

Serving the  
Children  
of the World

Spring 2009

To Our Friends:

"50 YEARS and STILL ROLLIN". You, your kids and now your grandkids have gotten a thrill on the "Kiwainitrain, carousel and other rides at Meadowlake. Where else can you go ride a train, a vintage carousel, relive memories or give a new experience to a child or grandchild?

To ensure that these experiences are here for future generations, the Enid Kiwanis Club is planning for another 50 years. These attractions are truly treasures that enhance the quality of life for our community. You would be amazed at the number of people just passing through, seeing the train and carousel and take a break for themselves and their family.

Over the years things need fixing and updating to bring them back to "as good as new". That's our goal. It is such a large project though, that your help is needed to accomplish it. The projects described herein will be phased over a period of 3 - 4 years.

There are two immediate needs. The first is to rebuild and renovate the railroad track and roadbed. It is over a mile in length and has not had any major updating since the flood of 1973. Necessary repairs are done each year. It is now time, though, to give the track and roadbed some serious attention. We are working with an experienced railroad contractor to do this work. In order to spread out project expenses, a 3-4 year phased program is planned. The first phase, completed in the spring of 2008, was at a cost of \$40,000.00. The Club took out interim financing to begin the project. Total cost for the track project is estimated to be \$237,000.00. The City of Enid, in 2008, gave a seed gift of \$10,000.00 to this project. .

The second large need is the carousel. It was built some where between the late 20's and early 30's. This treasure was part of a carnival for most of its' early life and was designed to be dismantled and reassembled when moved from city to city. That makes for a hard life. The operating mechanics of the carousel are worn; need major repairs, replacement and updating. A program to refurbish horses was begun sometime back. Fifteen have been completed and 13 are in process. Three horses were stolen (rustled) several years ago. We would like to replace them so as to balance out and fill the vacant spaces on the carousel. The approximate cost to accomplish these needs is \$70,000.00. The Enid Community Foundation, in 2008, gave \$5,000.00 for horse restoration.

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This past year, painting and upgrading of the "Depot and Carousel House" were begun. The Railroad Museum of Enid will be displaying some of their memorabilia. The 1863 C. P. Huntington train has served us well for over 40 years but continually needs loving attention. Painting of the train and the center core of the carousel are to be done. One passenger car of the train will be made ADA accessible. To add some color and interest to the park area, there is a plan to add cattle silhouettes.

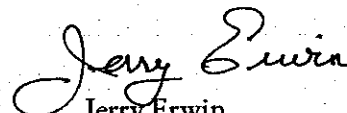
The minimum cost for all of these and related items is \$350,000.00. There are no frills within this project. The Kiwanis Club does not have the resources or the potential future income for financing such an extensive series of projects. We want to keep these rides affordable. Fares on the rides cannot be increased to underwrite such a large project.

Our members look forward to operating the rides each season for the enjoyment of the community. Many volunteer hours are spent each year making the Park available to you. At this time, we need you to join with us in restoring and maintaining this special corner of our community. Enclosed you will find a commitment card and return envelope.

You are encouraged to seriously consider how you can participate. Would you make a three-year commitment to this project in the amount of \$300.00, \$600.00, \$900.00 or more? Together, with the generosity of many, we can ensure future enjoyment for people of all ages of Enid, and Northwest Oklahoma.

Sincerely;

  
Kevin Baird  
President

  
Jerry Erwin  
Project Coordinator

NOTE: The Kiwanis Club of Enid is a 5010 (3) entity. Your contributions are tax deductible.

# 50 YEARS

*And Still Rollin!*

*Let us share a little train history with you.*

In 1957-1958 the Club, with an investment of approximately \$20,000.00, made the plans to purchase the initial train for the park. Club history refers to it as the "Little Train". Track length was about ½ mile. It was called the Rock Island Zephyr. Ted Coldiron and Judge George Howard Wilson were Club President's those years.

In 1959, all was in place for the "Zephyr" to begin "rollin". The tunnel served as a depot for the train. Joe Grant was President.

The present train, the 1863 C. P. Huntington and 3 passenger cars were purchased in 1963. Cost of the engine was \$35,000 and \$13,000 for each passenger car (3) (Today's cost is \$145,000.00 for the engine and \$38,000.00 for each passenger car). New 16-gauge track was laid down and the route was extended to a little over a mile. The present depot was constructed and the tunnel became the "tunnel". E. M. Burke and F. D. Campbell were Club Presidents in 1963 and 1964.

The flood of October 10, 1973 caused major damage. The 1973 ride season was over by that time. For the 1974 season, the track length had to be reduced to ½ mile in order for repairs and rebuilding of the track to be accomplished.

During 1974-1975 the track was rebuilt as well as the present bridges. Al Braithwaite and Bill Haney supervised this gargantuan work. A tremendous amount of labor and materials were donated from within the community to bring this project to conclusion. Records indicated that the overall cost was approximately \$55,000.00. Joe King, Al Bankston and Forest King were our Presidents from 1973-1975.

The track is approximately 1.2 miles in length lying on 7,500 to 8,000 ties. The usable life of a tie is 7-8 years.

An average of 15,000 individuals ride the train each year. This total would be much greater if group special events and organizational rentals were tabulated and included.

"Fifty Years and Still Rollin" is the theme for this campaign. We're working diligently to ensure that the TRAIN, the CAROUSEL and other Park rides are here and viable for future generations of Enid and Northwest Oklahoma kids, their parents and grandparents.

The people of Enid and Northwest Oklahoma always join together and step up to the plate to preserve and take care of the needs of their community and quality of life.

We will be successful in this effort for we know that you .... "our folks" .... will make it happen.

*Thank you for your generous support of*



# 50 YEARS

*And Still Rollin!*

*And now for some carousel history:*

The carousel, as best we know, was built in the late 1920's or early 1930's by the Allan Herscell Company of North Tonawanda, NY. Ironically, this company was also the builder of the Rock Island Zephyr, the Club's first train. The early life of the carousel found it as part of a traveling carnival.

Paul Russell and Dude Tapp, proprietors of the Lake Hellums Amusement Park, north of Enid, purchased the carousel around 1950 where it remained until 1957 when the AMBUCS purchased it from Harold Groendyke. Mr. Groendyke had purchased the Lake Hellums property. Ray Billings, a member of the AMBUCS, led a fund raising committee.

Advance ride tickets to area school students were sold by the AMBUCS. Funds in the amount of about \$4,533.00 were raised. The AMBUCS purchased the carousel for \$4,000.00 from Mr. Groendyke. They then gave it to the City of Enid wherein it was relocated to its' present spot in Meadowlake Park.

The Kiwanis Club of Enid has operated the Carousel since 1982. The current building enclosing the Carousel was built in 1997. In December 2001, Kiwanis signed a 99-year lease with the City to operate and maintain the Carousel. Chance Manufacturing Inc. of Wichita, KS, manufacturer of our train acquired the Allan Herscell Company in the 1970's and is assisting in equipment maintenance and restoration counsel and advice.

The horses are made of a combination of aluminum and wood. The head, tail and legs are aluminum and the body and saddle are made of wood. A project was begun in 2002 to begin restoration of the horses as close to their original state as possible. To date, fifteen horses have been completed with thirteen yet to be done. These are in process. Three horses were "rustled" several years ago and we would like to replace these to balance out the carousel.

An average of 5000 individuals take a whirl around the Carousel each year. This does not include the moms, dads and grandpas and grandpas that take a ride with the kids "just to make sure" that all is OK.

The "1863 C. P. Huntington and the Carousel" make your park unique.

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KIWANIS CLUB OF ENID

# 50 YEARS

*And Still Rollin!*

## *Campaign Funding Objectives*

### *Capital Projects:*

Renovation of railroad track and track bed.	\$237,000.00
Carousel mechanical repairs/upgrades	15,000.00
Restoration of carousel horses	28,000.00
Small cars/planes	3,000.00
ADA adaptation for train	12,000.00
Train depot and carousel building upgrades	7,000.00
Add period silhouettes to the park	8,000.00
Painting of train equipment and bridges	10,000.00
Replace missing horses	27,000.00
Administrative costs	3,000.00
Capital Project Total	\$350,000.00

## *Donor Recognition*

### *Donor Recognition Levels*

\$10,000.00 and above	Pacesetter
\$5,000 to \$9,999	Leader
\$1,000 to \$4,999	Partner
\$500 to \$999	Supporter
\$250 to \$499	Friend

*(All contributions will be recognized at these levels unless otherwise requested.)*



PLEDGE

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Print your name(s) as you wish them to appear in donor recognition

Company Name (if this is a corporate gift) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

In support of the Enid Kiwanis project: *KiwanisPark Restoration*,

I/we pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ with \$ \_\_\_\_\_ paid herewith and the balance in

Monthly  Quarterly  Semiannually  Annual Installments

beginning (month) \_\_\_\_\_ (year) \_\_\_\_\_ for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

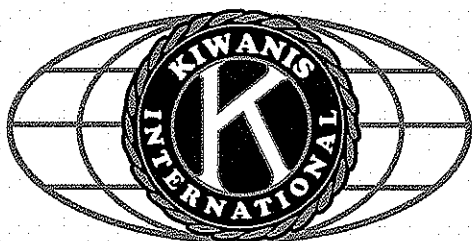
\_\_\_\_\_ I wish my donations to be anonymous \_\_\_\_\_ Please send a reminder about pledge payments

# 50 YEARS

*And Still Rollin!*



DONOR RECEIPT (Please keep this card as an interim receipt of your gift  
Thank you for your thoughtful and generous support for the  
restoration of these KIWANIPARK treasures.



Gift Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Paid Herewith \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Balance of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your donation is tax deductible as a contribution to Kiwanis Trust Fund, Inc.,  
a 501(c)3 organization. Address P.O. Box 769, Enid, OK 73702