

Roundhouse Notes

Paducah Chapter
National Railway Historical Society
JUL AUG SEPT 2015

Due to other obligations the newsletter had to be put on hold for 2 months until things could get back on track.



These pictures are of a new IC GP 9 9330 at the Paducah Roundhouse in 1958. These photos were taken by Sam Harrison and are part of Cliff Downey's collection. These photos come from the facebook page of Illinois Central Scrapbook

Until just a few months ago, steam was abundant at Paducah, but the delivery of new GP9's has sidelined many steamers. January 30, 1958

TOP RIGHT :On the other side of the turntable is a steam locomotive without a tender, three tenders without their locomotives, and in the far background several steamers waiting to be scrapped.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Bob Johnston

JANET POLLENDER: Glen's mother was released from the hospital after publication of last month's NEWS AND VIEWS, but has suffered a set-back and is back in Baptist Health as this is being written. Please continue to keep her and the family in your thoughts and prayers.

TOM ANDRUS: Tom's name has been added to the memorial plaque in the museum.

1518 DISPLAY UPGRADE: The painting is essentially completed and looks great thanks to Commissioner Allan Rhodes and his crew, and the donation of paint by Sherwin-Williams. Also thanks to the help of the NRE Paint Shop who made them, the stencils are authentic, and as expertly applied by Allan, really set off the paint job. The end caps for the locomotive cylinders which were cast almost 15 years ago by VMV from the rusted patterns of the old ones, but have been languishing in the baggage car, have been applied with the help of John Maxfield; M&M painting contractors has not yet been able to spray the undercarriage of the locomotive, but when this is done it should set it off even more. One small, but important (at least to purists such as myself), is the replacement of the headlight number boards with black glass and white numbers). Allan has discussed with the carpentry shop at WKCTC, the possibility of them making new windows and doors for the baggage combine and caboose where needed, and he has also asked the city grants person to

pursue a grant for funds for a roof over the display to protect it from the elements. Since two to three coats of paint were applied throughout, this should not be an immediate problem, but still needs to be done. Again, thanks to all involved in this badly needed project.

P&L: The interior furnishings from office car BG- I have pretty much been removed. The exact configuration of the restoration is awaiting final decision from top management. The new generator has not been installed yet but is on the way. The workmen from Wasatch Rail have returned to home base in Cheyenne, WY until after the 4th of July. At that time the work is planned to resume....At the time I visited the work on BG-I, I saw at least 35 cars of lumber in the yard; most of these were going to Wyatt-Bell on the North 8th St. City Lead....Also, R. J. Corman crews were present in the yard doing rehab work such as new cross-overs, tie replacement, etc.

NRE: Not much of special interest seen this month except on June 5th saw GMTX 311, and EMD 1500 switcher near the paint shop in new red paint, and near-by another 1500, 414, still in UP yellow. Work continues on the BNSF and army contracts, among others.

SOUTHERN COAL HANDLING: I talked with an official of the new facility located at the end of the P&I bridge, and he said

they were receiving coal off the BNSF for transfer to barge going to TVA at Gallatin, TN, and also said that their facility at Calvert was receiving coke from a plant in the Chicago area, moving down CSX to Madisonville, and then P&L to Calvert.

NEW "I.C.R.R.": Previous NEWS AND VIEWS has mentioned talk of a sale of the old I.C.R.R. Grenada District between Memphis, TN and Canton, MS to Ed Ellis's Iowa Pacific Holdings. This is the old passenger train route on which Casey Jones had his famous wreck at Vaughn, MS. It is presently an inactive short line, in danger of being scrapped. Now comes official word that the 186.82 route miles will be acquired by IPH's subsidiary, Permian Basin Railways, and operated as Illinois Co. Rail Road, thus the reporting marks, I.C.R.R. Presently, the North Central Mississippi Regional Railroad Authority is in the process of purchasing the line from its current owners, and when that is finalized, expected by August 7th, or before, the new ICRR will begin operating under a 15 year lease. It will interchange with the CN at Memphis (Southhaven) and Canton. (TRAIN NEWS WIRE June 25th)

GRADE CROSSING MAPS: In recent years rail crossing accidents have decreased 80% from 12,000 a year in the '70's to 2000 in recent years. In 2014, however, they rose by nine percent, and 270 people died, up from 232 the previous

year, with 843 were injure. Unfortunately, grade crossing deaths are only the *second* highest cause of rail fatalities, with trespassing accidents killing 533 in 2014. Now Google Maps has partnered with the FRA to pinpoint every grade crossing in the country including 130,000 public and 85,000 private, on Google Maps. They will also add audio and visual alerts to the app when drivers use the turn-by-turn navigation feature. (TRAINS NEWS WIRE June 30)

UP STEAM COMING BACK: Ed Dickens, U.P.'s Manager for Heritage Operations has announced that boiler work, including cleaning by dry ice blasting, and other evaluation is progressing on Northern 4-8-4 844, and it is hoped it will be out-shopped by late this year or early 2016. Meanwhile parts are being assembled to restore to operating condition, Big Boy 4014, with the target of having it active by 2019, the 150th anniversary of the first transcontinental railroad. Dickens says that 4014 is one of the most compete steam locomotives that has not been restored, lacking only a steam gauge. There was no announcement about the status of 4-6-6-4 3985, which has been out of service for some time. Since 844 was sidelined in 2013, there has been no live steam on UP, for the first time in many years.

I.C. STEAM COLLECTION ON LINE: Hundreds of black and white photos by the late photographer Ben Gelman are now on line in a gallery at Southern Illinois University. Entitled "The Last Steam Engines of Southern Illinois," it captures many aspects of steam operations including maintenance, activity at the Carbondale yard, rail workers, and, of course,

many steam engines including activity in and out of the Carbondale roundhouse. Matt Gorzalski, University archivist was able to assemble the collection because Mr. Gelman worked for the University as a Public Relations Specialist and also was editor of the campus newsletter. There is no charge to access the collection which is at www.screrxhibits.omeka.net/exhibit/show/last-steam-engines.

BLEWETTS' RAIL TRIP: Amy and Logan recently made a round trip to visit family on Amtrak's *Texas Eagle* from Poplar Bluff to McGregor, Texas, which is the station for Waco. Interestingly, Logan said the train crossed their aunt's driveway in the country before reaching the station. (Guess if they had pulled the emergency cord they would have been in trouble, *lol*). Logan reports that the train was about 15 minutes late boarding at Popular Bluff, but then lost a couple of more hours because of track work on the UP which necessitated slow orders. Coming back it was only about an hour late in reaching the Bluff. Otherwise, Logan says it was a very nice trip.

MUSEUM: In June we had 198 visitors, which was a decrease from which is a significant decrease from last June. At the monthly Chamber of Commerce Power in Partnership Breakfast on July 2nd, the speaker will be the Senior Director for State and Local Governmental Affairs, Americans for the Arts, and a number of local art and non-profit members, including the railroad museum have been invited to attend, and have a table display. Jack and I went to the Convention Center today and set up using a very nice tri-fold display made by Amy, and several

photos, lanterns and other small displays from the museum and we will be on hand to talk to participants and answer questions. Hope it is successful.

Many folks form the cruise boats, American Queen and queen of the Mississippi, have been visiting the museum. It is fun to interact with them, as well as watch them enjoying the memorabilia that we have on display.

We continue to need volunteers for the various tasks that are performed when we have guests. Please let Carolyn know if and when you are available. Thanks to all the volunteers who are faithful to participate.

Library Program Note:

John Rogers will Be presenting the History of Paducah Shops at the McCracken Geological Society meeting upstairs at the Paducah - McCracken Library on September 9th at 1:30 pm.

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Prime mover from IC 9330 GP 9 in 1958

Meeting *
Tuesday Sept 8th
7PM
At the
Museum Meeting
Room.

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