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October Preview

Important Dates

Upcoming Events

- *October Meeting at Myers*
- *November Meeting at WDM Police Dept*
- *December—No CIGRS Meeting*

Election of CIGRS Officers

Will take place at the November Meeting.

Your Vote Counts

Please Plan to Attend

September CIGRS Meeting at Renes'

The September CIGRS meeting was held on September 16th at the home on Rob and Amy Renes' in Des Moines. Prior to the meeting Rob was running his train on his newly re-built layout that was completed just in time for the 2012 Central Iowa Garden Railroad Tour. Rob and Amy have put together a well manicured mainline that includes a 12' long curved tunnel, a water feature, trestles on the south end and a number of scenes to include bikini clad sunbathers. Rob is partial to long freight trains. His freight

consist is headed up with two matching USA SD-70 UP locomotives followed by double stacked container cars, a variety of boxcars, two tankers and a USA caboose. The layout features many miniature plants, trees and even a miniature hosta garden. Another point of pride for Rob is the retaining walls he build on the west side of his layout to eliminate a washout problem. He built these walls to scale and used the same building techniques that he used for his retaining walls on the west side of his new garage.



Photo by Ron Mash

Renes Meeting Continued

Business Meeting

President John Myers called the meeting together at 1:30 pm. The first order of business was to ask if there were any guest in attendance, there being none, he asked Rob to tell the club members about his layout. Rob said that this layout is all new since the last time he and Amy hosted a meeting two year's ago. This past year, Rob and Amy were busy taking out their old one car garage and building a new double car garage with additional space for a large workshop area. They have also added a single overhead door on the west side of the new garage for access to the train layout. Rob says after Amy volunteered them for the 2012 Tour, he got busy constructing a new layout for his trains, finishing just in time for the tour in July. Rob is known by all club members to be someone who can get something done quickly. Three year's ago, as a new club member, Rob completed his first layout in a month. Rob says he is also known to be stubborn. After receiving advice from a number of club members not to build a long tunnel without access from the top, he went ahead and built a 12' curved tunnel with access from each end only. This all worked well until his son Caleb, while running the trains, got some of the container cars derailed in the tunnel. Needless to say, it was a chore to get them out. Rob says, "I'm not a very good listener".

John Myers next called on Joe Godfroy to discuss the workings of the Modular Committee. Joe brought forward a list of recommendations to handle the additional supplies for an expanded modular system to include a new trailer. After some discussion,

Photo by Eric Kamp

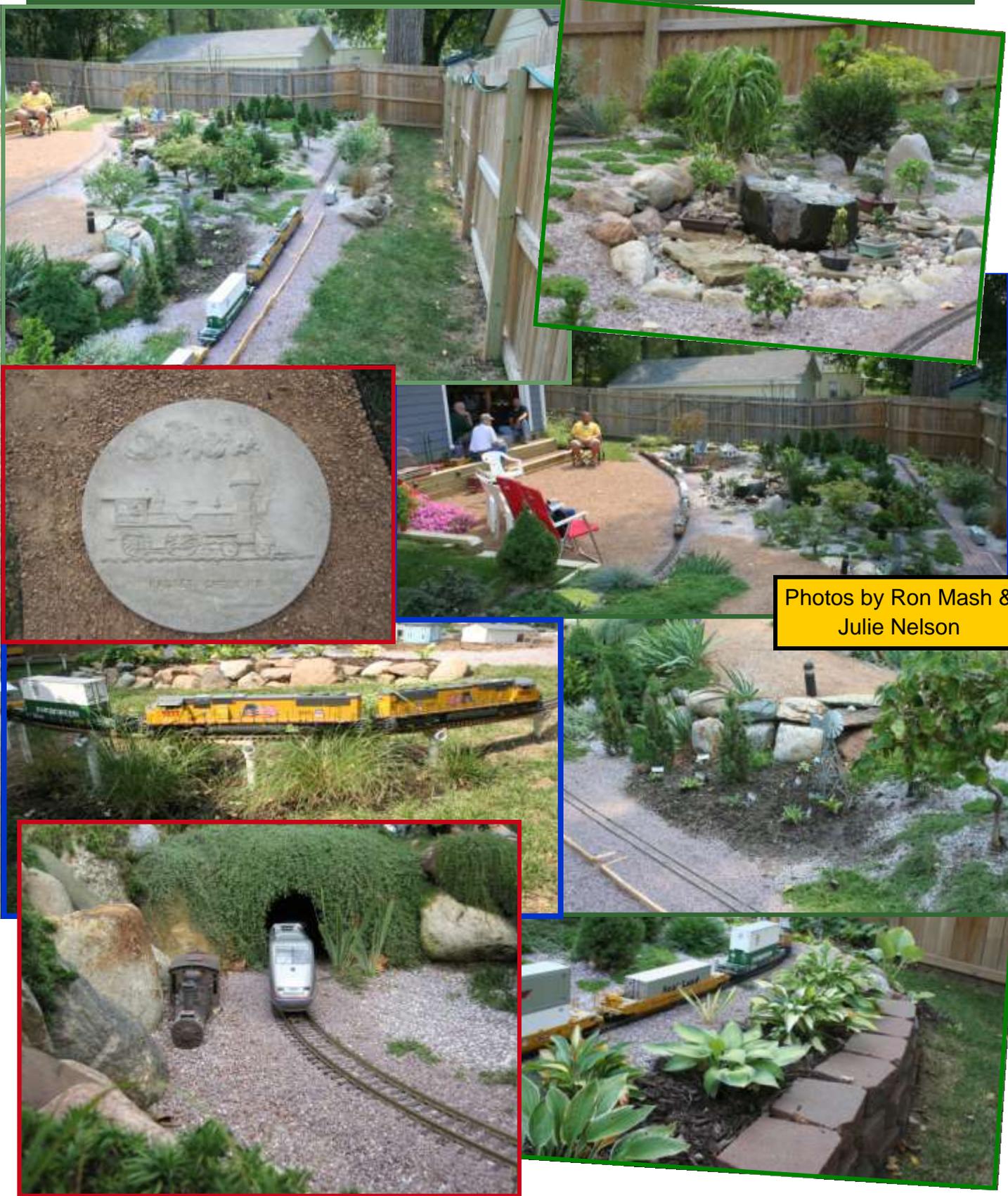
President Myers suggested we table the discussion on expanding the modular to a later date. In conjunction with the discussion on the modular, Rob Renes suggested that instead of setting up the tables at this year's Flower and Garden Show, we should build a more realistic layout on the floor to look more like one we would see in a garden. Discussion centered around putting together a more garden like layout, and the convenience of putting the layout on the tables. Rob said he understood the ease of constructing the layout on the tables, but he believed that younger people would gravitate to a layout in a garden setting, and this would attract younger people to garden railroading. Rob volunteered to head a committee to set up the layout this spring at the Flower and Garden Show. John Olsen motioned and Louis Minor seconded that the club appoint Rob Renes to set up a ground level layout on a one year trial basis, and that he would recruit a committee to help set it up. Motioned passed.

Old Business

As a follow up to a question from last month's meeting about building crossing signals with blinking lights like those club members on the 2009 tour had built, John Myers asked John Olsen and Jay Nugent to check into what supplies were needed and what the cost might be. Each signal will cost about \$100 to make. Six club members said they were interested in building a signal for their railroad. John Myers will email everyone and set up a workday for those inter-



Renés' Bassett Creek Railroad



Photos by Ron Mash & Julie Nelson

Club Meeting Notes Continued from page 2**Central Iowa Garden Railway Society****Key Contacts for 2012****New Business**

John Olsen asked if everyone was getting the newsletter via email or through the postal service. He said if anyone wanted the newsletter sent to additional email addresses, he could accommodate their request. Gene Pritchard reminded the club of the upcoming Covered Bridge Festival in Winterset. Gene will have his layout running at the Winterset Historical site and would welcome help from club members to run trains for visitors. Gene Elphic reminded the club that there would be a model train swap meet at the Franklin County Fairgrounds in Hampton on October 28th.

The next order of new business was an introduction by Jay Nugent about updating and modernizing the CIGRS web site. The goal is to make the site more useful to club members and also more appealing to prospective members who may be searching the web for information regarding garden railroading. Jay said he had met Nancy Fusco, a web designer, a few years ago who had just moved to Iowa. He recommended her to Mike and Renee Kidman as someone who could update their train store and tree farm website. Mike said that he and Renee have worked with Nancy and have been very pleased with her work, and also with her fees. Club officers, John Myers and John Olsen discussed some of the technical issues that are needed to update and asked for input from the club. A very informative discussion followed. Nancy Swessinger motioned that a committee be formed to pursue having Nancy Fusco build a new web site for the club. Rob Renes seconded the motion. Motioned passed. A committee headed up by John Olsen, and including: Mike Noland, Hillary Minor, Amy Renes, Larry Nelson and Jay Nugent will meet to work out the details and report back to the membership.

Reminders

John Olsen reminded the club that Marty Cozad's steam up will be September 21 & 22. Karl and Nancy Swessinger reminded the club that everyone is invited to their 50th wedding anniversary open house. John Myers reminded members that he and Lori are hosting the meeting next month and that Jerry Kluver will be there to talk about plants.

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By: The Band Man

Featured in this month's "In the Spotlight" column is Jim and Marilyn



Magnuson from Sully. Jim and Marilyn's start in G scale trains has a rather interesting story line. Jim's adult son Peter and Marilyn decided that Jim needed more to do, so for Christmas in 2006, they bought him two Aristo Union Pacific Heavyweight passenger cars, and a Aristo 0-4-0 starter set. Jim says the trains set in their boxes for three years, coming out from time to time to show friends and family. But, after a visit to Kidman Tree Farm (where the band man first met Jim and Marilyn) in 2009, and a discussion for the need of wide radius track and a large engine to pull his passenger cars, Jim and Marilyn were convinced that becoming members of CIGRS was in order. Their first purchase after joining the club was at the Richard Jones auction. They bought some track, an LGB steam engine, some cars and some buildings. It was time to start on a layout!

Marilyn has a Master's degree in landscape architecture, so her knowledge of plants is a real plus. Jim likes the building aspect of the hobby and built the bridges that were featured on the layout for the 2011 Garden Railroad Tour. His most recent building project is a 1:29 scale Canadian style wood cribbed elevator. This elevator is a perfect complement to his custom 4 bay hopper cars with Key Cooperative logos. This brings up another interesting story. Jim is the General Manager and CEO of the Key Cooperative, a diversified grain marketing and farm supply company, with 19 Iowa locations and one operation in Oklahoma. As an anniversary surprise, Marilyn worked with Mike and Renee Kidman to order two undecorated USA 4 bay hoppers, and along with Jim's office staff help, had decals custom made for each car. It was all a big secret until Marilyn brought the cars into the office one day as a surprise gift for Jim.

Jim has always been interested in trains. As a child his father gave him a used Lionel 027 set of passenger cars, a couple of engines, some freight cars and some buildings. Jim still has these trains. Marilyn's interest in trains is more about the landscaping. This interest in plants has taken a unique turn as well. In their front yard, Marilyn has created a prairie that contains all the plants native to Jasper County. The prairie began with nearly 800 plants that were started from seed with an addition of 200 more the following year. The prairie takes care of itself now except for an annual burn.



Important Dates and Observances In October

Birthdays

Renee Kidman	10-1
David Elbe	10-6
Bryan Anderson	10-27

Anniversaries

Dick & Marilyn Shellenberg	10-1
Denny & Sandy Glick	10-9
Karl & Nancy Swessinger	10-13

Reminder Special Event for Swessinger's

The Children and Grandchildren of Karl and Nancy Swessinger invite you to join them for an Open House celebrating their parents 50th Wedding Anniversary on **Saturday, October, 13, 2012 from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM at Hope United Methodist Church, 2203 South Third Ave. , Marshalltown, IA.**

No gifts. Just your presence will be greatly appreciated!

Magnuson Spotlight continued from page 5

Jim is from Lexington, Nebraska. Marilyn's family moved to Lexington for her senior year in high school, and this is when Jim and Marilyn met. They went to prom together. They were married in 1974 at the end of Jim's junior year at the University of Nebraska where he received both his bachelor's and master's degree.

Jim and Marilyn love to share their passion for garden railroading with friends and neighbors. Each fall they host a "**community train day**" open house for kids of all ages who love trains.

Directions for Swessinger's 50 Year Anniversary Bash in Marshalltown from Nancy:

These are the instructions to the church for our open house. If coming from the south 330 to 30 turn east on 30 and go to 14. Turn left on 14 into town which becomes Center. Take that to Southridge (Long John Silvers on the corner) turn right on Southridge and go to the stop sign which is 3rd Ave. Turn left, go about 1 block and the church is on the left.

If coming from the north take 14 through town to Southridge (Again Long John Silvers on the corner) turn left on Southridge, go to the stop sign which is 3rd Ave, turn left and go about 1 block and the church is on the left.

October Meeting Preview

Lori and John Myers Penoach Valley Railroad

By John Myers

As with many of us, I had an electric train or two as a child, and ran them as much as I could. But with no permanent layout, this meant stepping over the rails first in our living room, and then in my bedroom. My first set was an Allstate brand, and later a Marx set from the 50's was added; both saw many scale miles before I determined cars and girls were a higher priority. After that, both sets again saw many hours with my brother at the controls before finally being retired from daily service. Thanks to my parents, both sets are currently in my basement.

After Lori and I bought our first house, I started building a framework in the basement to finally set up a permanent layout. The plans were drawn, the materials procured and much of the construction completed when we determined we needed a different home – one with fewer termites, and a nursery. The trains were again returned to their boxes and stored away.

As our sons became older, they received their first Lionel set and I immediately set up the mandatory sheet of plywood in the basement so we could run their trains. And during this time, I started collecting some older O gauge

pieces and new items as well, for my children. However, the trains never took hold in their lives and basement space holding our layout was converted to a recreation room. Again, the trains were returned to their boxes and stored away.

About the time the plywood was retired, I learned about garden railroading and the seed was planted. In September of 2008, Lori and I were out in our MG and I suggested a trip to Hobby Haven to explore G Scale. Of course we were promptly handed Mike Kidman's business card and told to go to the tree farm for trains. My first impression was that a Christmas tree farm was probably not the place for the expertise I was looking for, but we tried it.

When we finally made it to Polk City, we spent quite a bit of time looking at the sets and talking with Mike. Even Lori was impressed and suggested I buy a small set that day and take it home to get started with – until she saw the prices. We settled that day for an LGB catalog and lots of ideas. But, before we left, Mike

suggested we look into the local "club", that was holding their next meeting in Redfield, near our home.

When anyone asks me why we joined CIGRS on the October afternoon, I tell them we joined on the spot because the banter between the club members was worth the \$15 price of admission. Of course, we started the Penoach Valley Railroad the next spring and have been "training" since. And maybe someday, the O Gauge trains can emerge from their boxes again and find life in a permanent layout as well.

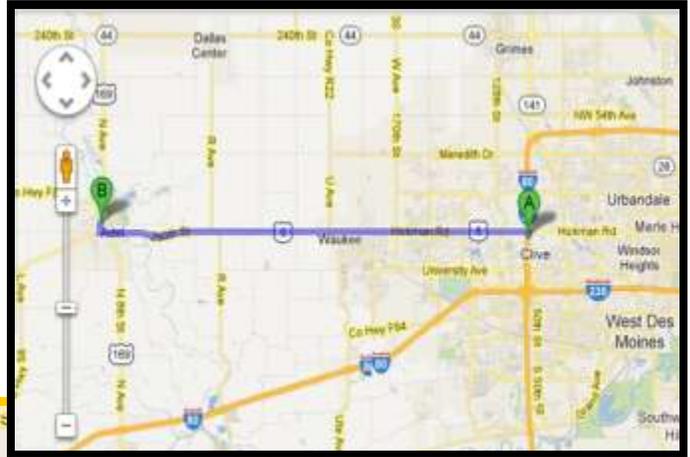


Photos by Ron Mash

**The Home of Lori & John Myers
1306 Court St., Adel, IA 50003
515-993-5435**

From the Metro: Proceed West from I 80-35 on Hickman Road (Co Road 6) into Adel. Turn north on SH 169 to Court St. and turn west (left) to 1306 Court St. on your right.

From the South: I 80 and SH 169 go north into Adel. Continue north on SH 169 north to Court St. and turn west (left). Proceed to 1306 Court St. The Myers residence is on the north side of the road (to the right).



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.

For more information, contact:

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**We're on the web:
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