

Iowa Railroad Historical Society

225 10th Street, PO Box 603

Boone, Iowa 50036

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Boone, Iowa 50036

Permit No. 15

Address Correction Requested

Toll Free: 1-800-626-0319

E-Mail: info@bsvrr.com

Online: www.bsvrr.com / www.iowaRailwayMuseum.org



KEEPING TRACK

FROM THE PRESIDENT

2016 will be a challenging year without Fenner Stevenson. His dedication to the railroad will never be matched. His dedication to getting things done was amazing as I am finding out as acting general manager. The job is much more time intensive than I ever thought and getting a replacement will be a challenge. The year will be "trial by fire" for the employees and I, but we feel we can handle it since most of the staff have been through Day Out With Thomas, Fall Colors, and the Santa Express before. Our regular staff is amazing.

In 2015, we had several employment changes. Jim Barkwill retired as gift shop manager in August with Mechell Sikes, moving from reservations, replacing him. Jenny Stevenson was hired to replace Mechell in reservations. Jenny grew up around the railroad and was a perfect fit for the job. In the past she volunteered for DOWT, dessert train, worked the dinner train as an employee of Hy-Vee, and volunteered in the museum selling tickets and doing research. Jimmy Will also retired and Phil Butler was hired as his replacement. In addition, we hired Dan Barnum to help on the track crew.

The office staff and I are now starting to gear up for the tourist season and organizing our files for DOWT. Loren Karr is in charge of advertising and continues as our webmaster and crew coordinator. He is putting together our advertising for our trains and just completed revising our brochure for the upcoming season. Travis Stevenson, Mike Wendel, and myself just finished the Eastern Iowa Sports Show in Cedar Rapids and will be staffing the next one in Cedar Falls at the Unidome March 11-13th.

In April and May we will be running our dinner train on Saturday nights and starting our full season May 28th. We would encourage anyone who wants to volunteer to become either a brakeman, engineer, fireman or conductor to consider attending our annual rules class on April 9th starting at 8:00 a.m., and participate in the training program to follow. We will train you for these positions and you do not have to have prior railroad experience. All

April 2016

Volume 33 Number 1

crew members must attend the rules class and pass the necessary written exams to qualify for those positions as well as pass a proficiency test once they complete the necessary on the job training.

Starting sometime this spring, we will be re-constructing our track from Tama Street to Quartz Avenue in the industrial park so that we can continue handling the tank car deliveries for PDM and our newest industry, KemXGlobal. Both industries will be receiving 2-5 cars weekly and possibly more as their business grows. PDM plans on adding another siding this summer to handle the increase in tank car deliveries and KemXGlobal plans on adding a new siding in another year or two, depending on how fast their business grows.

The museum continues to be a big attraction with over 18,400 visitors last year. We also need volunteers to assist in cataloging and research. If that is something that you would like to do, contact our curator, Mike Wendell, at the museum.

In closing, I would like to thank all the volunteers from the past and encourage everyone to return to the railroad this season which looks like another banner year for ridership.

Alan C. Schroeder,
President/Acting General Manager

GIFT SHOP NEWS

As mentioned above, Mechell Sikes has been named our gift shop manager. She says that she hopes to bring a new and exciting perspective to the gift shop. "There will be a few changes this coming season as I find my way, and I hope that all of you will come in and say hi." She hopes to keep everyone up to date on sales and special events through social media, and looks forward to seeing as many of you as she can this season. And, she says that if anyone would like to volunteer she would love to have you! Send Mechell e-mail at mechell@bsvrr.com, or give her a call at 1-800-626-0319.



REMEMBERING FENNER

Reprinted by permission of the Boone News-Republican
By Brandon Hurley
BNR Staff Writer

A well-known and respected Boone community member has passed away.

City councilman Fenner Stevenson, 71, of Boone, died unexpectedly Monday, Nov. 9, at his home. His loss will be felt by many throughout Boone as he was instrumental in the business and tourism community for several decades.

"It's a shocker, it's a really hard loss in many ways," said Boone Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kurt Phillips, who was blessed with spending many years as a friend and colleague of Stevenson. "He lived a full life. He's been front and center for so many different things for 30 years."

Stevenson was in the midst of serving his third term on the Boone City Council. He was known by many as the general manager of the Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad, a position he held since 1996. Others may remember him from his six years spent as the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President in the early 1990s.

Stevenson was born July 31, 1944 in Fort Dodge, graduating from Goldfield High School, Eagle Grove Junior College, the American Institute of Business, and the Institute for Organizational Management at the University of Oklahoma. He married Evelyn "Evie" R. Ziesman in 1970, and together had a son, Travis (Marcy) Stevenson of Boone; and a daughter, Jennifer Stevenson of Boone.

Stevenson was a well-liked member of the Boone community, instrumental in several projects and events, including Pufferbilly Days.

"Fenner served during a time when Pufferbilly Days was really hitting its heyday, growing into one of Iowa's largest community festivals," Phillips said. "He continued to volunteer many hours to the festival long after he left his position with the Chamber, rarely missing the annual Sunday set-up day and the following Sunday tear-down day."

Stevenson was a council member for the first ward, helping push forth the Ericson Public Library expansion, engineering the construction of the city pool and was instrumental in the major sanitary district project.

"He was a great council person," said Boone Mayor John Slight. "He was all about Boone. He was always striving to make it a better place."

Slight had the pleasure of working alongside Stevenson at many city council meetings. He saw how important Stevenson was to Boone and its residents.

"He was a great guy to work with, a super guy. He will be missed," Slight said. "I enjoyed how informed he was, he studied a lot. He always came to the council with great ideas."

Stevenson was most known for his passion for the railroad and tourism. While with the Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad (B&SVRR), he was responsible for the creation of the Pumpkin Express, dinner trains, Day Out With Thomas, Santa Express, and freight service. Part of his vision was to also open the James H. Andrew Railroad Museum & History Center, where the Iowa Railroad Historical Society profiles the impact of railroads throughout history. The theatre and research library at the museum is filled with memorabilia and pictures from several different generations and is located next to the B&SVRR at 225 10th Street in Boone.

Whoever came in contact with Stevenson received a quick taste of his large personality. Many relished the fun he loved to have each and every day, but he was also dedicated to his career, family, friends and community.

"In a word, (he was) jovial. In a second word, jokester," Phillips said. But, Stevenson never let his love for fun get in the way of his work. "He paid attention to the details and had very good critical thinking skills that helped him navigate the challenges of running the Scenic Valley Railroad's commercial business and also in his leadership position as a member of the Boone City Council."

The father, husband and grandfather relentlessly advocated for Boone County working for the Boone Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau. He manned information booths at the Iowa State Fair and at shows throughout the state. Though he was 71, Stevenson still put in plenty of time at each job he held, which many believe he didn't view as work at all. The community of Boone was his second family.

"It wasn't so much as a job as it was a passion," Phillips said. "He was a tireless promoter of all things Boone and Boone County."

Stevenson's sudden passing also will be felt outside of the community.

"When I travel the state, specifically regarding tourism conferences, meetings, and events, people always ask me 'How's Fenner doing?'" Phillips said. "In recent years he didn't have as much time to devote to these types of gatherings, but clearly he left the same impression across our state as he has for the local community."

Phillips will cherish his time working with Stevenson, as he came to him several times over the years for advice.

"Fenner was a great sounding board for me in my position as the current executive director of the Chamber and Convention and Visitor's Bureau," Phillips said. "He had sat in my seat before, he knew the challenges we face in our industry, and never appeared to tire of our conversations about moving our organization forward. I will miss the opportunity to pop into his crazy office, hear a good yarn, and share a laugh, as well as the tremendous public support he showed the Chamber, Convention and Visitor's Bureau and Pufferbilly Days."

Slight said the council will address Stevenson's open council seat soon.

"We are going to discuss it at next week's city council meeting," the mayor said. The next council meeting will be held at 7 pm Monday, Nov. 16, at Boone City Hall. "We don't know yet if we eventually are going to appoint someone or hold a special election, but that's what we will talk about."

Funeral services for Stevenson were held at 10:30 am Friday, Nov. 13, at the First United Methodist Church in Boone. Burial was in the Linwood Park Cemetery in Boone.

RICHARD "DICK" ROSS

March 16, 1940 - November 15, 2015

Richard "Dick" Ross, 75 of Boone died Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames from kidney failure on 11-15-15. Dick was born in Tiny Town CO on March 16, 1940, the family moved to Arvada CO where he grew up. As a child, he rode trolley cars through Denver and Golden. He loved trains, trucks and old classic cars. When he was a teen he belonged to the Little Devils Auto Club where they would race up Lookout Mtn. He joined the Navy in 1957 and was stationed at Pearl Harbor, after his military service he began driving truck and owned several semis.

Dick loved trains, a hobby and collections that lasted a life time. He loved riding trains, taking pictures and telling stories. He was a member of the Iowa Railroad Motorcar Club. He would ride his motor cars along the Boone and Scenic Valley RR and many other areas of Iowa. He collected train memorabilia, books and paintings.

He married Shirley "Ralf" in 1969, they lived in Iowa until 1974 when they moved to Colorado and settled in Watkins where they raised their children until he relocated to Boone in 2000. He owned Heritage Transport in Boone until 2014 when he retired.

Dick is preceded in death by his parents Bill and Frances Ross and his granddaughter Elissa Ross.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley of Boone, 5 children, Shannon Erdmann, CO, Mike(Brenda)Williams, CO, Kevin Ross, CO, Kim (Chad Griffith) Ross, MO, and Connie(David)Stephens, OK, 14

grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, a sister Kathy(Larry)Kelso, and many other relatives and in-laws.

Per his wishes, he will be cremated and memorial services will be planned for a future time.

MUSEUM NEWS

By Mike Wendel

The James H. Andrew 2016 free speaker series continues with the following guests:

Earl Short - The Des Moines Streetcar Era
Saturday, March 19th at 2 pm

Cecil Cook - A Journey Down the Waukon Branch
Saturday, April 16th at 2 pm

Dick Steffen - There were Two Troop Trains Today on our Line?
Saturday, May 14th at 2 pm

All speaking events held in the James H. Andrew Railroad Museum and History Center.

Railroads at War enters its second year

Learn the importance that U.S. railroads had in turning the tide of war through the years; specifically how Iowa railroads contributed in supporting Iowa and the nation during critical years. A combination of artifacts and interactive displays highlight little-known facts on wartime contributions made by U.S. railroads and the people who worked for them.

Railroads at War offers informational banners on a variety of topics: Civil War, World War I, WWII including the economy, national unity, troop trains, and the railroad's utility during wartime.

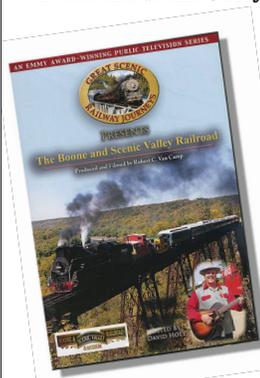
More banners include information about women in railroading, Union Pacific's "Big Boy," Camp Dodge's Electric Railway, and the Servicemen's canteen at North Platte, Nebraska.

The museum is showing railroad motion picture footage in the theater. As part of the exhibit "Trains in War" highlights railroading's contributions during WWII.

Museum entrance fee is free with purchase of most excursion tickets. Museum only is \$8 adults(12 and over), \$3 children (3-12 yr.), no charge for toddler (under age 3).

For more information, call Mike at 1-800-626-0319, or send him an e-mail at mike@bsvrr.com.

Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad DVD Now Available!



Don't forget to stop by the gift shop and pick up your copy of the DVD Great Scenic Railway Journeys - *The Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad* for only \$20. (Mention that you saw this ad in the newsletter and receive \$5 off as a thank you). For children, we also have a wide assortment of *Thomas* merchandise discounted along with many new items. We would like thank you for your continued support and look forward to serving you in 2016!

STEAM DEPARTMENT

By Ryan Osmolski

After a successful operating year without any major failures, 8419 is back in the shop for her yearly inspection. We were lucky enough to finish last year's work a few weeks early, allowing us to put our big, dark work horse at the head of the 2015 Boy Scout's Railroad Jamboree trains, helping members of the Boy Scouts of America earn their Railroading Merit Badge. It was a great way to start the season, as well as a treat to see so many faces light up in the morning light at the sights, sounds, and smells of a steam locomotive at work. From there, she was running trains every Saturday to Fraser and back under the hands of our dedicated crews. The steam department would like to thank all of those involved with keeping our behemoth running this season, and we're looking forward to next season already!

The steam program is looking forward to a fun and successful 2016 season before our pride and joy goes down for her second fifteen year inspection, in which the internals will be inspected thoroughly. We know she'll emerge better than before, but we're always looking at any way to improve our processes. All of the regular maintenance work has been done by our volunteers over the off-season, and to keep costs down we've been trying to do most of the fabrication ourselves. Working on a piece of equipment as large as 8419 is difficult in itself, but working on a steam engine is a lost art which is becoming more and more rare. The steam department prides themselves in keeping this art alive through practice, and we hope to be able to pass this skill down for generations to come!

If you'd like to get involved with the steam program, please contact the depot (info@bsvrr.com or 1-800-626-0319). You may also ask to be put on the crew e-mail list to stay informed. We are always looking for volunteers who aren't afraid of getting dirty, working hard, and learning a dying art, so please don't be a stranger!

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

By Wayne Paterson

This past year was a big one for the East End Electric Traction Co., most in part because Car #50 turned 100 years old! Car 50 was built in 1915 by McGuire-Cummings in the little town of Paris. Yes, that's right, Paris!...as in Paris, Illinois near Terre Haute, Indiana! (I use this line on our riders while giving the history of Car 50). She was built for the Charles City Western Railway (CCW) in Charles City, IA, as well as motor #300 and two four-wheeled street cars.

CCW 50 ran normal passenger service from 1915 to 1952 between Colwell and Marble Rock via Charles City (approximately 21 miles). #50 was modified during its construction at McGuire-Cummings to pull freight cars as CCW's "Backup motor" for a few years until more motors were purchased. Most "interurbans" were geared for speed (60 MPH), but Car 50 was geared to pull. This modification means its top speed when it was fed with 1200V DC was 35 MPH, thus it was given the nickname "The Lead Sled".

In 1952 Car 50 was turned into a "work car", and the railroad removed the seats, using it to haul tools and equipment to work on the track and overhead wire. In 1963 the CCW was purchased by the Iowa Terminal RR (ITR) out of Mason City, and the CCW became the "Charles City Division" where Car 50 was renumbered to #101. In 1968 a Tornado went through Charles City causing major damage to the railroad, including the overhead wire system. This proved detrimental to the ITR. They decided not to repair the overhead, but instead to dieselize the "Charles

City Division" with GE 70 ton locomotives. A couple of these locomotives still exist (stored) in Chamberlain, SD on the Dakota Southern RR.

Car #50 (now ITR #101) and 2 motors (#300 which became ITR #30, and motor #303 which became ITR #53) were then moved to Mason City and put into storage. CCW 300 (ITR #30) was sold to the Illinois Railroad Museum in 1970 and has been restored and re-lettered back to CCW 300. Motor #303, which became ITR #53, is still on IATR property and is still lettered "Iowa Terminal #53" (stored out of service). In 1987 the B&SV bought Car 50 and began its restoration. In 1995 Car 50 was brought back into operation on the B&SV.

In other news, Logan Stilwill was promoted to Motorman in 2015 joining the ranks of a select few in the IRHS to complete this qualification. He'll be helping with some of the roles usually taken by Larry Schwartz, Rod Olson, and myself. We operate regularly on Saturdays between Memorial Day and Halloween, so if you'd like to learn more about traction operations we'll be around for questions!

SAVING THE DOG

By Phil Deats

I don't like dogs. I don't dislike dogs. We each have our separate spaces.

It was a Tuesday, and I was the fireman for veteran engineer Dean Hauschildt. Everything was normal until we got down by the Y-camp. I told Dean there was an animal going down the tracks in front of us. Dean was blowing the horn but it was still going down the tracks in front of us. Dean said, "It's a dog." The dog started running across the Des Moines River Bridge. Dean said, "Oh, oh, it's slowing down." Then, the dog stopped and lay down on a tie! Dean stopped the train. We were on the bridge, and it looked like an impasse.

I got off the locomotive onto the bridge and approached the dog. It had a collar, so I assumed it was someone's pet. I took a chance and reached down and picked up the dog. Now I was standing in the middle of the river bridge holding a dog. So, I started to walk, one tie at a time, to the end of the bridge. Each time I stopped to look up, the bridge got longer. At that point, I needed to shift the dog's weight. She tried to help by putting down her back legs but they went in between the ties. Eventually I got her repositioned in my arms and managed to get to the end of the bridge.

I set her down by the side of the track and told her to stay. Dean brought the engine up to me and I climbed on. By the time I got to my seat on the engine, Dean said, "The dog left." We started on down the line and sure enough there she was going right down the middle of the track again. Luckily, at the gravel pit siding she took the siding. As our train passed, the last thing I saw was her going down the middle of the siding.

Learning to be an engineer requires going outside your comfort zone.

REMINDERS BOARD

Looking for a reason to get out of the house? Most Saturdays are volunteer work days at the Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad. Projects include reupholstering, painting, working on the steam locomotive, track work, and cutting brush. For more information, contact the depot (info@bsvrr.com or 1-800-626-0319).