



# WISCONSIN & SOUTHERN RAILROAD CO.

## MAKING TRACKS

September, 2005

A Newsletter designed to inform interested people on new developments that are taking place on the Railroad that serves their Communities

### SERVING THE FOLLOWING COUNTIES

Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Winnebago

## WISCONSIN & SOUTHERN CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad celebrated its 25 Year Anniversary on Saturday, July 23rd with over 5,000 people in attendance and many locomotives and railroad equipment to see. Featured, and undoubtedly the main attractions, were free train rides given to the public and a chance to ride in the cab of a vintage steam locomotive.

A total of eight roundtrip train rides were given throughout the day, beginning in Madison at WSOR Johnson Street Yard and traveling to Waunakee. The train set consisted of a diesel electric locomotive pulling three bi-level commuter coach cars. Each train ride, which had a capacity of nearly 500 people, was booked to capacity despite the weather.



On static display was the WSOR 4025 25th Anniversary Commemorative Locomotive along with several types of WSOR freight cars, including two business cars and the 10A locomotive. In addition, there was equipment used for maintaining the railroad corridors as well as historic railroad motorcars on display. And, folks from Operation Lifesaver were present handing out safety literature. *“25 Years of operations is an extraordinary milestone in today’s industry and we are happy to celebrate this special occasion with the people in our communities”*, stated William Gardner, President of Wisconsin & Southern Railroad.

## JANESVILLE ROUNDHOUSE TURNS 100 YEARS OLD

On July 9th, 2005, members of the public helped in celebrating the 100 Year Birthday of the former Milwaukee Road Roundhouse in Janesville, WI. On display was a SOO 1003 steam locomotive, the WSOR 4025 25th Anniversary Locomotive and the WSOR 10A locomotive. The one day all day event included free tours of the Roundhouse Building and demonstrations of the newly renovated turntable in action. Featured on the grounds were booths from Operation Lifesaver, Trains Magazine and the Janesville Jaycees who offered food and refreshments.

The open house gave members of the public an opportunity to see first hand the intricacies of an operating Roundhouse, as well as to explore the grounds which make up the Janesville railroad yard. The Janesville Roundhouse was built in 1905 by the Milwaukee Road and later purchased by Wisconsin & Southern Railroad in 1999. There were over 1,000 people that attended the event and with the help of all the volunteers it was a big success!



## LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR APPROVE 5+1 PLAN

On Monday, July 25<sup>TH</sup>, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle signed the new 2005 / 2007 State Budget. This budget now provides a funding level for the State of Wisconsin's Freight Railroad Preservation Program (FRPP) of \$6 Million per year, up from just \$2.25 Million from previous budgets. As a result, the FRPP has received a funding level that will help rebuild the state-owned railroad system in a much timelier manner than the original funding would have allowed. Due to the state's increased investment in its freight railroad infrastructure, the system will be safer for employees and the public and more jobs will be brought to the State of Wisconsin.

As the contract railroad operator for the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co. will work cooperatively with the existing 4 Rail Transit Commissions and 20 Wisconsin counties to help preserve our highway systems and increase industrial tax bases throughout the state by encouraging industrial development along the railroad corridors. This public/private partnership had been in place for 25 years and has become even stronger now with the increased support.

### "2004 Economic Snapshot"

- ◆ 150+ Industries served
- ◆ 20 WI Counties served
- ◆ 19,500 Industry Employees
- ◆ \$21.6 Million Taxes Generated
- ◆ 50,000+ loads of freight hauled

Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co. would like to thank the Wisconsin State Legislature, Governor Jim Doyle and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for their continued support of this program. "Wisconsin & Southern will continue to address the problems that face our industry and work towards bringing more jobs to our state while preserving our highway systems", stated William Gardner, President & CEO of Wisconsin & Southern.

A very special thanks goes to all the employees and family & friends of the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad for their efforts in supporting this campaign as well as our customers and rail supporters. "Without the support of our constituents, this campaign would not have been a success", added William Gardner.

## SALES & MARKETING NEWS

Wisconsin & Southern welcomes new industries and assists in the expansions of existing industries. With recent escalations in fuel costs, industries are finding that transporting products by rail is an inexpensive alternative to shipping by other means. Listed below are new customers or customers who are expanding their operations due directly to the availability of efficient and reliable rail service.

**Cargill** at Milton is now operational and receiving inbound carloads of malt sprouts and soybean meal on a steady basis. Cargill will soon be sharing the Milton Industrial Park with an ethanol plant that will break ground this fall.

**Hanke Trucking** began site preparation in Reedsburg for their transload facility that will serve Grede Foundry. Hanke will receive cars of coke and scrap iron on the new spur track that is planned for construction this fall.

**Milk Specialties** at Boscobel is upgrading their rail spur to do test shipments of fatty acid. Officials at Milk Specialties state that if test shipments go as planned, a long-term strategy for using rail will be developed.

**Whitewater Rock & Mulch** will become the Midwest Distributor of landscaping materials for Mountain West Products of Rexburg, Idaho. This company will ship decorative stone and wood mulch products to Whitewater, WI for local distribution.

**ReLoad, Inc.** recently leased 100,000 sq. feet in the former Northern Railcar building facility in North Milwaukee with access to Wisconsin & Southern Railroad. ReLoad plans to receive inbound coiled aluminum & steel beams at their new facility for local distribution. ReLoad plans to be operational by Fall of 2005.



**Cargill Animal Nutrition in Milton finishes construction on its rail spur located in the Milton Industrial Park.**

## WSOR PROMOTES SAFETY ALONG THE RAILS

Our communities are growing in population more than ever. Some are growing at a slower rate than others but many are bursting at the seams. Along with this growth is more automobile traffic to congest our roads and highways. Because a personal vehicle offers convenience, independence, and pride of ownership, it is the preferred mode of transportation. Unfortunately, these conveniences can have a down-side distraction. Sometimes we tend to give less attention to our surroundings such as the road, other vehicular traffic, even approaching freight trains.

The WSOR is concerned about railroad grade crossing safety and is doing something about it. As a way of reminding motorists of the constant danger present at all railroad grade crossings, WSOR initiated a program 3 years ago installing wayside warning signs at select crossings through its system. This program continues today. The signs are there to remind people that trains can't stop quickly. An average freight train traveling 55 MPH takes about one mile to come to a complete stop given fair weather conditions.



The WSOR is an active participant and supporter of the Wisconsin Operation Lifesaver Program whose goal is to promote safety. The WSOR asks you to please be attentive and safe the next time you approach a railroad crossing.

## ED STOLTZ RESIGNS FROM WRRTC AFTER 17 YEARS

After 17 dedicated years of service to the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission (WRRTC), Ed Stoltz resigns to spend more time with his family and friends. Since April of 1988, Ed Stoltz served on the WRRTC as a representative from Waukesha County. Mr. Stoltz served many of those years as a member to the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors. *“Ed Stoltz set the standard high for representing the public interest while at the same time doing what is best to help preserve vital freight rail service in Southern Wisconsin,”* said Frank Huntington of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.



For much of his term, Ed Stoltz served on the Executive Committee Board as the Treasurer thus overseeing certain financial activities such as invoicing, spending, capital & operating budgeting & annual audits. The Wisconsin & Southern Railroad thanks Ed Stoltz for his service and wishes him the best in the future. Pictured is Ed Stoltz holding a plaque presented by Bill Gardner on May 6th. Standing from left to right is Karl Nilson, Steve Foye, Frank Huntington, Ed Stoltz, and Bill Gardner.

## WISCONSIN & SOUTHERN WELCOMES STEVE BESKE ABOARD

The WSOR welcomes Steve Beske aboard as the new Superintendent of Transportation. Steve previously worked for the Canadian National Railway formerly the Wisconsin Central as Assistant Superintendent at Fond du Lac, WI. *“Steve has come to WSOR with several years of experience in railroad operations and a notable safety record,”* stated Bill Gardner. *“Steve possesses excellent management skills and a know how for building positive relationships,”* added Bill Gardner.

Steve began employment on August 1, 2005 and since has been visiting WSOR terminals and meeting people in all departments. Over the course of the next 6 months, Steve will be meeting customers and getting acquainted with existing service parameters as well as trying to meet new efficiencies. Welcome aboard Steve!



Mark your Calendars

## Wisconsin & Southern Railroad to Hold its 8th Annual State Of The Railroad Address

The 8th Annual WSOR "State Of The Railroad Address" will be held on Friday, September 9th, 2005 at 1:00 PM at the Madison Marriott West Hotel, 1313 John Q Hammons Drive in Middleton, WI. WSOR is pleased to welcome **Keynote Speaker Governor Jim Doyle** to this years event.

Following Governor Doyle's remarks, President and CEO of Wisconsin & Southern Railroad William E. Gardner will present this years Recognition of Appreciation Awards to a deserving organization followed by the Annual State of the Railroad Address.

If you would like to attend this years event and the catered luncheon (beginning at 12 Noon), please contact Ken Lucht at: (608) 243-9101 Ext. 207 or by email at [klucht@wsorrailroad.com](mailto:klucht@wsorrailroad.com). Reply only if you plan to attend the luncheon. Cost of the lunch is \$8.00 per person. Additional details regarding this event, including an agenda and map, can be found on our website at [www.wsorrailroad.com](http://www.wsorrailroad.com) under Upcoming Events.



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