



From Arsenal of Democracy to Movie Stardom!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5-STEAM RAILROADING INSTITUTE-Owosso, MI

The Steam Railroading Institute in Owosso, MI, is dedicated to educating the public about steam-era railroad technology. This technology made engineering history **and** it contributed to world history in the winning of World War II. Pere Marquette # 1225 was delivered from the builder just before America's entrance into the war in December, 1941. Within two months, production of civilian automobiles stopped when factories in the Midwest focused on filling massive orders for tanks, Jeeps, and other equipment for the war effort. Mighty locomotives, such as PM #1225, were dispatched daily as a supply line that ran from Detroit factories to battlefields in Europe and the Pacific.



From war hero to Hollywood icon!

The majestic Pere Marquette #1225 locomotive is most famous as the prototype for the locomotive image and sounds that brought the 2004 Warner Bros Christmas Classic, THE POLAR EXPRESS to life!

The Pere Marquette Railway's 1200 series locomotives



were the largest steam engines ever used in Michigan. Across the country, steam engines began disappearing before 1951. After #1225's retirement, the locomotive was donated to Michigan State University in 1957 by the C&O Railroad with the help of Forest Akers, Dodge Motors, Vice President and MSU Trustee, who saw it as a real piece of machinery for engineering students to study, and it became part of the MSU Museum Collection.

Displayed as an icon of the steam-era, the locomotive was moved to Owosso in 1982, and restoration of the locomotive continued until 1985, when it moved under its own power for the first time in 34 years. Since 1988, #1225 has been maintained in operable condition, and serves as the largest piece of operating steam equipment in the Michigan State Trust for Railway Preservation/Steam Railroading Institute collection. In the past forty years the collection has grown tremendously, now housing two steam locomotives, a diesel locomotive, and a fleet of passenger cars, plus numerous pieces of rolling stock, including two former WWII troop sleepers based on box car designs. The SRI offers visitors a firsthand look at the intricacies of working steam locomotives and the equipment that operated with them.



Says: "We are fulfilling our mission, teaching a new generation about steam era technology through the best Possible exhibit! A living, breathing piece of history that comes to life in front of your very eyes!"

You are invited to join a group from St. Stephen's to tour exhibits and visit the gift shop at the SRI; then enjoy a highly rated, reasonably priced lunch at e *Jumbo's Burger Bar* at your own expense. Kids are always welcome.

Car Pool Departing St. Stephen's at 8:00 a.m. August 5, 2017
\$ 3.00 Donation

Guided tour by Bob and Kathy Thatcher begins at 10:00 a.m.

Bob and Kathy's love story began with fascination with trains long ago. Bob loved to be with Grandpa and watch the trains go by in Birmingham. Teenaged Kathy admitted to saving her money to "run away" to ride the train between Ovid and Owosso, MI. As volunteer members of SRI, Bob caught Kathy's eye and was carefully "engineered" into her group. Irresistible "train guys"!

Sign up in the gathering area by July 30.
Questions? Contact The Thatchers or Norma Ross