

KEEPING TRACK



WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT



This family, decked-out in matching p.j.s, made the trek from north central Iowa to ride the 2007 Santa Express(tm) train. More than 5600 tickets were sold for the event.



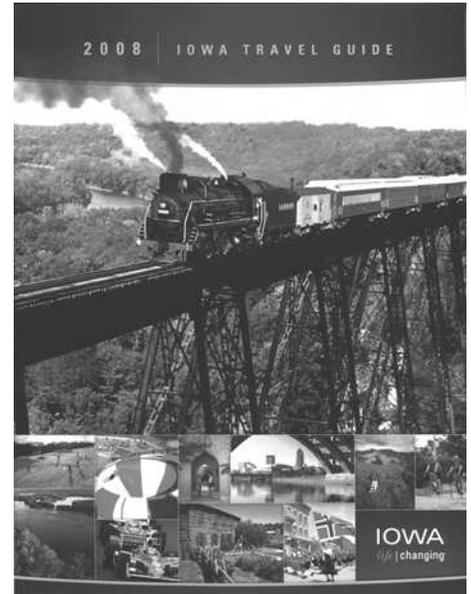
Two of our young passengers follow-along as the Polar Express story is read.



On several Santa Express trains, Ron Rindfuss helped Santa Claus pass out silver bells to all of the children aboard. Lisa Dalton photo

2007 SANTA EXPRESS™ TRAINS

BRIEFLY



IN THE SPOTLIGHT...The Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad's steam locomotive, JS8419, is featured on the cover of this year's Iowa Travel Guide. More than 200,000 copies of the guide will be distributed across the state. Our 2008 brochures have also been released. A portion of the funding for this year's brochure came from a grant from the Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau.

LOOKING FOR PHOTOS...We are in the process of putting together various projects highlighting our 25th year of operations. If you have any photos that you would like to share, please mail them to: Loren Karr, Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad, PO Box 603, Boone, Iowa 50036. Be sure to include a return address. You may also send them via e-mail: loren@bsvrr.com. Thank you! **PRESEASON SALE...**We are now selling coupons good for major discounts on coach class tickets. See our website for details: www.bsvrr.com.

GARY QUEECK

(JUNE 1, 1939 - NOVEMBER 15, 2007)

Gary Queeck, 68, passed-away on November 15, 2007 after suffering a heart attack. Gary was well on his way to becoming a brakeman, probably within a trip or two of being qualified. Gary was a resident of Fontanelle, Iowa.

YOUR REVENUE ENHANCEMENT IDEAS

At the January 12, 2008 volunteer dinner and annual meeting of the Iowa Railroad Historical Society, Ron Rindfuss of the newly-formed IRHS Planning Committee, solicited ideas from the membership on what the railroad could be doing to boost revenue. 56 people shared almost 300 ideas with the committee.

One of the most popular ideas seemed to be an Easter train. Details still need to be ironed-out, but at the time this newsletter is going to press, it appears that we will be running our first-ever Easter Bunny Express on March 15, 2008. The train is slated to depart the depot, travel to the Des Moines River bridge, and return. Passengers will get to interact with the Easter Bunny himself as he passes through the train, handing-out Easter goodies to all of the girls and boys aboard.

Look for a complete follow-up of the event in the next edition of the newsletter.

Other ideas included: wine trains, 4th of July trains, stargazing/night trains, and taco trains. A complete list of ideas can be found at: <http://www.scenic-valleyrr.com/documents/rei.doc>.

The Planning Committee is comprised of: Mark Halbmaier, Justin Moreland, Ron Rindfuss, Gary Stasko, and Travis Stevenson.



THE FIRST-EVER BOONE & SCENIC VALLEY RAILROAD EASTER BUNNY EXPRESS

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

BSVRR ON IPTV

Great Scenic Railway Journeys - Celebrating North America's Steam Railways has been scheduled as part of IPTV's March pledge drive. Show producer Rob VanCamp will be appearing live at the IPTV studios during the drive.

SERVING YOU FOR 25 YEARS...

CELEBRATING WITH A SPECIAL COOKBOOK

BY DIANA CAMPBELL

In honor of the Iowa Railroad Historical Society/Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad's 25th Anniversary, we are preparing a special cookbook, with proceeds going toward the construction of a new museum, or to make improvements to the existing facility.

What we would like for everyone to do is, using the form enclosed (also available at bsvrr.com), submit three or four of your family favorites to be represented in our cookbook. Be sure to follow all of the instructions. You will receive credit for each recipe that you submit. If these are recipes which have been handed-down to you, give credit to that person by listing their name, and relationship to you. Please include a contact number where you can be reached in case of questions.

Accuracy is an important part of making everything fall into place. Please be sure to proofread your recipe, making sure that amounts are correct, ingredients have not been omitted, and instructions are complete. Please write the instructions as if you are explaining them to a new cook.

Now comes the begging part. In order for this to be a success, I need your help. The recipes will need to be proofread before typing, so I'm looking for good proofreaders to help in that area. If you are a good salesperson, maybe you would be interested in selling advertising for us. If you would like to place an ad, or sell advertising, please contact me 515-795-4238. I can give you rates for your ad or get a sales kit to you.

The cookbooks will be sold in our gift shop, and online. We anticipate having a strong demand for them. You can reserve one or more copies for you, your family, and friends by completing the form on the reverse side of the enclosed recipe form. This will ensure that we have enough copies in stock.

The price of the cookbook depends upon how many recipes are submitted, and the number of books that we order. Right now, we anticipate a selling price of \$15 to \$17.

For more information, contact:

Diana Campbell
1864 V Avenue
Madrid, Iowa 50156

(515) 795-4238

GETTING READY FOR ANOTHER SEASON

Photos taken January 15, 2008 by Loren Karr



Above, Travis Stevenson, Jim Duff, and Joe Feeney look on as the cab is lifted from the locomotive. Lowell Diersen, Jim Gardner, Roger Stirling, and Jim Waddell braved the elements to offer assistance. Work on the locomotive will continue throughout the winter. The Federal Railroad Administration will conduct a five year inspection on the locomotive before it can be fired-up for the season.



CGW CABOOSE UPDATE



Over the winter, Bryan Anderson and John Vilmain have continued to work on Chicago Great Western caboose #202 as time and weather allow. Bryan says that they are about to the point where they are going to start spending money on the project. Any

contributions would be greatly appreciated. Be sure to specify that you want your donation to be applied to the CGW 202 fund.

A HISTORY OF 202

Caboose 202 was built in 1881 for the Winona and Southwestern, which later became the Winona and Western, which was later absorbed by the CGW in 1906 and was originally placed in service between Winona, Minnesota and Osage, Iowa in mixed train service. It was unique in that it had a rounded roof, like passenger cars, but had open platforms and cupola and was equipped like an ordinary caboose. The inside had three compartments. The baggage-express end included an iron safe for valuable shipments. There were wide sliding doors on each side. The passenger compartment had cushioned leather seats, flip overs to seat 16 people. The conductors compartment had a desk, bunks, wooden mail pigeon hole boxes and brass lights. In the 1920's, 202 was reassigned to branch line service from Oelwein-Sumner-Waverly until 1940. It handled few passengers, but did a brisk business with express. In 1964, the caboose was donated to the Iowa Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. 202 was then moved to Centerville, Iowa and was used on the Iowa Southern Utilities electric short line. From there, she made her way to Des Moines and became an attachment to Montana's Restaurant. This was a Court Avenue hot spot located in the southern-most depot of our old Fort Dodge line. Vance Caimino acquired the property and donated 202 to the Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad. She made her way to Boone via Chicago & North Western truck on May 2, 1990. - *Delmar Gifford and Bryan Anderson*

25 YEAR TRIVIA

Q: How many bricks are in the platform of our depot located at 225 10th Street?

A: 19,049

REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE IOWA RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Railroad Historical Society was called to order at 5:00 pm, Tuesday, December 18, 2007 by President Darin Jacobs in the Boone & Scenic Valley RR depot.

Board members present were Darin Jacobs, Dale Mount, Gary Stasko, Roger Loof, Mel Hanson (by telephone), Wayne Paterson, Ken Barkwill, and Mark Halbmaier.

Absent was Dean Briley.

Also present were Fenner Stevenson, Bryan Anderson, Kathi Stirling, Sally Courter, Justin Moreland, Eldon and Diana Campbell, Mary Barkwill, Ron Rindfuss, Travis Stevenson, John Matthews, John Vilmain, Jim Barkwill, Ed Truslow, George Eckstein, and Loren Karr.

Regarding the minutes of the November board of directors meeting, it was noted by Mount that the adjournment time of the Executive Session following the regular meeting should read 7:30 pm, not 8:30 pm as originally presented. Loof then moved, seconded by Paterson, that the minutes of the November 20, 2007 regular board meeting be approved as corrected. Motion carried.

FINANCE: Mount provided the latest financial reports. The finance committee recommended that the Society finance the accrued insurance balance through the insurance company. All board members present agreed with the recommendation, with Hanson holding the only negative vote.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

Hanson moved, seconded by Mount, that discussion of the business plan submitted earlier by Hanson and tabled at the November regular board meeting be moved to the ensuing Executive Session. Motion carried.

President Jacobs appointed Delmar Gifford and John Veale to be judges for the upcoming board of directors election.

GENERAL MANAGER:

- a) The Santa Express trains are just about finished. Seventeen trains have been run with a make-up train scheduled for Saturday, December 22nd. Some 5,635 passengers rode the trains.
- b) A check in the amount of \$117,800.11 was received from FEMA. Stevenson estimates that an additional \$168,253.31 will be received within the next six months. The West Hill should be operational by October 1, 2008, maybe earlier.

FOUNDATION: A regrouping effort is currently taking place, with emphasis on fund raising.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Ken Barkwill reported that only general and routine maintenance is taking place at this time. It was brought to his attention that the roof of the crew (Olney) house is leaking.

RESTORATION: Bryan Anderson would like to apply for a grant to help fund the restoration of CGW caboose #202.

Mount moved, seconded by Loof, that Bryan Anderson be authorized to apply for a grant to help restore CGW caboose #202. Motion carried.

CAR DEPARTMENT/CHAIRMAN OF MAINTENANCE: Travis Stevenson reported that the shop is performing general winter maintenance on equipment.

DIESEL DEPARTMENT: Nothing to report.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT: Paterson reported that things have been buttoned down for the winter. The wire from the shop to the substation will be buried in the spring.

STEAM DEPARTMENT: A number of volunteers have been showing up to work on the steam engine.

TRAINMASTER: No report.

GIFT SHOP: Jim Barkwill wants to move some old product to make space. These items would be priced at cost or less just to clear them out. Mark Halbmaier offered to put these items in the Boone Hy-Vee store so as to expose them to a larger number of potential customers.

RIGHT-OF-WAY: A broken rail was discovered on a crossing during the Santa Express trains. A barricade was put around the area.

IOWA RAILROAD MUSEUM: No report.

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors adjourned at 6:30 pm.

***Life is like a mountain railroad, with an engineer that's brave;
We must make the run successful, from the cradle to the grave;
Watch the curves, the fills, the tunnels;
never falter, never fail;
Keep your hand upon the throttle, and your eye upon the rail.***

***Eliza R. Snow
M.E. Abbey
Charles D. Tillman***

Volunteers make it all happen



Darin Jacobs, Jonathan Smith, and Kent Girouex remove insulation from 8419 so they may perform other work on the locomotive. Photo by Travis Stevenson



Phil Pletcher and Steve Orazem perform brake work on 8419 during one of the Saturday volunteer work days.



THE COOKIE LADIES... Mary Lindahl, Mary Barkwill, Margaret Briley, Mary Ann Richards, Becky Hergert, and Diana Campbell prepare cookies and song books for the 2007 Santa Express™ trains. A BIG thank you to ALL of our volunteers. If it

weren't for you, such events, or day-to-day operations for that matter, would not be possible.

VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

When: Every Saturday now through the end of May, from 9:00am - 4:00pm

Where: The B&SVRR Mechanical Shop at 11th and Division

What: The big project at this time is the annual inspection of our steam locomotive, 8419. This year we also must undergo the 5-year stay bolt inspection, so the workload is even greater. Please plan to come out and help. Other projects are always available as well. Anyone who would like to lend a helping hand is always welcome. We look forward to seeing you soon!

For more information contact Travis Stevenson at 515-432-4278 or email at travis.stevenson@bsvrr.com



Justin Moreland and Jeff Brown hard at work in the shop. Photo by Travis Stevenson

**IOWA RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 603
BOONE, IOWA 50036-0603**

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GETTING A FACELIFT

During the month of January, John Vilmain gave the depot a much needed spit shine. Ceiling fans were cleaned, wood paneling and baseboards were cleaned and oiled, restrooms were cleaned thoroughly... Basically, nothing in the depot remained untouched. Probably one of the biggest undertakings was the sealing of the depot floors. All display racks and shelving were removed from the gift shop, benches were removed from the lobby, etc. Then the floors were thoroughly scrubbed, and sealant was applied.



If you see John, be sure to let him know that you appreciate his efforts. The depot shines like it hasn't shined in years. It's really something to be proud of. Thanks, John!

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2008

KEN BARKWILL: BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

DEAN BRILEY: PRESIDENT, TRACK AND BRIDGES

MARK HALBMAIER

MEL HANSON

DARIN JACOBS: VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS

DALE MOUNT: TREASURER

WAYNE PATERSON: EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRIC

RON RINDFUSS: VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE, PLANNING COMMITTEE

GARY STASKO: SECRETARY, DIESEL DEPARTMENT