



## **Preserving History**

In December of 1867, the Central Branch Union Pacific Railroad crossed the Big Blue River at Irving. Originally chartered as the Atchison and Pike's Peak Railroad in 1859, the 100 miles from Atchison to Waterville was completed in January of 1868. A section of those historic rails was heavily damaged by the rains this past April. A Go Fund Me web site has been created to raise money in support of repairing the damage. The URL is <https://gofund.me/7e2395eb4>. Donations can also be made during the annual Blue Rapids Community Foundation Match event September 12-14, or directly mailed to MCRHS, P.O. Box 242, Waterville, KS 66548.

## **Cowboy and Cowgirl Day**

Blue Rapids will be celebrating the historical and cultural contributions of cowboys and cowgirls to American heritage on Saturday, July 25. MCRHS will offer four rides from the Blue Rapids rail yard east across the Big Blue River, roughly on the hour starting at noon. It will be first come, first served but you can sign up for a time that day. Other activities will take place at the Community Center and Fair Grounds from 10am to 2pm.

## **Want to Ride?**

At a recent board meeting the decision was made to try and offer a scheduled ride every other weekend as well as private rides by appointment. Sandy will post information about any scheduled ride on Facebook.

Although rides are not available between the two towns, there are still two good options. Going east from Blue Rapids across the Big Blue River has always been a popular ride. After getting a washout just east of Second Terrace RD repaired in January and foliage trimmed to the west end, the four miles from Waterville to the Washington County line is again available. A little known option is having a birthday party or other event at "Somewhere", a shelter donated by the Waterville Lions Club. To schedule a ride call Sandy at 785-562-8803.

## **New Member**

Dale Linkugel, a retired UPRR engineer from Oketo, KS recently joined MCRHS. As a new member he facilitated the acquisition and donated a set of new brake shoes for the Waterville motorcar. Apparently brake shoes for a 1970s Fairmont A4 motorcar are not easy to come by. There are a lot of members of NARCOA (North American Railcars Operators Association) but the Fairmont A4 model is larger and heavier than most speeders used by NARCOA members.

## Frankfort Subdivision Model Train Club

Three members of MCRHS are also members of the Frankfort Subdivision Model Train Club. The club meets every 2 weeks at their clubhouse in Frankfort unless they are displaying at a train show or other event. A fourth MCRHS member who is also a model railroader recently suggested a module (section of a larger display) be constructed to advertise the existence of MCRHS and the CBRR. A prototype module was used for a display at the historic UPRR Depot in Marysville on June 6. A more permanent module was used in a display at the Frankfort Summerfest, June 27. The display at the Frankfort Summerfest measured 26 ft by 44 ft.



The MCRHS HO scale module is 6 feet long and 2 feet deep. The backdrop consists of photos with the left 1/3 being in and around Blue Rapids, the middle 1/3 being MCRHS/CBRR in general, and the right 1/3 being in and around Waterville. The layout has three main line tracks at the front. The rolling stock pictured is a static display with the left end (Blue Rapids) being more modern and the right end (Waterville) representing the steam era. Not included in the photo is a water tower for the steam engine that was donated by one of the club members. The track at the back is a reversing track on which a speeder with a crane and work cart or a pump car automatically travels back and forth, pausing for 6 seconds at each end.



The next event for the Frankfort Subdivision is on Saturday, September 12 in Olsburg, followed by two days in Beatrice on October 17 & 18. In November there will be a display at the Manhattan Public Library for a week, including election day with a lot of foot traffic. Next spring the club will display at the Wamego Tulip Festival two days and another 2 days at the Sand Hills Event Center in Lincoln, NE. One of the largest retail stores for model railroading is Spring Creek Model Trains in Deshler, NE. They host a big two day show every other year and the Frankfort Subdivision will probably be invited to display in the summer of 2027. Great opportunities for MCRHS to reach a larger audience!