

MUSKEGON RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 765 - Muskegon, Mi. 49443

APRIL 2, 1985

The April meeting will be held at the Muskegon Heritage Assn's office at 561 W. Western Avenue. Meeting time is 7 p.m. Coffee & rolls available and guests are welcome.

As many of you know, on March 16th we started 5208. The weather had been right all week & not wanting to chance March's unpredictable weather we gathered the necessary items. I would like to thank all of the members who helped on the project. It's a dream come true for me & I hope for you too. Plans are being stepped up to present our proposal to the city and county officials in hopes of their cooperation and backing.

Also a party is planned for Mr. Eklund at the April meeting. We will have a cake & refreshments. Thanks to all again & hope to see all of you at this meeting.
Brad Anderson

Yes, 5208 runs & runs well. It started with a belch of smoke and a lot of happy cheers. Bob Kersch took the throttle for the first run down to the switch behind the Amazon Building and back. After that several more runs were made with various other members of the club taking their turn at the controls under the supervision of Bob Kersch and Everett Cribbs. Bob also gave a short course on hand signals. Next starting date not set as yet but will be sometime in April. We are very thankful to Francis Paul who built the battery charger and also built a dipstick heater to warm the oil so the engine would start. We also wish to thank Everett Cribbs for his help and of course Lou Eklund who donated the funds for the engine. Come on down to the April meeting and thank them in person as we are having a 5208 celebration.

Last month we had a very excellent program of slides put on by Mr. Jack Carter of Grand Rapids. The show was fast-paced with music, railroad sounds and commentary. Mr Carter spent 3 years taking photographs before he started to put the show together and he has put together a show that all should see. Hope he will come up with another sometime in the future.

The April program will be a video tape of 5208 arriving in Muskegon, the January 12th attempt to start the engine and the starting and first run on the 16th of March. We will also be fortunate to view a video tape of The Southern Pacific #4449 DAYLIGHT's run from Portland Oregon to the World's fair in New Orleans and back to Portland. This tape courtesy of Wilfred Miller.

1985 DUES ARE DUE: We still have a few of our regular members that haven't gotten their dues turned in. If you have not joined and would like to join us, just send in your \$10.00 with your name, address & phone number to the address at the top of this letter. Anyone with any interest in trains is welcome to join. We have a good organization and we are growing.

On the 17th of March the Muskegon Chronicle had a fine article on their front page of the starting of 5208. Many thanks to the Muskegon Chronicle for their article and the coverage they have given us in the past.

Kent Mc Faden