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**WWW.NORTHSTAR-NRHS.ORG**



Basset Creek Park Trestle, late April 1991. Below is an arial view, with the trestle in the center of the picture. Penn Ave. is on the left, Cedar Lake Road is on the right.



## **Northstar Chapter National Railway Historical Society Board of Directors**

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*Editor* Position open.

### **Little Fellows Grave**

Fact or fiction? I decided to find out.

Since the boss and I had a meeting with the planning district to present the 2004-2008 Transportation Plan (STIP) in Watertown, SD, I decided to see Little Fellow's Grave.

The grave is located east of Clark. According to the marker located near US212, a local pioneer boy befriended a local trainman. The boy would be trackside everyday to wave as the train went by. This went on for some time. Then one day, the boy was not there. Soon a week went by the trainman became concerned about the well being of his friend. After trudging to the family's homestead, he discovered the boy was very sick and had just died.

Sadden by the loss of his friend, the trainman suggested that "Little Fellow" should be buried trackside where he watched the train pass. Thus, he was laid to rest no more than 30 feet from the railroad track.

Every Memorial Day, the C&NW trainman would decorate the grave in honor of his lost friend. As time passed, the trainman died and the local Rotary Club took over the honor of caring for the grave. More time passed and the railroad line the boy loved was scheduled for abandonment. This segment of track ran from Redfield to Watertown SD. But something unusual happened.

When the line was salvaged, the scrappers left a portion of the railbed and track intact to coincide with the fenced in grave of Little Fellow. I would not have believed it had I not seen it myself. Unfortunately I forgot my camera but will bring it next time and take a picture.

Thanks to a kind hearted corporation, Little Fellow will forever rest beside the railroad track he loved.  
Dave in Pierre, SD

Credit for this article goes to  
<http://www.visi.com/~mfrahm/mnrail/>

### **North Star Chapter Membership Information**

HELP sign-up new members; please invite them to attend a meeting. Current dues are \$32 per year for an individual, or \$34 per year for a family, and this includes national dues. Please send dues payments to Joe Fishbein, Treasurer Northstar Chapter, 1092 Humboldt Av, West St. Paul MN 55118.

About the newsletter front cover-----

The arial view was taken from the "TerraServer.Microsoft.com" web site.

If anyone has a picture which would make for an interesting cover for this newsletter, please make it available to the editor. It will be scanned into a computer, and will be promptly returned to you.

### **July Meeting Notice**

JULY meeting will be at the **St. Paul Fire Training Center**. Date is **July 19**, 7 o'clock pm. The program will be given by Bill Herzog, a video of **the 2002 N.R.H.S. Convention, The Grande Canyon**.

## **Minutes of the May 17, 2003 Meeting of the Northstar Chapter NRHS.**

The meeting was called to order by chapter president Dan Meyer at 7:17 p.m. in the St. Paul Fire Department Training Center with 25 members and guests present. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2003 meeting, as printed in the May 2003 issue of Northstar News. A correction was made that the 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Iowa chapter would occur on May 3, not May 1. The motion to approve the minutes, as corrected, was seconded and carried.

Treasurer Joe Fishbein gave his report. Cash in checking account, as of April 1, 2003 was \$11,644. Checking account interest was less than \$1, for income during April of \$0. Newsletter expenses were \$57, for total expenses during the month of \$57. Cash in checking account as of April 30, 2003 was \$11,587, of which \$2,756 was in the General Fund, \$7,091 was being held for the 2004 National Convention Committee, and \$1,740 was in the 8327 Restoration Fund. Total chapter membership is 84, of whom 68 have renewed their membership for 2003. A motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and carried.

Director Marty Swan reported there was not much news from the national NRHS. They are getting ready for the Baltimore convention, which will include a directors' meeting. NRHS President Greg Molloy arrived in the Twin Cities on May 1st. He had dinner with the chapter officers and convention committee members. The next morning, Marty audited the NRHS souvenir sales stock, of which he is in charge.

Trip director John Goodman reported the restored Milwaukee Road steam engine #261 will not run this year, mainly because of high insurance costs. Soo Line engines 1003 and 2719 won't run either. Also, there won't be any steam operation this year at North Freedom, WI. There is a crisis in insurance. This is not a good situation for those who want to ride behind steam or run excursions. John said he hadn't been able to do anything locally. Duluth is still doing OK.

Dan Meyer was at the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Iowa Chapter of the NRHS. He couldn't get there until the last minute, so he didn't ride the special train, but did he chase it! It was pulled by an F unit diesel. Dan also reported Bob Moen has purchased a portion of the Charles City Western and he extends us an invitation to come for a visit.

Dan Meyer reported for the 2004 National Convention Committee. They will meet tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. at the Amtrak station. They will meet with someone representing the group having restored and now operates Soo Line 2719. We will also need ideas on promoting our convention at this year's convention in Baltimore. He asked where are the displays we put together to promote our chapter. We need to consider contingencies in case we can't operate any mainline excursions. For example, the CP Hudson doesn't meet FRA requirements.

The Northstar News situation was discussed. We don't know if Jeff Williams is still interested in being editor. Dan Meyer, Dawn Holmberg, and Glen Holmberg put together the latest issue.

We will have our chapter picnic on Saturday, June 21st at 6 p.m. in the park across the tracks from the Amtrak depot in Red Wing. The chapter will reimburse someone for bringing a grill. Those attending should bring lawn chairs. (This will replace our regular June membership meeting.)

Chapter elections were discussed. Marty Swan noted that he isn't tired of his position on the board as National Director. Dan Meyer can't run for re-election as Chapter President because of term limits. We need candidates. We will need to get a nominating committee together.

The proposed loan from the chapter to the 2004 NRHS National Convention Committee was discussed. NRHS National will tell us what interest rate we should charge the convention committee. Moved by Russ Isbrandt that we authorize a loan to the 2004 National Convention Committee of up to \$7,000 from the proceeds of the Certificate of Deposit, at an interest rate as suggested by the NRHS National National Convention Committee. The motion was seconded by John Goodman and carried.

The chapter board will have a special meeting during the break after the business meeting to take care of a resolution needed for the convention.

More old business - Marty Swan said that he had reservations for our annual holiday party at Tinucci's for Sunday, Dec.7, but they will be closing due to the highway construction project and may not reopen in time. If that happens, we will go elsewhere. John Goodman said that he had spoken with Clark Johnson - Dick Prosser says that he is now healthy and can travel. Dick wants to come and put on a program for our June meeting. It was suggested that Glen Holmberg call him and try for July. There was a discussion of possibilities for future programs. We haven't heard anything more on the 8327 restoration project. Kurt Peterson said that he would have someone work on the number needed.

New Business - There was an open house at the shop where Milwaukee Road steamer #261 is stored last Saturday. They have yanked out many of the boiler tubes for inspection.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and carried at 7:55 p.m. Raffle items were a calendar, an NP loco brochure, and a cut-out of an NP boxcar. It was announced that soft drinks are available.

The program was a video tape of steam in China. Kurt Peterson was on that trip and he even showed up briefly in one scene.

Respectfully submitted, David Norman, Secretary, Northstar Chapter of the NRHS.

Northstar News  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

PLACE STAMP  
HERE