



IRONHEAD GAZETTE

A Publication of the Railroad Model and Historical Society of Southeastern Ohio, Inc.

PO Box 1, Albany, Ohio, 45710

September 2015

Upcoming Events:

September 11-12, 2015
Riverside Railroad Club Open
House
Warren, Ohio
Admission: \$3

Large Outdoor Garden Railroad

September 13, 2015
NETS - Swap & Trade Model
Train Meet
Painesville, Ohio
Admission: Free
Depots Railfanning Days,
Collectors, Operating Layouts,
New/Old, Buy/Sell/Trade

September 19, 2015
Firelands Model Train & Toy
Show
Mansfield, Ohio
Admission: \$5
All Scales, Running Layouts,
Toys, Parts, Videos and more

September 26, 2015
14th Fostoria Rail Festival
Fostoria, Ohio
Admission: \$4
Toy Trains, Train Merchandise,
Model Train Displays, Rail Photo
Contest, Train Memorabilia, Bob
Lorenz Prints & Photos, Historic
Bus Tour

October 3-4, 2015
The Great Berea Train Show
Berea, Ohio
Admission: \$7.50
NMRA MCR Division 4, 300+
Dealer Tables, Operating
Layouts, New/Old Trains, Buy/
Sell/Trade, All Scales, Parts

October 10-11, 2015
Cincinnati Model Train & Trade
Show
West Chester, Ohio
Admission: \$7
NMRA MCR Division 7, All
Scales, Operating Layouts &
Displays, How-To's, 250+ Dealer
Tables

Railroad Hotel

Author Unknown
From: Roy Bivens

Back in 1939, the town of Essex, MT was picking up steam. It had always been in close proximity to the gorgeous Glacier National Park. In fact, it was nestled between its two main entrances. But when the Great Northern Railway placed a stop in Essex, it was like putting coals in the boiler of a train, and a plan to make a third entrance to the park got rolling.

In anticipation of all the future tourists and rail workers that Essex was sure to attract, the Izaak Walton Inn opened. The grand, \$40,000 hotel was modern in every detail, with 29 rooms, 10 bathrooms, a lobby, dining room, and kitchen with a two-ton cook stove.

Yet, when the United States entered World War II following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, plans for the new park entrance hit the back burner, and it never materialized. The small town of Essex was then left with its Inn Between two park entrances and not much else.

But, much like *The Little Engine That Could*, the big hotel in a tiny town persevered. Its warm staff and cozy rooms attracted ski and nature enthusiasts seeking a quiet refuge, and the hotel eventually earned a reputation as one of the state's best recreational secrets.

Fast-forward to 2015, and the hotel is thriving thanks to a very creative nod to its locomotive roots.

This caboose that zoomed through Essex in 1941 belonged to a Great Northern X215. It has been converted into something really special for this hotel.



Izaak Walton Inn

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Railroad Hotel

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It's a beautiful and modern dwelling that can house up to six. Once you step inside, you almost forget that you're standing in the belly of a caboose.



Izaak Walton Inn

A family can keep cozy in this renovated caboose that has a fully equipped kitchen, two sets of bunk beds, and a queen-sized bed with a gas fireplace in the master bedroom.



Izaak Walton Inn

This 60,000-pound rail car was hoisted by crane before it was trucked to Essex.



Izaak Walton Inn

'We get a lot of rail fans here who just go crazy over the trains, Elise Wright, assistant general manager at the Izaak Walton Inn, told the Daily Inter Lake.



Izaak Walton Inn

The GN X215 Caboose isn't the only reason why train buffs are attracted to this inn. There are other beautifully restored cars on the premises as well, like the Great Northern 441 Locomotive.



Izaak Walton Inn

This car represents the diesels that once rolled past the Izaak Walton Inn every day.



Izaak Walton Inn

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New Club Shirts

The Railroad Club is planning on placing an order for new club shirts for members. The cost will be about \$14.50 to \$16.50/shirt with the member's name on the shirt. More information will follow in upcoming newsletters.

“Hobo Speak”

<http://www.angelfire.com/folk/famoustramp/terminology.html>

Alligator Bait - Fried or stewed liver. Too costly now for hobos.

Railroad Hotel

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Each car boasts lovely, rustic details as well. The birch walls in this car accent the 400-year-old reclaimed oak floor.



Izaak Walton Inn

This larger car can hold up to two couples or a small family. The modern kitchen is the perfect place to cook up some fresh, river-caught trout.



Izaak Walton Inn

This car, obviously the conductor's locomotive, still retains some of its original parts. Kids love the train cars, too," Wright noted.



Izaak Walton Inn

The hotel also boasts other converted cars, like the JJ, Green, and Orange cabooses.



Izaak Walton Inn

Nowadays, though a track still runs by Essex, Amtrak only stops when there are passengers waiting.



Izaak Walton Inn

Although it never became the third entrance to Glacier National Park, the stop has become important over time, especially for BNSF Railway Co. freight trains that need helper engines to push their heavy loads over Marias Pass.



Izaak Walton Inn

Interested in Membership?

Interested in becoming a member? Join today! Membership dues are as follows:

- \$40 for a single membership for 1 year
- \$60 for a family membership for 1 year

Benefits of becoming a member:

- Voting
- Several great trips throughout the year
- Friends who share a common hobby and interests

US Offers \$10 Million in Grants for Railroad Crossing Fixes

Matthew Brown | Associated Press

U.S. transportation officials on Wednesday offered \$10 million in grants for states to upgrade highway-rail crossings and tracks in response to a recent surge in flammable fuel shipments.

The announcement from the U.S. Department of Transportation comes as rail crossing collisions have increased over the past several years, following more than three decades of steady declines.

The grants would pay for improvements along rail routes that transport flammable fuels. Shipments of crude oil and ethanol increased dramatically over the past decade before energy prices plummeted.

There were more than 2,200 rail crossing collisions in 2014, killing 269 people and injuring 849. Statistics on how many deaths have involved trains carrying fuels

were not available.

The force of a 30-car freight train hitting a car is equivalent to the force of a car crushing an aluminum soda can, according to Operation Lifesaver, a nonprofit group that advocates for rail safety.

Acting Federal Railroad Administrator Sarah Feinberg said most rail crossing deaths are preventable and the agency is intent on reversing the upward trend in accidents.

The money announced Wednesday will only go so far: Elevating a single highway over a rail line can cost tens of millions of dollars. Less expensive improvements include flashing signals and automatic gates.

U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, a Democrat from North Dakota, where most trains

carrying crude originate since an oil boom started about seven years ago, said in a statement that the grants will help balance the economic gains of increased oil production with the need for safety.

There are about 212,000 railroad grade crossings across the U.S., according to officials. Almost 40 percent of the fatalities last year occurred in just five states - California, Illinois, Texas, Alabama and Louisiana.

Funding for the state grants was included by Congress in its 2015 spending bill. Separately, the Transportation Department has proposed a \$250 million annual grant program for communities to upgrade highway-rail crossings and other rail improvements. That proposal has gotten tied up by disagreement in Congress over the six-year highway bill.

Our Mission

To Teach...

Those who want to know more.

To Educate...

Those who want to learn the history.

To Promote...

The hobby with enthusiasm.

And to share and enjoy the pleasure of all that is Railroading.



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All Aboard!