

CONCEPTION OF THE 2012 ZACHOW C&NW STANDARD No. 3 DEPOT (Original built in 1906)

To put this little insight into perspective you must understand that the two folks talked about here are soon to be in their 70's and are reflecting and pontificating on life, on the meaning of life, and other things that have no life, or things and beings that will soon have no life.

These two "soon to be septuagenarians" were sitting around in 2005 and sipping some beer and feeling pretty sad since each had recently been over to Zachow to have their annual look and to stir up old memories of when they lived there and grew up there. All but two of the businesses were gone and the structures converted into apartments. Trees and shrubs are now grown up considerably, hiding some of the old history. The depot and tracks are long gone, and the old Pensaukee Creek is a lot lower. The old vibrancy they knew was no longer evident.

This required more quiet reflection. One of them then finally looked up said "S---!, "if we don't do something no one will know how the Village of Zachow was and no one will even know we were there!" "What should we do about it?"

A little more quiet reflection seemed to provide an answer. "Lets do an expanded history of Zachow on each house and business structure and then compile it into a longer more comprehensive history of Zachow than that already written!" (The current history is only two pages long.) "Lets see if we can get anyone else to help us on this and we will call ourselves the ZACHOW HISTORIC COMMITTEE."

It was remembered that they had access to three large aerial photographs of Zachow from circa 1949. These were once on the back wall of the Farmers State Bank but when the bank was closed the photos ended up in the halls of the Bonduel Community Archives. In fact, one of the "soon to be septuagenarians" is on one of the photos. It was agreed that a model of Zachow could be built that would reflect the last part of the "Hay-Day" of Zachow and could be done in the modelers "N" gauge size. (A modeling railroad size e.g. O, HO, N etc.)

This raised the question of where the model of Zachow would reside. Again, a quiet descended on the two old gentlemen and another period of quiet reflection. "S---!,if only we had the old depot we could put it in the freight room!" one of them blurted after stirring from his quiet reflection.

A search was launched to find the old depot but it had been dismantled and destroyed. "D---!". no place to go with model of Zachow."

Efforts were launched to get the history part started of what was called the "Zachow Project" but the modeling of Zachow was still a problem.

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After checking to see if the Bonduel Community Archives, and the Shawano County Historical Society had space for the model it was learned there was no place for a layout that would be 16 feet long and 7 feet wide.

There was another period of quiet as before.

Finally one of them said “S---! We’ll build us a new replica depot and put the model of Zachow in its freight room. Obviously, reality, common sense, and sanity had left the two gentlemen along with maybe too much quiet reflection. Now where would they put a Depot when they could not even find a place for a model?

The Bonduel Community Archives had no space, BUT, the Shawano County Historical Society had a lot of land potentially available in what was called Heritage Park in Shawano, WI. An offer was made to the Historical Society to build a C&NW Standard No. 3 Depot like the one built in Zachow in 1906. A major problem was then brought to light and that was that the Shawano County Historical Society had no land. It belonged to Shawano County. It was not park land even though it was called Heritage Park. After three years of going back and forth the land was finally made into park land officially by the County Board and the Historical Society now had a permanent home.

As this was going on, one of the “soon to be septuagenarians” contacted the Chicago & North Western Historical Society in Chicago to see what they had concerning a Standard No. 3 Depot. Luck was with the Zachow Historic Committee in that the CNWHS had a 1903 plan for the Standard No. 3 Depot- - -on a single piece of 8 ½”x11” paper. How could a depot be built from that ?????

Again, more luck. Matt Schachtner, an historical architect from Sommerville, Inc in Green Bay, had interest in the project and his crew put together a set of construction plans with the specs for the C&NW Standard No. 3 Depot and the project was put out for bid.

Felts Construction, Inc of Shawano, WI was the best bidder and was awarded the contract for the Zachow Depot with Richard Felts as the project manager. Ground was broken in July of 2011 and most of the Depot and modeling of Zachow was completed in 2012. An official opening to the public is scheduled for June of 2013.

The “now septuagenarians”????? > Dean D. Proper & Leon Westerfeld

Shawano County Historical Society
Zachow Historic Committee (part of SCHS)
Summer 2012

1906 C&NW STANDARD No. 3 DEPOT



2012 C&NW STANDARD No. 3 DEPOT

