



# NORTHERN NEWS

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

MAY 1985

## soo/milwaukee system employee picnic scheduled

A Soo/Milwaukee System employee picnic has been set for Sunday, July 7 at Brown Deer Park (Area 1) in Milwaukee is one of several planned this summer to include Milwaukee Road employees. Milwaukee terminal manager, Larry Kissel heads the local picnic committee. These events are sponsored by the Soo/Milwaukee System for all employees and their families. Please watch the bulletin boards and this newsletter for more information on the Milwaukee area picnic and others.

## soo told to put price on crivitz line

The Soo Line Railroad has been ordered by a U. S. District Court to establish a price for the sale of 21 miles of track between Crivitz and Marinette.

The Soo Line gained control of the track Feb. 19 when the core assets of the Milwaukee were transferred to the Soo in a federal court action.

The Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad, which owns the former Milwaukee Road track from Iron Mountain, Mich., to Green Bay, had a first right of refusal to purchase the Crivitz-Marinette line.

When purchase offers were made by three railroads to buy the Milwaukee Road, the E&LS claimed "that was the trigger to allow us to purchase the trackage."

However, the Milwaukee Road refused to negotiate.

Since then, the Soo has been operating three trains a week over the route into Green Bay.

With the refusal of either the Milwaukee or the Soo to discuss the E&LS offer, the E&LS appealed to the U. S. District Court of Northern Illinois, which has jurisdiction in the Milwaukee Road case.

Judge Thomas R. McMillen issued a ruling from the bench giving the Soo Line 30 days in which to present a sale price to the E&LS. If the price is out of line, the court will decide a price it determines to be equitable.

(Green Bay Press-Gazette, April 20, 1985)

## short line lines

The Brillion & Forest Junction Railroad, which connected with our line at Forest Junction, Wisconsin on the Green Bay line and was one of the state's

short line lines (cont'd)

shortest railroads at 6 miles, has filed for bankruptcy and ceased operations as of April 4, a victim of economic conditions and truck competition.

The Wisconsin & Calumet Railroad, a subsidiary of the Chicago based, Chicago, West Pullman & Southern, has begun operating portions of the former Central Wisconsin Railroad. This, the third operator of former Milwaukee and ICG lines in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, is now running the ex-MILW Janesville to Monroe line and the ex-ICG Freeport to Madison line, a total of 92 miles. The future of other lines operated by the CWRC and WIWR, which ceased operations earlier this year, has not been determined.

(excerpted from NRHS Sparks & Cinders, April, 1985)

The Illinois Central Gulf Railroad tentatively has agreed to sell 674 miles of track between Chicago, Omaha and Sioux City for \$75 million to a short-line operator. The purchaser, John E. Haley, would rename the line the Chicago, Central & Pacific and would move its headquarters to Waterloo, Iowa. The sale, contingent upon approval by the I.C.C., will affect about 550 employees. The new railroad would be run by current ICG employees and supervisors. Last year, Haley bought the 100 mile Waterloo, Iowa - Albert Lea, Minnesota branch line from the ICG which is operated as the Cedar Valley Railroad.

(excerpted from Chicago Tribune, April 3, 1985)

soovenirs available

The Soo/Milwaukee System has a large assortment of "Soovenirs" available thru the "Soovenir Store" located in the Soo Line Building in Minneapolis. The products range from hats, golf shirts, playing cards and coffee mugs to Christmas ornaments and model railroad cars. Each of the three Milwaukee personnel offices have samples of what is available and order blanks.

track work scheduled

Ed Howard, division engineer reports that program work has been scheduled for the St. Paul Terminal, a surfacing gang will be working on portions of both main tracks between Sturtevant and LaCrosse, and brush-cutting and weed control programs will be in effect this season.

labels needed

How many of you eat Campbell's brand soups, noodle-o's, or spaghetti? Would you believe that every label is worth a small amount in helping to replace recreational gear - football items, basketball, soccer, baseball, etc. for schools? If anyone is interested in saving these labels, please send them to Pat McDermott, asst. capt. of police, 275 E. Fourth St., St. Paul. Your help will be appreciated.

group seeks to preserve marion, iowa depot

At Marion, Iowa a local developer has plans to tear down the old Milwaukee Road depot to make a parking lot. Some of the residents don't think this is a good idea and have formed a group called "S.O.S." - Save Our Station - in an effort to foil the plans. They feel that the depot should be preserved as a historic site because of the roll that the railroad played in the development of Marion. The two-story brick depot, built in 1898 with a large annex added to it in 1929, served as headquarters for the Iowa division until 1957 when it was moved to Perry, Iowa. The depot remained as the center of Milwaukee Road operations in the Cedar Rapids area until 1980 when the railroad abandoned the lines in the area. Anyone interested in the project should contact: S.O.S., Marion, Iowa 52302.

annual retirement party scheduled

The Northern Division 3rd Annual Retirement Party will be held Saturday, September 21, 1985 at the Eagles Club in Milwaukee to honor those who retired in 1984. Dinner and raffle tickets have been ordered and will go on sale some time in May. Mark your calendars now for this important date and watch for more details in future issues of Northern News.

rail facts

Class I railroads consumed 3.1 billion gallons of fuel in 1983, down 1.3 percent from the previous year. In terms of fuel efficiency, the railroads in 1983 generated 266 revenue ton-miles for each gallon of fuel consumed, a 4.3 percent increase over 1982. The average cost per gallon was 82.72 cents in 1983, down 13.3 percent from 1982.

(from 1984 edition "Railroad Facts" published  
by the Association of American Railroads)

some sobering facts

- FACT: Approximately 13 people will go blind this week due to accidents at work.
- FACT: Industrial eye injuries occur at a rate of two per minute, costing untold amounts in terms of human suffering and lost production.
- FACT: A recent Gallup poll found that people in this country fear loss of vision more than any other medical mishap.
- FACT: Of the more than 1,000 industrial eye injuries that occur every working day, over 90 percent are preventable.

answers to last month's game

1. All articles that coruscate with resplendence are not truly auriferous.  
"All that glitters is not gold"
2. Where there are visible vapors having their prevalence in ignited carbonaceous materials, there is conflagration.  
"Where there is smoke there is fire"
3. Sorting on the part of mendicants must be interdicted.  
"Beggars can't be choosers"
4. A plethora of individuals with expertise in culinary techniques vitiate the potable concoction produced by steeping certain comestibles.  
"Too many cooks spoil the broth"
5. Eleemosynary deeds have their incipience intramurally.  
"Charity begins at home"

from the desk of bob hickle  
director of social counseling

We have talked about the legal drug, alcohol, in many of these letters, and have talked recently about some illegal drugs. This time I want to talk about legal drugs which you get from your friendly pharmacist or buy in drug stores, and which cause many of our employees serious problems.

As you well know, I am not a doctor, and I have no intention of trying to sound like one. I do know, however, that when a doctor prescribes a drug for you, it should be taken exactly as prescribed. Don't fiddle with the dosage or the frequency, and if something happens that you don't feel comfortable with, go back to the doctor. If these drugs weren't toxic, they wouldn't do anything for you, and the doctor cannot always predict how you will react.

The second important thing is to take drugs from only one doctor at a time, and be sure to tell the doctor what other drugs you might be taking. Often two drugs that are perfectly harmless are extremely dangerous when taken together, and this includes over-the-counter drugs as well as prescription drugs, or combinations of the two.

A third problem we often see is the mixing of alcohol with other drugs. We often say that two drinks plus two tranquilizers doesn't equal four, but often equals 22 or more. Don't even drink a beer or two when taking prescription drugs--it could result in you being a "late" employee.

Finally, just because you can buy certain drugs without a prescription doesn't mean that they are not powerful. I have seen employees so stoned on cold medication that they were a danger to themselves and to others with whom they worked. You will get over most of your ailments in about the same length of time whether you buy something advertised on TV or not. Human-kind survived a long, long time before the invention of the drug store.

take me out to the ball game

The Minnesota Twins will be playing the New York Yankees at the Hubert H. Humphrey Dome in Minneapolis, Friday, July 19. The SEA (Soo Line Employees Association) will coordinate a pre-game picnic which will cost approximately \$2.00 per person payable at the picnic site. This offer is open to ALL Soo Line employees, their families, relatives, neighbors, and friends and employees from Wisconsin and all outlying areas should consider spending a vacation week-end in the Twin Cities. A block of tickets for the game in the \$4.00 price range will be available as well as seats at \$7.00 and \$8.00. If you wish to attend this event, please send in your order for tickets to Rags Cooper, 500 Soo Line Building, Minneapolis. Be sure to show your name, work location, number of tickets desired and price.

t.v. trivia

What was Bea Benaderet's name on "Petticoat Junction"?

Who played the dual role of announcer and comedian on "The Garry Moore Show"?

Who played the Riddler on "Batman"?

(answers next month)

another tie season

Class I railroads expect to install over 20 million new crossties during the 1985 work season and, despite specialized machinery, manual handling of ties is still often necessary.

Protective footwear is recommended for employees regularly working with ties. Hard toe shoes and metatarsal guards offer protection in the unequal contest between the unprotected foot and a 300 pound crosstie.

New, treated ties can be very slick - avoid stepping on them when possible. If unloading ties from a car, work the load down evenly to minimize the possibility of ties tumbling from high spots. Apply the same principle when reducing or adding to a stack of ties on the ground.

For moving and positioning ties, sharp tie tongs are a necessity. Always move ties from a slightly crouched position with back straight. This position will generate the necessary force primarily from the legs rather than the back. Never position a tie by striking it with a maul or other tool - use tie tongs even for minor adjustments. Striking a tie could result in treated splinters flying into a co-worker's eye, or yours.

Long sleeves and **gloves** should be worn to minimize skin contact with creosote. Wash off any creosote that contacts the skin as prolonged contact will cause burns.

(From AAR Safety Talk - April 1985)

### soo line general office open house planned

All Soo/Milwaukee System employees and families are invited to the General Office Open House set for Saturday, June 1 from 10 AM to 3 PM. The address is 105 South Fifth Street in downtown Minneapolis. Every department will be open and operating so you can see exactly what is done and where. Parking available under the new 100 South 5th Street Building (\$2.00). There will be free shuttle bus service (9:30 to 3:30) to/from Shoreham Yard at 26th and Central Avenue N.E. Music, picnic brunch, door prizes for kids and adults and other activities of interest to all is planned.

### railroad trivia

Presidential travel by rail began in 1833 when Andrew Jackson became the first president of the U.S.A. to ride on a railroad (from Ellicott's Mills to Baltimore, Md. - 13 miles).

William F. Cody, western scout and Indian fighter, earned his picturesque name of "Buffalo Bill" as a result of his contract to supply buffalo meat to the construction forces building the first transcontinental rail route.

Train operations in the early days before headlights were introduced, were confined largely to daylight hours because of the hazards of night travel. Bonfires on flatcars, tallow candles, whale oil, kerosene lamps and gas were used successively until electric headlights were installed in 1881.

The four-zone system of standard time in the U.S.A. originated with and was adopted by the railroads at noon, November 18, 1883, bringing an end to countless confusing "local" times.

(submitted by Wm. Wentela, Clerk, Marinette)

### keeping track

Merle Pon, welder foreman at South Minneapolis for many years, passed away February 10.

Ralph Richter, yard clerk at the Menomonee Belt in Milwaukee, suffered a heart attack recently. He is recovering at his home in Rhinelander.

Milwaukee Shops storehelper Ken Radtke fell and broke his hip. He is recuperating at home. Hope to see you back at work soon, Ken!!

Congratulations to Norbert J. Kohn, Milwaukee sales representative, on his election to First Vice President of the Milwaukee Traffic Club in February.

Paul Rogers, yard clerk at St. Paul, passed away on March 21. Paul started working for the Milwaukee October 27, 1953.

keeping track (cont'd)

Ted "Boots" LeBoutilier, engineer at St. Paul, retired April 1 completing 39 years of service with the Milwaukee. Boots is famous for his beautiful roses that he grows year-round in his greenhouse. According to Boots, his time will be well spent reproducing and perfecting the thousands of varieties he has as well as naming them. Good luck!!

Our condolences to St. Paul yard clerk Leonard Nalty on the passing of his mother March 21.

Dick Agan, district claims manager at St. Paul recently took a two week train trip to Seattle via Chicago and Anaheim, California. Highlight of the trip was visiting relatives at Gun Barrell City, Texas; Anaheim; and a brother and his family at the Beale Air Force Base near Marysville, California. Also visited K. L. LaBorde, ex-Milwaukee employee currently working for the Union Pacific in Sacramento, and Hugh McCann and J. E. Kranz, ex-Milwaukee employees in Seattle.

Ralph W. Fuller, 76, retired Milwaukee Shops machinist, passed away March 24. Mr. Fuller started with the Milwaukee Road in 1948 in the Car Department and retired March 3, 1971 with a disability pension.

Lee F. Hopkins, 59, retired assistant agent at Milwaukee, died March 29 at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Mr. Hopkins began his career with the Milwaukee as an agent/operator on the former H&D division in 1949. He was later agent at Miles City, Montana and assistant agent at Seattle. He retired in 1980 with a disability pension due to ill health. Lee is survived by his wife Lois and son Ron. Cards may be sent to them at 2400 West 9th, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Our condolences to retired Montevideo lineman Ray Ward on the passing of his wife, LaVerna, 51, at their home in Stockholm, South Dakota.

Congratulations to Wayne Falk, section laborer at Hilbert, Wisconsin, and his wife Sue on the birth of a son, their first, April 2 at St. Mary's Hospital in Green Bay.

Fishermen Fished Out - that's the way the headline read on a news story that appeared in the March 24 issue of the Winona Daily News detailing a story about retired Winona agent Louie Mack and two others whose boat capsized in the Mississippi River March 23. Fortunately, a passing boat "fished" them out quickly and there were no serious injuries. Better luck next time, Louie!!

Alvin M. Kasten, 60, retired conductor from Wausau, passed away March 26. Al started with the railroad as a brakeman November 18, 1950 and was promoted to conductor in 1960. He retired March 15, 1983 with an occupational disability pension.

Harold Perry and his wife are the proud, new parents of a son, Jason Charles, born April 8, 1985. Harold is a work equipment technician on the Milwaukee Road.

keeping track (cont'd)

Jim Ives, chief clerk at Tomah Shops became a grandpa for the second time when a son, Andrew James was born to his daughter Michelle on March 22, 1985. Andrew joins his brother "Spike" Jason Allen.

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  
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.