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NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR CIGRS

Thirty-Four CIGRS members braved the cold to attend the last meeting of 2014 at the restored CB&Q Freight House in Chariton, hosted by Ben and Cindi Hancock and Connie Burgett. Club members were able to tour the wonderfully restored facility that also included numerous pictures and write-ups of various Chariton historical sites as well as early prominent citizens.

President John Myers started the meeting at 1:30 pm and asked Cindi Hancock to talk a little about Chariton and how the restoration of the Freight House came about. After asking if there were any visitors, he then moved on to reports. Treasurer Howard Hoy presented an update of the clubs financial status, noting that dues were due for the coming year.

Old Business

John Myers thanked those who had helped with the set-up of the train layout at the Des Moines

Botanical Center and reminded club members that volunteers were needed to help run trains each weekend from November 22nd through January 4th. He passed around a sign-up sheet for club members to decide which weekends would work best for them. President Myers also stated that the club needed to purchase additional track and asked for a motion to approve the purchase. Motion made and passed by voice vote. Marilyn Magnuson reported that she had done some research as to the club donating profits from the summer tour to a charity. She presented a list of six charities for consideration. After thoughtful discussion it was decided to table the discussion to a future meeting.

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Upcoming Events

- *January Meeting at the Polk City Library*
- *February Meeting will be at the Redfield Legion*
- *March will be the Flower Lawn and Garden Show at the State Fairgrounds*

Special Thanks

To Hancock's and Connie Burgett for hosting the November CIGRS Meeting

**Club Meeting
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page 1**

New Business

Mike Kidman reported that he had hauled the club trailer to Chariton prior to the meeting and that Richard Burkman's grandson had come from Albia to pick it up. For many years Richard (using both his own trains and track, and much of the club equipment) had spearheaded the task of setting up an elaborate display of trains in the Bank Building for the annual "Victorian Stroll" that is held on the first Saturday in December. This past spring, Richard passed away, but his wife Catherine and their grandson wanted to set up the display at least one more year in Richard's memory. Club members were encouraged to take in the Victorian Stroll on December 6th. John Olsen mentioned that on the passing of Richard Roemer, it would be nice to remember his wife Sheila with a call. Renee Kidman said the January meeting will be held at the City Library in Polk City.

President Myers then turned to the election of officers. After serving three terms, President Myers, Secretary Jay Nugent, Newsletter Editor John Olsen, and Member at Large Rob Renes had decided to not run again. In addition the club also needed to fill the position of Librarian. Vice President Mike Kidman and Treasurer Howard Hoy agreed to serve another term. Nominations for open positions were held and the following officers were confirmed by unanimous vote:

Joe Godfroy, President; Mike Kidman, Vice President; Ben Hancock, Secretary; Howard Hoy, Treasurer; Beth Potter, Newsletter Editor; Connie Burgett, Member at Large and Ron Huntimer, Librarian.

Submitted by: **Jay Nugent,** Secretary



Photos by Ron Mash



**More CB&Q Freight
House Pics**



Photos by Cindi Hancock & Ron Mash



**Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden
Collaborative effort for 2014 with the
Master Gardeners of Iowa**

**More volunteers are needed. Contact
Ole Olsen to see what dates and times
are still open.**



The selection of miniature plants is fantastic this year. The transformation continues at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. Stop in, you will be impressed.

Thanks to all who volunteered to get this layout set up before Thanksgiving: Gordon Cox, Ben Hancock, Steve Evans, Richard Potter, Louis Miner, Ward Mellerup, Ron Hunter, Joe Vocelka, Gene Elphic, John Chadwick, Doug Doggett, John Myers and Ole Olsen.



Photos by Ole Olsen



**Renee & Mike Kidman
& their ...**



By the Band Man

This month's In the Spotlight column features Mike and Renee Kidman and the Reindeer Pass Railroad. As CIGRS members know, Mike and Renee own and operate Kidman Tree Farm which includes a Gift Shop. When asked how Mike and Renee got started in G Scale Trains, Renee recounts the following story. "A number years ago, I took Mike to Market to help in the purchase of items for our Gift Shop at the Tree Farm. He saw a display of LGB trains and thought it was a good idea to include trains in the Gift Shop prior to Christmas. This was the beginning of what was to become Reindeer Pass Trains at Kidman Tree Farm".

Mike's interest in trains goes back to his childhood. He had Lionel trains as a kid and his parents also had trains as children. Renee did not have trains when she was growing up, but she does have a keen interest in the Chicago Northwestern because her brother-in-law worked for the CNW for 30 years. When asked what aspect of the hobby Mike likes best, he says "running trains" but Renee adds "but we both like landscaping and Mike especially likes hostas". Last spring they converted the three ponds on their layout to two streams, which they say eliminated a lot of extra work of cleaning and gave them more time to enjoy running trains. When asked if they plan to expand the layout, Renee offered a quick "NO".



Both Mike and Renee have retired, but running the tree farm and the train store is really a full time job for both of them. Mike was a Commercial Electrician for 35 years, retiring in 2005. Renee served as a Claim Adjuster in Workers Compensation for over 20 years before she started working on the farm. As mentioned above, keeping the farm going and selling rains all over the world with the help of their web site and via the internet, both Mike and Renee are kept busy. It's not all work though, they both enjoy their Harley-Davidson 3 wheeler, taking rides in the area most weekends, and also a number of longer trips to other parts of the country.

Renee was born in Storm Lake and grew up in Wall Lake. Mike grew up on the Des Moines east side and graduated from East High. They met when Mike was doing electrical work in the building where Renee worked. The building maintenance man set them up for a date and about 1 1/2 years later they got married.

Both Mike and Renee have been active CIGRS members. They have had their layout on all of the six summer tours, hosted club meetings, worked behind the scenes to ensure club activities go smoothly and have helped numerous club members with a start in G Scale Trains.



Important Dates
and Observances
In December & January
2014

Birthdays

Ethel Herrig	12-1
Peter Paeth	12-7
Karl Swessinger	12-13
Susan Tinder	12-15
Dave Dunn	12-27
Connie Burgett	12-28
Marilyn Magnuson	12-31
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

Anniversaries

Steve & Cheryl Evans	1-10
Gerald & Rosemarie Reese	1-19

Central Iowa Garden Railway Society

Key Contacts for 2013-2014

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Next CIGRS Meeting will be
January 18th
at the Polk City Library
Polk City, IA beginning at 1:30 PM
For Directions ...
go to: **www.cigrs.net/** and click on January Meeting
under Upcoming Events.
1500 W. Broadway
Polk City, IA 50226



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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