



THE DEPOT TELEGRAPH

May 2016

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Dear Friends of the Kingsburg Depot,

It's May, and that means Swedish Festival! The Depot will be open during the Festival on Saturday May 21. A new flag donated by Steve Nagle was raised over the Depot last week, and Larry Esau planted flowers in the brick planter. David Meyer took this beautiful photo of the new flag flying proudly aloft.

Lizzie, the 1917 Ford Depot Hack will be participating in the Swedish Festival parade. She just had new top material installed by Varela's Upholstery in Selma, and Louis Varela did a very fine job.

Docents are needed to staff the Depot during the Festival. Please call 559-341-1978 or email president@kingsburgdepot.org if you can help.

LEON S. PETERS LEARNING CENTER FIELD TRIPS



The Leon S. Peters Learning Center educational program operating in the Depot hosted its first student field trip experience for Mom's Time Out on April 19th. Moms attended with children from infants to 4 years of age. They met in the Waiting Room and learned what people in older times packed in a suitcase or trunk. Three students got to model an antique neck-tie and vest worn by a former station agent. Mrs. Esau shared information about the railroad telephones and other interesting artifacts. The tour ended in the Freight House with a showing of the video "The Little Engine That Could."

On April 28th the Special Education class from Lincoln School took a walking tour of the Depot and discovered 3 antique clocks and 3 styles of antique telephones. They talked about how these were different than the clocks and phones we use today. The students liked the huge scale and crates in the Freight House. The best part of the experience was standing on the Freight Dock and watching trains pass by. UP locomotive engineers have been giving the students a special blast of their train horns.

Lincoln School 3rd grade students will be coming to the Depot during the week of May 24th to experience the Depot as living history. We have a few re-enactors who will be costumed and playing parts. If you would like to be involved in this Living History Experience, please contact Shirley Esau soon! We need three more re-enactors for May! Email sjesau@comcast.net or call 559-859-4441. We also need 10 shoe boxes by May 16th. Please let Shirley Esau know and she can tell you where and when to drop them off. Steve Hofer and Corey and Lissa Engstrom are writing scripts for the Living History Experience, and Tamra Norris is helping with costumes.

FAIRBANKS SCALE RESTORATION



Our volunteers are currently restoring many historic artifacts. The largest of these is an 1895 Fairbanks Scale, a main feature in the Freight House. Steven Britton and Ron Numerick have been working diligently to bring the Scale back to full beauty and operation. Some of the many metal parts are shown in this picture, laid out on the Freight House floor. The heavy cast iron Doric-style columns are 5 feet tall! Many wood parts not shown are also being restored in the Loading Area. All parts will be re-assembled on the base in the background to complete the Scale, which is 4 feet wide, 6 feet long, and 6 feet tall fully assembled. With a 3,000 pound capacity, the Scale was used to weigh fruit and other freight to determine cost of shipping. Student visitors will use the Scale under the direction of a workman re-enactor to weigh items as part of the mathematics curriculum.

OFFICE SAFE RESTORATION

The Office safe stored money collected during Depot business activities. This safe was donated by Russell Anderson and has been undergoing a limited restoration. 3 of 4 brass finials on the safe hinges were missing, so Jim Rudholm used the one remaining to recreate the missing parts on his metal lathe. The skill of our volunteers never ceases to amaze.

APARTMENT RESTORATION

Steven Britton, Mike Dunn, and Ron Numerick are restoring the second-story 5-room Apartment. This space was home to Station Agents and their families. Like the rest of the Depot, these rooms are being restored and furnished to the 1920's period.

MODEL RAILROAD COMMITTEE FORMING



Tom Parsons, Don Smith, and Lorin Weidman are organizing a committee to oversee model railroad activities at the Depot during the Christmas holidays. A large modular HO-scale layout was recently donated to Friends of the Depot. It includes numerous modules, a control stand, and hundreds of pieces of rolling stock. Members will also be invited to display personal collections and layouts in all scales. Please contact Lorin 559-707-9271 or lnweidman@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming part of the model railroad group.

CALENDAR

May 9, Monday	Board meeting 5:30pm
May 21, Saturday	Depot open during Swedish Festival
June 2, Thursday	Central Valley Home School Graduation
June 13, Monday	Board meeting 5:30pm
September 24, Saturday	KINGSBURG DEPOT GRAND OPENING

CONTACT

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