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Northstar Chapter
National Railway
Historical Society
Board of Directors

President Daniel Meyer
763-784-8835 (home)
dan@meyer.net

Vice President Doug Johnson
612-825-6458
djoh322721@aol.com

Past President Andrew Koetz
218-343-6453 (home)

National Director
H Martin Swan
hmswan@webtv.net

Treasurer Joe Fishbein
651-457-1610 (home)
jmf@visi.com

Secretary David Norman
612-729-2428 (home)

Trustee Mark Braun
320-587-2279

Program Chairman
Glen Holmberg
n0oyz@hotmail.com

Editor Position open.

Member Leigh Neprude reports the following:

Security has been tightened up at one of the best train watching spots in the twin cities - University Avenue on the BNSF (27th street 1 block east of University Ave in Northeast Minneapolis). The owners of Bemis Tape are frustrated by the trash left behind by sloppy railfans who are leaving their garbage in the parking area near the tracks, and they have notified the police. You may sit there and watch trains on the condition that you stop in the office and get written permission to be there from the receptionist before parking and watching the passing parade of trains.

About the annual Holiday Banquet

Our 2003 Northstar Holiday party will be January 4, 2004 at Mancinni's Char House, located at 832 West 7th street in St. Paul. Our Holiday party will begin around 4:30 pm with dinner and program to follow. Dinner for the evening will be a choice of 8oz. steak or chicken breast, salad, appetizer and beverage. Total cost for the dinner with tip and tax will be \$22.00 Make your check payable to the Northstar Star Chapter, NRHS. The reservation deadline for the Holiday Banquet is December 15th.

North Star Chapter Membership Information

Yearly dues are \$33 (this includes \$21 National dues and \$12 Northstar Chapter dues, plus \$3 more if you would like a family membership) made out to Northstar Chapter, NRHS. Mail it to treasurer, Northstar Chapter NRHS, 1092 Humboldt Ave, West Saint Paul, MN 55118, or stop by one of our Saturday meetings and see what we are about. You won't be disappointed!

HELP sign up new members; please invite them to attend a meeting. Current dues are \$33 per year for

About the newsletter front cover-----

Picture from the Robert MacKnie Collection. Minneapolis, Northfield, and Southern center cab locomotive #21, taken at an unknown location; date also unknown.

October Meeting Notice

October meeting will be at the **St. Paul Fire Training Center**. Date is **October 18**, 7 o'clock pm. The program will be given by David Vos, a slide show of the inside of the Sherco Power generating plant in Becker, Minn. He will also show video of the unloading of coal hoppers inside the plant.

Who was Robert O. MacNie?

by Dave Norman

At the September membership meeting, part of the program included a sampling of the large batch of slides the Northstar Chapter inherited from deceased chapter member Bob MacNie. Many of us who were involved years ago in the Northstar Chapter, the Minnesota Transportation Museum, and a long since defunct organization called the Minnesota Railfans Association may have known Bob personally. Those who only became members in more recent years may wonder who he was.

Bob was born in Minneapolis in 1910 and lived in this area all his life. He died of natural causes at his home in Wayzata on May 31, 1984 at age 73. He never married. He graduated from Yale and had an MBA from Harvard. He worked as an investment analyst for IDS. In an obituary published in the July/August 1984 issue of the MTM's magazine, The Minnegazette, Bob is described as a quiet, unassuming guy who smiled and offered his friendship without hesitation.

Bob joined the Minnesota Railfans Association in the early 1950s. He participated in many of the MRA's excursions (as we saw in the slide show and will see more of in future installments of the showing of his slides) and served as an officer of that organization. (Although there was no direct connection between the MRA and the Northstar Chapter, both groups had similar interests and activities, so it should be no surprise that many of those who were active in the MRA later became Northstar Chapter members.) (In the heyday of the MRA, it was much, much easier to talk the railroads into running special excursion trains than it is today.)

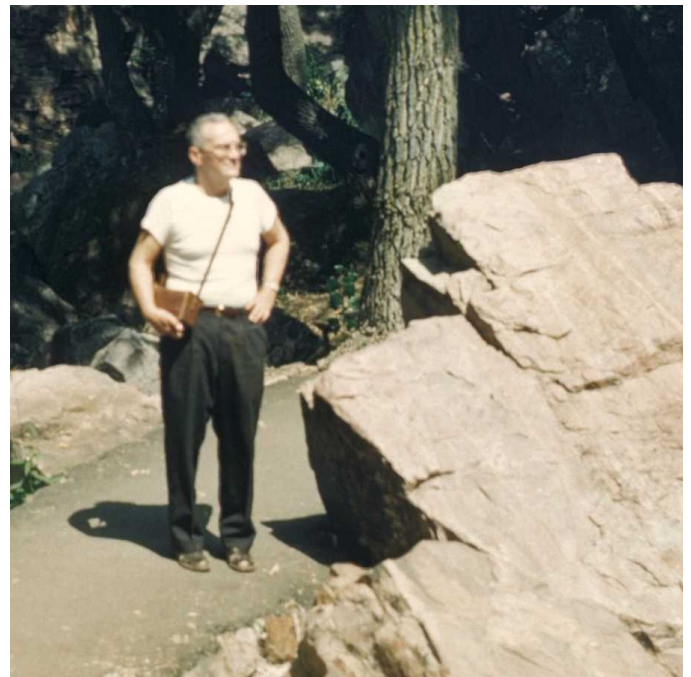
Bob joined the Minnesota Transportation Museum in 1970 and was active in that organization. He worked on the track gang and as a streetcar motorman and conductor on the MTM's Lake Harriet Trolley. He also was a car attendant on the museum's early steam excursions. He served as the MTM's treasurer for three years and helped to keep the museum solvent with unpublicized cash donations.

Bill Graham of the MTM, who wrote the obituary, described how Bob fondly recalled riding the streetcars and the streetcar company's express boats on Lake Minnetonka when he was young. One of the boat routes stopped at Casco Point, where the MacNie family spent their summers. Surely Bob would have been happy to see and ride the MTM's restored steamboat Minnehaha.

Bob was a founding member of the Northstar Chapter of the NRHS.

Even Bob's burial had a rail connection. With about 20 MTM members there, his ashes were brought aboard car 1300 at the Lake Harriet stop. The car then ran to the carbarn area at the south end of the line before it went to the north end of the line at Lake Calhoun. The gate in the fence around Lakewood Cemetery was opened. Then a representative from the funeral home and the personal representative of the estate carried the ashes into the cemetery for burial.

So, next time you see some of Bob's slides at a chapter meeting or in the Northstar News, you will know a little bit more about the man who took them.



Minutes of the September 20, 2003 Membership Meeting, Northstar Chapter of the NRHS

The meeting was called to order, at 7:10 pm, in the St. Paul Fire Department Training Center by President Dan Meyer, with 17 members and guests present. There was a correction to the news item in the September 2003 issue of Northstar News on signal towers - one of the towers should have been called Park Junction Tower. Also, in the "boilerplate" in each issue, the correct rate for family membership is \$35. After these corrections were noted, it was moved, seconded, and carried, for the minutes of the August 16, 2003 membership meeting, as published in the September 2003 issue of the Northstar News, be approved.

Treasurer Joe Fishbein gave his report. Cash in checking account on August 1, 2003 was \$5,022. During August, checking account interest was less than \$1, making total income for the month of less than \$1. We had newsletter expenses of \$103, for total August expenses of \$103. Cash in checking account on August 31, 2003 was \$4,919, of which \$3,179 was in the general fund and \$1,740 was in the 8327 restoration fund. Total chapter membership is 79 and one member has already renewed for 2004.

National director Marty Swan gave his report. He will be attending the national NRHS Board of Directors meeting next month on Long Island.

Trip director John Goodman reported that restored Milwaukee Road steamer 261 will be running to Winona on the first weekend in October. The train will leave from Minneapolis. There will be an extra fare to continue beyond Winona to La Crescent, where the train will be wye'd. John said that he understood that the Saturday trip was sold out, but that tickets are still available for Sunday..

Dan Meyer reported on plans for the 2004 national convention, Rails to the Northstar. We had a committee meeting this afternoon. Representatives from the NRHS national convention committee were there and they were impressed by our progress so far. We will need a lot of people to help do things at the convention, including acting as car hosts. The UP is willing to come and run a trip on June 30th. Dan described the planned schedule of events, but pointed out, at this time, the

schedule is only tentative. For example, Saturday and Sunday, July 3rd and 4th are not nailed down. People who are willing to help or who have ideas should call Dan Meyer.

Forming the nominating committee was discussed. National director Marty Swan said that he is willing to run again for that office. We will need a new vice-president as Doug Johnson is likely to run for president. Dan said he has to talk the other present officers to see if they want to run for re-election.

Marty Swan brought up the holiday party. Tinucci's, where we have held the party during the last few years, is closed due to highway construction. They are expanding their deli area, but the rest of the building will only be open as a party room, with a higher price than the former buffet and requiring a guarantee of at least 50 people at the event. The James J. Hill House would rent for \$600, plus we would have the cost of a caterer. We have contacted the owners of the old Milwaukee Road depot in Minneapolis have been contacted - we are waiting for information from them. Various people made other suggestions. Broadway Pizza in Minneapolis has many rail artifacts. Also suggested were Red Lobster in Roseville, Countryside Restaurant in Roseville, and China Buffet on West 7th St. in St. Paul. Several people said that they would get information on the places that they had suggested. They are to give this information to Dan Meyer. Moved by Marty Swan that Dan Meyer is authorized to evaluate information on possible places to have our holiday party and to make the decision as to which place we will have our party. The motion was seconded by Russ Isbrandt and carried.

Other business - Marty Swan said that NRHS nationally has developed a new class of membership for those 18 and under at half the regular dues. This would require a bylaw change if our chapter is to do the same. Marty Swan moved that the North-star Chapter establish a student membership for those 18 and under at one-half the regular dues. Bill Herzog seconded the motion. The motion was immediately tabled until the November meeting so the proposed bylaw change can be published in the October issue of the Northstar News.

Considering the 8327 restoration project, Steve Sandberg will have obtained insurance coverage soon. After he shows the policy to the owner of Bandana Square, he should be able to start

work. Painting will wait until next spring so it will be fresh when the national convention takes place.

Bill Herzog showed a toy steam locomotive that was included in the "goodie bag" he got at this year's national convention in Baltimore.

Adjournment was moved, seconded, and carried at 7:42 p.m. Program director Glen Holmberg was not present to give us a preview of upcoming programs. Door prizes were given out. It was announced that exchange newsletters from other NRHS chapters were available at the front table.

The program consisted of slides from the Bob MacNie collection and slides of a trip Joe Fishbein took many years ago to Colorado and Utah.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Norman,
Secretary, Northstar Chapter NRHS

Northstar News
2642 Clearview Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55112

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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HERE