

The Track Times

- OMAHA TRACK -

MARCH 2021

PRESIDENT'S PULSE

By Jeff Peterson

I am excited to be the first column in "The Track Times" to have the opportunity to speak to the greatest team of people in the railroad industry. Obviously, the goal of the newsletter is to share the company's news, but we also want to share the stories from everyone in the organization.



Photo submitted by Jason Wells

My personal goal for this newsletter is to bring a company that is spread out across the country a little closer together. We have so many exciting things going on from new facilities, new people, new acquisitions, new contracts, new equipment, and new ways we are leveraging our abilities into opportunities. The world is changing, and as a company we must adapt to stay competitive and relevant. We have weathered a storm and come out the other side stronger. I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard for us this last crazy year. We have the best people in the business and I am proud of this organization and of our people.

FACILITY FOCUS

By Breanne Schmitz



Our OTC Crew standing by their snow mountain, 2/2021

Winter is snow much fun! Chicago has been a snowy war zone with 5'4" icicles hanging around and literal snow mountains. From October through January 26, the city had a cumulative total of 8.6 inches of snowfall. Since January we have had a number of major snow storms impact the area. The City on average sees about 36 inches of snow in an entire winter. Just in the last month alone, the city has seen 36.2 inches of snowfall.

Our team has stayed diligent in working hard by keeping the yard plowed clean of ice, and operational. All of this was done while still maintaining the loading and unloading of all scheduled railcars. The most interesting part as recalled by the facility manager, Doug Royster, was when "We formed an accidental igloo while moving snow piles, it froze in place." Our tracks were so icy we could've hosted a speed skating contest but, it seems like Omaha Track frowns upon that (you know, safety and all....). All and all, we have kept very busy, but still had fun along the way.

CREW OF THE MONTH

By: Sabas Cortez



"Led" with his impressive face covering



Sabas Cortez with his OT Gear



Flip on a mission

Our crew includes Felipe Molina, Zac Ledbetter, and myself. We have been highlighted as the first "Crew of the Month". Our team has been working with BNSF gang RP19 since 2014. We have built a fantastic working relationship with the gang, so much so, they request us to be "their crew" each year. What makes our team special? Our attitudes. We go out each day ready to represent Omaha Track with a sense of pride and dedication. We are proud to wear the OT logo and want everyone to know it! The team's goal is to convey honesty, integrity, dedication, and an outstanding work ethic each and every day. "Flip", "Led", and I are committed to working closely with our gang, avoiding access disputes, getting material shipped out ASAP, leaving stockpile locations clean, and diligently keeping notes for daily submitted paperwork.

Interesting story?. We all know how the public hates to wait for US to get out of THEIR way.. well one day, we were waiting to do off track work. The crossing was barricaded, to keep Joe D. Public from utilizing it, since the crossing planks had been taken out for the crew to replace the rail, the new rail was stretched out across the crossing. Here comes this guy driving like his back-end was on fire! You should have heard the noise when ran into the rail that was stretched across the crossing! Needless to say, he came to a very abrupt STOP! He anxiously looked around, scratched his head, threw his hands in the air, and started looking rather panicked. You could see the light bulb go on over his head, when he saw a convenience store across the way. He took off running, legs spinning like a cartoon character! We thought he was going to the store to call for a wrecker or something.... Few minutes later he comes running back to the car with a bag of diapers and a 12 pack of beer! He got back in the car, backed up and went back the way he came! We all looked at each other and started laughing! We wondered what he needed most...the diapers after hitting the rail or the beer!?

CAREER MILESTONES

Please join us in celebrating our team members that have an anniversary of employment with Omaha Track this month! Thank you so much for your continued dedication to our company. You are setting an example on what it means to work hard and help your teammates succeed year after year. Keep on rocking!

Celebrating 11 Years- Danielle Flynn

Celebrating 10 Years- Felipe Valadez- Briceno

Celebrating 7 Years- Bonny Lambrecht

Celebrating 5 Years- Bill Sewell, Terry Bailey

Celebrating 4 Years- Michael Stoneburner

Celebrating 3 Years- Oscar Esparza, Eugene Pfennig, Derek Smith, Rodger Hempel

Celebrating 2 Years- Anthony Darnall, Frank Forlini

Celebrating 1 Year- David Adams, Kaden Lassek, Joseph Colgan



SAFETY FOCUS

By Joe Colgan



Incident on February 2, 2021

On 2/8/21- A Brandt truck contacted an overhead power line. Remember to ensure we are clear of overhead power lines. If an energized power line contacts the ground, stay in the equipment if safe to do so.

If the equipment is on fire and it is necessary to leave it, keeping both feet together, jump clear of the equipment, avoiding any lines that might be on the ground. Stay calm and jump carefully so that you don't fall back against the equipment or touch the ground and the vehicle at the same time. Then shuffle with both feet together clear of the area, keeping both feet on the ground and touching at all times. Continue shuffling for at least 30 feet from the occurrence site.

TRAVEL & LEISURE

By Michelle Halpenny

We are excited to announce that starting February 20, 2021, all Omaha Track Employees will receive an annual voucher of \$50 for the Omaha Track Clothing store! (Field employees have a separate clothing store and will still receive their usual allowance). You can place your order any time and the orders will be filled as a group once a quarter. Be sure to you use your allowance each year because it will not roll over into the following year. As the saying goes, "If you don't use it, you lose it!"

Going forward, every January you will receive \$50 for the company store. If you have any questions, please contact me at michelle@omahatrack.com or 402-932-6127. You should have received an email (to your personal email address) from Haley Patten with Pay-LESS with more details on how to redeem your voucher. Keep an eye on this section, going forward, for tips and trips on traveling and utilizing the clothing program. We look forward to seeing everyone in their new Omaha Track Swag!



STATS BY RERUCHA

By Michael Rerucha

This section of the newsletter will be dedicated to various statistics and new developments taking place at Omaha Track, but we thought it would be a good idea to start the first edition off with a recap of how we did last year. Here are a couple of statistics that highlight how we did in terms of our Tie and Steel Operations:

- **Ties disposed of in 2020: 1,929,731 Railroad Ties**
 - Ties come into our facilities, then are sorted and graded. The good ties are sold to our retail customers and the scrap ties are ground into tie chips and burned for cogeneration fuel.
- **Steel Shipped: 224,499.037 Tons**
 - The steel is picked up behind our various railroad programs and on special projects through out the year. This material includes retained rail that will be plug rail, scrap, reroll steel (sent directly to our customers to be made into new products) or relay steel that is sold to customers to build new track.

2020 was not an easy year, but we have to give a huge shoutout to the employees who made the success we saw during a global pandemic possible. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

A very happy birthday to following:

March 2- Jimmy Sullivan

March 4- Horacio Toledo

March 5- Keith Rawson

March 7- Donald Torbett

March 8- Claude Vanover

March 9- Gregory Coleman

March 10- Cody Coleman & Kathleen French

March 14- Adam Torgerson & Kerris Myers

March 20- Teri Heinen

March 22- Jonathan Smith

March 27- Saul Garcia & Jose Sotelo

March 28- Terry Bailey Sandra Washington

March 29- Kaden Lassek, Issac Taylor &

Jeromy Marshall

March 31- Kelvin Whited & Jason Strickland



TEASE YOUR BRAIN

Answers on the last page

1. What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?
2. I have keys, but no locks. I have space, but no room. You can enter, but you can't go outside. What am I?
3. A clerk in a butcher shop stands 5'10" and wears size 13 shoes. What does he weigh?

Quote of the month:

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all. -Hellen Keller

OPERATIONS CORNER

Opportunity is the word in Operations! With the creation of new businesses groups, buying existing businesses, and expanding old, we are keeping busy. The Transportation department has become a stand alone business group called "Iron Junction Logistics". Our unique understanding of the railroad and trucking makes for an exciting new Omaha Track business.

Omaha Track Equipment (OTE) is expanding its focus to include a used construction equipment offering. Additionally, we have expanded our OTE division with new offerings in construction equipment. Warren Kutz has joined the equipment team, and brings over 30 years of experience in equipment sales. As you will see in the upcoming "Facility Focus" article by Shane and Bill, another exciting acquisition is the car cleaning and storage facility in Granite City, IL. This facility is a creosote storage facility, which also cleans and stores tank cars. Couple all of these things with our continuing success with our existing contracts, and we are very excited for the future!

FACILITY FOCUS

By Shane Stalford and Bill Champion



OT Granite

OT Granite was acquired by Omaha Track in September of 2020 and is the first tank car cleaning facility in the Omaha Track family of companies. With its prime industrial location and undeveloped acreage, it offers many growth opportunities. OTG is one of the facilities I am asked most “what do they do” so I asked Bill Champion, OTG Plant Manager to summarize just who they are and what they do.

The Omaha Track Granite City Plant has a long history, the facility has been here over 110 years. It has been a coal tar refinery for most of its existence and is situated next to a US Steel facility which originally had a coke oven operation. The coal tar by-product was brought to our plant and refined into coal tar pitch for the aluminum industry, refined tar for pavement coatings, creosote oil for treating railroad ties and poles. Our current operations consist of bulk tank storage of 2.5 million gallons, we store and distribute coal tar, driveway sealer base, and creosote oil. In addition to the terminal operations, we clean rail tank cars for a variety of customers. We completely remove the residue and power wash the interior to prepare the cars for shop repairs and/or inspections. We transload hydrochloric acid, mainly for the steel industry. We have rail storage for 60-70 cars, and various loading/unloading stations for both rail and truck.

Currently we have six employees; 1 Operator, 1 Supervisor, 2 Railcar Laborers, 1 Office Assistant and myself, Bill Champion. I have worked at the facility for 47 years and held numerous positions including lab tech, shift foreman, production manager and currently Plant Manager. I speak for everyone here at Granite City we are glad to be a part of the Omaha Track family.

SALES AND MARKETING

By Frank Forlini

The MyTie Experience: Part 1 - Delivery by Rail

Omaha Track has significantly expanded our used tie sales! We have done this through 1) enhanced service offerings, 2) location expansion and 3) technology. By focusing on these three items, Omaha Track has been changing the way customers view us. Instead of seeing OT as a transactional supplier that sells ties in one or two locations, they see us as an integrated supplier that provides “Final Mile” delivery of ties to customer locations across the Western United States. We call this focus “The MyTie Experience”.



Michael Wickham and Union Pacific Shipment Quality team inspect the loaded car prior to shipment

A recent enhanced service offering we rolled out is delivery of ties direct to the customer by rail. On February 24th, the team at OT Pueblo loaded and shipped two centerbeam railcars of banded ties. This **new** service offering expanded our reach beyond the typical trucking distance. Our customers also love the simplicity and efficiency that rail offers. The depth of knowledge and experience of the OT team is what made this possible. We would like to especially thank the Pueblo team for their help in making this happen!

JUST FOR LAUGHS

By Jillianne Gates

Why did the railroad thief get caught?

He forgot to cover his tracks!

How do railroads get so fast?

Training.

BENEFIT BLAST

By Sara Salkeld

We are building a variety of video overviews to help you better understand some of the finer points of your Omaha Track Benefits.

See what we have so far on

<https://www.omahatrack.com/hwbenefits/>.

More are in the works but we'd love to hear from you on what we should build next.

Send your suggestions to

sara@omahatrack.com.

February's health focus is on heart health.

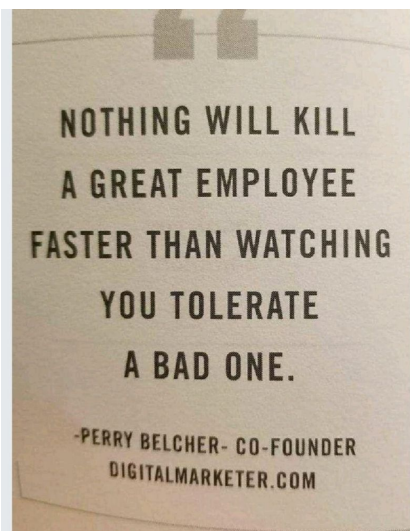
[Learn more from UnitedHealthcare here.](#)

Are you staying hydrated the right way?

[Check out some great tips on hydration and healthier beverages by clicking here.](#)

HR 101

By Teri Heinen



Over the last 12 months COVID has been a focus in all of our lives. I want to thank each and every one of you for allowing Sara and I into your lives as we probed and prodded you with questions about your health. Though it was a bit invasive, we did it because we care about you and want to keep you, your family, and your co-workers safe.

Human Resources is committed to being here to answer your questions. If for some reason we don't have the answer you need, we will get the answer or point you to the person that can help you.

Omaha Track has been very fortunate to have had minimal negative impact through this pandemic. Stay safe, stay healthy and we will talk to you soon.

EMPLOYEE SUBMISSIONS



Submitted by: Jimmy Edwards



Submitted by: Joe Janz



Submitted by: Danny Larez



Submitted by: Bonny Lambrecht



Office Team changing a tire for their co-worker

Please send all employee submissions to: newsletter@omahatrack.com