

KEEPING TRACK

Newsletter of the Iowa Railroad Historical Society



THANK YOU!

Without all of you, events like this simply would not fall into place.

NOVEMBER 2009
VOLUME 26, NUMBER 3

PHOTO STORY: LONG ROAD TO WOLF

PHOTOS BY: JIM GARDNER

Heavy rains on the night of August 19, 2007 caused massive mudslides and washouts along our line west of Fraser, forcing us to cut the endpoint of our dinner, dessert, and picnic trains back to Fraser, rather than Wolf. On Friday, August 21, 2009, the trains started to make the full run to Wolf once again.

The following pictures show some of the work involved in replacing just one of those culverts. An interesting process, indeed.



VALLEY FOG



Mother Nature can be funny. A work train headed to the site of the washout west of Fraser encounters, out of nowhere, very patchy (but very dense) fog at the Bass Point Creek High Bridge.

NEWS & NOTES: THE IRHS REPORTER

TOM CROOKS 1934-2009



Tom Crooks, age 75 of Boone, died Friday, June 26, 2009 at Boone County Hospital, Boone, Iowa. Celebration of Tom's life was held on Monday, June 29, in the First Presbyterian Church, 7th and Greene Streets in Boone, with CLP Dr. Marsha Rich officiating.

Burial was in the Linwood Park Cemetery in Boone. Full Military Honors were conducted at the

graveside by the Boone Veterans Council.

Tom was born in Boone, IA on January 29, 1934 the son of John and Georgia (Beagle) Crooks. A graduate of Boone High School Class of 1952. Tom married Dorothy Tice in Grinnell, IA on April 6, 1958. To this union, one daughter, Devon Elizabeth, was born. Tom served in the Army National Guard for 10 years, and also was a member of the Boone City Council in the early 1980's. Tom owned the Tom C. Crooks Insurance Agency, an independent property and casualty insurance agency. He sold the agency in 1989 and retired at age 55.

A man of many interests, they included his two dogs, Sonny and Dusty, working in his yard at home and collecting and restoring antique automobiles. Tom was a member and elder of the First Presbyterian Church, Mt Olive Lodge #79 AF and AM, Tall Corn Region AACA and many other antique auto clubs.

Tom was one of the incorporators of the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad, and served as its first President.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Becki Smith, Jenny Thies; brother in law, Gerald Thies; brother, Larry; and son in law Brian O'Tool.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; daughter, Devon O'Tool; sister, Judy (John) Rose of Anamosa, IA; nieces Debi (John) Wall of Springville, IA; Barbara (Jim) Cooper of Anamosa, IA; Michelle (Shawn) Stone of Springville, IA; Patty Knuth of Colorado; Marie Cameron of Clearfield, IA; nephews, David (Rheanne) Thies of Lisbon, IA; and Dennis (Mary) Thies of Springville, IA.

DORIS TUTTLE 1928-2009



Doris M. Tuttle, age 81 a resident of the Evangelical Free Church Home in Boone, formerly of Ogden, passed away on Sunday, August 23, 2009 at the home.

Doris was born March 1, 1928 in Napier, Iowa, the daughter of Marion and Zella (Miller) Robinson. She attended Boone High School through the 11th year, obtained her GED, then attended 1 year at Iowa State University for Dietary Food Service. Doris was married to Jerome Dean Tuttle on November 13, 1953 in Omaha, Nebraska. From 1962 to 1990 she worked at the Woodward State Hospital as a Dietary Supervisor.

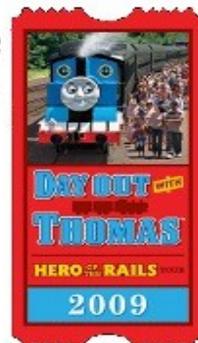
Doris was a member of the Immanuel Lutheran Church of Ogden, the V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary of Boone, a volunteer at the Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad, 4-H Leader and a member of the Drum and Bugle Corp in Boone High School. She enjoyed doing crafts. Doris was the craft director in the Woodward State Hospital. She also enjoyed gardening.

Doris is survived by her daughter, LaRae (Jean) Kranz of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, her son Charles E. Laver of Las Vegas, Nevada; her daughter, Jerrie Marie Pegg (Jeff) of Ogden, Iowa; ; her 5 grandchildren, Lori Erickson of Austin, Texas; Monica Pritchard (Andy) of Menomonie, Wisconsin; Loren Erickson of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Jacob Jacobsma of Ogden, Iowa; Tanner Pegg of Ogden, Iowa; 3 great-grandchildren, Tayia and Bella of Austin, Texas and Jaquel of Hot Springs, South Dakota; her sister, Edith Heldt (Vern) of Boone, Iowa; her sister, Alice Satre of Des Moines, Iowa; her brother, Charles Robinson (Francio) of California; her brother, Dick Robinson (Betty) of California; her sister-in-law, Mary Robinson of California and numerous nieces and nephews.

Doris is preceded in death by her parents; her husband; 1 sister, Frances, 3 brothers, Bert, Vern and Max.

Burial was held in the Peoples Cemetery, J Avenue & 310th Street, northwest of Woodward.

**Thank you to all of the
volunteers who made
this year's Day Out
With Thomas event a
success!
We'll see you again in
2010!**



MEALS ON WHEELS

THE IRHS REPORTER

NEWS & NOTES CONTINUED...

The shed housing our track equipment display (located just to the west of our depot), has undergone a much needed renovation. New siding was installed, windows were removed, the door was widened to give our guests a better view of the track equipment in our collection, the exterior was re-painted, and the interior was revamped. A big thank you to Eldon Campbell, Lowell Diersen, and Scott Stephens for tackling the project.



What was once an RPO, then a maintenance of way car, and finally a museum car, has found new life as a concession car on our trains. The car emerged from the shop for a trial run on Monday, July 20, before being put into regular service. For several years, the car sat unused at 11th Street Station. **LEFT & BELOW:** Travis Stevenson helps couple the car to the train.



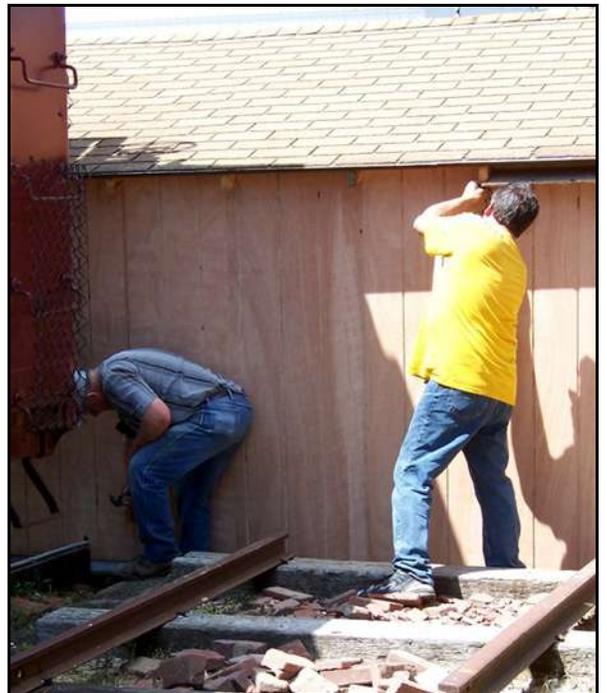
ABOVE: Scott Stephens makes some modifications to the north side of the building.

BELOW: Lowell Diersen and Scott Stephens install new siding on the south side of the building.

RIGHT: In the 80's, the former RPO was moved just west of the depot, and put to use as a museum car.



BELOW: A Saturday crowd gathers in the newly-revamped car. On this trip, Evie and Jenny Stevenson man the car. Photo by Fenner Stevenson



MAINTENANCE NEWS: BRIEFLY...

This newsletter's maintenance column seems to be dedicated to covering the control of vegetation along our line.



CLEARING BRUSH: Through the help of a new state program, the Emergency Public Jobs Program, workers have been busy removing trees and brush from along our line. Clearing of the area between the main line and the siding at Fraser has been completed. A good deal of vegetation has also been removed near the Y-Camp, allowing passengers an unobstructed view of the grounds. Photo by Fenner Stevenson



WEED CONTROL: A yearly ritual, a truck from Railroad Contractors and Equipment from Adel, Iowa is shown spraying weeds near Hanley Street in Boone.

RIGHT: Our sickle mower was also pressed back into service this year, tackling weeds along our right of way. Justin Moreland and Wayne Paterson are pictured on board the machine. Photo by Fenner Stevenson

WHERE AM I?



How well do you know the buildings of the Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern? This is a very recent picture, but where was it taken? Look for the answer in the next edition of Keeping Track.

MOVING ON



The last batch of cars which were being stored on the east end of our line have been pulled out, and interchanged with the Union Pacific. In these photos, M&StL 244 is shown taking a cut of cars to the transfer track. Photo by Fenner Stevenson



VOLUNTEERISM: WE'D LIKE YOU TO MEET...

John Sawyer



"I've been waiting for a paycheck for 26 years." a grinning John Sawyer tells a passenger who asks him if he is an employee of the railroad.

But John's ties to this line go well beyond the 26 years that he has spent with us. John was a longtime employee of the Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern Railroad, before going to work for the Chicago & North Western when they purchased the line in 1968.

John is a genuinely good guy, and working with him is truly a pleasure. If you enjoy learning about what railroading was like "back in the day", I would advise you to spend some time in the depot volunteer office on a Monday (John's regularly-scheduled day to run as conductor). The man can tell a story, and his years of working on the rails have given him some interesting tales to tell.

Thank you, John, for all that you give to the IRHS. Your dedication truly *is* appreciated.

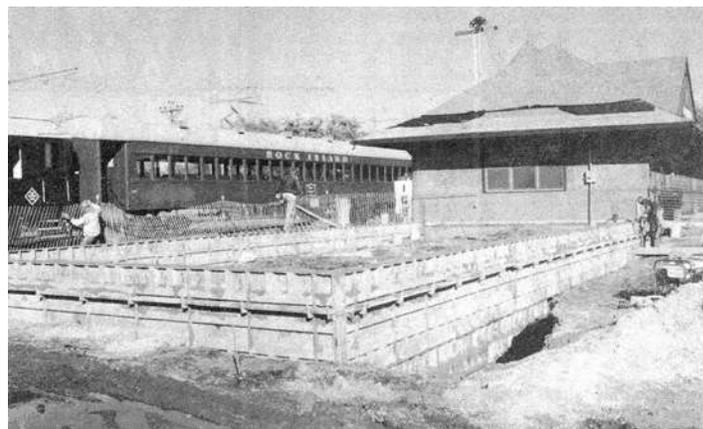
THEN AND NOW: GOING GREEN

The cars on the highway, and Amtrak's logo have changed, but the message has not. The following ad is taken from a 1974 Amtrak timetable, long before the Superliners, Viewliners, and Acela.

SAVE ENERGY. TAKE OUR CAR!



LOOKING BACK: 12 YEARS AGO



COURTESY: Boone County News-Republican
Tuesday, October 28, 1997

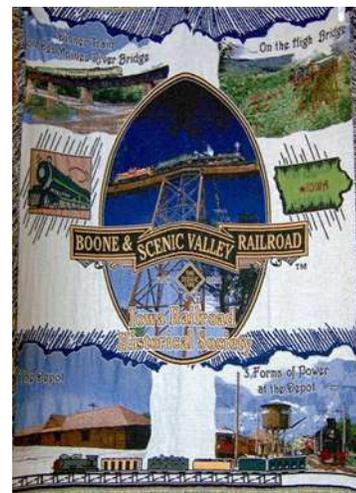
The Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad is getting a new look this fall as construction crews add on to the west section of the building. This new area will serve as a gift shop. The previous gift shop will be for a museum and offices.

GIFT SHOP NEWS: HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

Our supply of Iowa Railroad Historical Society cookbooks is starting to wind down. Don't miss out. The books would make an ideal gift for that person in your life who spends the winter months in the kitchen. And, you'll make a difference here at the railroad, as proceeds go toward funding projects in our museum. The books are available now for just \$10.

New designs for our B&SVRR pins and patches are now available in the museum gift shop. They would make excellent stocking stuffers.

A new shipment of our popular throws has arrived. The throws feature five scenes from various points along our line, and are available for just \$45. To order, call 1-800-626-0319 (Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM)



NEW FOR 2010!

SEASON PASSES

These passes are good for unlimited rides on all regularly-scheduled, daily 1920's coach-class excursion trains.
(Monday - Friday at 1:30 PM Saturdays & Sundays at 1:30 PM & 4:30 PM)

SEASON PASS PRICES

ADULTS (AGE 13 AND OVER).....\$75 each

Includes: One annual membership to the Iowa Railroad Historical Society (a \$25 value), 10% discount on unlimited purchases in the IRHS Gift Shop (excluding sale items), and one (1) \$10 discount per pass holder per reservation on any Friday night dinner train.

YOUTH (AGES 3 TO 12).....\$15 each

UNDER 3 , NO PASS REQUIRED.....Free

Applications may be obtained by contacting the depot:

Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad & Museum / Iowa Railroad Historical Society
225 10th Street
Boone, Iowa 50036

1-800-626-0319 / info@bsvrr.com

Or pick-up your application at the depot, Monday through Friday 8:30 AM through 4:30 PM.

Proceeds from all adult pass sales will be divided equally between membership fees, the IRHS Foundation, and fares. COACH CLASS ONLY. NOT VALID ON DINNER, DESSERT, PICNIC, OR SPECIAL EVENT TRAINS (THOMAS, SANTA EXPRESS, ETC.). Anyone under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older.

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

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COVER: Bringing the 2009 Day Out With Thomas event to a close with the traditional group photo.



KEEPING TRACK

The Iowa Railroad Historical Society publishes Keeping Track periodically throughout the year.

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<http://www.bsvrr.com>

INCORRECT ADDRESS? MOVING?

Make sure that the delivery of your newsletter is not delayed. Please e-mail your address corrections to: loren@bsvrr.com, mail them to: Iowa Railroad Historical Society, PO Box 603, Boone, Iowa 50036, or call 515-432-4249.

REMINDERS BOARD

- We are looking for folks who would like to help staff our concession car throughout the 2010 season. If you are interested, please call the depot at 1-800-626-0319, or send an e-mail to info@bsvrr.com.
- We are ALWAYS in need of volunteers. Be sure to stop by the depot to see what openings are available in the crew book. If a slot looks good to you, just write yourself in. Periodic crew updates are sent via e-mail. Let us know if you would like to be added to the list, by sending an e-mail to: loren@bsvrr.com.