



# HIGHBALL



A PUBLICATION OF THE 4000 FOUNDATION  
***Preserving Railroad History in La Crosse***  
June 2022

## **WE'RE BACK!**

All the best-laid plans can -- and do -- go astray, and publication of this newsletter turned out no differently, especially when there was very little going on to report. But things seem to be settling down and returning to normal (whatever that is these days!), so let's get caught up!

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

***The Great Tri-State Rail Sale*** which took place in January 2022 was a great success, with attendance better than we could have hoped for, and vendors reporting how happy they were to be back at the La Crosse Center for this annual show. Buyers, sellers and attendees are already looking forward to next year's show which will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2023.

Looking ahead to ***RAIL FAIR***, this year's event will be Saturday, July 16 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Once again, there will be tours of the engine, caboose and Grand Crossing tower. This popular family-friendly outdoor event also includes the opportunity to buy, sell and trade:

Model & Toy Trains ~ Railroadiana ~ Antique Toys ~ Diecast Models ~  
Railroad Exhibits & Displays

We hope to see you there!

The ***Annual Meeting*** for 2022 took place on April 29 at the Harry J. Olson Senior Center and was well-attended. Approximately 60 people, members and volunteers, enjoyed snacks and a complimentary dinner catered by Pogy's Catering. There was plenty of time for socializing, followed by President Mark Hamre's summary of Foundation happenings during the past two years. Board member Briam Wopat gave an overview of the new web site (more about that to follow) and answered questions about navigating the site. The evening ended with an informal slide show on regional rail service, presented by Bob Melsheimer. Our thanks to all who attended the meeting, and to the volunteers who set it all up.



## **WEB SITE**

If you have not visited the web site for the Foundation recently, you will want to do so! Our thanks to Brian Wopat and Jonah Arndt for the complete overhaul. Go to [www.4000Foundation.org](http://www.4000Foundation.org) (note: that is "org," and not "com") and you will find an informative and easy-to-navigate site which includes:

- A continually-updated calendar includes regional events, and we invite folks to submit info for railroad events they might want included;
- A wonderful page detailing the history of the CB&Q's Engine 4000, the Milwaukee Road Caboose 0359, and the Grand Crossing Tower;
- A "Gallery" section with pictures from activities, railroads and events we have hosted;
- General information about membership, including our Board;
- A special section remembering those members and friends of the Foundation;
- A convenient form for contacting the Foundation;

Please take some time to check out the new site, and we encourage you to send any feedback, suggestions for content, etc. so that this will be a fresh and complete location for Foundation information.

## **WORK ORDERS**

- Progress on maintenance and repair projects has been limited due to other obligations by volunteers, but we do want to acknowledge and thank Dan Schleifer who worked on the Tower this past year. Water damage was taking its toll on the baseboards around the building, and something needed to be done sooner rather than later. Dan, a skilled carpenter, removed the damaged boards and replaced them with composite materials. This should prevent further damage to the foundation and looks great. Dan, thanks so much!
- Thanks go out also to Foundation President Mark Hamre. In response to a personal year-end donation by Mark, the Burlington Route Historical Society has donated 100 copies of a reprint of the Burlington Bulletin #14, Aeolus to the 4000 Foundation. With a cover price of \$8.00, this represents an \$800 gift to our Foundation to be used in the continued upkeep and maintenance of Locomotive #4000. These bulletins will be available for purchase during upcoming rail fairs.

## **MILE MARKERS**

Once again, the 4000 Foundation said farewell to several long-time members. We want to acknowledge the loss of these lifetime members, and send our condolences to their families and friends.

### **David Novitske**

Anyone with more than a passing familiarity with the 4000 Foundation knew the name Dave Novitske. As his family explained in Dave's memorial program, "*Throughout Dave's life, two themes reign supreme – railroading and connecting with people.*" He



managed to accomplish both through his long association with the 4000 Foundation. Railroading came naturally – living near the tracks as a boy and spending time with his conductor grandfather. His love of trains took him all around the country, and he was a member of several railroad historical societies, sharing his love of railroading with son Tom and grandson Zachary. After moving to Minneapolis several years ago, Dave made a point to go to the annual Train Day at the St. Paul Union Depot. Dave's outgoing personality and warm smile will certainly be missed by all who knew him.

### **Robert "Bob" Honeywell**

Bob was 76 when he passed away in March 2021, a resident of La Crosse and Tomah.

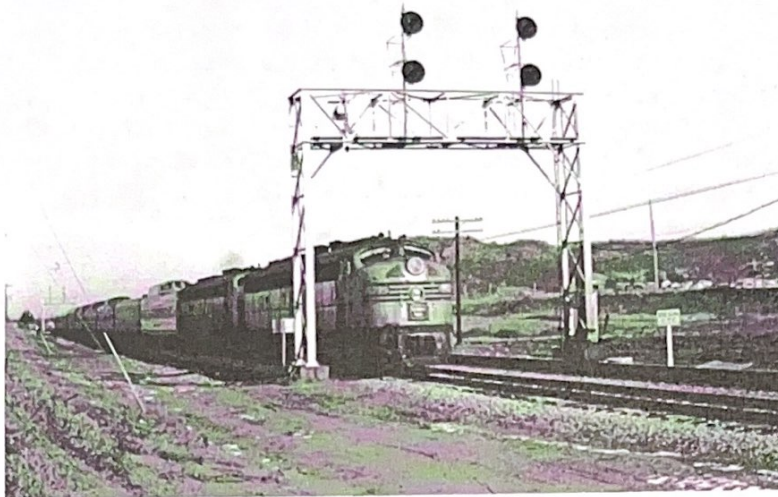
### **John Corems**

When John immigrated to the US from Maribor, Slovenia at 22 he began a life of service to others. His friends, who were more like family to him, remember a man active in everything from La Crosse's Rotary Lights in La Crosse to Jellystone Park in Warrens, Wisconsin. He was always quick to volunteer for any 4000 Foundation event, and was a familiar face to many of us. John's gifts of Christmas villages and train models which he crafted with love are enjoyed and appreciated by those lucky enough to receive one. Whatever John took on, it was never work – it was always "fun."

### **Marjorie Collins**

At her passing in May of this year, Marjorie was 100. Along with her late husband Charles, she was part of Collins Outdoor Advertising, and they had both lived lives as quiet philanthropists in La Crosse and the Coulee Region. The 4000 Foundation also benefited from her support and generosity.

To other Foundation friends and members who lost someone we may have not known about, we send our condolences.



The eastbound **Morning Zephyr**, Train #22, passes by Herrington on the south side of La Crosse, ca. early 1960's. From the collection of William Kirkpatrick

As always, thank you for being a member of the 4000 Foundation and supporting our mission of preserving the valuable and exciting railroad history for La Crosse and the surrounding region.

Our intention is to expand this newsletter to include railroading history, personal recollections and other items of interest to members. If you have any suggestions for content, please let us know.

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