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**CIGRS STARTS 2014 IN STYLE**

The final meeting of 2013 was held in Perry, Iowa at the Perry Public Library. Prior to the meeting, a number of CIGRS members had stopped by for lunch at the Hotel Pattee where they met the new owner Jay Hartz. Jay indicated that he had a love for trains and would like to stop by our meeting and get acquainted. During his visit he offered to let the club use one of the hotel meeting rooms for a future meeting at no charge. Upon this generous offer, the club voted to meet at the hotel for the January meeting. Thus the stage was set for CIGRS to return to Perry for the first meeting of 2014. Club members were treated, by Jay and his attentive staff, to an enjoyable time during their visit to this beautifully restored hotel. Many members came early to sample the menu at the Milwaukee Diner (a nice upscale restaurant) and spend time visiting in the

spacious lobby prior to the meeting. Secretary Jay Nugent, will send Jay Hartz a thank-you note for his generous offer to host CIGRS members for the January meeting at the Hotel Pattee.

**Business Meeting**

President John Myers called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Alan Murray from Ames was introduced as a guest. Alan told how he had bought an LGB starter set and decided to attend a CIGRS meeting to learn more about G scale railroading. John and Barbara Kilmer of Fort Dodge were also introduced. John said they have been members for a number of years, but due to his work schedule, they could not attend meetings. He announced that he has retired and that he and Barbara are looking forward to becoming more active in the club.

**Upcoming Events**

- ***Council Bluffs Train Show Feb 7th thru the 9th***
- ***February 16th Meeting at the Redfield Legion Hall***
- ***Flower Lawn and Garden Show in the Varied Industries Bldg at the Iowa State Fairgrounds March 14th –16th.***
- ***Great Train Expo in Des Moines, March 21st thru the 23rd***

**Special Thanks**

**To Jay Hartz for hosting the January CIGRS Meeting**



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Once introductions were complete, President Myers moved on to reports. First up was the treasurer's report by Howard Hoy. Howard had a detailed handout for members to peruse and stated that the club is in good financial order. Louis Minor reported on the progress that he, Rob Renes and crew are making to get the expanded layout ready for the Flower Lawn and Garden Show to be held in March at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Louis and Rob stated that the layout will take up a 40' x 50' area in the hall and that volunteers will be needed help set up and run trains during the show. President Myers reported that the new club trailer was in and that he was organizing a work day for January 25<sup>th</sup> to unload the present trailer, take inventory of all items, and do some finish work on the new trailer to handle the club's equipment. On a show of hands, it looked like a dozen club members will be available to work on the 25th.

### Old Business

CIGRS has just finished five weeks partnering with the Master Gardeners to set up a toy train display at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. Club members who volunteered to help run the trains each weekend said they thought the experience to be positive. Additional discussion centered on how to better set up and improve the display. **Thanks to all members who volunteered their time to run trains each of the five weekends.**

### New Business

The summer Garden Railroad Tour has taken place for five consecutive years. After an almost overwhelming number of attendees the first year, numbers have settled down to approximate three hundred attendees each of the past four years. Discussion centered on whether the club should host the tour every year or perhaps every other year. After consideration it was motioned and passed to hold the tour every year. This year's Co-Chairs Gordon Cox and Ron Huntimer will set the date and report back their progress at the February meeting. Next John Myers reported that the Arboretum in the Madrid area had approached him about CIGRS setting up an outdoor layout for eight weeks in the spring. After considerable discussion as to taking on a new project of this magnitude, it was motioned and approved that we not take up this project at this time. President Myers passed around sign-up sheets for members to indicate if they would like to host one of the meetings that are to be held in May, June, July, August, September and October.

### Show and Tell

Larry Nelson showed off some of his metal work. He is working on a water tower and brought a sample of one of the legs that show great detail, even the rivets. Great work Larry. John 'Ole' Olsen talked about the large model train layout at Union Station in Kansas City, Missouri. The layout includes numerous G scale trains, but also features reproductions of the colorful 'pre-war' Lionel Standard Gauge trains, Lionel O Gauge trains and even some HO scale trains. The layout is well detailed with buildings, landscaping, bridges and some interesting lighting features. The display is now open all year long and well worth the trip and there is no admission charge.

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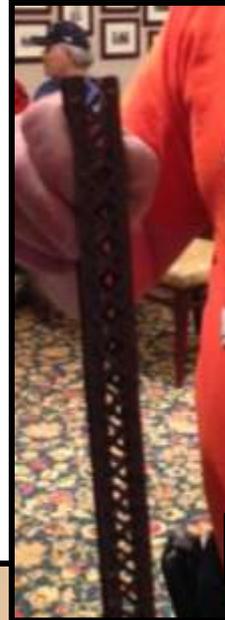
### Door Prizes

Many club members brought items for the door prize drawing. It's likely nearly everyone went home with an item. Thanks to all who brought door prizes.



### Show and Tell—

Larry Nelson's prototype detail for a new Water Tower project is working on. See pictures below.



Photos by Ole Olsen



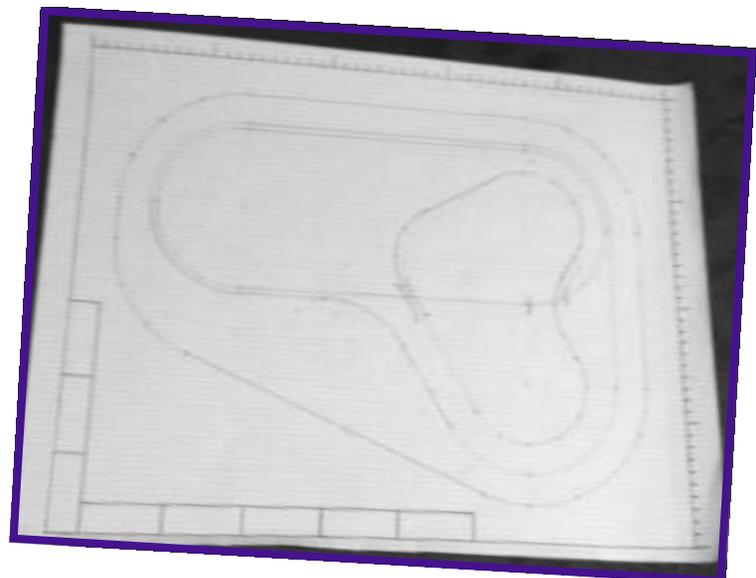
### Announcements

**The February meeting will be held at the American Legion Hall in Redfield.** Club members are encouraged to enter this year's modeling contest. The theme is **"Makers Choice"**. No doubt we will see some interesting entries. Club members will vote for their favorite and the top vote getter will be presented the "Gary Eldon" modeling trophy.

Submitted by:

**Jay Nugent, Secretary**

**Below is a drawing of the proposed layout for the Flower Lawn and Garden Show at the Iowa State Fairgrounds... Great vision Louis!**



## Workday Well Attended in Des Moines.

The Club's new trailer arrived at Thomas Bus recently and several club members showed up to customize the interior to accommodate our equipment and accessories.

Carpenters, welders, laborers, food providers, gofers and several top level supervisors showed up to take an inventory of our old trailer and to guide and direct the building of appropriate storage containers for the folding tables, modular pieces, rail, rolling stock, motive power, structures, power supplies and misc supplies used for build outs like the Garden Lawn and Flower Show.

**A special thanks to Beth Potter** for preparing a feast for the work crew. We enjoyed tasty sloppy joes, green fluffy salad. It was yummy. We had coffee, cookies, chips and all the fixin's. No one went away hungry. That's a fact! **Thank you Beth.**

The next workday to work on the trailer will be Saturday, February, 15th at Aurora Industries, 5554 NE 14th St. Just north of I 80/35. Take Exit 136 and proceed north for about half a mile. If you get to the Thomas Bus Company on the west side of the road, you have gone too far. Aurora Industries is the first property south of Thomas Bus Co. Enter the gated area to the south of the Aurora Industries building and pull around to the back to park. President Myers will not be available for phone calls until a day or two before the 15th as he is vacationing where it is very warm, relaxing and refreshing. The hope is he will be returning to guide and direct our workday. That remains to be seen. More information to come via email as the workday draws closer.

**WATCH FOR PICTURES OF THIS EVENT IN THE TELEGRAPH NEXT MONTH.**



## Club Announcements and Thanksgiving

***Congratulations to Gordon Cox and Ron Huntimer for stepping up to Co-Chair the CIGRS Annual Garden Railroad Tour. The proposed date for 2014 is the Saturday after Father's Day from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. We look forward to hearing more details from the Co-Chairs at the February meeting.***

***John Carl will be presenting a session on using durable building materials and adhesives at a spring meeting. More on this when a date is scheduled.***

**The G Scale SWAP Meet—will be every other year verses annually.**

**Anyone needing a club name badge please contact Howard Hoy by email at: [howardandkayhoy@mchsi.com](mailto:howardandkayhoy@mchsi.com) or by phone at: (515)236-4267**

### CHANGE IN CLUB DUES POLICY...

A year ago at our Election of Officers Meeting we voted to collect dues from members at the beginning of every calendar year as opposed to your club membership anniversary date. This allows for more consistent budgeting and account management.

To remain an active member in good standing you will have until June 1st to pay your dues or be removed from active club membership.

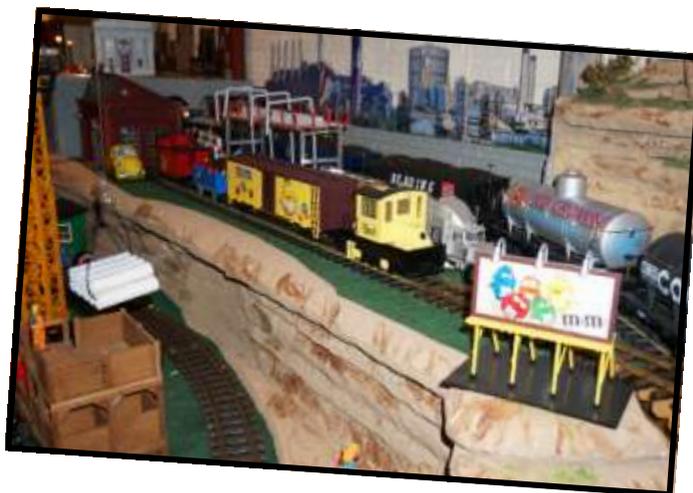
**Please send a check to Howard Hoy for Club Dues for 2014 at your earliest opportunity. 615 S. Marshall St., Boone, IA 50036**

*Thank you, Thank you Very Much!*

Submitted by: **Ole Olsen**, Telegraph Editor



Featured in this month's Spotlight column is Cheri Nugent. Most CIGRS members know Cheri as an active club member, but she is best known by long standing club members for her M&M Train. In 1999 Cheri and the band man attended their first National Garden Railroad Convention in the Chicago suburb of Hoffman Estates. Cheri was convinced that she would find an M&M boxcar or perhaps a gondola car to place on our indoor train layout. Prior to this trip she had found a LGB Tootsie Roll Pops boxcar and an Aristo Hersey's Miniatures boxcar. She would fill both with candies for the kids who came to our home to see the trains. Perhaps a little history is appropriate at this point. When Cheri taught elementary school, she often developed themes for her classroom. Her last assignment was 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Jackson Elementary in Des Moines where she chose the M&M theme for the class and called her students the M&M kids. When Mars Candies was considering a new color for their M&M candies, Cheri's M&M kids collaborated to write a book on how the blue M&M character came into existence. It was just a small leap for Cheri to look for a M&M train for our layout. Now let's get back to our trip to the Chicago area NGRR Convention. Cheri visited all the exhibitors throughout the convention, but none had an M&M train car or engine. (which I could not find, so bought four flat cars instead) and she negotiated with Gold Coast Trains to purchase a yellow Heartland diesel engine and red caboose. Once we got home, I added sides of balsa wood to the flat cars to make gondolas. Cheri got out her paints, bought and added M&M stickers and presto the M&M train.



She filled the cars with a few M&M characters and fun size M&M candies and it was put on the layout. In the following years we added a MTH M&M boxcar (MTH came out with a variety of rolling stock and F3 A&B units in 1:32 scale long after our train was operating) a water tower, billboard, and M&M factory and M&M store made from Piko kits to the layout.

This past October, Cheri underwent surgery for a large brain tumor that was affecting her energy and mobility. Once it was removed, she was back at "full steam" ahead.



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**Photos by Julie Nelson**



Cheri's recovery has truly been a blessing and we thank all our CIGRS friends who have encouraged and supported us through this ordeal. This brings us to one additional M&M train related event. This past November we joined Julie and Larry Nelson, Renee and Mike Kidman and Mike's Sister Patty and her husband Tom for dinner at Ruby Tuesday's to celebrate Julie's birthday. Larry and Julie showed up with a large Victoria's Secret bag and placed it on the table right in front of Cheri. That got our attention, and also got the attention of the diners at the surrounding tables. Cheri seemed rather perplexed and most likely was thinking, "No way do I want to open this and find lingerie". The bag did not contain lingerie, but rather an M&M steam engine that dispensed candies when the smoke stack was pushed down. We all had fun with this, and enjoyed eating the M&M's as well. The next afternoon, Cheri brought the train (in the Victoria's Secret bag) to the November CIGRS meeting for Show and Tell.

So, now you have a little background on the M&M teacher (retired) and her M&M train. The M&M train continues to win praise from kids of all ages. We took the M&M train, on three different occasions, to the Botanical Center for the Holiday layout in December. It was also a hit when we invited the neighbors, church members, club members and friends to our Open House on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The band man and Cheri met during opera rehearsals while attending Simpson College. We celebrated our 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 16, 2013.



*Photos by Julie Nelson*



**Important Dates and  
Observances  
In January & February 2014**

<b>Birthdays</b>	
Alyssa Bickel	1-2
Bill Joy	1-4
Rosemarie Reese	1-5
Steve Evans	1-10
Dick Lamb	1-13
Mike Meston	1-15
Cheri Nugent	1-15
Larry Nelson	1-18
Catherine Burkman	1-23
Sheila Roemer	2-5
Joe Buczek	2-11
Rick Isard	2-14
Bill Paeth	2-16
Mike Nolan	2-17
Pat Olsen	2-19
Karla Gunzenhauser	2-21
<b>Anniversaries</b>	
Steve & Cheryl Evans	1-10
Gerald & Rosemarie Reese	1-19

**\*\*\*If you do not see your special dates appear in the Telegraph at the appropriate times then please contact the Editor.**

**Central Iowa Garden Railway Society**

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***CIGRS Meeting February 16th  
at the Legion Hall in Redfield, IA  
Doors will open at 10:00 AM  
Bring your trains and your entry in the annual  
modeling contest  
Potluck lunch will be ready at Noon  
Club Meeting begins at 1:30 PM***



***Directions to the Legion  
Hall in Redfield, IA-***  
For a map go to:  
***[www.cigrs.net/](http://www.cigrs.net/)*** and click  
on February Meeting un-  
der Upcoming events.

The Central Iowa Garden Railway Society has regular monthly meetings at which we discuss one another's current projects, hobby news, and the latest products on the market.

Programs are presented at some meetings, either by one of our members, or by someone brought in from outside the organization. The programs generally cover some element of the hobby, from the history of local and other Railroads, to rolling stock to track work, to locomotives, includes electric operation, battery-powered and trains that actually run on live

steam. Most of our members have, or hope to have, gauge G, or gauge 1 railways in their gardens or back yards.

Meetings are generally held on the third Sunday of each month. Specific dates and times, as well as program topics, are announced in the CIGRS Telegraph. Club members are encouraged to involve themselves in any of a variety of functions, including special model railway exhibitions that are staged in the area.

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**We're on the web:  
[www.cigrs.net/](http://www.cigrs.net/)**