



2018.08.01.00301 (35mm)



2018.08.01.00779 (35mm)



A sampling of Bruce Meyer's 35mm color slides: (above) Omaha Road 243 rides the Spooner, Wisconsin turntable on July 1, 1956; (left) Illinois Central 907 takes coal at Bloomington, Illinois on March 9, 1956; (below) a Bevier & Southern engineer takes a break at the front of ex-CB&Q 4955 at Bevier, Missouri on December 1, 1958. The ICRR view is an Ektachrome transparency which had faded to a muddy brown tint. Many of the Ektachromes suffer from color shift. The color was corrected in Photoshop. All photos by Bruce Meyer/LSRHA.

### 2018 Collections Thus Far

Lake States has received ten collections through the month of July for this year. Some collections contain a few artifacts, and/or images. Others are larger. The most significant thus far is the Bruce Meyer Collection consisting of artifacts, images, photos, negatives, and 35mm slides. We would like to thank Bonnie Meyer for selecting LSRHA as caretaker for the collection. Totals currently are at more than 20,000 slides and over 4,000 photos. We are anticipating additional images as the transfer of the collection is not complete at this time. This is a very large collection of images and it will be some time before cataloging will reveal just what the collection includes. We look forward to revealing the collection to our followers (a small sampling can be seen on this page).

—Bob Ristow



2018.08.01.00062 (35mm)

## Scan, Scan, Scan!

THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS have been a flurry of activity in the “Scanning Department.” In July, a total of 462 Ritzman postcard-size and 5x7 black-and-white negatives were scanned in two sessions—all C&NW steam and diesel photographs. These are being processed and will eventually be uploaded on-line. There is about another 600-700 C&NW negatives to scan and then we will move on to the Milwaukee Road material. We’ll continue to feature samples in future issues of *LSN*.

Speaking of uploading, we are putting finishing touches on our on-line photo archive which will be hosted by smugmug.com. When complete, it will be possible to view thumbnails of images, search by keyword, and purchase prints and downloads. Our goal is two-fold: making the collection available for viewing/research/enjoyment to the general public anywhere, and generating operating revenue (through sales of prints and downloads) to cover our day-to-day operations at Baraboo. We are hopeful that this new on-line archive will grow to become the centerpiece of Lake States, expanding our visibility and the value of our collections to the community.

As Bob mentions on the front cover, Bruce Meyer’s collection is beginning to arrive at our Baraboo facility. Meyer was a prolific photographer from the twilight of steam (mid-1950s) until the 2000s. He worked for EMD, and had a passion for steam locomotives. His best known work was in the black-and-white medium format. But he also shot 35mm color slides, these of which were some of the first material to arrive at Baraboo. The slides are numbered in numerical order and stored in dozens of Logan Slide Trays. Not wasting any time, we dived into this treasure drove and began scanning the 35mm slides with a Nikon Super Coolscan 5000 film scanner. A slide feeder has speeded up this process. Thus far about 1,000 slides have been scanned. These will be uploaded to the on-line archive as they are processed and metadata completed.

Another collection receiving attention is that of Madison-native Gilford Heath. His railroad collection was donated to Lake States in 2014 by his widow and has remained in storage waiting for cataloguing since then. Early in July, by chance, one of the totes containing his collection was opened to investigate, and hundreds of negatives were uncovered. We have begun scanning these and transferring them from manila envelopes to poly archival negative sleeves that can be kept in 3-ring binders. This collection numbers about 1,000 negatives, mostly centered on C&NW, ICRR, Milwaukee Road, and even MCRM views, taken in the 1960s and 1970s in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

And lastly, on July 2, Don Pelletier assisted yours truly with the processing and scanning of Illinois Central company glass plate negatives from the Lee Hastman collection. We worked our way through the first of five boxes and were able to transfer 77 8x10 glass plates to new archival envelopes and padded reinforced boxes. Each was scanned on the flatbed scanner before being placed in envelope. These scans will also be on the on-line archive. A scanning session is planned for September 17-19 to finish the rest of these. The Ritzman print collection will begin to be transferred to 3-ring binders during this time as well. Stay tuned for more as we progress!

—Paul Swanson



The Hastman ICRR glass plate negatives arrived at Baraboo in these cardboard boxes (left). The plates were stored “naked” with sheets of cardboard and carousel slide tray boxes used as spacers to spread the heavy weight (below left). The new archival boxes are reinforced and padded (below right). A plate sits on the scanner bed (farther below), flanked by low-residue painters tape acting as a template to position the plate. It sits atop two additional strips of tape to hold it just off the scanner glass, protecting the fragile emulsion. Don Pelletier (bottom) seals an envelope with tape.





2010.030.GP00019 (8x10)



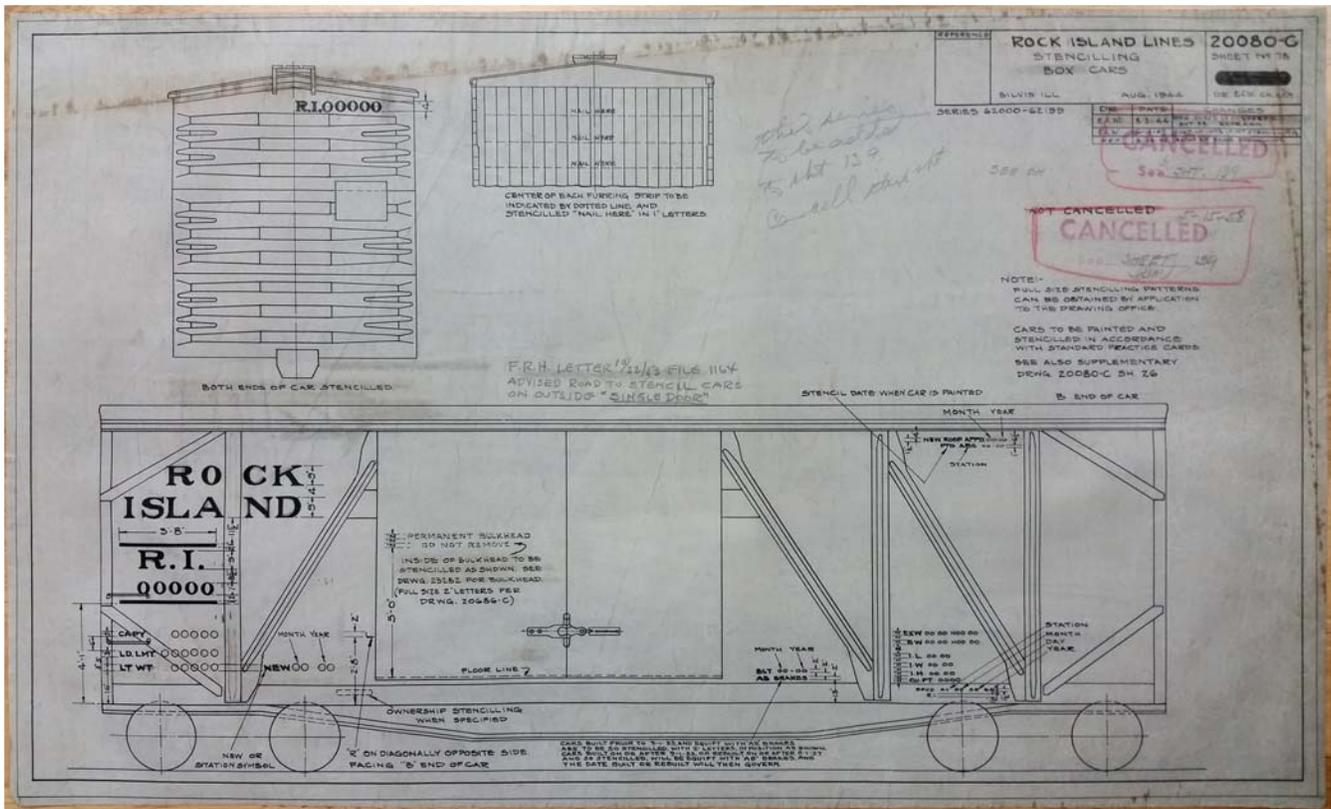
2010.030.GP00037 (8x10)

Coal Chute Sturgis, Ky.  
Mar 17, 1916

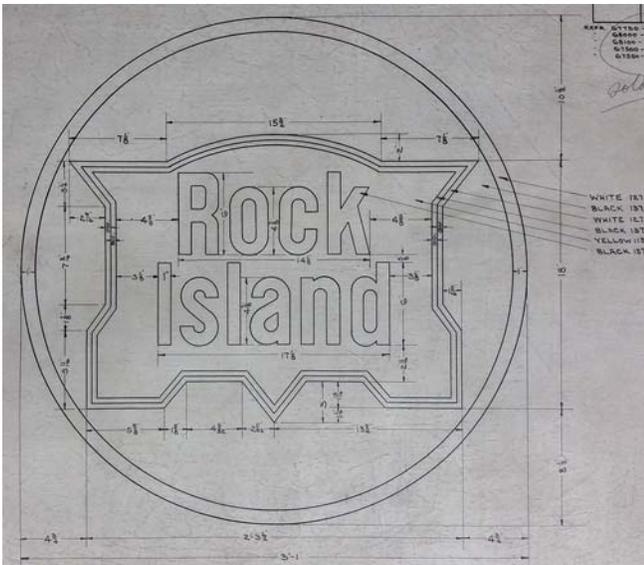


2010.030.GP00061 (8x10)

ICRR company photographs taken 1915-1917 seemed to concentrate on infrastructure and new construction, such as an interlocking tower in the Chicago area (top), the coal chute at Sturgis, Kentucky (left), and the roundhouse being built at Louisville, Kentucky (above). 8x10 glass plates from Lee Hastman collection/LSRHA.



Ray Buhrmaster continues to process Rock Island drawings donated by Phil Weibler. He has been ironing the drawings to smooth out wrinkles and folds from the last one hundred years. Here are two samples: (above) boxcar lettering from 1944, and (below) "Refrigerator Car Shield" from September 1926. There are many equipment drawings that show lettering specifications.



Jackie Kuball is volunteering in the Library repairing books that have some damage to them. Here she is working on one of the Wisconsin County Atlases from the Mike Harrington collection. Some of the Atlases date back into the 1880s and are a good source of locating rail lines from that period. Don Evenson photo.

APPROXIMATELY 140 OF THE LAST NEWSLETTERS were mailed to LSRHA members and friends. The *Lake States News* is important as it is the only means of mass communication at this time. Essential to print and distribute, there is a cost in producing and mailing, postage amounts to \$70.00, cost of printing will be going up since we lost our current printer. It is estimated at \$100 for 150 copies. To continue to save costs, the staff will continue to fold, stuff, label, and stamp all the issues. You can participate by sponsoring an issue of the Newsletter. Send your contribution to Lakes States marked "Newsletter." Thank you for your continued support!

*Lake States News* is established by the Board of Trustees as a means of communication for members and friends of the Lake States Railway Historical Association and is published at least three times a year. Members and the public are also welcome to attend LSRHA meetings and work sessions. Contact our office or visit our website for more information.

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