



# NRHS



WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Volume 75 Number 3

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# SPARKS AND CINDERS

*Our purpose as members of Wisconsin Chapter—National Railway Historical Society is to gather, preserve and disseminate information, both historic and current, pertaining to railroading in Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest.*

Preserving Wisconsin Railroad History for 75 Years

Visit the Chapter Webpage [www.nrhswis.org](http://www.nrhswis.org)



Milwaukee Road No. 104A leading Train 5 at Portage Wisconsin taken October 16, 1965. By Tom Hoffmann

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# Wisconsin Chapter Meeting Schedule

## Upcoming chapter events

March 7 2025 A Special Look Back 75 Years with Tom Hoffmann

April 4 2025 All Over the Place - Mostly drone videos of trains across the country with some random silliness thrown in with Jeff Wojciechowski

May 2 2025 Look Back at Wisconsin Chapter Excursion with Dave Nelson, Older than 75 year with Keith Schmidt

Monthly meetings are held in the lower level of the North Shore Congregational Church at 7330 N Santa Monica Dr. in Fox Point. The church is handicap accessible. For more up to date information on meetings and speakers, and also any weather cancellations, check the chapter's webpage at [www.nrhswis.org](http://www.nrhswis.org).

Doors open by 7:00 pm, so arrive early to socialize. Meetings start at 7:30pm sharp. Please bring a friend!

Our meetings are live-streamed on the Zoom platform. Connection details are shared with chapter members and other interested persons via email the day of the meeting, or before. To ensure you are made aware of this info, we must have a working email address on file - send yours to [president@nrhswis.org](mailto:president@nrhswis.org).

## The Big Picture is your page!

We've changed the format of the Sparks & Cinders back page, giving us room to run a large photo. Member submissions are solicited. Please send one or two of your outstanding pictures to Keith Schmidt, [editor@nrhswis.org](mailto:editor@nrhswis.org).

If you have a program idea please contact Program Chair Dave Nelson at [engine1385@aol.com](mailto:engine1385@aol.com)

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Sparks & Cinders is published by and for the members of the Wisconsin Chapter, Inc., National Railway Historical Society monthly except for July and August. The Chapter meets at the North Shore Congregational Church, 7330 N Santa Monica Blvd, Fox Point, Wisconsin, on the first Friday of each month, except June, July and August, at 7:30 p.m. The Wisconsin Chapter is a not-for-profit corporation, affiliated with the National Railway Historical Society and the Wisconsin Historical Society, organized to preserve the history of railroading in Wisconsin and the surrounding area. Additional information is available on the chapter's website, [www.nrhswis.org](http://www.nrhswis.org).

Membership in the Chapter is open to anyone having an interest in any aspect of railroading who is also a member of the NRHS. Paying \$20 annually to the Chapter will entitle you receive Sparks & Cinders. Paying the National dues of \$50 to the NRHS will entitle you to membership and subscriptions to the NRHS Bulletin and NRHS News. Full NRHS membership is required to participate in chapter business discussions and to vote in annual chapter elections. All address changes should be sent to Mike Yuhas [membership@nrhswis.org](mailto:membership@nrhswis.org) (or via USPS at PO Box 070758 Milwaukee, WI 53207).

Wisconsin Chapter officers are: Keith Schmidt President Ward Wells Vice President, Tom Marcussen, Secretary; Tara Grudzielanek, Treasurer. Directors: Dan Grudzielanek, Mike Yuhas, Ward Wells and Neal Wegner. One Vacancy

Contributions to Sparks & Cinders should be sent to Editor Keith Schmidt at [editor@nrhswis.org](mailto:editor@nrhswis.org) (or USPS at PO Box 070758 Milwaukee, WI 53207) by the 15th of the month to be considered for the following month's publication.

All original material published in Sparks & Cinders may be reprinted in other railfan publications provided credit is given to "Sparks & Cinders, Wisconsin Chapter, NRHS." If an author is indicated for the item or article, credit must also be given to the author. The views, opinions, and comments published in Sparks & Cinders are those of the authors and do not reflect the policies of the Wisconsin Chapter or the National Railway Historical Society. Copyright ©2025, Wisconsin Chapter, Inc., NRHS.

## Meeting Minutes for February 7 2025

February 7, 2025—NRHS Wisconsin Chapter Annual Business Meeting Minutes

An agenda was published on our Chapter web site, and e-mail notice of it sent to all members on Monday, February 3, 2025. This was our fourth hybrid (in-person and Zoom) formal business meeting. We began recording on Zoom at 7:28 pm. Welcome, Quorum, and Call to Order  
Wisconsin Chapter President Keith Schmidt was presiding from our in-person meeting site at the North Shore Congregational Church in Fox Point. He called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. There were then 18 in-person attendees in the church basement, and 34 devices in the Zoom meeting room. Keith greeted and welcomed all of those in attendance. He reminded everybody that only those who are also members of NRHS National are legally Chapter members, and therefore eligible to discuss chapter business, make or second motions, vote or run for office. Subscribers and guests were asked to stand by in silence during the business part of tonight's meeting. A quorum is 5 per cent of the above legal members. We clearly have that. All nine current officers and directors were present. That is by itself a quorum.

### Introduction of Current Officers and Directors

Keith introduced out current Chapter officers and directors. Keith Schmidt (in person and presiding) is the current President. Vice President Ward Wells was present in person. Secretary Tom Marcussen was in the Zoom meeting room (the one waving). Treasurer Tara Grudzielanek was present in person. Our four returning Directors are Dan Grudzielanek (in person), Mike Yuhas (also Membership Chair—in Zoom), Neal Wegner (in person), and Ralph McClure (in person). Andrew Roach is currently our fifth director. He is not running for another term. Keith thanked him for his eight years of service on the Wisconsin Chapter board.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of our last previous formal business meeting—held on Friday, February 2, 2024—are posted on our Chapter Web site. Keith Schmidt asked if there were any questions,

additions, or corrections. There was none. Mike Yuhas moved that the minutes be approved as posted. Tom Hoffmann seconded the motion. It was approved by a unanimous show of hands and voice vote.

#### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tara Grudzielanek presented her annual report for 2024:

Balances	January 1	December 31
Landmark Checking	\$3254.58	\$1952.84
Landmark Savings	100.02	2700.21
18-month CD thru 5/16/26	17,489.14	13,255.30
24-month CD thru 5/15/25	11,295.92	11,783.30
Heartland Fund—Market Value	95,601	110,592.83

#### Receipts

Membership Dues	\$3144.31
Donations	484.54
Banquet Ticket Sales	1655.15
East Troy Excursion Ticket Sales	1098.49
75th Anniversary Merchandise Sales	708.49
Checking Account Interest	0.22
Savings Account Interest	0.19
18-month CD Interest	766.16
24-month CD Interest	487.38
Transfer to Savings	2600.00
Transfer to Checking	2400.00
Temporary Loan Advance	650.00

#### Total

\$13,994.93

#### Expenses

Sparks & Cinders—printing, postage, envelopes	\$3430.87
Post Office Box Renewal	182.00
Insurance Premium	680.00
Donation to North Shore Congregational Church (750.00 to church and 75.00 to custodian)	825.00
Trade Show Banner and Table Cover	419.00
Web Hosting / Domain Name	214.22
Banquet Cost (includes speaker honorarium)	1794.13
75th Anniversary Merchandise Purchased	1483.00
75th Anniversary Template	94.95
Polish Center of Wisconsin—2025	500.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	19.77
East Troy Excursion	650.00
East Troy Donation	500.00
Transfer from 18-month CD	5000.00
Temporary Loan Repayment	650.00
Total	\$16,442.94

Keith Schmidt asked if there were any questions on the above treasurer's report. There were none. Keith therefore accepted the treasurer's report as presented above.

#### Membership Report

Membership Committee Chair Mike Yuhas provided the Membership report. We have 110 Chapter members and subscribers current through the end of 2025. Mike expressed his appreciation to all of those members who have renewed. They are financially supporting the Wisconsin Chapter. There are some members from 2024 who have not yet renewed. Those memberships expired on December 31, 2024. No names will be mentioned. They know who they are. If you forgot, or just remembered now with this reminder, please go to our Chapter web site at nrhswis.org, click the "Join (or renew)" tab, and make a fast, easy and secure on-line payment of \$21.00 (which includes an extra \$1.00 for credit card processing costs). There are two other ways to renew (or join). Our Treasurer Tara Grudzielanek is here, accepting dues payments (\$20.00 by cash or check), tonight. The third way is to send a \$20.00 check to

Wisconsin Chapter NRHS, P. O. Box 070758, Milwaukee, WI 53207. If you are not currently a member, and see value in what we are doing, please consider becoming a member. Dues payments support Chapter meetings like this one, other activities and publications. Your support is much appreciated.

Mike Yuhas asked if there were any questions on the above membership report. There were none. Keith Schmidt accepted the membership report as provided above.

#### Annual Election

The next agenda item was the annual election of officers and directors. All officers and directors are required to face re-election every year. All four incumbent officers, and four of the five incumbent directors, are running for re-election. That leaves one director vacancy to fill. All legal members (as defined above) are free to run for any office.

Keith opened the floor to other nominations for officers. He called for nominations twice. There were none. Dave Nelson moved that the nominations for officers be closed, and that the incumbent slate (listed above) be re-elected to another term for 2025. Tom Hoffmann seconded that motion. The motion was approved by unanimous show-of-hands and voice vote. Keith opened the floor to nominations for the Board of Directors. There are five Director positions. Four incumbent Directors are running for re-election, thus effectively nominating themselves. Keith twice called for additional nominations. There were none. Dave Nelson moved that we close the nominations, declare the four Directors (Dan Grudzielanek, Mike Yuhas, Neal Wegner, and Ralph McClure) who are running for another term re-elected, and go forward with four Directors and one vacancy. Al Lederman seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous show-of-hands and voice vote.

Any member (of both National and the Wisconsin Chapter) who is interested in filling the vacant spot on the Board of Directors should contact either Keith Schmidt (at president@nrhswis.org) or Mike Yuhas (at mike@mikeyuhas.org). The Chapter Board would then call a special election at the next regular monthly meeting to fill the vacancy.

#### Old Business

The agenda did not show any old business. No one in attendance was aware of any.

#### New Business

We are looking for volunteers to staff two new committees. The Nominating Committee will seek to identify and recruit members for Chapter leadership positions—officers, directors, and committee chairs and members.

The Grants Committee will evaluate requests for the Chapter to support / fund various railroad history preservation projects. They will make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The Chapter is looking to sponsor up to two Wisconsin-resident attendees at the two 2025Teen (age 14-18) Rail Camps. We are looking for suitable candidates. We would sponsor them with the assurance that we would pay their \$1575.00 tuition (which includes food, room and board) if they are accepted. Tuition (and our scholarship) does not include the cost of transportation to and from the Rail Camp site. Mike Yuhas is in charge of this effort. He connected with the National Railroad Museum in Green Bay. They are developing a list of suitable candidates.

#### 75th Anniversary Announcements

Our 75th Anniversary Banquet is set for Saturday, October 4, 2025, at the Polish Center of Wisconsin, at 6941 South 68th Street (north of Rawson) in Franklin. The cost and the menu are not yet finalized.

There will probably be a Wisconsin Chapter Day at the East Troy Electric Railroad. That appears to be headed for Saturday, July 19, 2025. That is a regular day of operations, open to the public, with no other special events going on. The regular

## Looking Back 75 Years with Tom Hoffmann Friday March 7 2025

Tom Hoffmann's popular 20 year look-backs have been an eagerly awaited annual Wisconsin Chapter presentation for years. To help celebrate the Chapter's three-quarters of a century of great railroad image presentations for its members and guests, Tom has now assembled a fascinating 75 year look-back, featuring his own slides (and some digital images) and interesting and varied slides from his extensive collection. From main lines to short lines, industrial and military locomotives to museum operations, first runs to last runs, steam, electric and diesel, you'll see colorful railroad action in 23 states, Australia and Vietnam, from 1949 to 2024. Most images were taken by Tom himself, and a few early slides are uncredited, but the program includes scanned slides from such photographers as J. David Ingles, John Ingles, J.J. Morrison, Mont Powell, Paul Stringham, R.R. Wallin, R.H. Burn, Denny Hamilton, and Jerry Hilton. Tom's presentation will be a big part of our own celebration of the Chapter's 75th Anniversary.

Join us in person at North Shore Congregational Church 7330 N Santa Monica Blvd. Doors open at 7pm with the program beginning at 7:30pm. The program will also be offered remotely via Zoom. To register for the Zoom meeting please contact [membership@nrhswis.org](mailto:membership@nrhswis.org)



C&O passenger train with C&O No. 4520 at Plymouth Michigan in July 1959. Photo by J David Ingles.



Milwaukee Road No. E79 at St Regis Montana on April 30 1958  
Photo by Mont Powell

schedule would be operated with cars that ran in Wisconsin. Regular fares would apply. One ticket is good to ride all day. A Chapter member discount, possibly with a coupon in Sparks & Cinders, may be offered. They will probably offer a special photo opportunity, with loading / unloading with a vintage truck, with the newly restored North Shore Line merchandise car, for an extra cost. The day will conclude with a group ride over the line.

We may have a Chapter outing / trip to the Railroading Heritage of Midwest America (RRHMA) (former Rock Island) steam restoration shop in Silvis, Illinois, just east of Rock Island in the Quad Cities area, with a charter bus, in late April or May, before the weather down there gets too hot.

There may yet be an opportunity to fire up Soo Line (1913) 2-8-2 #1003, in Hartford, for a photo charter, with freight cars and a caboose, on the Wisconsin & Southern. There might a cost-sharing opportunity if we act in combination with another event at the Schlesinger Museum in Slinger that is usually held in late June. No date for that event has been set yet.

The second order of 75th Anniversary merchandise (mostly clothing) is in. Our on-line order site, on the Chapter website at [nrhswis.org](http://nrhswis.org), should be up later tonight. We do not maintain an inventory. Merchandise is embroidered after it is ordered. We try for (do not guarantee) delivery within two weeks of ordering.

Member Questions, Anything Else for the Good of the Order, and Adjournment

Keith opened the floor to any member questions. There were none. He then asked if there were any other subjects of discussion. None were offered. Keith then announced that he would entertain a motion to adjourn the formal business meeting. Dave Nelson provided that motion. Dan Grudzielanek seconded it. There were no objections. All voted "aye." There were no "nay" votes. The motion carried. The official business meeting was declared adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Announcement

Tom Hoffmann announced that a collection of railroad magazines is available for donation—free of charge—to a good home. These include a full set of Trains magazine from 1964 to 2024, and Fine Scale Modeler from 1982 to 1994. Interested members should contact either Keith Schmidt (at [president@nrhswis.org](mailto:president@nrhswis.org)) or Mike Yugas (at [mike@mikeyugas.org](mailto:mike@mikeyugas.org)).

Presentations

Mike Yugas introduced our presenter Brian Buchanan. Brian recently retired from a 41-year railroad career with the Chicago & North Western, Wisconsin Central, Canadian National, and Fox Valley & Lake Superior (FOXY). He now resides in Green Bay. He is on the Board of Directors of the National Railroad Museum there. He has given us three previous presentations: At a Chapter banquet in the 1990s—on the Wisconsin Central An introduction to, and history of the set up and startup, of the FOXY

How he became a railfan—at our movie night on February 2, 2024.

Brian Buchanan took over at 8:05 pm.

These minutes have been edited for space limitations. The full minutes presented will be available on the chapter website [www.nrhswis.org](http://www.nrhswis.org) in the near future.

Prepared by  
Thomas Marcussen  
Chapter Secretary

The chapter is celebrating 75 years but this photo looks back 161 years to just after the Civil War.  
Thank You to Randy Bedore for sharing this photo from The New Yorker article from Jan 2025



View of Atlanta, Georgia, after the city was taken by General William Tecumseh Sherman in 1864  
Photograph by George N. Barnard / Heritage Images / Getty

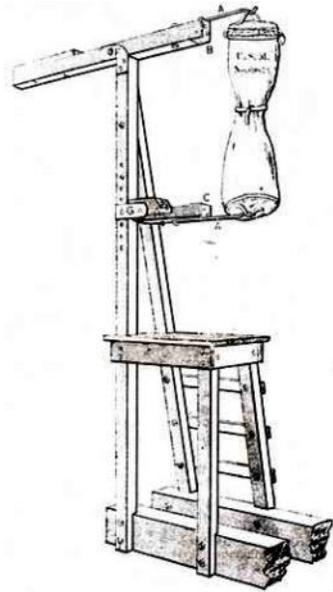


The above photos are of a 4-4-0 American type steam locomotive in much better shape than the ones in Atlanta after Shermans march. The #63 Leviathan was built in between 1999 and 2009. It was used in a recreation of the Lincoln Funeral Train in 2015. The above photos are from 2009 and the Leviathan's appearance at Trainfestival held in Owosso, Michigan Photos by Keith Schmidt

# Do You Know ?

by Dave Nelson

My presentation about a 1907 grade crossing tragedy in South Milwaukee at our October 2021 meeting can be viewed on the Chapter's YouTube channel. The 1910 Milwaukee Journal article reproduced here sets forth the facts about another railroad tragedy in South Milwaukee, and refers to a mail crane. So, what is a mail crane? Railroad Post Office (RPO) cars carried a crew of several postal workers because mail was not just carried but actively sorted on the train. Stations along the route would have their local mail picked up and delivered "on the fly" as the train sped by. Leather or canvas mail pouches would be held vertically on a trackside mail crane. A movable hook on the RPO near an open door would be manipulated by a postal worker to grab the mail bag even as the same worker kicked a mail bag for that town or city's post office off the train (not so close to the depot that waiting passengers were in danger of being hit). A YouTube video shows the process being demonstrated at the Illinois Railroad Museum. My photo of an RPO with a mail crane at the Galesburg Railroad Museum and a technical drawing should help you better understand what cost young Frank Desatcher his life.



Milwaukee Journal

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1910

## ED MEETS ALMOST INSTANT DEATH IN CAB WINDOW

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FIREMAN ON THE NORTHWESTERN  
ROAD LEANS OUT OF WINDOW;  
IS STRUCK BY CRANE.

FRANK DESATCHER DIES ON  
WAY TO HOSPITAL

Is Dragged Out of Cab Before Engineer  
Knows of Accident—Train Brought  
to Stop and Unconscious Young Man  
Is Rushed Back to Milwaukee—He  
Passes Away as He Is Carried  
Through Station to Ambulance.

His head struck by a hanging mail crane, in South Milwaukee shortly after 11 a. m. Monday, Frank Desatcher, aged 24, married, a fireman on the fast Northwestern mail train bound for Chicago, received injuries from which he died thirty minutes later in the Northwestern depot in Milwaukee. The young man expired as he was being rushed to a local hospital.

Desatcher was leaning out of the cab window as the train passed rapidly through South Milwaukee, his eyes glued to the tracks ahead, and his hand on the bell rope. He failed to notice the mail crane, however, and was struck in the neck. He was dragged out of the cab to the ground before the engineer noticed the accident to his assistant. The train was immediately brought to a stop and the young man, unconscious, was rushed back to Milwaukee. He died as he was being carried through the depot to the waiting ambulance. His home was in Chicago. The body is at the morgue.



# From the Archives

## March 1955—70 Years Ago

Described was a proposed Chapter trip leaving Friday evening and returning by Sunday: Milwaukee to Durand, Michigan, to Grand Rapids, then via way freight to Grand Haven and return. Finally, Grand Rapids to Muskegon to catch the car ferry back to Milwaukee. Lots of steam – under \$20... Also, “Happy Birthday!” Doggone if we (Milwaukee Chapter) aren’t five years old this month. First meeting was held March 17, 1950. We still have three of the original nine members. They are Don Ross, Jim Scribbins, and Jim Grace. Wonder how many others have come and gone in these five years.”Fontaine Fox has pulled the big switch on his “Toonerville Trolley” cartoon after 36 years. Although an American institution, it was not carried locally.

## March 1960 - 65 Years Ago

The ‘Q’ having retired the Pioneer Zephyr on February 20 after nearly 26 years of service (beginning May 26, 1934), will have her make one final run on March 20, Lincoln-Galesburg. Upon completion of this run she will retire to a well-earned rest at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry....The Chapter’s 10th Anniversary Banquet on April 30 will feature Charles Able, Assistant General Passenger Agent of the CB&Q as speaker

## March 1965 - 60 Years Ago

John Lauber contributed a roster “Rolling Stock of the TMER&L Co. – Passenger, Freight, and Repair as of January 1, 1965.” Shown were car numbers, types, descriptive data, and location for over 40 pieces of equipment still existing as of that date. In addition “There is still some doubt as to whether or not the following cars are still in existence although rumors persist: No. ? - Inter-urban trailer - Pewaukee Lake (in 94 ft. of water) and several 100, 200, 300, and 400 series articulated city cars are reported below water in a Cedarburg quarry.”...Chapter member Russ Porter had a four-page spread of Milwaukee Road photos in the March, 1965, Railroad Model Craftsman magazine.

## March 1970—55 Years Ago

News items: The ICC authorized the discontinuance of the San Francisco-Salt Lake City portion of the California Zephyr effective March 22....On February 2, the U.S. Supreme Court approved the merger of GN, NP, CB&Q, SP&S, and the Pacific Coast Railroad into the 26,500-mile Burlington Northern, Inc.... A Chicago-Iron Mountain, Michigan, ski train is scheduled to operate via the Milwaukee Road.

## March 1975—50 Years Ago

“Old Smoky” is now the property of the Illinois Railway Museum at Union, Illinois, and will be moved as soon as the Milwaukee County Expressway Commission approves a bid for construction of a connecting track to the C&NW....The C&NW has asked the PSC for permission to discontinue the resident agent at Port Washington and sell or raze the depot.

## March 1980 - 45 Years Ago

Ex-NKP 2-8-4 No. 765 is operational again after four years of effort by the Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society. Skokie Swift service may be extended one mile to the Old Orchard Shopping Center in the Chicago area....The Milwaukee Road has asked the ICC for authority to serve certain Rock Island customers in eastern Iowa and northern Missouri.

## March 1985 - 40 Years Ago

In a surprise decision, Federal Bankruptcy Judge Thomas H. McMillan awarded the core assets of the Milwaukee Road to the Soo Line....Amtrak had no operational coach equipment available at the Chicago coach facility on December 24. RTA equipment was dispatched on the Chicago-Milwaukee, Chicago Carbon-dale, and other short-haul trains.

## March 1990 —35 Years Ago

Gov. Tommy G. Thompson announced on February 21 that he wants the state to join a study of possible high-speed rail service between the Twin Cities and Chicago via Milwaukee. Magnetic levitation technology is being considered for the project....The Soo Line was ticketed by Brookfield police three times in January for blocking crossings....On Track, hosted by Chuck Zehner airs on Channel 10 Saturdays....The Wisconsin Central is taking delivery on some of the 400 new granule cars it has on order.

## March 1995 —30 Years Ago

Amtrak’s Hiawatha service dodged the bullet on February 8 when an agreement was reached for additional state funding of the service through June. A long-term funding agreement is to be worked out by then. Share-holders of Burlington Northern and Santa Fe approved a merger of the two companies on February 7, the ICC must still approve the deal.The FRA has given its approval for electrification of Amtrak’s New Haven-Boston line.WC formally completed its purchase of Algoma Central on January 31. All 23 ACR locomotives were immediately renumbered and provided with WC emblems....The Chapter’s 45th Anniversary Banquet will be held at the Columns Restaurant on May 6. Speaker will be Chapter member Chris Burger, President and CEO of the Central Railroad of Indiana. Chris was formerly C&NW Division Superintendent in Butler and General Manager of the Central Vermont Railway.

## March 2000—25 Years Ago

WC has a new method for handling ore trains between Superior and Escanaba. There is a manned helper engine on the rear of the train. The idea is to eliminate drawbar and knuckle separations; it seems to be working. The proposed timetable for the beginning of high speed rail service under the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative was announced. Chicago-Milwaukee-Madison: December, 2003; Madison-La Crosse-Twin Cities: July, 2005; Chicago-Milwaukee- Green Bay: July, 2007; Chicago-Milwaukee 110 mph service: January, 2009.

## March 2005 — 20 Years Ago

The proposed Transportation Dept. budget for fiscal year 2006 included no funds for Amtrak. Many in Congress came to Amtrak’s defense and the crisis was averted....WSOR asked for more state funds for track upgrades to state-owned track. The goal is to upgrade 125 miles of track from 90 lb. to 115 lb. rail

## March 2010 — 15 Years Ago

Although previously reported as completed, the sale of Milwaukee Road No. 261 is still pending and may be completed by mid-March 2010. Bob Mertz, president of Sterling Rail, the broker offering the locomotive for sale, told Trains New Wire on February 18 that the deal to sell the locomotive is still going forward. The famous excursion locomotive, which is owned by the National Railroad Museum of Green Bay, was operated between 1993 and 2008 by the non-profit “Friends of the 261,” which leased the engine from the Museum. The two organizations were unable to reach an agreement to extend the lease on the locomotive. The engine is presently in the Friends’ Minneapolis shop, having been torn down for its federally mandated 15-year inspection

## March 2015 — 10 Years Ago

Long time NRHS member Phil Fritz died peacefully on Thursday 1.29.15. He was an active member of the Wisconsin Chapter serving in several different roles. Originally from Milwaukee, he religiously made the Friday night trip from Sturtevant in all kinds of weather. Phil loved steam engines of all kinds and made many chases in his white Volvo. He even showed his movies a couple of times at NRHS. His final years were spent in a nursing home in Fond du Lac, preventing him from attending the NRHS meetings. But he kept in touch with several members of our organization, and enjoyed Sparks and Cinders.

## March 2020— 5 Years Ago

It was announced that the East Broad Top narrow gauge railroad will be running once again. The plan is to have five miles of track restored. Also steam locomotives and rolling stock would be restored to allow steam operations in 2021. The line was built in 1870. Principal backers are Bennett Levin, Charles “Wick” Moorman and Henry Posner III.

# The Big Picture



Tom Hoffmann took this unusual image at the Da Nang, Vietnam, main gate in May 1970, The locomotive is VNHX No. 917 .