



VOLUME 8

September-October, 1993

NUMBER 5

Phase I New Springfield, Missouri Facility Grand Opening Commemorative Issue

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ABOUT THE COVER

Our cover this issue features our newly completed Phase I museum building and serves as the *after* photo of a *before & after* sequence, with the cover photo on the August-September, 1992, *All Aboard*.

Editor's Note:

New Articles and our regular *All Aboard* features will return in the November-December issue.

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HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesday thru Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

"We've been together many a year, and each one seems to grow more dear.

So when it's time for you to go, we're going to miss you, ole Frisco.

We've weathered wars, rejoiced in peace, and strikes were settled before work ceased.

Moved from St. Louis with many a frown, and fell in love with your Springfield town.

You're being courted, one and all, by a railroad headquartered in St. Paul.

We all know 'twas love at first sight, and we wish you luck with all our might.

*No Frisco in Springfield! It won't be. **You'll be remembered, just wait and see.**"*

So wrote Frisco employee Fern Beck in 1979, on year before the Frisco/BN merger. Little did she know that fourteen years later, her prophetic words would become a reality when on September 25, 1993, The Frisco Railroad Museum Inc. celebrated the grand opening of Phase I of its new Springfield, MO facilities. And what a day it was!

It rained, and rained, and rained, up to fourteen inches in some areas. The entire slate of grand opening activities had to be cancelled, Frisco steam locomotive 1522 almost didn't make it (see *Steam To Springfield*, pp. 14-19), our newly renovated building leaked, three of our members (including museum president Alan Schmitt) spent part of the day pumping water out of their basements and businesses, and all who attended had a great time! As Frisco Folk Rick McClellan

remarked, "Man, this is like one big Frisco party!"

Despite the less than desirable conditions, over 1,300 Frisco Folks, rail fans, and local residents braved the elements to attend our opening. Many of our Frisco Folks museum family were in attendance, some of which drove long distances to be there. Stanley Bonifay traveled from Huntingburg, IN, Thomas Moody came from Pensacola, FL, and Ron Yates drove all night from Ft. Worth, TX, only to be able to spend a few hours before making the return trip home that afternoon.

Reflecting on the events of the day, museum founder and president Alan Schmitt commented, "This is truly a grand and glorious day of celebrating... celebrating the completion of Phase I of our new Springfield facility... celebrating the hard work and financial commitment of a lot of people... celebrating family, our special Frisco Folks family... a grand and glorious day of celebrating the Frisco!"

It was indeed an exciting day as our Frisco Folks and Frisco friends gathered together to publicly affirm that the **Frisco is GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!** ☞



Two days before grand opening, Frisco Folk John Sanders (right of photo) puts finishing touches on a display sign, with local news media looking on.



Museum Board member Art Lindeman, General Manager Donna Wagner, and Administrative Assistant Rachel Schmitt served as official greeters during our grand opening.



**Railroad Museum Inc.
Springfield Relocation Project
Phase I Honor Roll**

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The Officers & Board of Directors would like to give special recognition to the following businesses and organizations for their invaluable assistance in the completion of Phase I of our Springfield Relocation project:

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**Commerce Bank of
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**St. Louis Steam Train
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Frisco Steam Locomotive 1522
**Commercial Club of
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Advertising Support

The Officers & Board of Directors would like to give special recognition to the following individuals for their invaluable commitment of volunteer time and labor to the completion of Phase I of our Springfield Relocation project:

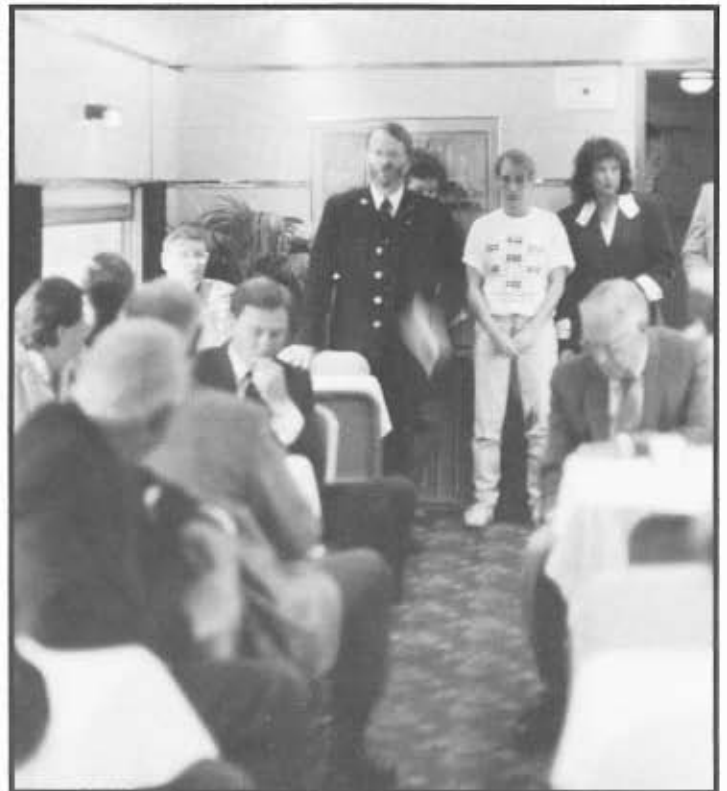
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Sarah Schmitt
Jim Warfield



Because our *official* grand opening ceremonies were rained out, the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a local ribbon cutting on November 10. Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chairmen Guy S. Pollard (*left with hat on*) and Louis Griesemer (*right*) hold the ribbon as City Councilman John Wilson does the honors.



Museum President Alan Schmitt addresses a VIP breakfast on board the *Chouteau Club* car, the only part of our grand opening ceremony that was not rained out.