

THE MARKER LIGHT

NUMBER 2

THE PORT HURON & DETROIT RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUMMER 2008

PH&D RR OFFICE SAVED!

BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS
OPEN HOUSE JUNE 21
STATE NON-PROFIT STATUS ACQUIRED



0-6-0 #40, Baldwin Class 6-38-D, at the 32nd Street yard. It would be retired in 1945.

COVER: Wish we knew who that engine man was.
PG. 2: From Where I Sit; General Office building saved!
PG. 3: Sprucing Up!
PG. 4: Founding Board Meets



FROM WHERE I SIT

You can play a useful part in this effort. Get on board early by officially joining the *Port Huron & Detroit Railroad Historical Society* at the Spring picnic. Then, sign onto a committee and share your talent. Each of us can play a part toward restoring the "wye".

On Thursday and Friday, the 17th and 18th of April, I spent the longest time in the my old office room since my last day of employment, on December 13, 1984. I looked out from a window without glass upon the same "wye" curve that had been my view as interchange clerk for 12 years. It brought back some great memories. I turned to the left and saw Agent Grace Paterson sitting at her desk in the corner. She taught me respect for accuracy in tabulating numbers by the day, week, and month. I looked further and saw Bill Schultz poring over interchange lists. In front of him was Jack McCormick, on the phone with GTW's Ken Koob. Behind me was Jim Wood, fresh from the yard, tabulating car numbers from train reports from the day before. And now, the room was empty, the windows had no glass, having ended up in a small pile in the middle of the floor. Most of the green floor tiles were gone, as was the black vinyl baseboard.

As I continued using the broom, I kept thinking of the exciting opportunity to reinvent the PH&DRR as a "transportation museum" of the highest order. On Saturday morning, that dream began its journey. The new board took the first significant steps and, in doing so, began the process which will eventually result in the entire "wye" being a tribute to the legacy of the PH&D and a Blue Water area down-river transportation museum.

Although we have a long road ahead of us, we have a very strong board, composed of men who will make this happen. Each brings talents which will come into play at different times. All recognize the potential and are committed to achieve the goals, one step at a time. Each of us can play a part toward restoring the "wye".
Sandy Duffy, Editor

PH&D OFFICES SAVED!

Ted Frantz, one of the founding board members, is the new owner of the former general offices of the PH&DRR. He bought the building from his brother and, when asked, replied that he "...didn't want it to go to anyone else. I expect that the *Society* will be the eventual owner."

We are indeed fortunate that he and his brother stepped in before others. While the paperwork was in transit, he didn't waste time and quickly started to improve the appearance. During the week before the first meeting of the founders, a team of men erased graffiti, relocated CSX gravel piles, and removed piles of concrete and wood from the lawn. Inside, junk filled two dumpsters and after, downstairs offices were swept of the broken glass. By the time the founders met that Saturday morning, the building looked less forlorn and even gave a hint of what could be.

A highlight during the work was the visit of Kay Duffy Houghton, the widow of former President, George Duffy. Accompanied by her daughter Michaela Duffy Kramer, she went through all the rooms, gingerly stepping over debris.

After Ted led them upstairs, they gazed in disbelief at the sky, visible through the exposed rafters in the executive secretary's office. Emotion rose when Mrs. Houghton entered her late husband's office and saw the gaping window frame overlooking the parking area and the east yard. All those years came back at once and brought tears to her eyes. She hugged Ted and thanked him for his efforts.

We thank him and his brother for giving us a step in the door toward the rail transportation museum we envision!



Office of the President



Ted Frantz, wife Cindy, with Sandy, Mino & Kay

SPRUCING UP!



Before and...



After!



Magic-man Joe with Ted Frantz



Blasting away at graffiti



Pat Roberts's office



No place to go but up!



The boardroom

BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS

On April 19, the founding board met for the first time at the offices of Port Huron Township. They elected officers (*President, G.Y. Duffy; Vice-President, "Bud" Gilbert; Secretary, Dennis Klymko; Treasurer, Joe Mericka*), motioned to apply for State non-profit status, and approved and adopted the "purpose" of the *Society* (see issue #1). Annual membership dues were established at \$20, and a first annual Spring Membership Open House was scheduled for June 21.

At the following month's meeting on May 24th, the members were pleasantly surprised with the arrival in the mail of notification from the State of Michigan that their application for State Non-profit status had been approved! The board went on to adopt the by-laws and recommend that application be sought for the Federal Non-profit status. After a meeting with Duffy, Mericka, and local attorney David DeVeldorf, that process has begun.

With both the State and Federal Non-profits, the PH&DRRHS will be able to go after funding sources to help lay the foundation for a fully-funded operation and help restore the office as the Society headquarters.

Discussions with the CSX Corporation about the future of the roundhouse have been initiated and the board hopes to meet with officials of the railroad very soon.

Recently, the office has been "spruced up" for the first Open House June 21st. Rooms on both floors have been cleared of debris, swept, and vacuumed. By the way, great news occurred when former Agent Grace Paterson returned for the first time in over 30 years to open a downstairs vault to reveal files that were previously thought removed and buried! Stay tuned for a Fall Open House where you can bring your old photos and scan them to add to the archives.

Lastly, we have much work to do in our first year and we hope that, after you join, you'll volunteer to serve on the committees that will make our Society that much stronger! Sign-up sheets will be on hand at the Open House.

The purpose of
The Port Huron & Detroit Railroad Historical Society is:

To collect, preserve, and archive historical documents, photographs, drawings, artifacts and equipment relating to The Port Huron & Detroit Railroad Company and its predecessors, The Port Huron Southern Railway and The Detroit Bay City & Western Railroad;

To obtain, restore and maintain the roundhouse at 32nd Street for use as a museum, as well as other structures, artifacts, and rolling stock, as they may become available;

To accumulate, conserve, and index all data relating to the above-named railroads for the use of scholars, rail fans and scale modelers.



(l-r) Frantz, Gilbert, Sawdon, Beedon, Duffy, and Klymko

PH PORT HURON and DETROIT RAILROAD CO.
- St. Clair Blue Water Route -

D PORT HURON & DETROIT RAILROAD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP CARD

NAME: _____

JOINED: _____ MO _____ YR

PRESIDENT: _____

JOIN TODAY AND HELP SAVE THE ROUNDHOUSE!
The Port Huron & Detroit Railroad needs your talent. We need volunteers to help out on committees. Membership, publicity, web design, resource development and acquisitions are just a few of the areas that you can help out with. See Bud Gilbert and become active!

**BOARD of DIRECTORS
2008**

- D. Scott Beedon**
- George Y. Duffy, Jr.**
- Ted Frantz**
- Thomas J. Gaffney**
- Cecil "Bud" Gilbert**
- Dennis Klymko**
- Joseph Mericka**
- Bruce Sawdon**
- Allen Stevens**

OLD PHOTOS? WE'LL SCAN & RETURN!
EMAIL WHLRYDR@aol.com or
CALL 810-984-1931

GET OTHERS ON THE MAILING LIST!
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CALL 810-984-1931