

DID YOU KNOW.....

A look back at early area history as found in the archives of the Enderlin Historical Society and Museum ...Preserving the past for future generations!

By Susan Schlecht

The following information is another excerpt from the files of The Writers' Project for Ransom County with information on Enderlin as collected by early Enderlin resident Mrs. Susan Vance for a 1936 tourist guide.

*“Transportation: The main line of the Soo Line railroad passes through Enderlin and as it is half way between Minneapolis and the Canadian Border, the Soo Line placed it's large machine shops here. Also it is the largest Roundhouse outside of the Twin Cities. The dispatcher's office at the depot takes care of the dispatching of all trains of the Minnesota division and branches, from Minneapolis to Portal, ND.*

*A bus line connects us with a branch of the Northern Pacific R.R. at Sheldon, six miles to the east. Various truck lines connect us with larger markets at Fargo and Valley City. A bus line established in the fall of 1936, connects with Fargo, where one may obtain bus service any where.”*

*“The Soo Line Roundhouse, Machine Shops, and Treating Plant: The first small roundhouse of four stalls was built in 1891 with boiler room, a cooling plant and a turntable installed. In 1896, four more stalls were installed; in 1900 four more stalls, and in 1906, twelve more added making a total of twenty-four in all. In 1906, a new boiler room and machine shop, store room, office, new cooling plant and a new 90 foot turntable were added and an electric lighting plant installed. In 1908, a water treating plant was added. In 1912, a larger water treating plant with water pumping plant was built. In 1928, machine shops were much enlarged and an electric turntable installed. In 1936, electric pumps were installed in the water treating plant and pumping plant. Water is obtained from a deep artesian well and treated to render it soft. Steam heat from the roundhouse is furnished to the City Hall, Masonic Temple, Hilton Hotel, Café, the Depot and the Superintendent's house, owned by the Soo Line.”*

Sue's comments: On display in the Museum is the top to an early bus-type vehicle which reportedly was used to transport passengers between Sheldon and Enderlin. The “Superintendent's house” referred to above is the Soo Line Superintendent's house, currently owned by the Adair's. Perhaps some of our “old-timers” could tell us more about the steam heat system that was in place in the early days. Also, if anyone has old photos of the roundhouse or other early railroad memorabilia to share with the community and future generations, please consider donating them to the Museum!

Watch for more history next week!