

Connections

The Quarterly Newsletter of The Belt Railway Company of Chicago

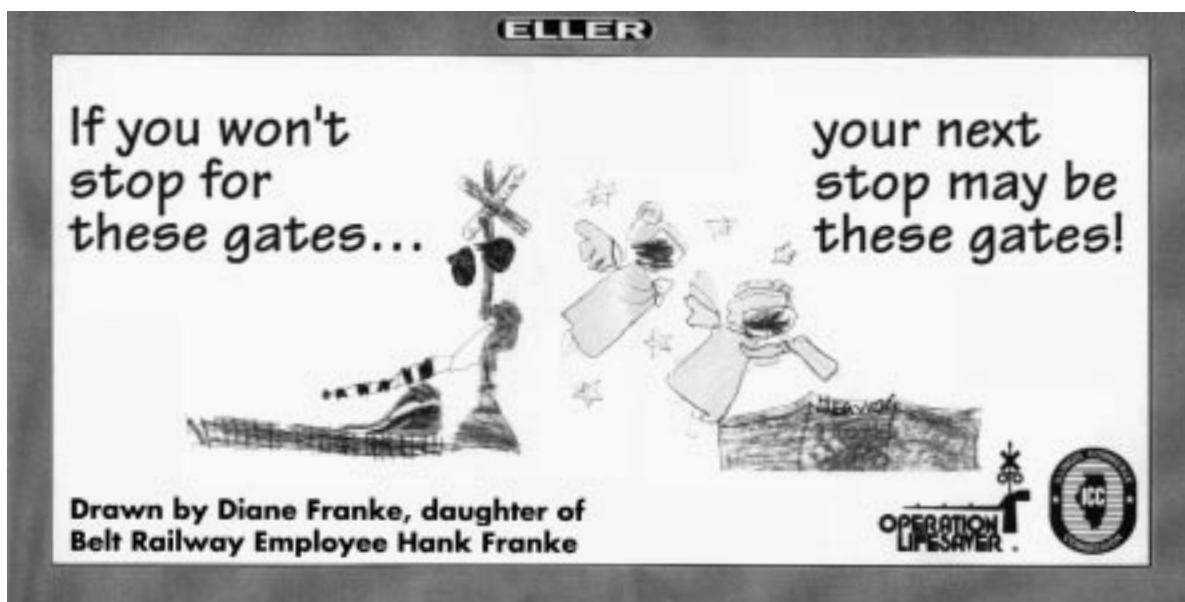
Inside CONNECTIONS

"We are now 115 years old, and we must continue the daily tradition of recognizing our company as a living entity, as it will always be a critical step toward increasing our corporate life expectancy and our personal association with it."

— Ron Batory,
president, Belt
Railway Company
of Chicago

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Company of Chicago
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Sign of the Times

Diane Franke's safety message is coming soon to billboards around Chicagoland

Diane Franke, daughter of Belt Diesel Electrician Hank Franke and his wife, Linda, loves railroads. Since she was a little girl, her dad has been taking her to the Belt's Clearing Yard to watch trains and locomotive engines. Diane also has accompanied Hank to railroad shows.

Like her dad, she has developed a passion for the industry, both past and present. She can tell which railroad owns a car or engine just by looking at the initials on the equipment. She even has told Hank that she wants to be a train dispatcher some day.

Diane also has an intense interest in railroad safety,

because she too often sees motorists and pedestrians going around lowered crossing gates. She knows that there is no reason to do something so foolish and tells her dad that she does not want to see someone end up like her.

Diane is referring to the medical battles she has had to fight ever since birth. Diane was born prematurely almost 13 years ago and weighed only 3 pounds at birth. Shortly after her birth, she was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

Doctors told Hank and Linda that Diane would probably spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair. Through hard work and with the continued



Above: Diane Franke and her proud dad, Hank, display her safety poster award from the Belt. Top: A print from Eller Media shows how Diane's poster will appear on a billboard.

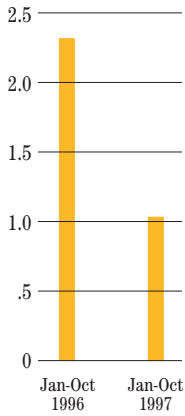
assistance of the Shriners Hospital, at age 5 Diane got out of her wheelchair and began to use a walker. She hopes one day to also leave the walker behind and walk under her own power.

Her perseverance also has helped her at school. At Mad-

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President's Letter

My Fellow BRC Associates:



Employee Safety Performance:
A 55.1 percent decrease in reportable employee injuries per 200,000 man hours.

Let us not be a victim of isolated success. We must regard our company—The Belt Railway Company of Chicago—as a living entity. The idea of a living company isn't just a semantic or academic issue. It has enormous practical, common, day-to-day implications for each of us. It means during the course of our railroad careers, we will need to involve each other in the continual development of our company. The extent that we care, trust, and engage each other at work is more than an effect on the bottom line. The most direct effect will be the expected life span of our railroad and ultimately the livelihoods each of us enjoys today. We are now 115 years old, and we must continue the daily tradition of recognizing our company as a living entity, as it will always

be a critical step toward increasing our corporate life expectancy and our personal association with it.

In service industries such as our own, we are only as good as the attitude and abilities we demonstrate. Excellence is a process, not just an outcome. We have to hold out for high standards in the service we provide daily. Our approach to the way we do business and deal with each other will ultimately determine our corporate longevity. We must always be determined to do what is right, which requires high ethical standards across the board. The ethics you live out as you go about your work will ultimately provide the foundation for the degree of excellence our business requires. Excellent customer service does not

come from following a rigid list of rules about what to do or say. Service excellence means giving what really counts to the customer.

Remember—this is your railroad. The best track structure, signal systems, facilities, and motive power can only be maximized by its dedicated work force. Our daily collective actions will determine your future through the ultimate direction of our shareholders and customers.

Very truly yours,

Ronald L. Batory
President

Sign of the Times

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dock Elementary School in Burbank, Diane made the Honor Roll three times during the last school year.

Diane is a fan of Operation Lifesaver, the national organization devoted to reducing accidents at railroad crossings. She would read and color the Operation Lifesaver materials that Hank brought home from the Belt.

With this as background, Diane was excited to hear that the Belt Railway was sponsoring a Safety Poster Contest in

the winter of 1995–96. In fact, Diane was a veteran of these contests, having won an earlier contest sponsored by the former Southern Pacific Railroad. She and many other children between the ages of 5 and 13 entered the Belt's contest. Although all entrants were declared winners and received trophies, everyone agreed that there was something special about Diane's poster and its message "If you won't stop for these gates ... your next stop may be these gates!"

Later, Belt President Ron Batory had the idea that Diane's poster would make a

great billboard, which would permit its message to reach hundreds of thousands of people. Fortunately, the Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Commerce Commission, and Illinois Operation Lifesaver agreed. These state agencies agreed to help fund the project, and Eller Media, Inc. agreed to devote space, free of charge, to the project. Starting early next year, Diane's poster will be on billboards throughout Chicagoland.

Congratulations to the entire Franke family! The Belt family is proud of you.

The Belt Railway Company of Chicago welcomes your comments. Send all correspondence to: CONNECTIONS, The Belt Railway Company of Chicago, 6900 South Central Ave., Bedford Park, IL 60638. For service inquiries or more immediate assistance, call (708) 496-4000. © 1997 Belt Railway Company of Chicago. Design by Mainline Publications Inc., Chicago.

Visitors from Canada and the Netherlands Tour the Belt



The Canadian National Railway's Board of Directors visited the Belt Railway's mainlines and Clearing Yard as part of an observation train tour of the Chicago Gateway on September 29.

The train's passengers, including CN President Paul Tellier, had the opportunity to see the nation's busiest terminal railroad in action.

Netherlands visitors take "study trip" to see Belt

Earlier this summer, the Belt

Railway also played host to a delegation of transportation executives from the Netherlands. The visit was arranged to better acquaint representatives of the 12 Dutch provinces united in the Association of the Provinces of the Netherlands with North American railroads.

The delegation also attended "study trips" held in Washington, DC, and Toronto. The trips were organized by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington, DC.

The Canadian National observation train heads north under the Belt's hump tower.

Belt Installs AEI and Moves Car Operations Staff

In September, the Belt Railway's Car Operations clerical staff moved from the venerable "Green Building" or Agent's Office across the parking lot to the General Office Building. The move came as a direct result of the successful installation of a totally integrated Automatic Equipment Identification System (AEI).

Twelve AEI sites have been strategically positioned to capture the movement of all traffic in, through, and out of Clearing Yard. A small gray plastic box—called an AEI tag—has been attached to the sides of all rolling stock including engines. When a car passes an AEI site, a transponder in each AEI tag is activated by a radio signal and returns the car's ID.

After a train or cut of cars clears an AEI site, the AEI reader transmits via telephone a list of cars to the Belt Railway's AS400 computer system. At this point, Car Operations clerks can extract data from the computer to process the list of cars without any manual entry of car initials or numbers.

Belt President Honored

The St. Louis Railway Club named Belt Railway President Ronald L. Batory its "Railroad Man of the Year." Batory received the award at the club's October 6 meeting.



Belt Expands Into New Buildings

This summer saw the grand opening of the West and East Yard Train Operations Buildings. These sparkling new facilities contain lunchrooms, washrooms, and offices for yardmasters and car foremen. This new construction permitted the Belt to demolish four buildings and two trailers.

In The News ...

The most recent edition of *BYLINE Magazine*, published by the Bedford Park/Clearing Industrial Association, highlighted the Belt Railway's continuing efforts to alleviate traffic delays through the construction of grade separations.

The article discussed the formal Grade Separation Feasibility Study, co-sponsored by the Belt, the Illinois Department of Transportation, and the Chicago Department of Transportation. The purpose of the study, which is now underway, is to identify the most feasible and beneficial locations for one or more grade separations.

Tim Coffey, the Belt's director of legal and governmental affairs, was recently named to the Bedford Park/Clearing Industrial Association's board of directors and is the chairman of its Traffic and Transportation Committee.

Belt Acquires Ballast Car Fleet



The Belt Railway recently put into service a series of ballast cars that were retrofitted from second-hand rolling stock.

The Belt's crack Car Department forces repaired the cars' safety appliance, trucks, air, and draft arrangements. Ballast gates were applied, and the cars received

shiny new paint jobs in the Belt's colors of black, gray, and gold. They proudly state the slogan "Foundation for Safety and Service."

The cars are permitting the Belt's track maintenance forces to perform their jobs more efficiently. Kudos to all who assisted in getting this fleet ready and into service.

Left to right: Belt carmen Jimmy Nalls, Dave Skocik, Mark Rossetti, Jack Germann, Tom Sipple, and Ken Lyman stand before a newly repaired and painted ballast car.



**The Belt Railway
Company of Chicago**
6900 South Central Ave.
Bedford Park, IL 60638

Interchange

The Employee Newsletter of The Belt Railway Company of Chicago

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Belt Honors Employees at 3rd Annual Safety Appreciation Day

The Belt's Third Annual Employee Safety Appreciation Day was a huge success. This annual event is a celebration of the safe work attitudes both expressed and practiced by Belt employees all year long.

At Safety Appreciation Day, more than 700 meals were served. Each employee was presented with a personalized replica of the 1996 Silver Harri-man Safety Award certificate presented to Belt President Ron Batory earlier this year in Washington, DC, commemorating the Belt's fine safety performance of last year.

Staff from MacNeal Hospital manned a Health Tent and provided blood pressure screenings and body fat analyses. Doctors and nurses were also on hand to pass out health-related reading materials and answer questions.

Entertainment was provided by the Pullman Hobos and their stories and songs of the rails, featuring Luther the Jet, Wisconsin Dell, Mr. Bojangles, and Tom Schaeffer.

Luther the Jet expressed his appreciation for being invited to the event by penning a song entitled "The Belt Railway Company of Chicago." The song is set to the tune of "Red River Valley." Its lyrics appear to the right.



The Belt Railway Company of Chicago

by Luther the Jet

*In the City of the Big Shoulders
And a freight handler to all the
world
The Belt Railway Company of
Chicago
Is flying its banners unfurled*

*From the long double yard down
at Clearing
We send trains north and south,
east and west
And wherever good railroaders
gather,
Our service is known as the best*

*From the Grand Trunk to Union
Pacific,
CSX to the old Santa Fe,
From the IC to Burlington
Northern
We are speeding the freights on
their way.*

*There is no problem we cannot
handle,
If it has to do with freight cars
and trains,
And this is our greatest
advantage:
Independent, we can deal without
restraints.*

*If you ask how this excellence can
happen,
It's by teamwork and spirit and
pride,
And this is forever our byword,
We never put safety aside.*

*Ship and save all you can on the
Belt line,
In time and expense and delay.
It's a better rail outfit you'll never
Be finding in many a day!*

Belt Police Sergeants Complete Training

Congratulations to Belt Police sergeants Tom Charniak and Jerry Selvage on their successful completion of a 40-hour Firearms Instruction course, for which they received a certificate from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE JEFF GINGRICH



Occupation: Maintenance Foreman

Hometown: Chicago

Years with BRC: 27

Personal: Married, two daughters

Primary Duties: Everything having to do with maintenance around Belt property: buildings, vehicles, utilities, etc.

Favorite Things About Working at the Belt: Never boring, always different things to do. The people are great. Job security.

How Other BRC Employees Can Help Me Do My Job: By promptly notifying me of any maintenance problems at 496-4101. Also, by taking better care of company property and equipment. Our employees should treat company equipment like it is their own.

Hobbies: Fishing, traveling.

Favorite Vacation Spot: Westhaven, Florida

EMPLOYEE TRANSITIONS & MILESTONES

Retirements

During the past months, nine employees retired from the Belt Railway. We wish them all the best in retirement.

Harold Mix
Switchman
45 years of service

Gerald Tomlonson
Clerk
44 years of service

Al Walton
Clerk
42 years of service

Benie Peacock
Switchman
41 years of service

Joseph Kozlowski
Switchman
38 years of service

Rudolfo Guzman
Trackman
34 years of service

Nicolas Guerrero
Trackman
33 years of service

Primitivo Orozco
Trackman
33 years of service

Ramon Villafuerte
Trackman
33 years of service

Service Anniversaries *The following employees reached service anniversaries during fall 1997. Our congratulations to them!*

40 Years

Patrick T. Powers
Clerical
Oct. 24, 1957

35 Years

Charles E. Johnson
Transportation
July 10, 1962

30 Years

Arnold L. Watson
Clerical
July 3, 1967

Billy E. Jones
Clerical
Aug. 30, 1967

Kenneth C. Lyman
Car
Sept. 26, 1967

James A. Nalls
Car
Nov. 14, 1967

20 Years

Jesus P. Mosquedo
Track
July 6, 1977

John N. Spano
Dispatcher
Nov. 8, 1977

15 Years

Gerald A. Dudzik
Transportation
Oct. 23, 1982

Belt Helps EMD Celebrate 75th Anniversary

The Belt helped the Electro-Motive Division of the General Motors Corporation celebrate its 75th anniversary by providing our TR2 switching locomotives Nos. 501 and 510, built in 1949, for public display at EMD's 75th Anniversary Exhibition on September 21 at its LaGrange, Illinois facility. The exhibition featured motive power built during the past three-quarters of a century.

INTERCHANGE is published quarterly for the employees of The Belt Railway Company of Chicago. Employees are encouraged to submit ideas, photos, and suggestions to Tim Coffey in care of the General Office Building. © 1997 Belt Railway Company of Chicago. Design by Mainline Publications Inc., Chicago.