Starke History 23

"Tidbits of Starke County History".....

Oh, that sound. What a great sound it was. You don't hear it very often anymore. I had been mowing and I noticed that a bearing was going bad on the mower. I stopped to investigate and that's when I heard it. About 3:05 Wednesday afternoon. The sound? It was a train going through Knox. Ah, you say, we hear those train horns all of the time. But, but not like this sound. This was a **steam** whistle. Steam whistles have this "wet" sound. This was the Nickel Plate **765** Engine going through Knox, on the old Nickel Plate tracks. It was headed to North Judson by the way of Brems, Thomaston, LaCrosse and English Lake.

I remember the old steam whistles. My folks, years ago, would take me to the Knox Nickel Plate Depot at 5:00 in the morning and we would get on the "west bound" to Chicago. We would visit the museums or some other sites in Chicago and arrive back in Knox at midnight. I still remember those steam whistles. Beautiful sounds.

The old steam whistles on locomotives were almost always activated by a pull cord (or sometimes a lever) that permitted proportional action, so that some form of "expression" could be put into the sound. Many locomotive operators would have their own style of blowing the whistle, and it was often apparent who was operating the locomotive by the sound. Modern locomotives often make use of a push-button switch, which takes away the fine control over the way the whistle is sounded. Also, the modern horns are air horns, not the "live steam" from a whistle.

As I said, this Nickel Plate 765 Engine was going to North Judson to be a guest at the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum. Here is part of a statement from their website - http://hvrm.railfan.net/nkp/765 index.html

Join the Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society and the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum for steam-powered passenger excursions in North Judson, Indiana!

After a sixteen-year absence from the mainline, historic steam locomotive Nickel Plate Road No. 765, fully restored after a five-year rebuild that ended in 2005, will reprise her role as passenger excursion train motive power and goodwill ambassador.

Beginning Memorial Day Weekend, No. 765 will operate on the former Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad as a guest of the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum. 2-hour-long roundtrips will operate three times daily May 23rd-May 25th at 10AM, 1PM, and 4PM Central Standard Time between North Judson and LaCrosse, Indiana.

On June 20th and 21st, No. 765 will pull the Mint Festival Flyer during North Judson's Annual Mint Festival between North Judson and LaCrosse, Indiana. Trains depart daily at 10AM, 1PM, and 4PM Central Standard Time.

All trips departing North Judson will feature special photo runs for passengers to enjoy the sights and sounds of the historic steam era.

Their website also lists ticket information. But even if you don't ride the train, you may want to go to North Judson this weekend and see the fantastic machine - one of only two main line locomotives still running in Indiana. For more information on this 2-8-4 Berkshire steam locomotive that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, go to this site - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nickel_Plate_765 Attached is a photo of this great steam engine.

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http://www.starkehistory.com http://www.scpl.lib.in.us/historical/

(If you do not wish to receive "Tidbits of Starke County History" in the future, please let me know.)

