



Spring 2015 Newsletter

Dedicated to educating the public and preserving the rural heritage of Illinois.



BUILDING AMERICA®

Union Pacific Foundation Strong Supporter of Illinois Rural Heritage Museum

We can only say **THANK YOU** to the Union Pacific Foundation Board for their \$5,000 contribution for 2015. This is the 4th year that they have supported the Museum making a total of \$12,500.

The Chicago and Northwestern and Missouri Pacific Railroads are the two primary Union Pacific subsidiaries operating in Illinois. Like their parent, the CNW and MOPAC are proud of their heritage. Both have Museums, historical societies and websites devoted to their role in Building America, and we would add, Building Illinois.

We encourage you to visit their websites:

www.up.com, www.uprrmuseum.org,
and www.americanrail.com/museums.

Again, our sincere thanks to the Union Pacific Foundation.

One Lane Road

All of us have witnessed the impact of an interstate highway on a community...both good and bad. Almost every community hoped the highway would be built next to them. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the founders of rural Illinois witnessed a similar life changing experience as hundreds of small railroads were constructed throughout the state. These "one lane interstates" have joined rural electrification, telephones, television and other technological advances in shaping the culture of rural Illinois.



**Photo of the GE Steam Turbine
UP 1 taken in 1939 at Omaha, NE**

What would Illinois be like if the rail systems were not built to link the farm communities to the north, west and south with Chicago? How would the trip from St. Louis to Chicago be made and how would the journey to the state capital in Springfield be made? What would Kankakee, Mattoon, Centralia or Du Quoin be like without the railroads that served them as well as the University of Illinois and Southern Illinois University?

Grain Mills, coal mines, steel mills, electric generating plants, stock yards and factories sprang up along the same rail lines in rural Illinois. The railroads stimulated the industrial revolution and the good jobs that heavy industry provided. Those jobs gave our forefathers in the rural communities a choice of working on the farm or in the factories. The standard of living in the communities lucky enough to have a railroad was stronger as a result.

Continue on reverse side

The 7th annual Tractor Drive and Banquet will be held on May 30th at the Museum. Please note the date and mark your calendar. The guest speaker will be announced at a later date.

Trains, Trains, and more Trains



The joy and excitement in the eyes of the little children and adults, too, as they watch the trains go around at the Old Fashioned Christmas open house in December at the Museum.



The Illinois Rural Heritage Museum would like to thank all the individuals and companies that have help the Museum get to where we are today. Whether your gift was monetary or an exhibit that was donated or on loan, we could not have done it without you. These names are on the donor wall at the entrance of the museum.

Thank you from the Illinois Rural Heritage Museum

One Lane Continued

Over the past century, the hundreds of railroads in Illinois have been reduced to a handful due primarily to mergers. Interstates and other highways have reduced the number of passengers and passenger trains. And, the source and composition of the freight hauled by the railroads traversing Illinois has changed. The Illinois Rural Heritage Museum encourages everyone to take our children and grand-children on a passenger train so they can add this important element of history to their experiences.

2010

\$50,000 and above

Engelhardt Family Foundation

Backers \$5,000-\$9,999

Beelman Ready Mix

Bunge North America

McCormick International USA

Patrons \$2,500-\$4,999

Bill and Mary Roe

The Williams Company

Titan International, Inc.

Boosters \$1,000-\$2,499

Bigham Farms

Charles and Mary Greer

Dick and Gayl Pyatt

Howard Wisely Family

Gary and Sandy Timpner

Riechmann Bros, LLC

Union Pacific Foundation

Vernon and Helen Mayer

Illinois Rural Heritage Museum

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Pinckneyville, IL 62274

618-357-8908

irhmuseum@gmail.com

www.illinoisruralheritagemuseum.org

Open

9 am-5 pm Thursday-Saturday

1 pm-5 pm Sunday

By appointment on other days



Our Pillars

2011

\$50,000 and above

Engelhardt Family Foundation

Supporters \$10,000-\$14,999

Foundation for Pinckneyville

Patrons \$2,500-\$4,999

Deere and Company

Boosters \$1,000-\$2,499

Bigham Farms

Charles and Mary Greer

Consolidation Grain and Barge

Illinois Farm Bureau

Wm. Nobbe and Co.

2012

\$50,000 and above

Engelhardt Family Foundation

Supporters \$10,000-\$14,999

Murphy-Wall State Bank

Backers \$5,000-\$9,999

Deere and Company

Great Plains, Mfg.

The Williams Company

Patrons \$2,500-\$4,999

Beck's Hybrids

First National Bank of Pinckneyville

H & R Agri-Power

Boosters \$1,000-\$2,499

American Resources Group Ltd.

Bigham Farms

Charles and Mary Greer

Crop Production Services

Dick and Gayl Pyatt

Fertilizer Dealer Supply, Inc.

Illinois Farm Bureau

Knight Hawk Coal, LLC

Kohrmann Electric Company

The Maschhoffs, LLC

Pyramid Painting

Southern FS., Inc.

Vernon and Helen Mayer

William and Helen D. Timpner

Individuals who donated items to the Museum to be put on exhibit will be listed in the newsletter that follows. Your donation makes it possible for us to have displays for visitors to see. If there is anyone that has an item that they would like to donate or loan, please let us know.

2013

\$15,000 and above

Engelhardt Family Foundation

Backers \$5,000-\$9,999

Foundation for Pinckneyville

H & R Agri-Power

Patrons \$2,500-\$4,999

Beck's Hybrids

Dekalb Seeds

First National Bank of Pinckneyville

Union Pacific Foundation

Boosters \$1,000-\$2,499

Bigham Farms

Charles and Mary Greer

Crop Production Services

Farm Credit Services of Illinois

Fertilizer Dealer Supply

The Maschhoffs, LLC

Morton Buildings, Inc.

Prairie State Generating Co.

Vernon and Helen Mayer

2014

Backers \$5,000-\$9,999

Crop Production Services

Foundation for Pinckneyville

Morton Buildings, Inc.

Patrons \$2,500-\$4,999

Ameren Illinois

First National Bank of Pinckneyville

Gus C. Unverfehrt Farm Supply, Inc

H & R Agri-Power

Illinois Harvest LLC

Monsanto

Union Pacific Foundation

Boosters \$1,000-\$2,499

Bigham Farms

Charles and Mary Greer

Dick and Gayl Pyatt

Fertilizer Dealer Supply

IHC Chapter 32 of Southern IL

Knight Hawk Coal, LLC

Robert and Frances Weaver

Vernon and Helen Mayer

William K. Crawford

The Museum was a recipient of a \$25,000 Community Facility Grant in 2012 "In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, The Illinois Rural Heritage Museum is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, religion, sex, and familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination, write to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410. Or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382 (TDD)