RPI enters its 10th year with annual meeting

As the Roundhouse Preservation Inc. effort enters its 10th year, the 2011 Annual Meeting of Members will be at the former Hugo railroad depot in Hines Park Sunday, March 13, 2011 at 2 p.m.

At the meeting, members will transact any necessary business, including renewing memberships and electing three members to the RPI Board of Directors. The seat now held by Roxie Devers will be filled for a three-year term, and the seat held by Lian Emmerling will be filled for a one-year term. Both incumbents are candidates for re-election. A third director will be elected for a two-year term to replace Kate Piskorski, who resigned February 7. The only known candidate for the post as of this writing is Dee Ann Blevins, who previously served on the Board for seven years, before resigning in December 2009.

Refreshments will be served after the annual meeting.

The meeting is open to the public and any interested person is welcome.

**Interesting program scheduled**

A highlight of the meeting will be the program on “U. P. Steam,” presented by Steve Lee and Jim Burrill.

Steve Lee is a career railroader who recently retired after 39 years service, 22 years as manager of the U. P. Steam Program. He’s still involved in historic preservation of railroad stuff, including helping the Portola Railroad Museum with a steam locomotive restoration.

Jim Burrill works in a high tech job since discovering the graveyard shift in a rail yard can be a sleepy place with potential safety issues. He keeps his interest alive, however, with photography and historic preservation activities of all kinds.
McCauley Constructors, Inc. began work in earnest on replacing the roundhouse roof in February 2010. The company had Building Restoration Specialties (BRS) on site removing the bricks from the top of the back wall in preparation for the new roof and eaves. They were joined by another subcontractor, Top Gun Framing, who was tasked with removing the old roof comprised of multiple layers of coal tar and pitch. What a dirty job that was!

Work progressed in sections, starting on the north side of the roundhouse, or bay #8. The roof would be removed and the new beams, joists and decking installed.

Major Asbestos Control was hired to remove the remaining smokestacks from the roof. A portion of each contained friable asbestos and they all had to be abated.

By the end of March, the new decking was installed and employees of BRS were back on site replacing the bricks that had earlier been removed. Top Gun Framing moved to the building interior to complete the framing and other work.

In the meantime, Chris Wolfe, owner of Nostalgic Stone, was replicating the smokestacks. The interior portions were installed by the end of April and the exteriors in May. They are quite impressive!

On April 20, 2010, Central States Roofing began installing the insulation, the 4-ply membrane and the roof felt. While a portion of the insulation had to be removed when it got wet, this problem was minor compared to what Dale Strutt with Wiss Janey Elstner discovered on his May 5, 2010 inspection. He found that 30-33% of the roof had been installed incorrectly. The issue was not resolved until August 5, 2010, when the roof installed incorrectly was removed and reinstalled and the remaining roof completed.

The roof construction was finished August 30, 2010. Shortly thereafter, a final inspection was completed and the Lincoln County Commissioners accepted the project.

Other subcontractors who worked on the roundhouse project were Roy Brossman of RW Welding, Strongarm Construction and Rob Wilson Painting.

Special thanks need to be given to David Wittman with Martin/Martin Engineers, Historical Architect Merrill Wilson, and Dale Strutt with Wiss Janey Elstner. Their expertise was invaluable, and because of their hard work and dedication, the new roof on the roundhouse is magnificent.
So...what happens when restoration is complete?

Many of you have asked what purpose the roundhouse building will have once it is completed. RPI has so much on its plate with preservation efforts and fund-raising activities that it seemed another group of people was needed to work on this aspect.

A vision committee has formed and had its first meeting on February 10, 2011. Those in attendance were Lincoln County Commissioner Steve Burgess, Lian Emmerling, Terina Ensign, Carroll Schroeder and Dee Ann Blevins. Ideas to pursue at this time include a railroad museum and an events center.

If you have a dream for the roundhouse and would like to share your ideas, please come to the next meeting March 31, 2011, 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' meeting room at the courthouse in Hugo.

Eastern Colorado Preservation Society donates to effort

The Eastern Colorado Preservation Society, based in Arriba, CO, donated $6,936.52 to RPI in the past year. Because the nonprofit group was disbanding, its board of directors decided its funds should be distributed to other local nonprofit historic preservation organizations, including the roundhouse, area museums and the Lincoln County Historical Society.

100 years ago
Reprinted from the Hugo Range Ledger, 1911

“This country is so healthful that knockers who want to remain dead arrange to have their bodies shipped east for fear Colorado’s healthful and invigorating climate and somebody’s boosting will bring them to life again.”—W. S. Pershing, September 21.

Local artisan and honorary RPI member Madonna Noah graciously donated this handmade quilt for use as a fundraiser. The quilt, with a variety of colored blocks, fits a king size bed. Keith Schafer won the quilt at the drawing held at the 2010 Lincoln County Fair.

Join us—Please!

We need help—and lots of it! Please show your support by joining RPI today.

Membership dues are:
- Individual $25.00
- Business/Organization $50.00
- Lifetime Member $500.00

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Employee pass on the Union Pacific Railroad, 1909, allowing T. P. Hannegan and wife to travel between Hugo and Oakley.

—from the Jim Hannegan collection