



WINTER, 2003-04 NEWSLETTER

HENNEPIN-OVERLAND RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

2501 East 38th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406
(612) 276-9034

Open House Dates. Open house dates remaining are as follows: December 20-21, and 27-28; January (2004) 3-4, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25; February 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29; March 13-14 and 20-21; and April 10-11 and 17-18. During open houses, members will be available to discuss any questions regarding model railroading, bench work, track laying, construction, scenery, wiring, structures, and membership.

The Museum Shop (“Station 2501”). We have detail parts, scenery materials, paints, glues, lubricants, track cleaners, couplers, wheels, books, new and used locomotives and rolling stock, buildings, and magazines. In addition, we special order anything that’s available from model railroad wholesalers or manufacturers.

The Museum Shop has available two numbers each of limited run Hennepin-Overland boxcar and hopper car kits. These were a limited run by Athearn and are not available elsewhere. Both are also available fully assembled. We also have for sale some limited run kits and assembled rolling stock from other h-o scale model organizations.

Restoration of the Operating Display. The 4,000 square foot railroad display of the Hennepin-Overland Museum consists of eastbound and westbound mainlines, a branchline serving the towns of New Bergin and Summit, a logging line from Summit to a new logging camp, upper level storage yards at Hennepin Yard and Centerville, industrial spurs, and lower-level storage/staging yards. We are operating 60% of the mainlines, connected by a temporary “shoo-fly” while the remainder of the mainlines and the helix are under reconstruction. The mainline restoration through Benton, including the double bridge, is complete and the portion through Centerville is significantly improved and awaits electrical work. The mainlines are 10.5 scale miles.

Centerville storage and industrial trackage continues to progress. The branchline has been restored but is not yet operational. The logging line will not be in operation until the helix is completed and the logging camp is built above the helix; and the trackage over the Clothespin Canyon Trestle will be restored in connection with completion of the logging line.

The overlay for the Hennepin Junction service area is in process, and many new structures are ready. The repairs to the mountain next to Hennepin Junction are awaiting the portals to the helix entrance to be incorporated into the slopes of the mountain.

The main helix is under reconstruction and is expected to be in progress through this winter. Track restoration and permanent wiring of the lower level staging yard area and its mini-helix is now complete. Construction of

new permanent staging yard turnout and block control panels is in progress. The branchline staging yard wiring has been restored and its yard is ready to operate when the helix is completed. Current mainline staging continues in the area that will be eventually occupied by a passenger depot.

Layout templates for passenger depot throats, east and west, are set and rail is being placed. The throats will be built on a base and moved intact into place when mainline staging returns to the lower level staging yard.

Hennepin yard is mostly restored to operational status, with finger control electrical switching and a throttle serving this yard. Temporary controls now allow connection of Hennepin Yard to either mainline. Two inactive freight mainlines at Hastings are used for staging and entrance to the active mainlines.

The town siding for Wobegon is operational, providing a second passing siding on the westbound main, but it is only suitable for local freight car delivery and commuter trains. A motorcar usually serves Wobegon for passenger and freight traffic.

Most of the internal building lighting has been completed in the towns, and the campfire in the hobo camp is lit.

Wiring for the remote power supplies and signal systems cables is now about 80% complete. The power available for operation is still limited until the helix is completed. A number of new signals are being installed and this work will continue in the coming months.

Membership. Membership is open to both adults and junior members with a minimum age of 14. All work is done on a volunteer basis, and all costs for reconstructing and operating the display are borne by its owner, the Hennepin-Overland Railway Historical Society.

The Museum. The Hennepin-Overland Railway Historical Society, Inc. is a nonprofit exempt organization under §501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code. Its goals include providing entertainment and education for those interested in the history and operations of railroads. It is the successor to an unincorporated association of railroad hobbyists formed in 1976 in Richfield. In 1985, the Hennepin-Overland (then 1,600 square feet) was moved and reassembled in 1987 at Lexington and University in St. Paul. In 1996, enlarged to 4,000 square feet, Hennepin-Overland began looking for its own facility and settled in 1997 on the current building in Minneapolis. The display was then taken apart again and stored. In July, 1999, the display was opened in time for the National Model Railroad Association Convention in St. Paul.

Some Suggestions for Locomotive Upgrades (per Daryl Nelson): replace plastic handrails with brass; install realistic headlights (and ditch lights); install metal grabs, sunshades, walkway chains, complete decals and detail the paint job.