

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

9 July 1985

The July meeting of the M.R.H.S. will be held on Tuesday, the 9th of July rather than on the first Tuesday due to the Lumbertown Music Festival and the proximity of the 4th of July holiday. The meeting will be at the Heritage Association office at 561 W. Western Avenue. Meeting time is 7 p.m. and coffee and rolls will be available. Also as usual - VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

The July program will be a bit different than our usual programs. We will not be seeing trains this month but will be seeing slides of the Muskegon area taken back in the late 40's and early 50's - pre mall Muskegon. Mr. Herm Stapel will show us slides he took around the Muskegon area including pictures of Pascoe's, old county building, and Western Avenue.

Brad informs me that the T shirts will be ready by the meeting date so come and pick up your shirt if you have one ordered. Also, the PERE MARQUETTE POWER books have arrived for those of you who ordered them and I will have them at the meeting for you to pick up.

The June issue of the Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Newsletter had a small article on our purchase of 5208 and also the fact that we started and ran the engine.

On Saturday, the 22nd of June engine 5208 received a good sand-blasting to remove the several coats of paint which it had acquired over the years. Mr. Wayne Misze donated his machinery and his time to our organization and we sincerely wish to thank him. Mr. Misze and Brad started early in the morning and they did the sandblasting. After the sandblasting was done, Brad, Dave Stroebe and Bob King gave the engine a coat of primer. It was a long day for the group as they were still spraying primer at 8:30 that evening. A job well done. If the weather cooperates, the engine should have a new coat of blue paint prior to the Lumbertown Festival. Unfortunately, we will not be able to move the engine & caboose down by the arena for the festival.

We will have a display in the window of the Heritage Association Office during the festival. The model of the Pere Marquette engine built by Mr. Charles Wilke and donated to us by his family will be on display in the window along with other of our railroad related items.

The club has also received another donation for our museum. Mr. Ben Shue has donated one of the signs that was on the Grand Trunk depot at Peck and Laketon Avenues. He had the Muskegon Heights sign which he gave to us. The Muskegon sign is in the Muskegon County Museum. If any of you have a good picture of that depot I would like to have a copy. I will make a copy negative from the original if you do not have a negative.

We had a good turnout for the work session on the building the evening of the 18th. The drywall on the interior of the bathroom was installed and several sheets of drywall were installed on the ceiling of the hallway. Work sessions are being held every Tuesday evening from around 6:30 p.m. until dark. Your help is needed.

Kent McFaden