

**JUST A SHORT WALK ACROSS THE ROAD FROM THE DEPOT**



**COOPER-CORLISS STEAM ENGINE**

Donated By:  
Fred and Cynthia Carus  
of LaSalle, Illinois

With it's *25'4" diameter* flywheel, our 130-ton Cooper-Corliss is one of the largest steam engines to be found in the United States. Club members moved the engine piece by piece from a factory in LaSalle/Peru IL where it powered a bank of *three* zinc rolling mills. While we run it at a lower steam pressure and slower speed today, in the factory it would have run at 45 rpm on 225 psi of steam producing a staggering *4,798 horsepower*.  
**The Cooper-Corliss is open the same days that the train runs.**



**SILVER CREEK MUSEUM**

*\*Featuring\**  
Over 25 rooms of  
Early Americana & Local History  
Adult Admission \$3.00

With a wide variety of different displays, our museum offers something of interest for just about everyone, whether you're young or not so young.

**The Museum is open the same days the train runs.**



Stop by the museum building  
December 3rd & 4th for our  
Cookie and Holiday Treat Sale



**OTHER ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

In 2012 The Stephenson County Antique Engine Club  
Is Proud To Host Our  
**43RD ANNUAL OLD TIME THRESHING & ANTIQUE SHOW**  
At the Stephenson County Fairgrounds  
On August 3rd, 4th, & 5th  
*\*Featuring\**

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Antique Displays          | Large Flea Market       |
| Working Horsepower        | Saw Mill                |
| Blacksmith Shop           | Antique Tractors        |
| Daily Parade at 1:00 p.m. | Farmer Class Horse Pull |
| Antique Tractor Pulls     | Gasoline Alley          |
- Adult Ticket \$6.00 Children Under 12 \$3.00



Join us for our Pancake Suppers  
In 2012 we'll be cooking on  
March 31st & November 3rd  
Suppers are held at the Museum Building



**TRAIN OF TERROR**

A ride on The Silver Creek & Stephenson is usually a quiet remembrance of the past. On certain nights in October, however, ghosts and ghouls haunt our rails. On these nights, the train leaves the station for uncharted suspense! As the train rolls along, you never know what or who might step out of the darkness to greet you. Will the train return?? Come find out for yourself.



**2012 Steam Train Ride Schedule**

<b>MAY 27 &amp; 28</b>	<b>MEMORIAL DAY (SUN. &amp; MON.)</b> <i>ICE CREAM SOCIAL-HEISLER 100TH BIRTHDAY PARTY</i>
<b>JUNE 16 &amp; 17</b>	<b>FATHER'S DAY—QUILT SHOW</b>
<b>JULY 4</b>	<b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> <i>HEISLER 100TH BIRTHDAY PARTY</i>
<b>AUG. 3, 4, &amp; 5</b>	<b>43RD ANNUAL THRESHING &amp; ANTIQUE SHOW</b>
<b>SEP. 3</b>	<b>LABOR DAY</b>
<b>OCT. 6 &amp; 7</b>	<b>HOMEMADE SOUPS</b>
<b>OCT. 6, 13, &amp; 20</b>	<b>TRAIN OF TERROR</b>
<b>OCT. 20 &amp; 21</b>	<b>FALL HARVEST DEMONSTRATIONS</b> <b>SAUERKRAUT &amp; BRATS</b>

STANDARD HOURS OF OPERATION— 11 AM TO 4 PM  
ADULT TICKET— \$7.00 CHILDREN UNDER 12— \$3.00

TRAIN OF TERROR OPERATES— 6 PM TO 9 PM  
ALL TRAIN OF TERROR TICKETS— \$8.00

The Railroad Yard & Museum Campus Are Located At:  
2954 South Walnut Road  
Freeport, Illinois 61032

**For More Information**

Phone:  
(815) 232-2306 Anytime  
(815) 235-2198 — Days Of Train Operation Only

On The Web:  
[www.thefreeportshow.com](http://www.thefreeportshow.com)

Email:  
[thefreeportshow@thefreeportshow.com](mailto:thefreeportshow@thefreeportshow.com)

-Or Contact-  
The Stephenson County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
(800) 369-2955



Our Railroad & Other Activities Are Sponsored By:  
**THE STEPHENSON COUNTY ANTIQUE ENGINE CLUB**

We are a not-for-profit educational organization whose goal is the preservation of America's historical heritage. Our club is made up of members that donate their time and knowledge to the many activities we share with the public. If you're interested in joining us, please don't hesitate to talk with a club member, give us a call, or send us an email.

Brochure Design, Layout, & Printing Provided By:  (815) 541-7749 or (815) 821-5699

**ALL ABOARD**



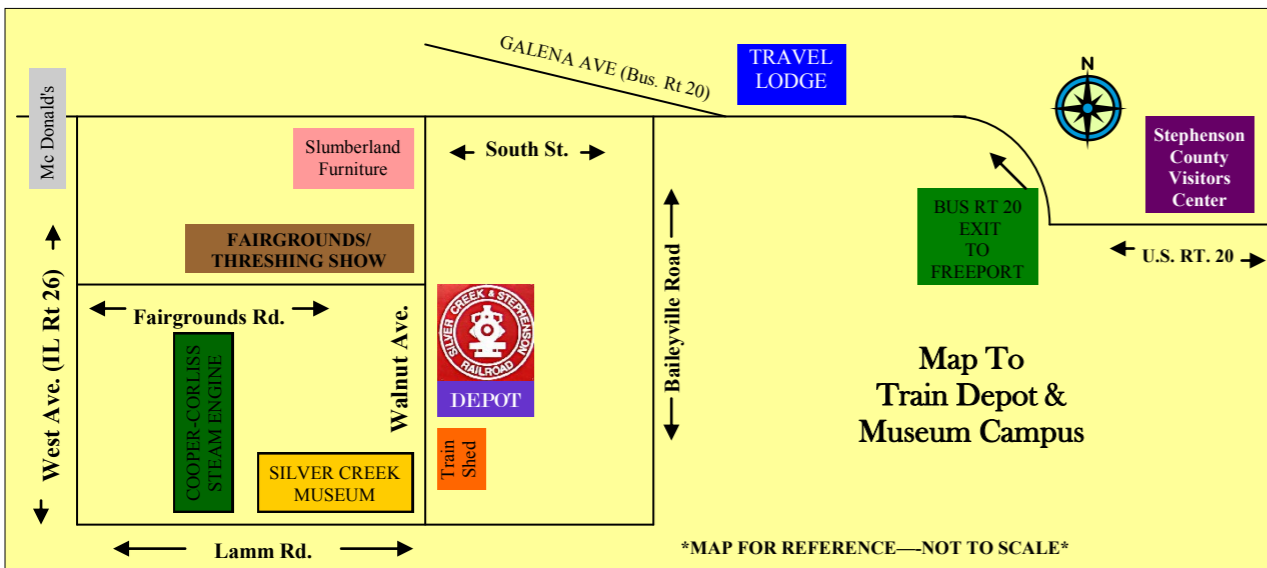
By:  
Dave Fissell

*Take A Journey Into Yesteryear On The*

**SILVER CREEK & STEPHENSON RAILROAD**  
**FREEPORT, ILLINOIS**

**\*FEATURING\***

- A 1912 Heisler Steam Locomotive (Celebrating 100 Years of Operation In 2012)
- The Oldest Operating Caboose In The State Of Illinois
- Diesel & Gasoline Locomotives
- A Collection Of Additional Caboosees
- Assorted Rail Cars & Other Rolling Stock



# HISTORY OF THE SILVER CREEK & STEPHENSON

Our story starts in 1982 when the Stephenson County Antique Engine Club purchased the Heisler locomotive from a railroad club in Indiana. When we got it back to Freeport, we didn't have the rails we use today, so it was housed in the club's building on the Stephenson County Fairgrounds. It was put on display periodically while we got the rest of our railroad up and going.

In 1983, when the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, & Pacific railroad went bankrupt, the club purchased the current railroad right-of-way which runs diagonally from Walnut & Lamm Roads to Baileyville Road. Despite our best efforts to buy the roadbed intact, the rails and ties were purchased by a salvage company and taken out.

While we debated what to do about rails and ties, we continued to move forward on other fronts. In 1984 the club purchased our prized red caboose from a man in Oregon Illinois.

By now, we had started purchasing rails and ties. Rail was hauled in from as far away as Mankato Minnesota, while ties were found throughout the state of Illinois.

The first track was laid by club members on bare roadbed starting May 28, 1985. We were on our way!

The train shed was finished in May 1986 and in late July of that same year, the club opened the railroad to the public.

July 1987 found club members laying track up to the Yellow Creek bridge and in July of 1988 we had the rails extended to within five blocks of Baileyville Road.

Construction started on The Silver Creek Depot in the spring of 1992. The depot was opened and dedicated in 1993. Throughout all of this we continued to add rail cars, locomotives, and other rolling stock to our collection.



Our railroad has come a long way since it's humble beginnings. Each new season, we continue to see more and more new faces stopping by for a ride as well as old friends returning for another trip. We hope you'll join us on our next trip up the tracks.

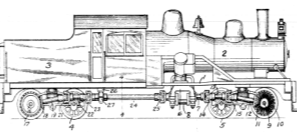
# THE SILVER CREEK & STEPHENSON RAILROAD YARD



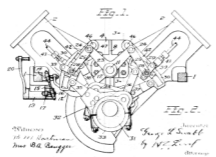
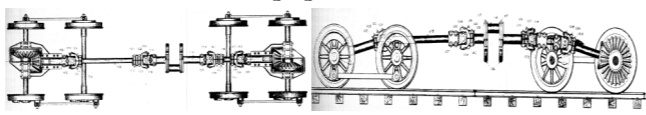
1912 HEISLER 36-TON GEAR-DRIVEN STEAM LOCOMOTIVE

This is the locomotive that got our railroad started. Built in Erie Pennsylvania and bearing serial #1260 it is one of only four operating in the world. Our 36 ton Heisler weighs a little less than half of the largest made 90 ton Heisler .

Unlike most steam locomotives the Heisler's pistons are not directly attached to the drive wheels.



Instead they are mounted to a crankshaft which then drives the locomotive through gears attached to the wheels.



The steam cylinders have a bore of 13"x12" and are set in a "V" under the boiler about 3/4 of the way back from the front of the locomotive

Each day the train runs, there is a lot to do to get the Heisler ready to go. Our crew shows up early and gets to work long before any passengers arrive.

One group grabs their oil cans and puts oil on the many lube points on the engine. When they're done everything turns and slides smoothly.

While the oiling is going on, another group starts the fire that boils the water to produce the steam. If the engine is cold, it can take three hours to get the fire hot enough to produce enough steam to drive the engine.

Keeping enough steam up throughout the day is no small task. Each trip up the tracks and back uses 200 gallons of water to produce the needed steam. We also have to shovel 200 pounds of coal into the firebox each trip to keep the fire hot enough.

Yes, it's a lot of work, but the smiles on the faces of our passengers make it all worth while!



THE SILVER CREEK DEPOT Dedicated May 31, 1993 Donated By ED SCHMIDT

The Silver Creek Depot was modeled on plans of the Illinois Central Depot in Elroy Illinois. Inside you'll find the ticket booth where our agent sells tickets. After a ticket purchase, be sure to see the railroad memorabilia on display in the depot building while waiting for the next scheduled train departure. After your train returns, stop by and visit the souvenir shop in the Freight House.



BUILT IN 1889 FOR THE HANNIBAL & ST. JOE RAILROAD

The oldest operating caboose in the state of Illinois, it is one of only twenty-four built in the Hannibal & St. Joe shops.

It has a steel under-frame and wooden body. The beams in its trucks (wheel sets) are also wood, making it the smoothest riding car on the Silver Creek and Stephenson as wood absorbs shock better than steel.

It was a little rough when we brought it home. Extensive restoration was done by our members on the right side and the roof.

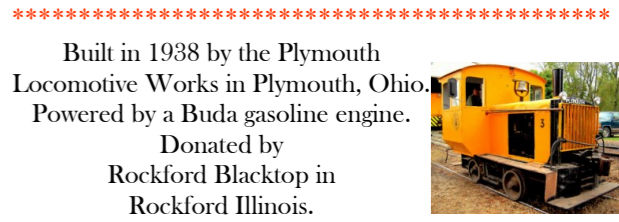
All their hard work turned it into the beauty it is today.



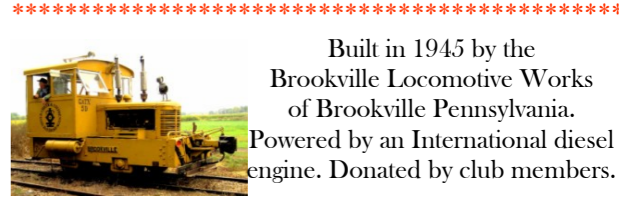
Heisler led train crossing 30 feet above Yellow Creek



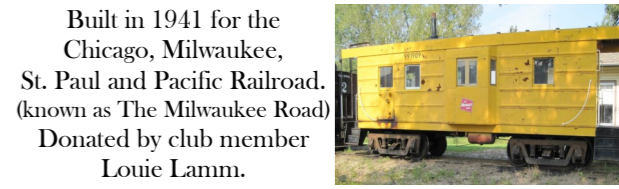
Built in 1954 by the Davenport Locomotive Works of Davenport Iowa. Powered by a diesel engine. Donated in 2005 by the St. Mary's Cement Company in Dixon Illinois.



Built in 1938 by the Plymouth Locomotive Works in Plymouth, Ohio. Powered by a Buda gasoline engine. Donated by Rockford Blacktop in Rockford Illinois.



Built in 1945 by the Brookville Locomotive Works of Brookville Pennsylvania. Powered by an International diesel engine. Donated by club members.



Built in 1941 for the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad. (known as The Milwaukee Road) Donated by club member Louie Lamm.



Built in 1948 for the Illinois Central Railroad Acquired by Silver Creek & Stephenson in 1989.



Built For: Fiat-Allis Plant Springfield, IL



Built For: Union Pacific Railroad



Built For: United States Army

Canopies built by club members Each car seats 40 people