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# FOX RIVER LINES

m a g a z i n e



Issue 01-1, Spring 2001

## The Other Fox(s) in Fox River Trolley Museum



*The Fox River Line sports a new variety of track inspector!*

The name of the Museum is Fox River Trolley Museum, but what is in a name? We are next to a river, we preserve and operate old trolley's and we certainly are working hard to be a Museum . . . but what about the "FOX" in Fox River Trolley Museum? Well, we operate the old Aurora, Elgin and Fox River Electric Company tracks between South Elgin and Coleman which runs along side the Fox River in the Fox River Valley. BUT are these the only reasons why Fox is in our name? Well maybe not. What do you think?

Last season five foxes appeared on or about or along the museum's tracks. A vixen, (mother fox) bore four kits (baby foxes). They lived among us most of the season entertaining our visitors and volunteers. Sometimes they were seen loping off to the creek in County Park for water, trotting down the main line (as if they owned it), watching for our trains from a stack of ties near their burrow (home) just south of switch 54. Three were also sighted in an old ground hog burrow in the hillside by the west side of the sub-station yard gate.



*Helen Tredup feeding one of the foxes in their back yard.*

Being friendly, they were fed by *Ed and Helen Tredup* and their grandchildren at the *Tredup's* riverside home along our tracks. The kits romping in the hillside area south of the sub-station were a common sight. They sunned themselves in the lush grass west of the high-level platform under the watchful eyes of "mom." A picture of the vixen graced our ticket agent's counter along with the ticket dater and *Fox River Lines*.

But we live in an ever increasing urbanized area. Like us, at least one of the kits succumbed to the automobile (like maybe some of our cars). Member *Ralph Taylor* buried one of them after it was hit on Illinois Route 31. None of the family was sighted during the winter or this spring. A bright red adult male has been seen this spring and maybe, just maybe . .



*"Block Signals" were advertised in some railroad advertising as: "Those silent sentinel's of safety" . . . however on the Fox River Line we have our own kind.*

*Photos by Ed and, Helen Tredup*

**- Don MacBean, Ed Tredup, Helen Tredup**

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## **Museum Donors**

The museum gratefully acknowledges and thanks the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions in cash or in kind to advance the Museum's mission.

**Homer Bishop, Charlotte Bohn, Chuck Galitz, Robert Hillman, Ed Konecki, Kermit Krueger, Steve Lusted - Estate, Don MacBean, Mark Peterson, Ralph Taylor, Ed and Helen Tredup, Ronald Wassen,**

**Bob Wayman, Daniel Zeden, Minnesota Transportation Museum,  
Northeast Illinois Volkswagen Association, Union Pacific Railroad**

**- Don MacBean**

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## **Trolley Museum 2001 Schedule Announced**

Edward Konecki, President of the Fox River Trolley Museum announced the Museum's 2001 calendar which begins **Mother's Day**, May 13. It is the biggest day in the Museum's 36th operating season, Konecki said. That day mother and grandmothers will be able to ride free with a paid child's fare.

Six other special events, running a total of 11 days, dot the Museum's calendar.

### **Spring Caboose Train Rides**

Sunday, June 3. See spring blossom along the Fox River aboard the Museum's Big Red Illinois Central Caboose, pulled by a 93-year-old electric freight locomotive.

### **Father's Day**

Sunday, June 17. Bring dad and granddad for free rides with a paid child's fare.

### **Red, White and Blue Dollar Day**

Wednesday, July 4; all rides, all riders pay \$1 on the nation's birthday, the 35th anniversary of the beginning of the museum's public operations.

### **The 22nd Annual Fox River Trolley Fest,**

Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 18-19. This event runs simultaneously with South Elgin's annual Riverfest-Express, which begins Aug. 16. The village and the Museum celebrate the long weekend along the Fox River with food, music, exhibits, crafts, antique autos, fireworks and weekend trolley rides. The Museum will be open extended hours, from 11am to 6pm., this weekend only.

### **Fall Caboose Train Rides**

Sunday, Oct. 7 and 14. The big Red Caboose offers a great view as the colors begin to change along the scenic Fox River Line.

### **The Pumpkin Trolley**

Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 20-21 and 27-28. It is the most popular of the Museum's special events. Join the hundreds who come each day, ride a trolley to the Museum's "Pumpkin Patch" to select your very own pumpkin and enjoy other activities. Pumpkins are \$1 extra.

The museum has again held the line on fares for 2001, Konecki said. Fares are \$2.50 for adults, \$2 for senior citizens, and \$1.50 for children 2-11. Children under 2 are always welcome for free rides. The Museum is open 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Sundays from Mother's Day through Nov 4 and Saturdays from June 30 to Sept. 1, along with Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day.

The Museum was founded in 1957 to preserve several Chicago, Aurora and Elgin cars and a portion of the Aurora, Elgin and Fox River Electric Co. Interurban line, the first north-south rail link between Carpentersville and Aurora. The Museum's all-volunteer staff has offered rides to the public since 1966.

The museum's line is the last remaining link of the electric railway built between 1895 and 1901 linking the communities along the Fox River between Carpentersville and Yorkville. The segment from Montgomery to Yorkville was abandoned in 1924, and a windstorm ended service north of Elgin in 1933. Final abandonment of passenger interurban operations occurred March 31, 1935, between Elgin and Aurora, although carload freight service continued to operate between Coleman, in St. Charles Township and the Elgin State Hospital until 1972 when the Museum purchased the line from the DeYoung family of Elgin, which had owned the railroad for more than 35 years.

- Ed Konecki

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## **Spring 2001 Car Department Report**

The goals of the 2001 season include set up shop in the car barn and have better access to the shop car.

The following Museum equipment will receive attention.

•CA&E 11 •CTA 445 •CNS&M 715 •CA&E 20

•CTA 4288 •MUNY 1030 •CTA 40 •CTA 4451

•W&SR 73 •CTA 43 •CSS&SB 14

Another project of the Car Department will be to begin to develop restoration plans for each unit in the collection.

Achievement of our 2001 goals requires more workers, especially new people, as our active current membership have very full plates. We need people who are or have the skills of: carpenters, cabinet makers, painters (both brush and spray), welders, electricians, pipe fitters (plumbers) and metal workers and helpers for all of the above. If you can help or know of members that can, please call me at 414-769-3214 or leave a message at the Museums web site at [info@foxtrolley.org](mailto:info@foxtrolley.org). I work nights but my answering machine is always there to help. Give me a good time to call and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Just as the Operating Department's credo is "Safety First", the Car Department's "Shop Safety" is paramount. If you don't know how to use a

tool or do a task, ask until you are satisfied with the answer. By the same token be willing to share knowledge you have with others.

It is important to dress properly for the tasks at hand with your own safety gear and work clothes. Always bring some water not only to drink but to wash up or for first aid, as we have no running water.

While for our volunteers working at the Museum is a recreational activity, safety gear and safe practices should never take a holiday. Your family needs you back and the museum wants you back.

**- Joe Hazinski**

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## **2001 Meetings**

At its March 10, 2001 meeting the Fox River Trolley Association Board set the following dates, times and places for its meetings as well as Members Day and Annual Members Meeting.

**THE TIME AND PLACE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

**Contact Jim Gonyo, Secretary, at 630-296-2780 for latest information.**

**Saturday, January 11, 2:30pm** Council Chambers - South Elgin V. H. 10 N. Water Street

**Saturday, March 10, 2:30pm** Council Chambers - South Elgin V. H. 10 N. Water Street

**Saturday, May 12, 7:00pm** Council Chambers - South Elgin V. H. 10 N. Water Street

**Saturday, July 14, 7:00pm** Council Chambers - South Elgin V. H. 10 N. Water Street

**Saturday, September 8, 7:00pm** Council Chambers - South Elgin V. H. 10 N. Water Street

Other Meetings or Member events:

**Saturday, April 28**

Spring Members Day Museum Grounds - 1pm to 4pm,

Council Chambers - South Elgin V. H. 10 N. Water Street - 7pm

**Saturday, October 13**

Annual Members Day - 11am to 5pm Museum Grounds

Annual Members Meeting - 7pm Council Chambers - South Elgin V. H. 10 N. Water Street

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## CASH INCOME AND EXPENSES 1999 vs. 2000

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
TICKET SALES	\$13,310	\$17,002
STORE SALES	\$7,861	\$8,836
DUES	\$5,288	\$6,454
DONATIONS	\$2,118	\$19,367
MISC INCOME	\$856	\$979
TOTAL INCOME	\$29,433	\$52,638
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
STORE STOCK	\$4,496	\$3,006
INSURANCE	\$4,599	\$5,702
RENT	\$4,708	\$5,074
TRACK MAINT	\$50	\$2,939
FACILITIES MAINT	\$5,376	
CAR MAINT	\$3,546	\$584
EQUIPMENT MAINT	\$1,389	
ELECTRICITY	\$2,411	\$2,156
ADMINISTRATION	\$984	\$4,081
DEVELOPMENT	\$741	
MEMBER SVC & PROMO	\$8,348	\$9,712
CAPITAL PURCHASES	\$2,698	
SALES TAX PAYABLE	\$458	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$39,804	\$33,254
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSE</b>	<b>(\$10,371)</b>	<b>\$19,384</b>

- Ralph Taylor

***Editors Note:***

*The blanks in the 2000 column are due to a different accounting practice used in 2000.*

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## Development Report

The construction of the Museum's Blackhawk Extension has made some progress since the December, 2000 report. Based on the preliminary material list made up by Chief Linesman, Chuck Galitz, the speciality trolley hardware has been ordered. Since these items are specialized the lead time between ordering and delivery are from 18 to 26 weeks. The anticipated delivery of these materials is mid-April, 2001. As of this writing the final design drawings for the trolley wire installation are being moved toward completion. It is hoped that these plans can be sent out to contractors for pricing sometime in April.

One of the elements for which we received grant funding was the installation of a feeder line from the Museum's Sub-Station to the end of the extension track in Blackhawk Forest Preserve. The plans for the feeder line are also undergoing development and are a crucial element in the extension's operating plan, as without them we will not have sufficient power to start the cars at the far end of the line. It is

hoped that these plans will be ready for pricing at the same time as the trolley wire so that construction of both systems can be done at the same time.

The Museum has retained the services of architect Mike Dixon to prepare the design of the passenger facilities at the Forest Preserve terminal. Mike Dixon is well known in the Fox Valley and has worked on many historic preservation projects. After meeting with Forest Preserve officials a design for platforms and a waiting shelter will be drawn up for contractor pricing.

At this time I am unable to predict the date that all of the tasks will be completed allowing us to open this long awaited extension. Many elements and parties have an input into the completion of the project. In the meantime members should visit Blackhawk Preserve and see the progress that has been made as well as the ongoing work.

- Fred Lonnes

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## **Fox River Lines Staff**

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**Submissions:** Submission of stories from members and others is necessary to publish *Fox River Lines*. Feature length articles are always welcome and considered. Please contact the staff before undergoing a project. Contributors submit materials with the understanding that no monetary compensation is provided.

**Correspondence:** Comments, suggestions, and corrections relating to Fox River Lines should be directed to Managing Editor Don MacBean at the address listed above. The editorial staff appreciates your feedback.

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