, there is a chemical that will make you feel better. One wonders how our ancestors survived without the little blue pill to help you "when it takes more than 15 minutes to fall asleep".

Marijuana is toxic--if it weren't, one would not feel anything. After many years of study, I can come to only one conclusion--the benefits of its use are heavily outweighed by its risks!!

more on the milwaukee road acquisition

Speaking of mergers, did anyone ever imagine that there would ever be a bidding war for the Milwaukee Road? The last time I looked, everyone thought the Milwaukee was a streak of rust that would be picked up by the first bidder at scrap value. Wrong! . . . .And the chopped-down Milwaukee must feel odd. After years of being unwanted, it suddenly finds the industry falling all over itself to get a piece of the action.

(excerpted from The Potomac Pundit column -  
Trains Magazine, January 1985)

more on the milwaukee road acquisition (cont'd)

Is the C&NW's offer (for the Milwaukee Road) excessive? Its new bid for Milwaukee works out to \$254,369 per route-mile, which compares with the \$73,923 per mile offered for Conrail on the basis of the 1.2-billion-dollar bids and with recent sales of Rock Island track, ranging widely from \$28,139 per route-mile for Kansas-Colorado trackage to \$68,584 for Iowa-Illinois mileage, each sale about 450 miles' worth. North Western defended its stance on the grounds that "acquisition. . . .on these terms will greatly strengthen" itself, and Milwaukee's trustee understandably agreed.

(excerpted from News & Editorial Comment-  
Trains Magazine, January 1985)

railroad going cardless

The familiar "punch card" used for computer data entry is obsolete. Our railroad is in the process of converting the field reporting to a "cardless" system. Begun over three years ago, the project involving the use of TRW/Fujitsu computers has been developed almost entirely by our in-house programming staff and field personnel. Bruce Moffatt, manager of field reporting/stations and yards, is the project manager. Beloit, in March, 1984, was the first point to put the new system in use. Sturtevant, Bensenville, Terre Haute, and Louisville have followed. St. Paul is currently being phased in with an end of January, 1985 completion date targeted. Milwaukee is next on the implementation schedule. What is cardless? Simply, it is a system of computer data entry using CRT units (cathode ray tube terminals). When completed, there will be four Fujitsu "8500" computer installations strategically located at Bensenville, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Nahant. Satellite reporting points with CRT's are linked to the "8500's" which are, in turn, connected with the central or "host" computer located in Chicago Union Station. What does TRW mean? For the answer, please turn to page 4.

answers to last month's trivia

Paul Michael Glaser and David Soul starred in what police series?

"Starsky and Hutch"

Who was Kate's famous husband on the "Kate Loves a Mystery" series?

"Detective Columbo"

What was the first TV movie ever made into a Hollywood movie?

"Marty"

what is a customer?

A Customer is the most important person ever in this office...in person or by mail.

A Customer is not dependent on us...we are dependent on him.

what is a customer? (cont'd)

A Customer is not an interruption of our work...he is the purpose of it. We are not doing him a favor by serving him...he is doing us a favor by giving us the opportunity to do so.

A Customer is not an outsider to our business...he is a part of it.

A Customer is not a cold statistic...he is a flesh-and-blood human being with feelings and emotions like your own, and with biases and prejudices.

A Customer is not someone to argue or match wits with. Nobody ever won an argument with a customer.

A Customer is a person who brings us his wants. It is our job to handle them profitably to him and to ourselves.

(Author Unknown)

quiz answer

TRW stands for Thomas-Raymo-Woolridge, a company that services and maintains the Fujitsu computer systems being marketed in the United States.

no vdt eye damage, scientists report

Here's good news for the 10 million Americans who work daily at Video Display Terminals (VDT's).

There is no scientific evidence to support the notion of a connection between certain eye diseases and daily exposure to VDT's.

This is the conclusion of a National Academy of Sciences research team, which says there is not sufficient radiation emitted by computer video screens to cause cataracts or other damage to the eyes.

(from Medical Services - Chicago)

how well do you know your railroad - a quiz

The Milwaukee Road operates

2890            3038            3310            3508            4278

route miles.

For the answer, please turn to page 5.

how well do you know your railroad - quiz answer

As of December 15, we operated 3038 route miles based on Milwaukee Road Mileage Tariff 6012-A.

the stand up - get dizzy syndrome  
a health tip from medical services

Ever hop up from your easy chair to find the roof spinning like a leaf in a gale? Many people have, and often the cause of this fleeting dizziness is nothing more malevolent than the gremlin known as postural hypotension.

"This malady - essentially a drop in blood pressure when you change postures - is very common", says D. P. Marshall, M.D. "Your blood pressure is adjusting to your body's positions. When you lie down, your blood pressure goes up. When you stand up, it goes down. When some people stand up, however, their pressure drop is too rapid, causing a transient lag in blood to the brain and this temporary dizziness".

Slow down when changing positions or if you are taking blood pressure medication check with your physician.

more trivia

Where is the Yucatan Peninsula?

What is Katmandu the capital of?

What playwright's works include "The Collection" and "The Caretaker?"

keeping track

After 40 years of service, R. J. Connelly, Madison Switchman, retired as of November 30, 1984. We wish Bob and his wife many happy years of retirement.

John G. Newlin, 59, time revisor at Austin, Minnesota retired December 1, 1984 with more than 30 years of service. John and his wife plan to do a little traveling.

Rebecca L. Solberg, 27, has been promoted to position of personnel manager at Bensenville effective December 3, 1984. Becky began her career with the Milwaukee Road in July, 1978 as trainmaster's clerk at LaCrosse. She was promoted to personnel officer at Milwaukee, November 1980. Congratulations!!!

Phil Zinos, Trainmaster at So. Minneapolis and his wife Mary Ann welcomed an 8 pound 1 ounce, 20 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch baby boy born at 8:50 A.M. on November 8, 1984. Alexander will be well taken care of by his 8 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  year old brother Nicholas, I am sure.

keeping track (cont'd)

Virginia Anderson, Claim Department, St. Paul, Minnesota, finally took a two week vacation and just stayed home. She didn't go anywhere, do anything spectacular, just loafed and did what she wanted to do when she wanted to. She laughingly indicated that this was a trial run to see if she and her husband could stand each other when the time comes for her to retire. He has already enjoyed that status for over three years. Long delayed chores around the house were completed in a leisurely manner and entertaining friends and family filled up the days. A consensus took place at the end of the two weeks: They could tolerate each other 24 hours a day if he could read the morning paper first and then she could have it and mess it up anyway she pleased. Big Deal!!!

Editors Note: Knowing that Virginia is a crossword puzzle addict - perhaps Les is better off with the paper first!!!

D. J. (Duke - the Oil Baron) Duquaine, a long time B&B Supervisor headquartered at Miles City, Montana will be leaving the Milwaukee Road and beginning a new life as he retires at the end of December. He will be missed by many of the people who have worked for or with him. His address is 1007 Stacy Avenue, Miles City, Montana 59301 for those who may want to wish him a happy retirement!!!

LaVerne W. Schroeder, 62, passed away December 18 at his home in Manning, Iowa. Mr. Schroeder began his career with the Milwaukee Road in the engineering department in 1940 and served in the USN during WWII. He returned to the railroad in 1946 and in 1948 joined the operating department as agent-operator at Council Bluffs, Iowa. In 1950, he joined the traffic department where he held a number of sales and managerial positions until his retirement on January 16, 1983.

On November 29, mechanical department word processor, Phyllis Kowalski, received a surprise birthday greeting from her fellow employees in the form of a "gorilla-gram"!!! The gorilla presented her with a "Gert the Gorilla" doll and joined the others in singing happy birthday.

Charles Tuyls, Sr., 58, retired Milwaukee Terminal yardmaster, passed away December 25. Mr. Tuyls began his railroad career in 1947 as a switchman. He was promoted to extra yardmaster in 1964 and retired December 4, 1981 with a disability pension. Our sympathy to his family, which includes a son, Charles Jr., who is with the material division.

Congratulations to JoAnne Baxter Fabish and her husband Jim on the birth of a son, Matthew James, December 15. Muskego Yard car distributor Dick Baxter is the proud grandfather.

Congratulations to Donna Scholz Baily and her husband Michael on the birth of a daughter, Carrie Lee, December 22. She is the 11th grandchild of Muskego Yard assistant chief cler, Eddie Scholz.

Robert C. Clark, 64, retired "C&M" locomotive engineer, passed away December 3 in Bradenton, Florida. Mr. Clark began his railroad career March 3, 1947 as a fireman and was promoted to engineer May 13, 1956. He retired September 4, 1980.

keeping track (cont'd)

Thirty-three Milwaukee railroaders gathered at the Northwestern Building in downtown St. Paul for a Christmas dinner held during the lunch hour on December 12. Ham, Swedish meatballs, sausage, salads, breads and cookies filled the table making an eye-appealing picture. Good conversation, reminiscing and the inevitable railroad talk pervaded the gathering with a touch of nostalgia that this might be the last such gathering under these circumstances.

Gordon Patterson, supervisor of customer service at St. Paul, returned to work November 26 after an eleven week hiatus due to surgery. Welcome back, Gordy!!!

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. "Pinky" Stolpa, Signal Maintainer at LaCrosse, became proud grandparents on November 27 of a grandson (Christopher John) born to their son Michael and his wife in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Quite a number of employees converged on Muskego Yard Office December 19 for the annual holiday feed of "Polish Delights" with all of the trimmings. The serving of these tasty little sausages, unique to Milwaukee, has long been a tradition at the yard office. Clerks Sy Kluck, Eddie Scholz and Dick Baxter were in charge of the arrangements.

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  
Mike Leonard - Muskego Yard

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

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.