

# Telegraph

Volume 12, Issue 9

September 2015

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Garden Railway Society

## Red Carpet Welcome in Hampton

Each month I look forward to meeting with CIGRS members to share a meal or treats, discuss challenges and opportunities and share ideas. Although Richard and I were not able to attend the September meeting, Ben, Jay, Ole, and Joe reported the Elphic's have raised the bar. In addition to the usual food and fellowship, the mayor of Hampton, Brook Boehmler and his wife welcomed CIGRS members to the community and recognized Gene and Jane for their contributions to the community. Ben reported,

"Following the welcome, Gene told the story of his Railroad. Like many of us he started out with HO scale, and the rest is history. He has approx. 750 ft. of track, 24 switches, and lots of landscape block." John added, "Gene did a lot of work to get lots of trains running on the day of our meeting. It was really awesome!" Ron Mash, as always has recorded the event in photos. Thanks, Ron for sharing your time and talent!

Our thanks to Gene and Jane for the hospitality they extended to club members at the September CIGRS meeting.

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Pictures by Ron Mash





## “And the Survey Says...”

I always enjoyed listening to Richard Dawson on the Match Game Show. Richard was a talented host and the show was very entertaining. You never knew what the contestants would say. Not to be outdone, CIGRS member, John Olson has put his talent to work on a survey for club members.

John shared, “At the meeting I asked members in attendance to fill out the survey and give it to me when they were done. I said they could be anonymous so they can be frank and not be held accountable for their comments. We are on a fact finding mission and a survey seemed to be the best and fastest way to gather accurate data from our membership.”

At John’s request, we are sending a copy of the survey with this month’s issue of the **Telegraph**. John asks members to be candid and honest about each question or they can pick and choose what questions they would like to respond to. Bring it along with you to

next month’s meeting in Minburn at Ron and Janet’s. The plan is to hand out the results of the survey at the November club meeting with some discussion. To John’s knowledge, this is the first time a survey of this kind was given out to members to provide insight into future planning and direction.

Be sure to take a few minutes to complete the survey. Share your feedback on what works and how we can improve. Does the club bring you value? Do you feel welcome? Do your guests feel welcome? What can we do to recruit, engage, and retain members? How do we reach out to young people with a passion for trains? What support and encouragement can we provide to those who do not yet have a layout, but want to learn and be involved in club activities?

Your responses will provide information to plan for 2016 and beyond. Complete and return your survey, then join us in November as we plan for the future!

## Ron Mash and Janet Moser to Host CIGRS October 18 in Minburn

If you did not have a chance to visit the R&J Railroad on this summer's Tour, or you just want another look, make sure to join us in Minburn at the October meeting. Ron and Janet started working on their railroad in 1997. His layout includes both diesel and steam circa 1950's-1960's. With approximately 400 feet of track and two ponds (with fish!), the R&J is a delightful diversion for G Scale aficionados.

**Did you know?** In addition to their work on the **R&J Railroad**, Janet serves with Karla Gunzenhauser as a Co-Historian for CIGRS and Ron serves as photographer for the *Telegraph*.

### Enjoy Lunch in Minburn's 100 Year Old Historic Depot

Although there will be no potluck at this meeting, Ron suggests lunch at the **Crossings Bistro and Brew in Minburn Depot**. Gene checked with owners Kathy Bice and Amy Culp who assured him they would be delighted to have members stop by for lunch. According to their web-site, they open every day at 6 a.m. for break-

fast and stay open until at least 7 p.m. during the week and 9 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. With about eight tables indoors and half-a-dozen more on the patio in front, Crossings offers casual dining in a coffeehouse atmosphere. Crossings has a full bar and wants to promote Iowa wines. It currently stocks wine from the Penoch vineyard near Adel. Crossings is located at 210 Fourth St. in Minburn. You can contact Crossings at 515-677-2040 or [crossings@minburncomm.net](mailto:crossings@minburncomm.net).

### Directions to Ron and Janet's

Leaving Des Moines on Hickman or Hwy 6. Travel through Waukee and at the stop light on Hwy 169 in Adel, travel north on Hwy 169 to Minburn. Turn west or left on Locust, the first street in town. Travel west on pavement 2 miles to Lexington. Ron and Janet are on the north corner. Look for the "Train Meeting" sign will be on the corner. **Note:** *County Road F-31 is closed between Granger and Minburn due to construction.*



## From the Grand Canyon to Nebraska City

Following a recent conference in Phoenix, Richard and I travelled to Flagstaff where we enjoyed dinner at the Crown Railroad Café located on historic Route 66. Similar to the Hotel Pattee, there was a G scale track that circled the dining room. They also had several unique model trains on display and delightful railroad memorabilia. In spite of the sign posted above the counter to the kitchen, “Danger Men Cooking”, we need not have worried as our Reuben sandwiches and fries were delicious and cooked to perfection. Although the Restaurant has “seen better days” and there weren’t many customers (hard to compete with the big franchises when you’re off the beaten path), the ambience was pure old-time Route 66.

Bright and early Thursday morning, we travelled to Williams, AZ to ride the Grand Canyon Railway for a day trip to the Grand Canyon. Before boarding the train, we enjoyed an outdoor performance by the “Train Robbers” who were down on their luck and looking forward to “lifting loot” from Train passengers. We took our seats in the upper level of the dome car and left the station at 9:30. This is the description of our car from the website:

### **Kokopelli**

Originally built for the premier train between Chicago and Seattle, the Empire Builder was jointly operated by the Great Northern Railway, the Burlington and the Spokane, Portland & Seattle. When Amtrak took over the nation’s remaining



passenger routes, this car joined the new system. From 1984-1985 the car was leased to the Alaska Railroad prior to being stored for a number of years before its sale to a private owner. In May of 2000 GCR leased this car from the Great Northern Dome Company to replace another dome car in service at the time, and renamed Kokopelli after the Native American deity of fertility. Kokopelli is 78 feet long and carries 42 First Class passengers downstairs, and 24 Observation Dome passengers upstairs.

### **And the information about the engine:**

Locomotive No. 2134 is a GP-7 type built in 1953 by the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors Corporation. Engines No. 6773, No. 6793, No. 6776 and B-Units No. 6871 and No. 6860 are all FPA-4, and built by ALCO (American Locomotive Company) in 1959.

The FPA-4 model is utilized for heating cars, and is unique in that it’s designed to be

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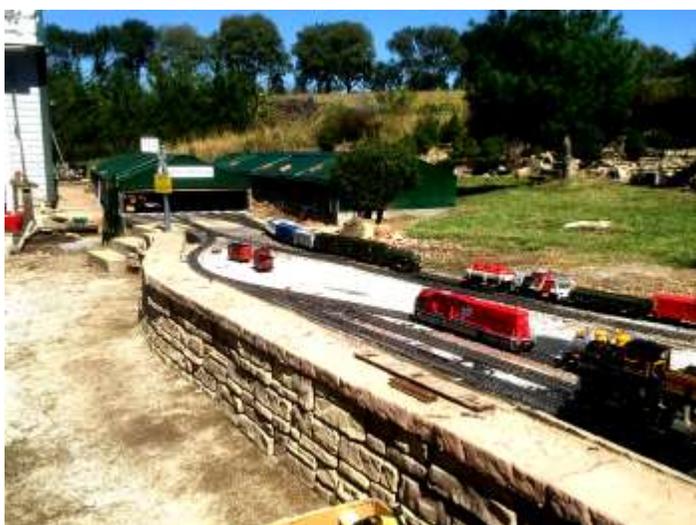
longer for holding a steam generator in the back. Originally belonging to the Canadian National Railway, Locomotive 6793 is the last of the series the FPA-4 model locomotives to be built, and was purchased by the Grand Canyon Railway in the 1990s.

On the way to the canyon we enjoyed snacks and were entertained by a talented musician who played the guitar and sang songs of the west. Of course, what is there to say about the Grand Canyon, it is a wondrous creation! Awe-inspiring! We enjoyed lunch at the Bright Angel Lodge and strolled along the edge of the Canyon for 3 hours. Then, back to the station where the train departed at 3:00 to return to Williams. On the way back, we travelled in the lower level where we were serenaded with great banjo pickin' and more old west songs. The train stopped briefly about 30 minutes out of Williams to pick up the Robbers, who proceeded to "rob" the passengers. The trip was scenic and relaxing.

### **Destination: Nebraska City**

We received an email from John earlier in the week about Marty's Thingy in Nebraska City and decided to stop by on the way home. That required a 13 hour drive on Friday, We saw lots of wind mills, giant feed lots and crop harvesting along the way. What a bountiful land we are blessed to live in!

We drove another 5 hours Saturday morning and arrived in Nebraska City just after noon. Mike and Renee Kidman were set up for business in one of the out buildings with several other vendors also in attendance. Marty's impressive layout behind the house was running and he has added an inner track to the ride-on layout. It was great to stretch our legs in Nebraska City before returning to Des Moines.



**OCTOBER**

**Birthdays**

Renee Kidman 10-1  
 David Elbe 10-6  
 Denis Biechler 10-12  
 Bryan Anderson 10-27

**Anniversaries**

Dick & Marilyn Shellenberg 10-1  
 Karl & Nancy Swessinger 10-13

**NOVEMBER**

**Birthdays**

Paul Schaefer 11-1  
 Dick Isard 11-14  
 Julie Nelson 11-16  
 Cindi Hancock 11-17



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October 18  
Janet Moser and Ron Mash  
21667 Minburn Rd  
Minburn, IA  
Meeting starts at 1:30



The Central Iowa Garden Railway Society has regular monthly meeting at which we discuss one another's current project, 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 locomotive, includes electric operation, batter-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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