



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1976

LAKE SUPERIOR TRANSPORTATION CLUB



Photo By Bob Taylor.

The Minnetonka has been returned to the Lake Superior Transportation Museum after being beautifully restored in the Como shop of the Burlington Northern R.R. It now shares Track #3 with the William Crooks and other pieces of antique railroad equipment.

NEXT MEETING, FRIDAY JUNE 25th. IMPORTANT THAT ALL MEMBERS BE PRESENT TO FORMULATE PLANS FOR THE FORT FRANCES RAIL TRIP. AFTER BUSINESS MEETING, THE ENTERTAINMENT WILL BE IN CHARGE OF JIM LONG WITH A SPECIAL FILM AND JURGEN FUHR WITH MOVIES OF THE TLR SPRING RALLY AND THE NORTH STAR'S TREMPLEAU VALLEY MEMORIAL DAY RAIL FAN TRIPS.

A LOOK BACK

A short way West of Carlton, Minnesota, a sign along old highway 61 announces that as the starting point of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Groundbreaking for the Northern Pacific took place at Thomson's Junction on February 15, 1870. The actual construction of the road began in July 1870. At that time the NP's first locomotive, the Minnetonka, appeared on the scene. The twelve ton Minnetonka, fresh out of the shop and purchased for the sum of \$6,700 went to work at once building the eastern end of the new line. Thomson's Junction was the meeting point of the NP and the newly completed Lake Superior and Mississippi RR., a line also controlled by Jay Cooke and Co. Work progressed rapidly and regular scheduled operation was being made between Brainerd, the NP headquarters, and Duluth, by the winter of 1870 running over the rails of the L.S. & M. from Thompson's Junction to Duluth. Finishing it's work in 1871, the Minnetonka was then shipped by rail to San Francisco and by steamer to the Columbia River for construction work on the west end of the line from Kalama to Tacoma Washington. It was discovered, many years later on an abandoned logging road.

A LOOK AHEAD

Saturday and Sunday, August 7th. and 8th. will see the biggest venture yet attempted by the Lake Superior Transportation Club. With the D.W. & P. Railway BiCentennial locomotive on the point a fifteen car passenger train will depart the Duluth depot for Fort Frances, Ontario, Canada. It will be known as the BiCentennial Friendship train. The trip chairman is Phil Larson, Superintendent of the D.W. & P. Ry. The train will run North to Fort Frances over the D.W. & P. Ry. Saturday and on the return trip Sunday over the D.W. & P. rails again to Virginia, Minn., then via the D.M. & I.R. Ry. to Duluth. There will coaches from the D.M. & I.R., three from the BN, one from the Canadian National, the lounge-compartment, "Dover Plains", the BN parlor car, "Deschute River", BN. baggage equipped to serve snacks and refreshments, plus four or five business cars. The fares are priced ALL INCLUSIVE. Will include rail fare, box lunches both ways, banquet Saturday evening, breakfast Sunday morning and motel accomodations. Coffee, cold drinks and snacks will be sold aboard the train. The fares are as follows: coach \$55; children under twelve \$45; first class \$75; compartment(3 passengers) \$190; compartment(4 passengers)\$250. Club members will receive prior choice but Phil Larson urges that they make application by July 5th.

NEWS ITEMS

Eight vintage automobiles dating from 1903-1931 will be displayed at the Depot Museum, track level, Saturday and Sunday June 26th and 27th, by members of the Arrowhead Chapter of Antique Auto Club of America. The club has between 35 and 40

IRON HORSE WEST

Burlington Northern is sponsoring an art exhibition at the Depot called IRON HORSE WEST. This western art collected by the company and its predecessors over the past three quarters of a century will be on exhibit through September 28.

The extensive collection is displayed on three floors at the Depot: the main lobby, the balcony, and in the Transportation Museum. The latter exhibit is especially interesting with a series of colorful western landscapes viewed from the interior of a simulated coach.

Most of the works in IRON HORSE WEST appeared long ago in printed form in books and travel literature, on calendars and postcards, and as posters and art prints. Many, too, graced the walls of depots and ticket offices.

It is truly a unique and interesting exhibit of the frontier west.

TLR FALL RALLY

The Fall Rally of the Thousand Lakes Region, National Model Railroad Association will be held October 8-10 in Bloomington, Minn. at the Thunderbird Motel. A full program of activities is planned with movies and slides, switching and model contests, prototype tours, clinics, a banquet, an auction, and layout tours. The prototype tours will include Soo Line Shoreham Shops and Burlington Northern Northtown Hump Yard. A ladies tour is scheduled also. For more information contact: Jim Platt, 5504 Beard Avenue South, Edina, Minnesota.

TRAIN 76

TRAIN 76, the annual convention of the Tourist Railway Association, Inc. will be held October 29-31 at the Curtis Hotel in Minneapolis. The Transportation Museum is a member of this organization which is dedicated to the service of all interested in better tourist railroading, museum, private car, excursion and other action programs.

Seminars are scheduled on a number of topics vital to the organizations members from fund raising to the mechanics of cars and rolling stock.

A banquet Friday evening will feature as speakers Donald B. Shank, Vice President and General Manager, Duluth Missabe and Iron Range Railway and President of the Lake Superior Transportation Museum, and Lowell B. Turner, Director, Employee Communications, Union Pacific Railroad.

The TRAIN Annual Banquet will be held Saturday evening. The speaker will be Thomas J. Lamphier, Executive Vice President, Burlington Northern, Inc. Mr. Lamphier is a director of the Lake Superior Transportation Museum.

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Sunday's program will include a tour of Minnesota Transportation Museum's operations at Como Shores and Lake Harriet. A womens program is planned for Saturday.

Transportation Club members are welcome to attend. For more information write: TRAIN 76, 3315 Skyview Drive, Burnsville, Minn. 55337

ACQUISITION

The latest acquisition at the Transportation Museum came from the U.S. Air Force! It is a GE 4¹/₂-Ton diesel locomotive. The two-engine, 375 HP unit was built in 1944 to U.S. Military specifications which includes a low-profile cab. It has been in storage until recently at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, OH.

MODEL RAILROAD

The model railroad at the museum is beginning to show visible signs of progress with the placement of a number of structures constructed by John Smith and the beginning of scenery construction.

Progress has been made through the summer with completion of track laying and the not-so-obvious wiring of blocks and switches under the direction of Jim Long and Charlie Summers. Jim has installed two of the three control panels from which the railroad will be operated and is in the process of wiring them to the railroad.

Projects under way for the model railroad in members homes include an ore dock by Tom Gannon and an ore mine diorama by Jim Morin.

SWAP 'N SHOP

Saturday, October 23 is tentatively set for the October meeting the program of which will take the form of a "swap and shop" session. Start collecting those unwanted railroad models and memorabilia to bring to this meeting. Anything "railroad" is welcome. Bring your money too for the other guy may have something for you.

SCHEDULE

Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM are work nights on the model railroad at the museum.

Thursday evenings and Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM are work session for equipment restoration.

members in the Duluth-Superior area. The current president is William Behning. All cars are restored and operable.

On a cool and windy morning, which didn't dampen their enthusiasm, of Saturday April 24th, forty-five members and guests left Superior aboard a special dome car on the south-bound Amtrak, "Arrowhead" for Minneapolis. Upon arrival they boarded a charter bus for a tour of Burlington Northern's Como shops, arranged by Tom Hoff. Como is the former N.P. passenger car shop. BN currently use the facility for major caboose work as well as passenger car work of it's own plus Amtrak cars. While in the shop the group toured the BN business cars, "Red River" and the "Deschutes River". The Minnesota Transportation Museum occupies one of the shop buildings for storage and equipment restoration. Ray Benson Jr. Conducted the tour through the facility where ex-Duluth street car #265 is being rebuilt for operation. Following a stop for lunch, the group went to Fridley, site of BN's new \$45 million electronic classification yard, and a tour of the home tower. From Northtown a bus took the group to Lake Harriet for a visit to the MTM's trolley operation arranged by Frank and Judy Sandberg. Several trips on the line were provided along with a tour of the car barns. Returning to the Minneapolis depot a Kentucky fried chicken dinner was served before train time. And the group settled back for a pleasant evening ride back to Superior. All agreed the trip was a great success and hope it could be repeated again.

The Spring Rally of the Thousand Lakes Region NMRA was the most successful on record with 250 fans in attendance. People came from all the Minnesota bordering states. Our neighbors to the North, Canada, were well represented with a contingent of fifty persons. Much of the success was due to the hard work of the co-chairmen, Jim Morin and Dave Carlson and their very able convention committee. Walt Fulton assisted by Bob Viau handled registrations while Ed Knych served as treasurer. The chairmen would like to thank wives and others who assisted the committee. Activities began Friday evening with an excellent movie program provided by Howard Patrick of Granite Falls and Bob Schutte of Mankato. Walter Simonsen of Sioux Rapids, Iowa, showed several humorous silent movies accompanied by his own piano music. The new Kalmbach film, "Model Railroading Unlimited", a contemporary film was also shown. Bob Taylor co-ordinated the screenings. Saturday activities began with a tour of the BN shops and roundhouse in Superior, conducted by Bob Heyer. Next came a tour of the new Ortran coal loading terminal in Superior. The ladies were given the conducted "Discover Duluth" tour while the men were lunching at the Carlton House. The ladies had their noon meal at the Cloud Nine restaurant atop downtown Duluth. Donning sweaters and coats the group took a charter boat tour of the Duluth-Superior harbor and a short trip out into Lake Superior. The day was sunny but cool. Upon docking in Duluth the group spent the remainder of the afternoon touring the Transportation Museum. The model contest, railroad, that is, were judged in the morning. Bob Mortinsen assisted by Ray Bushnell co-ordinated the PhotoContest. Over 200 entries were judged by Frank King, Wayne Olsen and John Blamey. A banquet was held Saturday evening in Hotel Duluth, convention headquarters. Over thirty door prizes were donated by various individuals, hobby shops and firms in the hobby industry. The evening closed with tours of the model railroad of Charles

Summers, John Smith and Jim Morin.

An excursion train to Two Harbors, Sunday morning, along the shore of Lake Superior via the DMIR RR. capped the busy week-end schedule. Upon arrival in Two Harbors, the train was moved out on one of the ore docks for a brief view of the harbor and facilities. The Lake County Museum in the old Two Harbors depot was open for the visitors to tour. The chairmen and committee wish to thank the following for making the train trip the pleasant occasion it was: Dale Carlson, Chuck Wiesner, John Winter, Chuck LaVallee, Jergen ruhr, John Smith, Chuck Jensen, Bob Heyer, Bob Bloomquist, Tom Gannon, Bob Mortinsen, Dan Kerelko, Gordon Mott, Bernie Rolle, Dave Bruns and Lucille and John Blamey.

Burlington Northern Training Car #B-5 has been leased to the Museum for the summer months to be used to give a slide-tape program of area transportation history to our visitors. The car is equipped for audio-visual programs. Frank King has been working with the Audio-visual department of Burlington Northern preparing a fifteen minute slide program.

PROGRESS REPORT

Track laying is in progress on the model railroad in the museum and will be completed within several weeks. In addition to Tuesday and Wednesday evening work sessions, Saturday morning sessions are also scheduled.

The D.M.I.R. Heritage car #19 is now restored and open for exhibit. An excellent job of restoration has been done, new paint for the interior and exterior. The interior was first completely stripped of old paint exposing some beautiful wood and inlays. The windows and hardware were also stripped and re-finished. Most of the work was done by Tom Gannon. The display of historical material, from D.M.I.R. RR. records was arranged by Frank King. The entire project was made possible by a contribution from the family of the late Fred Voss, former President of the D.M. & I.R. RR.

We will have more on this interesting car in a future Newsletter.

Attractive descriptive signs have been made by the tour guides explaining the working parts of the Alco #900, etc. Thanks to the girls, Marianne Birk, Bernie Rolle, Leslie Moore and Ann Wandmaker under the guidance of their group leader, Tom Gannon.

BITS AND PIECES

Tell your friends and visitors the Museum summer hours are daily 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Sundays Noon to 5 P.M.

We hope you like the new format of your Newsletter, we feel it should be more readable, a little less costly to print, and hopefully more professional looking. Get your news in early.

At a safety session conducted recently by Phil Larson, he asked, "What would you do if you saw two trains approaching one another on the same track at 70 miles an hour?" "Why", answered Gregg, "I'd run home and get my brother, he's never seen a train wreck!"