



**To preserve for future generations
the history of the American West
and our railroad heritage.**

Roundhouse Preservation, Inc.

News

hugoroundhouse.org

**RPI Annual Meeting/Fry
April 4, 2020 is Cancelled**

SPARKS FROM THE ROUNDHOUSE

March 20, 2020

Our Heritage

Our railroad history is rich with drama and vitality. In 1870, when Kansas Pacific Railway was expanding into Colorado, Indians made a raid near Boyero, killing 11 graders, wounding 19 and running off 400 head of stock. In 1900, two Missouri boys robbed a train between Hugo and Limon. After killing one passenger, the robbers jumped off the train at Hugo and walked to Flagler. They ended up in Goodland, KS before they were found and killed. The loot, however, was never discovered.

During the first 100 years of rail service here, the railroad was a shared experience...a great leveler. Anyone could walk across a dusty street when the train was in and stand by the great steam engine. Everyone, rich or poor, famous or not, had to ride the train to travel long distances. Mail arrived by train. Farmers shipped their grains to market by train. Ranchers hauled their cattle and sheep by train. Immigrants arrived by train. Railroads were social centers for information, for receiving and sending freight, and for greeting friends and family travelers.

Railroaders were part of the community. Train crews knew the rural and town-folk. The railroaders competed against the town baseball team. During the county fair, both the UP and Rock Island offered reduced fares for the round trip from Cheyenne Wells, Burlington, Colo. Springs, Denver and all intermediate points. In 1894 the UP allowed the Hugo Fair Association to use its sheep sheds for an exhibition building and to build a race track on its property. Today, we celebrate our railroad history. The railroad is 150 years old!

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**A CELEBRATION IS COMING SOON
TO YOUR HUGO ROUNDHOUSE!**

It's been a long wait, and I'm sure some said it would never happen, but we are close to having the exterior of the roundhouse completed. Spectrum General Contractors plan on being in Hugo in April to start installing the remaining six doors, the eight windows above the doors, and the twenty-four interior screens. The work was funded through a CDOT Transportation Alternatives Program Grant and one from the State Historical Fund, an awesome partner who has worked with us from the beginning on restoration of the roundhouse. However, funding from them will be somewhat limited in the future since plans for the roundhouse will include uses that were not original to the building.

Of course, the question on all your minds is "What's Next?" Well, the first step is to get utilities to the building and when that's done start on the interior work. Grants have not been applied for yet to start this work, but please remember that there is no such thing as "free money". Grants require a match, so the financial need is always there. The Board of Directors contracted with Bret Johnson Architecture to help us with the phases to complete the utilities and interior. Mr. Johnson estimated a year ago that this work will cost \$1,398,000. Yes, it's a staggering amount, but just like the little engine who knew he could, the members of Roundhouse Preservation Inc. can accomplish the work ahead.

**—Roxie Devers
Treasurer**



The 2019 Annual Meeting was held by mail. Directors Chris Fox and Megan Hohl were reelected. Because of the Corona Virus, RPI's 2020 meeting and fry were cancelled. This letter will allow you to vote for a director, renew your membership and/or make a donation. The Annual Fry, which was to include fish, chicken strips and Rocky Mountain oysters, will be rescheduled. At that time, handouts such as the treasury report and grant updates, will be available.

BALLOT

Please Vote for one director:

- Roxie Devers
- _____ (Write-In)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Signature _____

Please help by renewing your membership and/or sending your donation.

We appreciate your support!

I would like to make a tax deductible contribution in the amount of:

I would like to join or renew my membership with RPI:

Individual \$25 _____

Business/Organization \$50 _____

Lifetime Member \$500 _____

Please Mail to RPI, PO Box 343, Hugo, CO 80821



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Welcome members, donors, and friends. Hopefully this year will be the year when we can finally say, "The historic restoration of the roundhouse's structural shell is complete." There have been delays, but we feel confident it will finally happen this year. This is a major milestone toward the final goal of having a usable event center and museum.

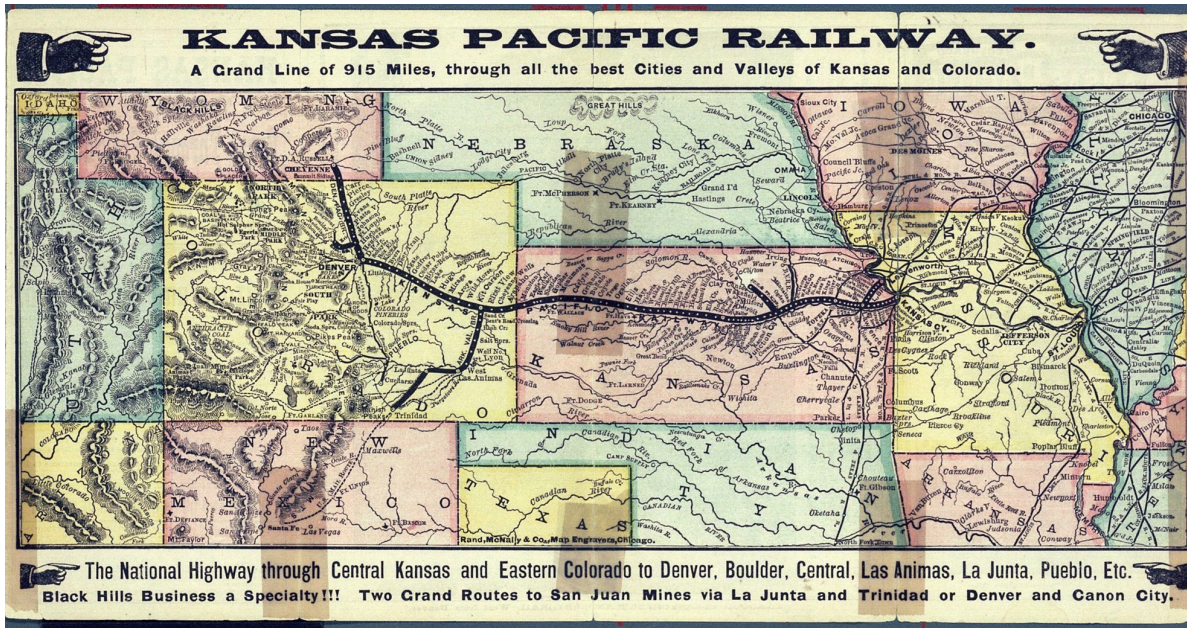
We at RPI have been preparing for the next phase for several years now. Meetings with our architect, using drawings from designers, and even a few from myself, have given us ideas to ponder. Yes, we have a vision. Since the historic restoration organizations who provided grant money thus far cannot help us with the non-historic interior construction plans, we now have to focus on new funding sources.

Meantime, we will continue the publicity campaigns to insure more people know about RPI and the roundhouse project. We've been distributing our brochures for years everywhere we go. I will again be taking the Lincoln County HO scale model train module on the road with setups planned for El Paso County Fair and the Colorado State Fair. The exposure from the Big Boy visit was huge. We did tours for several hours straight as thousands of people came over to the roundhouse. They bought shirts, food, and coffee until everything was gone. I have since received many calls from Railroad Clubs and historical organizations wanting to publish our roundhouse story in their annuals. Larry J. Schlupp is putting together a feature article for the April Historic Douglas County, Inc. website. They want to put every historical group in Elbert, Lincoln and Kit Carson Counties on their HDC homepage. We will also be attending the Northeast Rural Philanthropy Days in June. I will be bringing the Lincoln County train module to be involved in the planned large model train exhibit in the old depot for Hugo's 150 Years of Railroad Event.

As a result of all this, there will be many more bus load tours this year than previous. Let us know if some of you members might be interested in helping with group tours.

Sadly, we had to postpone our Annual Fry event due to the pandemic. I hope we can get it successfully rescheduled. Our featured guest this year was Captain George Armstrong Custer. Hopefully he'll be able to attend a later event.

Christopher J. Fox
RPI President



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Surrounding towns have similar stories. The Bovina depot served as the first voting precinct in 1889. The first church services in Arriba were held in the depot waiting room until a church could be built. Weddings were held in the Boyero section house. In 1902 Hugo and Limon were connected with a telephone system, thanks to the railroad company allowing the top wire of its fence to be used for transmission.

The good times never last. Passenger service for the Union Pacific ended in 1971. The UP still runs through Lincoln County, busier than ever with its hundred-car coal trains several times daily, but no longer is it an integral part of our communities. The railroad era has given way to the electronic age. We have become more connected with the rest of the world, but we mourn the loss of that connection among ourselves. But this year, we celebrate Hugo's railroad heritage, our 150th Birthday!

