

# The Telegraph

**Dateline: July 2017**



It was a glorious summer day for the July 30th meeting of CIGRS at the home of Gene & Jane Elphic, located in the small town of Hampton, Iowa. Although sunny and bright it wasn't as stifling hot as it had been in recent days.

The trains were running smoothly and everyone enjoyed the layout.

The meeting started with one of our famous CIGRS potlucks with plenty of food for all. A big thank you to our host and hostess for the pork, meatballs, and all the fixens were on the menu. A great thank you also goes out to all who provided family recipe side dishes to make the meal complete.

As our industrious leader decided to take his family on annual vacation CIGRS Vice President Mike Kidman was in charge of running the business meeting.

Although the day was not as hot, it was decided to have the business meeting in the garage out of the direct light of the noon day sun.



Our host, Gene and his right hand man.

After a quick nod to our host and hostess, Mike got down straight to business.  
**(Cont. Pg 3 Meeting Notes)**

# **Destruction and Resurrection:**

## **The demolition and rebuilding of the Boone & Rio Grande**

By: Howard Hoy

The decision did not come quickly. The first signs that Boone was not the ideal retirement location came in 2013. That year the railroad's recently hired yardmaster Chloe Katt was run out of town by ASPCA vigilantes who claimed she was a neighborhood trouble-maker. This added to concerns about viability of the B&RGW: the railroad was constantly plagued by flooding and attacks by acorns, walnuts, and other tree debris. For these and other reasons the decision was made in June 2016, to seek a new location in the Des Moines metro area. Emphasis was placed on finding a location suitable for a large railroad operation, free of trees. After short search, a location was found in Altoona IA.

Plans for the move included dismantling and relocation the B&RGW to Altoona. August 14, 2016 was set for the final operating session and dismantling. After the last trains were run and a beer and bratwurst luncheon, the cars and engines were packed, buildings removed and track lifted. A crew of friends and relatives, including CIGRS members John Olsen and Ben Hancock, loaded the railroad into Mike Kidman's trailer and it was shipped to Altoona.

The new railroad was to be longer than the B&RGW, and flatter, but still

following the narrow-gauge prototype, called the San Juan Valley Railway. Work began in Altoona to reconfigure the six-track indoor storage yard to three tracks and create an entry door into the garage where indoor storage would be. The outdoor storage shed had another eight feet added to allow fifteen car trains to be accommodated. A survey of the proposed route was made in October. At this point, further work was suspended until Spring 2017.

During the Winter months, several additional structures were built in anticipation of the enlarged railroad. Track materials began arriving: 1200 feet of code 250 nickel silver rail in January, 13 cases of AMS ties in February and March, and 224 rail clamps on various dates. Track laying began on April 25<sup>th</sup> and continued through May using up the supply of used materials brought from Boone. Construction slowed a bit in June as new track panels had to be assembled from scratch. Rail joints became in short supply for a time, but once a re-stock was received track laying resumed, the last track being laid on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Cross-leveling and ballasting was finished on July 6<sup>th</sup>. The line has been tested and proven reliable, double-headed trains of up to 26 cars having passed over it successfully.

(Continued on Pg 3.)

## **Destruction & Resurrection (cont.)**

**The San Juan Valley Railway will be the site of CIGRS August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.** The trains will be running by 1:00 pm, with business meeting at 2:00 pm. This is not a luncheon meeting, those wishing to have lunch in Altoona are recommended to the Fireside Grille, 523 8<sup>th</sup> St SE. **The San Juan Valley Railway is located at 311 5<sup>th</sup> St Pl SE – Altoona.**

## **Meeting Notes: (cont.)**



Mike asked for and received a Treasurer's Report from our Elected Treasurer, Howard Hoy. Howard passed out copies of our general account balance sheet which included results from the recent Garden Tour. The Tour grossed similar to previous years but netted more due in part to increased tour pricing and less than normal expenses. Donations and tour proceeds were just below \$1,670 & expenses just below \$160.

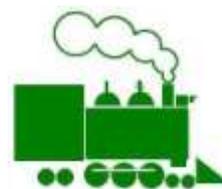
Mike asked for any suggestions regarding the tour. A couple were brought up, including the need for more CIGRS members to help assist running trains at locations on the tour and some kind of a get together on that weekend for tour hosts and

CIGRS members. Both were taken under advisement.

Mike also announced that CIGRS is looking for a location for our 2nd annual Christmas Party which is scheduled for the weekend of December 9th, 2017. Speak to Ole or Mike if you are interested.



Phil Deats spoke about the Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad's suggestion to include a loop to run G scale Thomas during their annual "A Day out with Thomas Event". This year the dates are Sept 17-18 and Sept. 23-25. More details, I am sure, will follow.



**CENTRAL IOWA  
GARDEN RAILWAY  
SOCIETY**

# More Photos from Elphics



Ron Hunter demonstrating how to trim mini plants to look like mini trees.



CIGRS members watching Trains run from a shady spot.



The Ladies ignoring trains completely and enjoying each other's company!



From the looks on Marilyn Shellenberg's and Janet Moser's faces whatever he said must have been funny!



Our host and Ben Hancock solving an intense issue no doubt!

# Elphic Layout Photos



Wild, Wild West.



What a unique Oil Dome!



Fairy Castle.



Go Home Gnome!



Water Feature!



Play Ball!



Love the Static Caboose!

# Ole's 2 Cents Worth

Good day everybody, we had a great week up in Northern Minnesota last week. It was also pretty special to sleep in my own bed again. So Peter has the July Telegraph in the works and is waiting in me to add my 2 cents. I looked through my email and checked my calendar to see a couple of fun things to do this week. I headed over to Urbandale to visit with Bob King for a cup of coffee and some great conversation about constructing a new layout. He's got some great ideas. Next I went over to John Chadwick's to see what he is doing out on his layout and wow, he is preparing for a major expansion too. John and Dianne will be hosting our September club meeting.

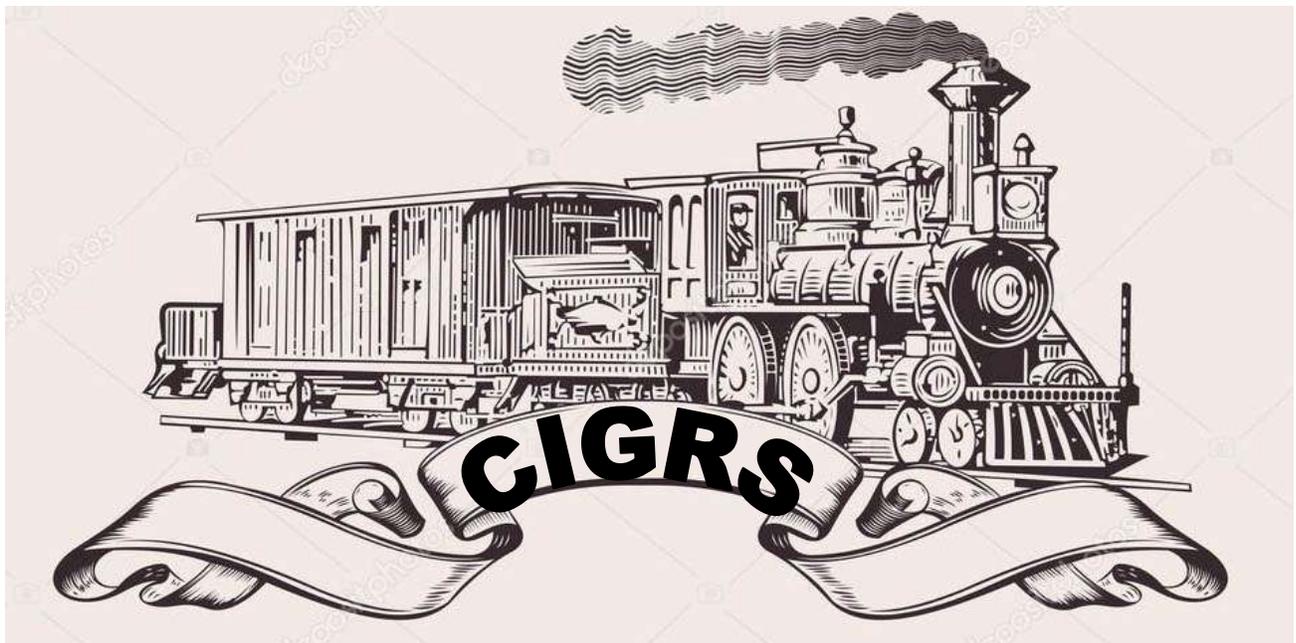
Howard and Kay are hosting us for the August meeting and Howard will have lots for us to see on the 20th. Check out the website for directions and a map.

Have fun at the Fair and I hope to see you in Altoona later this month.

Keep those trains on the rails!



( *Ole'* )



# More Photos from Elphics



Me thinks someone likes the CNW, what do you think?



Ben Hancock rail carrier slick as a whistle. The engine drives itself right into the box he places the slide on end piece and away he goes.

# Layouts for Sale

I don't know about you but I have noticed a drastic increase in the grey hairs on my head. This appears to be happening to all of us. (except for those of you who may be just loosing it rather than letting it go grey.

It was announced at the meeting that Marilyn Shellenberg is looking to donate her late husband's rolling stock and track to a needy CIGRS member.

Long time member Old Dave Dunn is also looking to sell off his indoor layout to a willing buyer.

I also have recently sold off my outdoor layout and have begun selling down rolling stock and buildings.

I know we have auctioned off entire layouts in the past and if the club wishes to do this that would be fine for me. But for now I am in the process of proposing to Marilyn that she let me Inventory and sell off her husband's track and rolling stock and g-scale layout one piece at a time just as I have been doing with my own.

This is my proposal. I will display a half a dozen items in each newsletter with a minimum suggested bid price. I will then bring these items to the next CIGRS meeting with silent bid sheets for everyone to bid on. Highest bidder gets to take the item home. money goes to owner. You can submit bids to my email account before the meeting if you are not going to be able to be present. As an added bonus (if you think like that) this will require me to be present at many more meetings than I have in the past.

I will also make this same proposal to Old Dave but he may have other plans. If anyone else has stuff to sell bring it along to a meeting and I will add it to the pile. This month I will start with several items of my own layout that I am looking to sell.



Plastic Wheels, Hook & Loop couplers, Built by LGB, hand break is missing wheel. No Box, Minimum bid \$25



MOW Crane and Way Car. Metal Wheels Way car has broken one set of trucks & is missing roof. Parts for truck are included. USA Trains Crane has original Box. Minimum bid \$40. Sold as a set & as is.

These items owned by Telegraph Editor Peter Paeth. Email is CIGRS @ hotmail.com

# CIGRS Birthdays and Anniversaries

## Birthdays

Barb Kilmer	8-8
Sam Mora	8-11
Connie Joy	8-12
Jay Nugent	8-16
Lavonne Isard	8-23
Hillary Miner	8-24
Kathy Cox	8-25

## Anniversaries

Larry & Julie Nelson	8-8
----------------------	-----

## Birthdays

Connie Biechler	9-7
Michael Kidman	9-9
Gene Pritchard	9-12
Eric Kamp	9-20
Joe Vocelka	9-20

## Anniversaries

Gene & Donna Pritchard	9-9
Peter & Sandra Paeth	9-14

---

## Key CIGRS Contacts



### President

**John (Ole) Olsen**  
olsenj725@me.com  
(515) 306-9699

### Vice President

**Mike Kidman**  
kidman@att.net  
(515) 984-6946

### Treasurer

**Howard Hoy**  
howardandkay-hoy@mchsi.com  
(515) 236-4267

### Secretary

**Ben Hancock**  
benhancock@windstream.net  
(641) 203-0895

### At Large Representative

**Gene Elphic**  
eerepair@msn.com  
(641) 425-4553

### Newsletter Editor

**Peter J. Paeth**  
cigrs@hotmail.com  
(515) 238-1155

### Club Librarian

**Ron Huntimer**  
huntimer4@aol.com  
(515) 964-1851

### Club Co-Historians

**Karla Gunzenhauser**  
shaker6071@gmail.com  
(641) 462-2542

### Club Co-Historians

**Janet Moser**  
levi4950167@yahoo.com  
(515) 677-2124

## About Our Organization...

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, battery-powered and trains that actually run on live steam.