



NORTHERN NEWS

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

MARCH 1985

soo acquires milwaukee road

Chicago - At 11:55 PM Tuesday, February 19, trustee Richard B. Ogilvie and Dennis M. Cavanaugh, president and chief executive officer of the Soo Line affixed their signatures to documents conveying the Milwaukee Road rail assets to the Soo Line. This historic event was the culmination of over seven years of reorganization effort. Trustee Ogilvie is confident Milwaukee employees will bring to the new company the same high level of dedication and resolve they've exhibited throughout the reorganization process.

an excellent record

Amtrak trains handled by the Milwaukee Road in 1984 were on time 90.6% of the time, an excellent record. For this effort, we received incentive payments from Amtrak totalling \$549,692!! The nationwide average for Amtrak on time performance was 81%.

soo line forms holding company

Soo Line has no immediate plans to diversify beyond its current transportation and real estate activities, said Dennis M. Cavanaugh, president and chief executive officer, following establishment of a holding company in December. Known as Soo Line Corp., the new structure will "facilitate growth and development in both transportation and non-transportation areas, and will have a greater ability to finance both transportation and other business." Cavanaugh said.

Each share of Soo Line railroad common stock was exchanged for one share of the holding company, which authorized an issue of 15 million shares. The company has 7.6 million shares outstanding with no current plans to issue additional shares.

(from January 1985 - Railway Age)

new manual aids supervisors

A new reference manual for field supervisors has been distributed by the Personnel Department. Entitled PERSONNEL PROCEDURES, the manual contains detailed information on subjects ranging from "Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Information" and "Amtrak Passes" to "Vacation Eligibility Verification". The manual is designed to be a tool which will enable supervisors to answer questions relating to personnel matters. It has been well received.

last call for hats and jackets

The Personnel Offices have a limited supply of Milwaukee Road hats and jackets available - soon to become a collector's item!! Hats are available at \$4.25 each and jackets are available at \$22.00 in sizes small, medium and large. Get them while they last!!

answers to last month's game

1. Scintillate, scintillate, asteroid minific.
"Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"
2. Members of an avian species of identical plumage congregate.
"Birds of a Feather Flock Together"
3. Surveillance should precede saltation.
"Look Before You Leap"
4. Pulchritude possesses solely cut aneous profundity.
"Beauty is Only Skin Deep"
5. It is fruitless to become lacrymose over precipitately departed lacteal fluid.
"Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk"

this month's challenge!!

1. Freedom from incrustations of grime is contiguous to rectitude.
2. The stylus is more potent than the claymore.
3. It is fruitless to attempt to indoctrinate a superannuated canine with innovative maneuvers.
4. Eschew the implement of correction and vitiate the scion.
5. The temperature of the aqueous content of an unremittingly ogled saucepan does not reach 212 degrees F.

(answers next month)

safety clips

Never transfer medicines from their original containers; doing so can cause confusion that could lead to someone being poisoned.

If you have toddlers, put them in playpens or in a highchair when you cook so they don't end up underfoot and trip you.

attention st. paul area wearers of fendall safety glasses

The Fendall representative will be at the roundhouse, 4th street offices, and

attention st. paul area wearers of fendall safety glasses (cont'd)

the yard office every other Wednesday starting March 6. If you need your safety glasses repaired or fitted (Fendall only), this would be the time to do it.

how well do you know your railroad?

The highest elevation ever reached by The Milwaukee Road was 6324 feet above sea level at the crossing of the Continental Divide at Donald, Montana. Do you know the elevation and location of the highest point reached by our "core" railroad? For the answer, please turn to page 4.

from the desk of bob hickle
director of social counseling

Last month we talked about marijuana, a drug used by many of our employees. This month we will talk about cocaine, a drug which is not used by so many of us, but a terrible problem to those who do.

Cocaine is a concentrated form of an alkaloid which is extracted from leaves of a coca bush or tree which grows principally in South America. It is illegal to own or sell, and while technically not a narcotic, is highly addictive. (A narcotic is usually defined as a drug derived from the opium poppy.)

It is usually sniffed, but may also be injected. The practice of mixing it with heroin and injecting the result is called "speedballing", and the process of purifying cocaine for smoking is called "freebasing". The effect of a dose of cocaine is immediate, overwhelming and highly pleasing to those who use it. Its effect is of very short duration, and the resulting "downer" is extremely depressing, which sets up the urge for another go.

For those who are frequent users of cocaine, its use becomes the most important thing in their lives. The price on the street is extremely high, and it takes a lot of money to support a habit. By the time we see a user, he or she is flat broke and so sick physically that it requires expert medical management to pull them through. Many use alcohol and other drugs to deal with the extreme depression that follows a cocaine "high".

It goes without saying that anything that takes over ones' body so completely has no place on a railroad. Even when not using the drug, the user is often so preoccupied with where the next dose will come from that such things as a job don't seem very important.

Cocaine is dangerous stuff. It is hard to believe that a friendly snort at a party someplace will wreck a life, but it has wrecked many. The best way I know to deal with cocaine is to let it completely alone. If it is a problem in your life, get help before it is too late!!

how well do you know your railroad quiz answer

The railroad reaches 1512 feet above sea level at Irma, Wisconsin, mile post 124, on the Wisconsin Valley Line.

buckle up for safety

Reminder to business travelers: When you drive in New York, use seat belts or risk arrest. Same in New Jersey, March 1 and Illinois, July 1.

answers to last month's trivia

Who declared: "The White House has had no involvement whatever in this particular incident"?
"Richard Nixon"

How many umpires handle a regular-season major league baseball game?
"Four"

What inventor was known as "The Wizard of Menlo Park"?
"Thomas Edison"

iron poor intellect
a health tip from medical services

The brain needs large amounts of oxygen to function effectively, and the only way to get it is through iron-packed blood cells. Adults can suffer from alertness and memory problems when their iron levels are in the "low but normal" range. Increase your brain power by eating plenty of the following foods: lima beans, dried prunes, apricots and raisins, broccoli, peas, nuts and meats. Vitamin C packed drinks aid in iron absorption and coffee or tea blocks the body's ability to absorb iron.

from the mouth's of babes

Little girl asked Sunday school teacher, "Why do they always say 'amen' after they pray? Why don't they ever say 'a-women'?" Before teacher could answer, little boy said, "They do it for the same reason that all the songs they sing are hymns."--Heffley's Printing in Assn. Trends.

(from the Milwaukee Commerce Hot Line)

communications improved

Dispatcher's radio control is now being installed between Mason City and Sheldon, Iowa which will enable the operator at Mason City to have direct contact with all trains on that line segment. Base stations at Algona and

communications improved (cont'd)

Spencer, Iowa, reached via leased Bell telephone lines, will also permit trains to contact the operator. Spencer will also have a company telephone extension off of the Mason City switchboard. A second phase of this project, to be installed at a later date, will involve the territory between Mason City and Marquette.

more trivia

Where did Betty meet the leader of the pack?

How long does it take a chicken to lay 19 dozen eggs?

What drink was invented by oilmen, who used their tools to stir it?

(answers next month)

amtrak patronage shows increase

Amtrak trains operating over Milwaukee Road lines handled about 18,000 passengers per month during 1984, approximately a 1% increase over 1983.

railroad trivia

Atlantic City's famous boardwalk was conceived by a train conductor, Alex Boardman. People tracked so much sand into hotels and rail coaches, he suggested laying boards along the beach. It was first known as "Boardman's Walk", later as "The Boardwalk".

First locomotives known to have whistles were the "Susquehanna" and "Hicksville" built in 1836 at Lowell, Mass., under direction of George Washington Whistler, a railroad engineer. Whistler's wife, incidentally, was immortalized by the famous painting "Whistler's Mother" done by their son.

To eliminate the need for stopping for water, big high-speed steam locomotives used to scoop up water from track pans. This was called "jerking water". Towns where the water pans were located became known as "jerkwater" towns, but traveling salesmen jokingly apply the term to small towns not to their liking.

Locomotive sandboxes originated in the early 1830's during a grasshopper plague in Pennsylvania. Crushed hoppers made the rails slippery. Nothing, including scrapers and brooms, was successful until someone installed a sandbox to leak sand on the rails.

keeping track

Rudy J. Kemp, 74, retired assistant to vice president in charge of claim

keeping track (cont'd)

prevention, refrigeration, and stations/yards, died February 9. Mr. Kemp began his railroad career as an agent/operator in 1946 and headed the claim prevention department from October 1, 1957 until he retired May 31, 1976. He is survived by his wife, Rita.

William H. Stiyer, 56, sales representative at Milwaukee, has been elected secretary-treasurer of the Milwaukee Traffic Club. Congratulations, Bill!!

Congratulations to Ronald and Lorraine Holzem on the birth of a daughter, Kimberly Lynn, February 15. Muskego Yard second shift chief clerk, Frank Holzem is the grandfather and retired Milwaukee Terminal switchman/yardmaster Lawrence Holzem is the great grandfather.

St. Paul claim adjuster, Bob Rigdon and wife Sharon were in Las Vegas the week of January 28. Bob reports that they had a very good time, but the weather was too much like Minnesota: 22 at night and only into the 30's or low 40's during the day. While in the area, they toured Boulder Dam and viewed a film of the actual dam construction which was just as fascinating as the dam tour itself.

T. E. Vinson, Switchman at South Minneapolis, retired on February 1, 1985 after 35 years of service.

Michael Ahern, a retiree for over 20 years and was a former Chief Clerk at Minneapolis, passed away on January 11, 1985.

P. J. Destasio, a Carman from St. Paul, passed away on January 11, 1985.

Ray Gittens, a retired H&D Trainman, passed away in January, 1985.

Kermit H. Sutton (Boots), retired Freight Foreman at Minneapolis, passed away in December, 1984.

Roland T. Thorn, retired Car Distributor, St. Paul, passed away in November, 1984.

Joseph B. Daly, retired Telegrapher/Dispatcher at Hoffman Avenue, passed away in December, 1984.

Len Shulta, Milwaukee Shops Foreman, suffered a heart attack early in December. He is now home recuperating from a successful triple bypass in January and would enjoy hearing from his many friends and co-workers.

Our condolences to Rudy Orlick, Lift Truck Operator in the Freight Shop and good friend, for the loss of his brother on February 8, 1985.

Bob Voigt, Chief Clerk in the Car Shops, and his wife Jan are looking towards June and the birth of their 5th child. How does Bob feel about having five kids? "Great! My whole family loves playing baseball, I only need two more kids after this one and I'll have my own team, three more and I'll have a relief pitcher." Brewers beware!!

keeping track (cont'd)

Jerry Hofkes, Milwaukee Regional, is hospitalized at St. Mary's Hospital, Milwaukee, since January 2 with a serious illness. He would appreciate messages of cheer and visits from his co-workers.

Bill Bell, Customer Accounting, Milwaukee, is recovering at home after being hospitalized due to a mild heart attack in January. Hope to see Bill back at work soon.

Diane Gahagan, Milwaukee Data Center, announces the arrival of her son born February 11, weighing in at 7 lbs. 7 oz. Diane and her husband Daniel have two other children - a son and daughter. Congratulations to the both of them.

Matt Kleman, Milwaukee Regional, is home after having minor surgery. He is expected to be back to work in the next few weeks.

Leland Arms, Milwaukee Regional, celebrated his 35th birthday in an unusual manner on February 12. His wife and daughters surprised him with a gorillagram in the office. Gertie the Gorilla supplied the entertainment and a good time was had by Lee and all the spectators.

Robert and Rose Wagenaar became the proud parents of a little girl, Victoria Joan, born January 4. She weighed in at 7 lb. 2 oz. Bob is Director of Mechanical Planning. She is a sister to Christina and Elizabeth.

Mason City conductor Bob Drenth was featured in a newspaper article that appeared in The North Country Register of Mason City recently. Entitled "Modelers Scale New heights and trains", it tells about Bob's interest in model railroading. He has an "HO" scale layout in his basement, and in his back yard, a live steam operation capable of carrying two adults.

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
Jack True - Mason City

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.