

STONE LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**NEWSLETTER
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THE NEW STONE LAKE DEPOT/MUSEUM

This past year has been a very historic year for Stone Lake, Wisconsin. Many wonderful things have been happening, including the restoration of our railroad depot into an outstanding historical museum. The old depot was moved from Norman and Mary Skille's property in April, 2008. Funds for the move were provided by our own Cranberry Festival committee and American Transmission. We extend a sincere THANK YOU for these generous donations!

RAFFLE WINNERS

A huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who helped make our raffle so successful!

Raffle winners were as follows: 1st Prize: Roger and Joanne Turchany; 2nd Prize: Stone Lake Scholarship Fund; 3rd Prize: Judy Gillette; 4th Prize: Syd Story's daughters Cara, Dana, and Jan; 5th through 9th Prize: Steve Schneider, Jenny Metcalf, Pete Bono, Walter Shambaugh, and Danni and Jim Dixon; 10th through 20th Prize: Gretchen Burton, Roe Johnson, Randy and Linda Nord, Ron Carlson, Connie Zurawski, Pam and John Walters, Carolyn Lofgren, Judy Reynolds, Laurie Cook, Harold Kissinger, and Marie Langham.

We are happy to tell you that the entire cost of the depot/museum project has now been covered by donations and raffle ticket sales and we are now free and clear of all debt! Thank you for your caring and generosity.

ARTIFACTS DONATED IN 2008

In early July, Floyd and Carol Carlstrom brought us the original 1908 Wisconsin Railroad Map which we accepted as a gift and placed under plexiglas on the wall of the station agent's office. Also, in July,

Dan Peterson gave us a perfect lateral file which we needed very badly, with its special hanging folders. We are using this to create our "FAMILY HISTORY" files. PS: We now have 400 family histories in this file!

In August, Gene and Doris Skille visited the museum and brought us the original ticket sales desk from the old SOO Line depot. They also salvaged the old horsehair rug that had once graced the main entrance into the depot, and brought that to us too. Robert Sauerbrey brought us his Railway Express chest and several of the items he used on his job when he worked for the railroad, and he has promised us some interesting stories about those days.

In September, George and Mousie Virnich (photo to follow), gave a beautiful gift to the museum, a pump organ over 100 years old. This organ still works, and has been in Mousie's family over 60 years. In September, John Montgomery brought us a brand new SOO Line sign, still in the box, many beautiful dishes once used in railroad dining cars, several railroad lanterns, the station agent's telephone with its scissor arm, and the beautiful rolltop desk that was once in use in the depot.



George and Mousie Virnich posing alongside the organ they donated to the museum

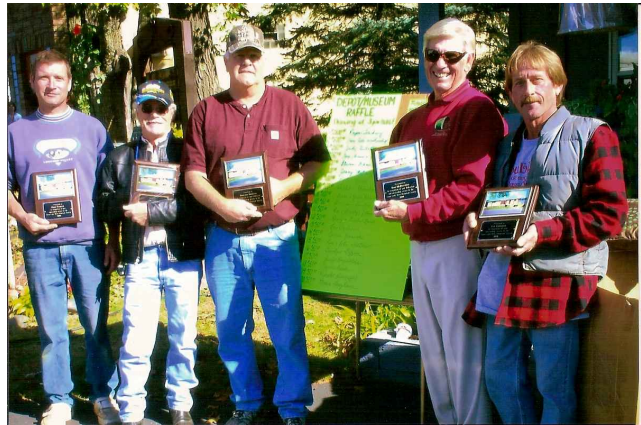
John and Judy Paine brought in the depot desk that John's father, station agent Jim Paine, had used; the Ervin Boone family gave us a cranberry sorter to be shown in our cranberry history display, and Jeff Dejewski brought us an original table from Ryan's Ice Cream Parlor. Just as displays were being made ready and we found we had no way of displaying the hundreds of photos we have, Karen Skwira donated a perfect picture display unit, and the gals from the historical society were able to complete their work. When all of the photos were posted, Judy Gillette donated the expensive plexiglas needed to protect the pictures. Many other items are being brought to us at intervals and we will keep you informed in future newsletters. THANK YOU to everyone who is helping to make this a very special museum.

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

We have recently been visited by a representative of the National Trust For Historic Preservation, and he has suggested that we submit the paperwork to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. We have now begun the process and will keep you informed. We have been told if we are accepted, it can take as long as two years to finalize the process. Our volunteers did their best to take the building back to its original design and appearance, and we thank them for being so creative. Did you know that the entire operator's bay had been cut off when the building was being moved in 1995, and two of our volunteers found the old plans and restored it for us, even carving the decorative corbels that are seen over the windows?

VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE AWARDS

On October 4, 2008, during the raffle drawing at the Stone Lake Cranberry Festival, five of our major volunteers received recognition for their dedication and outstanding service to the project (photo follows). Over 1,400 hours were donated by more than thirty volunteers, with the five shown in the following photo taking the lead in coordinating the work to keep the project moving along.



(Left to Right): Dave Fichter, Jim Young, Howard Morgan, Tom McDonnell, and Jay Lofgren receiving their recognition awards

Many of these same volunteers have expressed their willingness to continue with Phase II of the project, which will be further explained in this newsletter.

PHASE II – PRESERVING OUR RAILROAD HISTORY

As the restoration project proceeded this summer, many railroad enthusiasts visited the project and offered much appreciated advice along the way. One of the suggestions we received several times was to visit other depot/museum restoration projects, which we did do, several times.

In the course of these visits, we were most impressed with those museums that offered a real glimpse into railroad history. We found that several had exciting “hands on” displays which were real railroad cars that young and old alike could enter, handle the controls, sit in the engineer’s seat, or imagine themselves in

the dining cars, etc. The one car we enjoyed the most, and felt all of our visitors would enjoy, is the SOO Line wood caboose.

We have located two SOO Line wood cabooses that are being offered for sale right now, and have inquiries out on two others. We are visiting sites where these can be seen, and with some expert advice from SOO Line historians, know what will be needed to restore one of these to its original condition. **Phase II will be to add a SOO Line caboose to our museum!**

The caboose will be located on a railroad track which will run in front of the museum, and will become part of our museum so people may walk into it, look at the exhibits displayed there, and experience the feel of sitting in a real railroad caboose. Visitors will be able to sit in the cupola, handle the controls, sit at the dining table or on the bed, view the old biffy, and look in the cupboards. We feel it will be a first time experience for many, regardless of their age.

We will be seeking benefactors for this project, and will have a raffle and other fund-raisers as well. All funds raised will be specifically designated for this project, and the volunteers who will handle the restoration are ready and waiting. The cost estimates for this project are as follows:

PROJECTED PHASE II COST:

Cost of caboose: \$18,000
Cost of moving: \$ 7,000
(two cranes and two trucks to move)
Cost of restoration materials: \$ 5,000
TOTAL: \$30,000

BECOME A BENEFACTOR OF PHASE II, THE CABOOSE ADDITION TO OUR NEW MUSEUM

The Stone Lake Area Historical Society is a 501 (c) (3) organization; your donation is tax deductible.

STONE LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY		
We hope that you will want to become a member of our historical society.		
NAME:	_____	
ADDRESS:	_____	
—	_____	
—	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/>	LIFETIME	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	FAMILY	\$ 8.00/year
<input type="checkbox"/>	INDIVIDUAL	\$ 5.00/year
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