



Bill Cummings runs an early 1900's model steam HO train at a recent "Railroad Days" event at the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead & Historical Center. The train will be running Sunday, July 14 and 28, noon-4 p.m., in addition to a 1948 video about the founding of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad at 1 and 2:30 p.m. (Photo by Kathy Siebrasse

Video, railroad music featured at Glidden Homestead

Railroad programming continues at DeKalb's J.F. Glidden Homestead & Historical Center Sundays, July 14 and 28, including a 1948 video about the building of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad.

Railroads played a key role in shaping the future of many Illinois communities, including DeKalb.

To commemorate Joseph F. Glidden's part in bringing the railroad through DeKalb back in the late 1800s, the Homestead & Historical Center dedicated to preserving Glidden's legacy will offer special programming July 14 and 28.

The programs are among others that will be held throughout the year to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Glidden's birth. The Glidden Homestead & Historical Center is located at 921 W. Lincoln Hwy., DeKalb, between Copy Service and Burger King.

Railroad enthusiasts, Bill Cummings of DeKalb, and Rich DeMink of Downers Grove, are featured presenters during the Glidden Railroad Days programming.

The schedule of activities includes:

- A display of an early 1900's model steam HO train on both days.
- July 14 and 28, at 1 and 2:30 p.m., a 30-minute video "Song of the Pioneer" will be shown. It covers the founding of the railroad and its early development building westward from Chicago. The video was produced for the centennial of the CNW in 1948.
- On July 28, "railroad music" will be played from 1:30-2:30 p.m., by "Mike and the 3Ds" featuring Dave Kolars (guitar), Dale Ludewig (mandolin), Derek Gray (fiddle) and Mike Warfel (bass).

DeMink was employed in the freight rail industry for 27 years and the passenger rail industry (Amtrak) for five years. His career was in the costing and budgeting area and he retired in 2001 from Amtrak. Since then, he has enjoyed volunteering in the NPS/Amtrak Trails to Rails Program where as a volunteer docent he rode Amtrak trains such as the Empire Builder in the summer months. Now he is involved with the set up of another program on Amtrak's SouthWest Chief. DeMink's wife, Sarah Glidden DeMink, is the great-grand-niece of Joseph F. Glidden and a member of the museum's board of directors.

Starting with a Lionel O gauge model train when he was very young, Cummings has been a railroad fan most of his life. His love of the Chicago and Northwestern stems from having been born in a CNW town (Neenah, WI) and having lived in three other CNW towns: Evanston, Mt. Prospect, and DeKalb. He is a collector of CNW memorabilia and CNW HO model trains. He is a member of the CNW Historical Society, the Illinois Railway Museum and the Blackhawk Model Railroad Club in Oregon, IL.

The Homestead is the site where Joseph Glidden invented and manufactured "The Winner" barbed wire, for which he received a patent on Nov. 24, 1874. The house and barn built in the 1860s still stand on their original site. Both are listed on the National Register of Historic Sites

Everyone is encouraged to visit the Glidden Homestead this season. The Homestead is open for tours on Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., also the second and fourth Sundays each month through October, with special events in November. Admission is \$4 for ages 14 and older; under age 14, free. Members are admitted free, with a variety of membership levels available. Memberships play a key role in the not-for-profit organization's preservation efforts.

For more information, call (815) 756-7904 or visit www.gliddenhomestead.org.