

NRMI's Annual Railroad Celebration At Iron Horse Park Continues

For the eleventh year, National Railroad Memorial, Inc. (NRMI) will be hosting a **"Celebration of Railroading"** in Iron Horse Park (next to the Durand fire hall). This will be on Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Yes, it has been more than a decade since NRMI first brought attention to the terrible condition of the Rail Treasures in Iron Horse Park. NRMI is proud this year to invite guests to see the renovated wooden Gate Tower and the work that has been done to Steam Locomotive #5632. The engine has been cleaned and prepped, repairs and painting are almost complete. It is amazing how incredible the engine looks!

In Iron Horse Park, NRMI has created a space full of rail history, fun, entertainment, and yes, even some learning to celebrate Railroading. ALL OF THIS IS FREE, YES, WITHOUT ANY CHARGE! Through the years, NRMI has had fun, learned new things, and celebrated the meaning of railroading with the public..

Some of these events and activities include:

Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

- In the 1919 Pullman Baggage Car there will be railroad related exhibits including:
 - "Signal This!"** This will be the main exhibit in the Pullman Baggage Car. It is a fun glimpse at the role of signals in railroading. Do you know what the two signals are that proudly reside in Iron Horse Park? Do you know what the purpose of Gate Tower No. 25 was?
 - "The Wall of Honor"**. This exhibit continues NRMI's focus on the railroad family. The Wall of Honor will feature stories of railroad employees with ties to Durand and their families including the newly elected Railroad Person of the Year, *James T. Roddy*. Stories such as that of *Charles Melvin Hayes*, President of the Grand Trunk Railway, who died in 1912 (on what?) but who oversaw the construction of the Durand Roundhouse. Also featured will be the story of *Johannes Peter Olaf Jensen*, a unique railroad man who worked for Grand Trunk Western Railroad for 37 years from 1917 to 1954. He had a uniquely beautiful connection to Durand's rail station and helped start a local Durand business. If you have a story to tell, find out how your story can join the Wall of Honor.
 - Information about "Treasures Along the Rails", featuring Durand's rail treasures, a self-guided walking tour will be available.
- **Durand's Grand Trunk Western Steam Locomotive 5632**. The locomotive will be on static display. It is one of only seven such steam locomotives in the United States so please check it out.
- **Gate Tower No. 25**. Thanks to the donations of rail fans who have visited the display through the previous years during Railroad Days; NRMI will be highlighting the restored, beloved Gate Tower No. 25 which is located in Iron Horse Park. It has a unique place in Durand history, a story to tell that you will want to hear with a fresh, newly restored look to show off.

- There will be many other surprises to entertain you
- Refreshments including fresh popcorn and lemonade will be available for free!

Saturday, May 18 only: Noon-5 p.m.

- A caricature artist and a balloon artist will be in residence in the Baggage Car competing to give our guests a unique memory of Railroad Days. This is free!

With respect to the present, learn about the status of the repair and renovation project of the rail treasures in Iron Horse Park and learn about the newest treasure coming soon to join the locomotive and the baggage car in the park; a Grand Trunk Western Reefer! NRMI volunteers will walk you through the next steps to be done, by who, how it will be done and exactly how much money is needed to make the rest of the park shine like the engine and stand tall like the Gate Tower. NRMI volunteers will inform guests on the status of the National Railroad Memorial and Diamond District Park Project. They will also let guests know how they can become involved and help.

The exhibits of the Pullman Baggage Car are brought to guests by the Wyllie Project, an initiative of NRMI to preserve and honor the stories of the men and women of the Railroad Industry as told by the families who loved them.

See you in Iron Horse Park on Saturday and Sunday of Railroad Days. Remember, every event and activity in the park is free!

The National Railroad Memorial, Inc. (NRMI) is a nonprofit corporation organized as a 501 (C) (3). Its mission is to honor the men and women of the railroad industry by educating the public as to the importance of their roles in our nation's past, present and future. NRMI is partnering with the City of Durand to honor these individuals by building the National Railroad Memorial as the centerpiece of Diamond District Park, downtown Durand.