



## **THE MANIFEST**

### **April 2022**



Greetings!

We have had a fantastic start to the 2022 season at the park. On our second run day we had a record day. Jerry has been on vacation so I am not certain if it is an all time record, but I do believe it was.

To have such fantastic turnouts after surviving the pandemic is encouraging to say the least. Thank you everyone who has come out to help. We continue to be blessed with marvelous volunteers. However, we are in need of additional volunteers for our run days as well as maintaining the park, equipments, etc.

That being said, I encourage you to tell your extended family, friends, neighbors, friends of friends, etc. the about our park and invite them to visit and consider joining our organization.

Membership is only \$20 per year. There are student, youth, and family memberships also. The membership application can be downloaded online at <https://www.soc-nhrs.org>.

## **Train to Kansas with Mom and Esther**

In honor of Mother's Day and in memory of my beloved mother I am going to share a story my mom and grandmother told me, which begins on a train.

My grandmother was born and raised in Hiawatha, Kansas before moving to Montana with her father in 1910, marrying and raising 5 boys and a girl on the family farm. My mother was that girl and this story takes place when she was about 16.

Mom and grandma took a train trip back to Kansas for a visit. My mother was is very outgoing and started a conversation with an elderly lady sitting across from her. The women's name was Esther and her and mom chatted for a while about this and that, small talk.

Mom said she sensed Esther was concerned or anxious about something. Mom had a very calming effect on everyone she met and soon the Esther was relating to her the cause of her concern. It seems Esther had purchased a ticket that would only take her half way, or slightly more, to her preferred destination.

Mom was curious and asked if she had purchased it in error but Esther told her she did not have enough money to go all the way, so she was going to get as close as she could. Mom asked her what plan she had to be able to finish her journey. Mom said Esther smiled and said she was certain the Lord would provide. This was not a statement foreign to my mom, as my grandmother would say it often. However, being a

practical person my mom was skeptical that Esther would be able to continue her journey and/or be safe.

Mom was a good judge of character and she liked Esther and wanted to help. Grandma said mom asked her if they could help her in any way. Mom and grandma decided to offer her a place to stay with them at a relative's house in Hiawatha, as this stop was before Esther's.

Esther hesitated at first, but as she had no better offers in front of her, she accepted.

I asked mom if she was pulling my leg, but she swore it was true, and grandma confirmed. So what happened to the women I asked. It seems she was a retired schoolteacher (my grandmother was a teacher also) and had graduated from the same college as my grandmother. One of my mom's great aunts remembered the women. Unfortunately the women did not have any living relatives, and was trying to return home to live the rest of her life and be able to be buried in a family plot.

So my 3x great aunt, who was not without means, purchased her a ticket, as well as one for mom and Albert, mom's cousin. They accompanied her so she would not be alone on her journey and made certain she was able to move into her family home, which had been vacant for some years. Mom's cousin did some repairs, the local community helped also and after a good housecleaning by mom and Esther the house was livable again.

Mom said Esther had a small retirement, as well as being able to raise chickens and sell eggs, milk from a milk cow, and do alterations and other sewing. Mom said Esther lived for over 20 years after that passing away at 99 and was laid to rest with her family, as was her wish.

You just never know who you might meet on the train. Anyone who knew my mom would not be surprised with this story. Mom was always finding herself in rare often funny circumstances.

I hope you enjoyed my story and if you have any train stories of your own that you would like put in the newsletter, please feel free to send them to me. My email is listed below under chapter officers.

As it happens each year, our first run day in May is on. Mothers Day, May 8. Please bring mom, grandma, aunt, etc. out for a fun day at the train park, ride trains, explore and stop for a burger. I will be there to take your order.

Our next meeting is **May 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** in the model railroad building at south end of parking lot at the Railroad Park.

Our volunteers don't get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are **PRICELESS**

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