



Missouri Model Railroad Museum

**312 W. Pacific Avenue
Independence, MO 64050
www.showmerails.org**

Let's start with something we can all agree on...

- That leaves out:
 - **Politics**
 - **Best Pro Football team**
 - **Best College Football team**
 - **Best College Basketball team**
 - **Best branch of Military Service**



How about the **Best Hobby**

Model Railroading

- Fun pastime – relaxation & stress relief!
- Social interaction - clubs, associations!
- Fine motor skills!
- Learning – history, science, technology, engineering & mathematics! (STEM)
- Artistic Development – painting & scenery-making! (puts the A in STEAM)
- Creativity & imagination!
- Family activity – all generations!
- Lifelong hobby – lifetime of lessons & skills to learn!



To us, **Model Railroading is the Best**

- Problem: While model railroading is the best hobby, not as many people - especially young people - are in **model railroading** as could be & should be.
- The problem is NOT model railroading, the problem is the lack of exposure to **model railroading**.

Our thoughts on spreading the word:

Missouri Model Railroad Museum



About MO Model RR Museum (MMRM)

- Chartered as a Missouri Nonprofit Corporation, February 16, 2022
- Became recognized as tax-exempt under IRC 501(c)(3) on September 7, 2022, effective retroactively to February 16, 2022
- MMRM was a Museum without a home...
...and if there's no home...
...there's no Museum.



MMRM – Right Place, Right Time

- About the time we filed Articles of Incorporation as a Missouri Nonprofit, our “people person,” Will Siegel, flooded area cities & townships with emails telling of our need for a home & asking if they could help MMRM.
- Guess what?
- Truly a right place, right time scenario, the Mayor of Independence responded – the City might have an opening in one of their buildings & the City wanted to talk with us.



MMRM

- Our story: 2 years ago MMRM partnered with the city of Independence & Parks, Recreation & Tourism Dept. to bring something new and exciting to the city of Independence. We acquired the National Frontier Trails Museum, in historic district of Independence. We are going to continue to tell the story of trails and how it progressed to the steel rails.



MMRM - a non-profit IRC 501(c)(3) organization

- How are we going to do this?
- With funding thru foundations local and state. With your help thru financial donations and/or contributions of your talents and time.
- At present, the city of Independence is our largest donor. We have a 25-year lease on the building with automatic renewal every 5 years.
- With all the upgrades that are taking place to the building we want to help increase tourism for the area and bring this museum to the metro area.

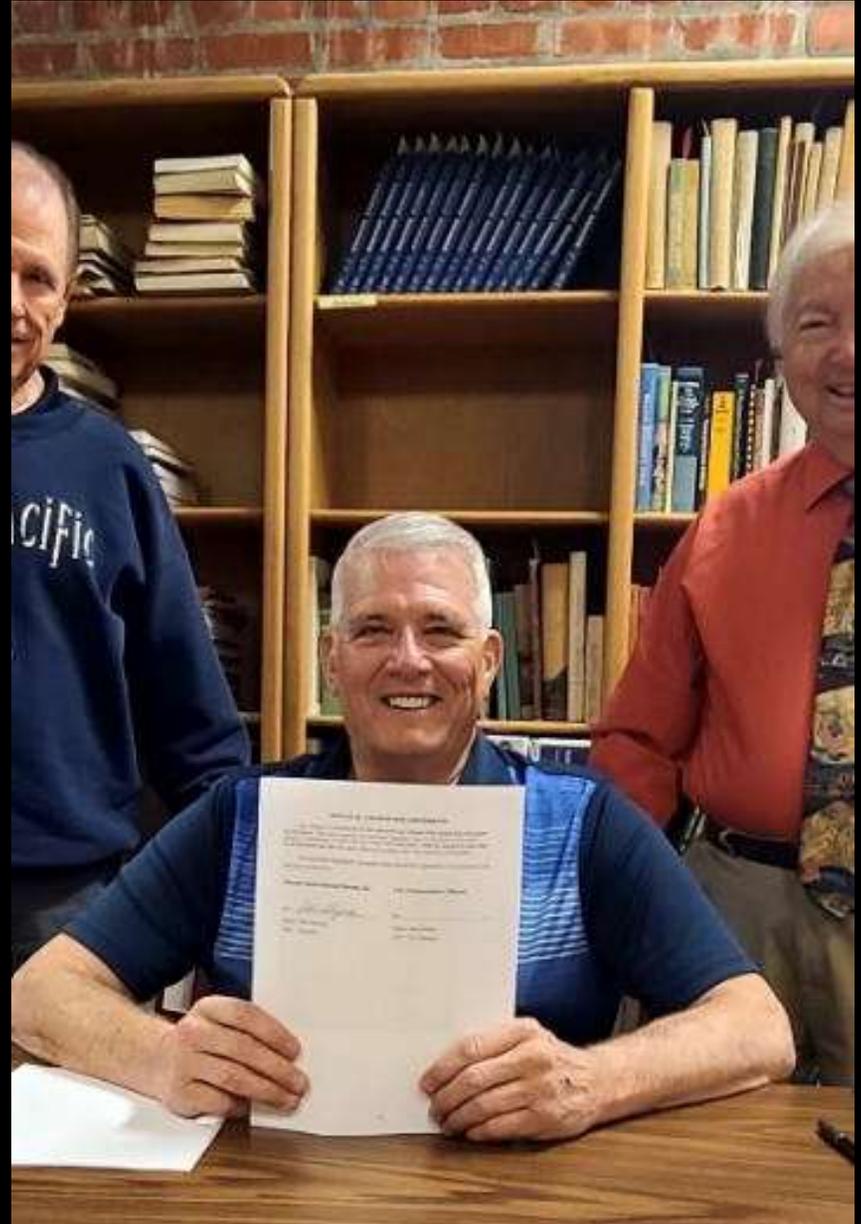


- We would eventually learn that the feature attraction National Frontier Trails Museum had outgrown its building & the City was not wanting such a vital property to be left unused when the NFTM moved.
- So great was their concern that some while after a new Mayor was seated in April 2022, the City hired a firm to do a study on the future of NFTM.
- In December 2022, MMRM gave a presentation to the expert firm, along with a mix of City Officials, including Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Dept leadership.

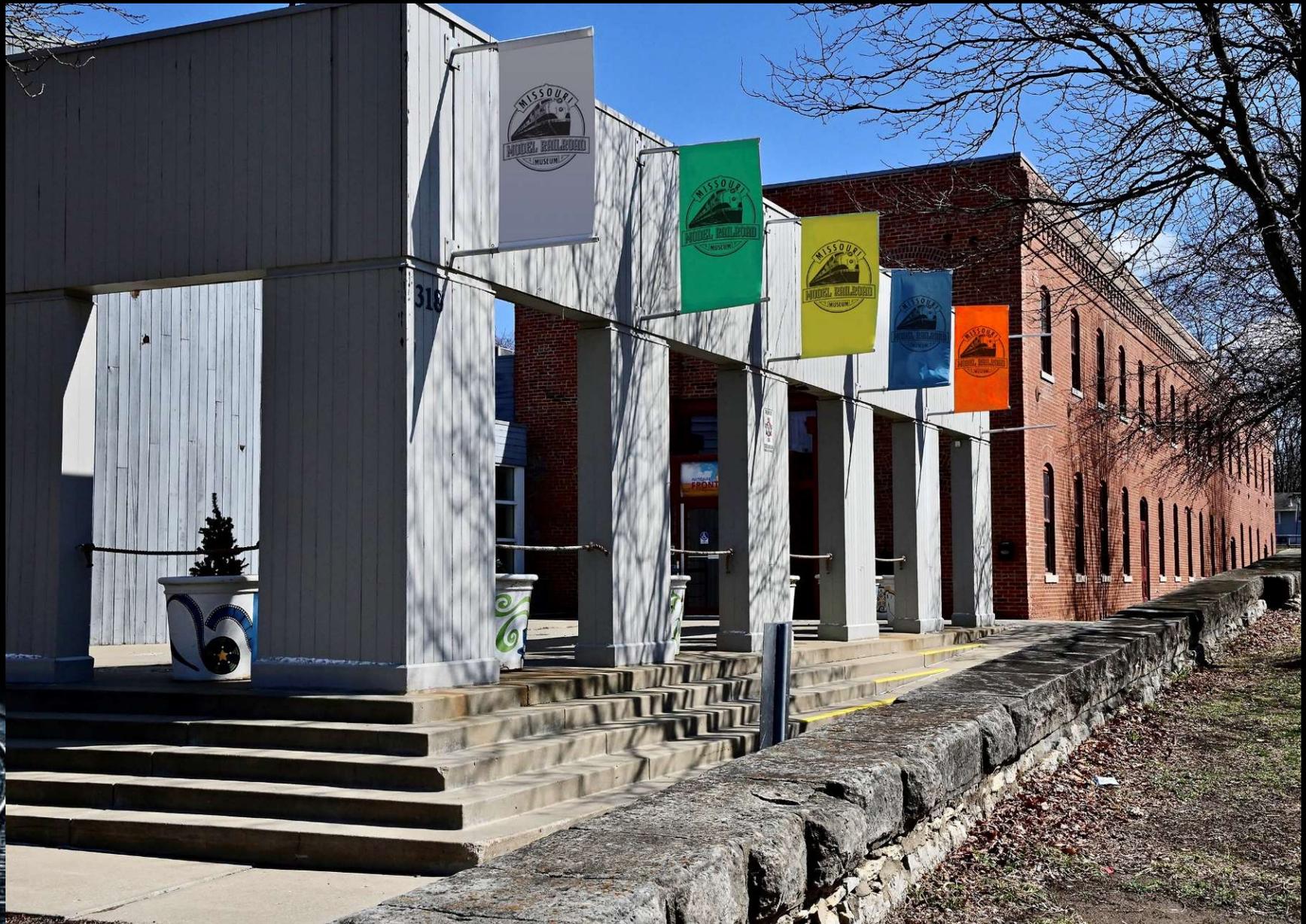


MMRM has a HOME!

- On April 17, 2023, the Independence City Council passed unanimously a Resolution of Intent to partner with MMRM for our use of the NFTM property.
- On April 21, 2023, an Operating Agreement was signed for a term of 25 years, with automatic renewal thereafter every five years.



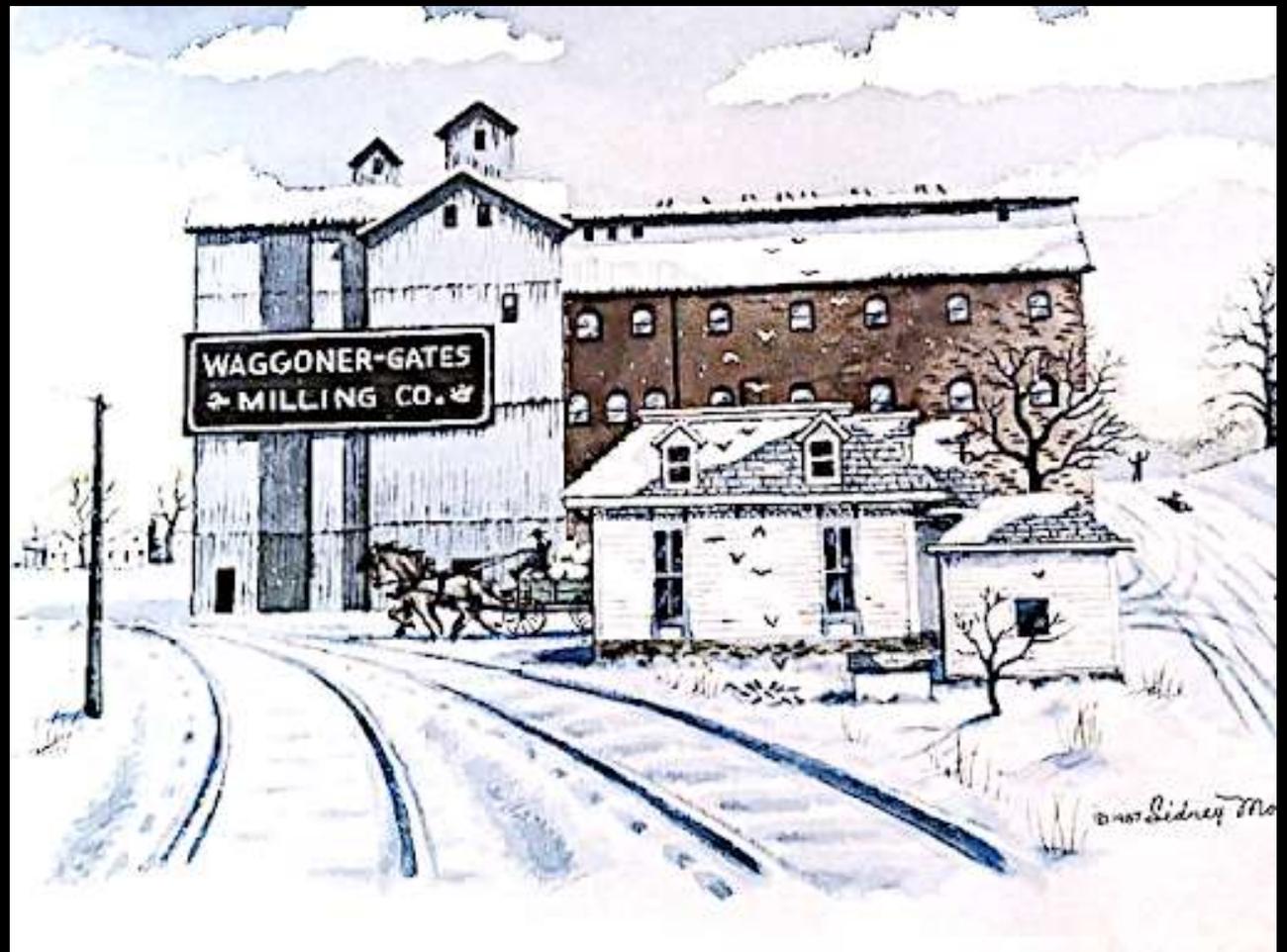
Missouri Model Railroad Museum



Waggoner-Gates Milling Co.

Built in 1875 as 2nd Mill replacing one built in 1830

George Gates was maternal grandfather of
First Lady Bess Truman



Waggoner-Gates Flour Mill as it existed in 1967



Tragedy struck the Mill in May 1967

The Mill ceased production after World War II, finally closing in 1957, aside from its silos which were used for the storage of grain.

In 1967, lightning struck one of the silos triggering a fire that reduced the Mill to rubble except for a long 2-story storage structure.



Partnership of Missouri Legislature & Independence funds establishment of National Frontier Trails Museum in 1989-90



Inside the NFTM



Inside the NFTM



Inside the NFTM



Inside the NFTM



Inside the NFTM



Reception & Gift Shop Area



Front Area of Theater



The NFTM from the outside



Bingham-Waggoner Mansion

Famous artist/politician George Caleb Bingham purchased this 26-room mansion across street from Mill in 1864, selling it to Wm Waggoner in 1879. Now our historic next-door neighbor.



- 1879 Chicago & Alton RR Depot -
Our historic next-door neighbor on the
other side – a wonderfully restored &
filled with artifacts 2-story depot



- Truman RR Depot -
Just a short distance down the street



- Caboose at Truman Depot -
Caboose is being scheduled for
restoration as joint effort of MMRM
with City of Independence



4 RR attractions in 1 small area



Plus the Bingham-Waggoner Mansion
& many other historic attractions within easy driving distance



Remember the inside views of NFTM?

Here's what the inside looks like now...



An inside view of MMRM now...



...and another inside view...



...and another.



...and another...



...and another...



...and another.

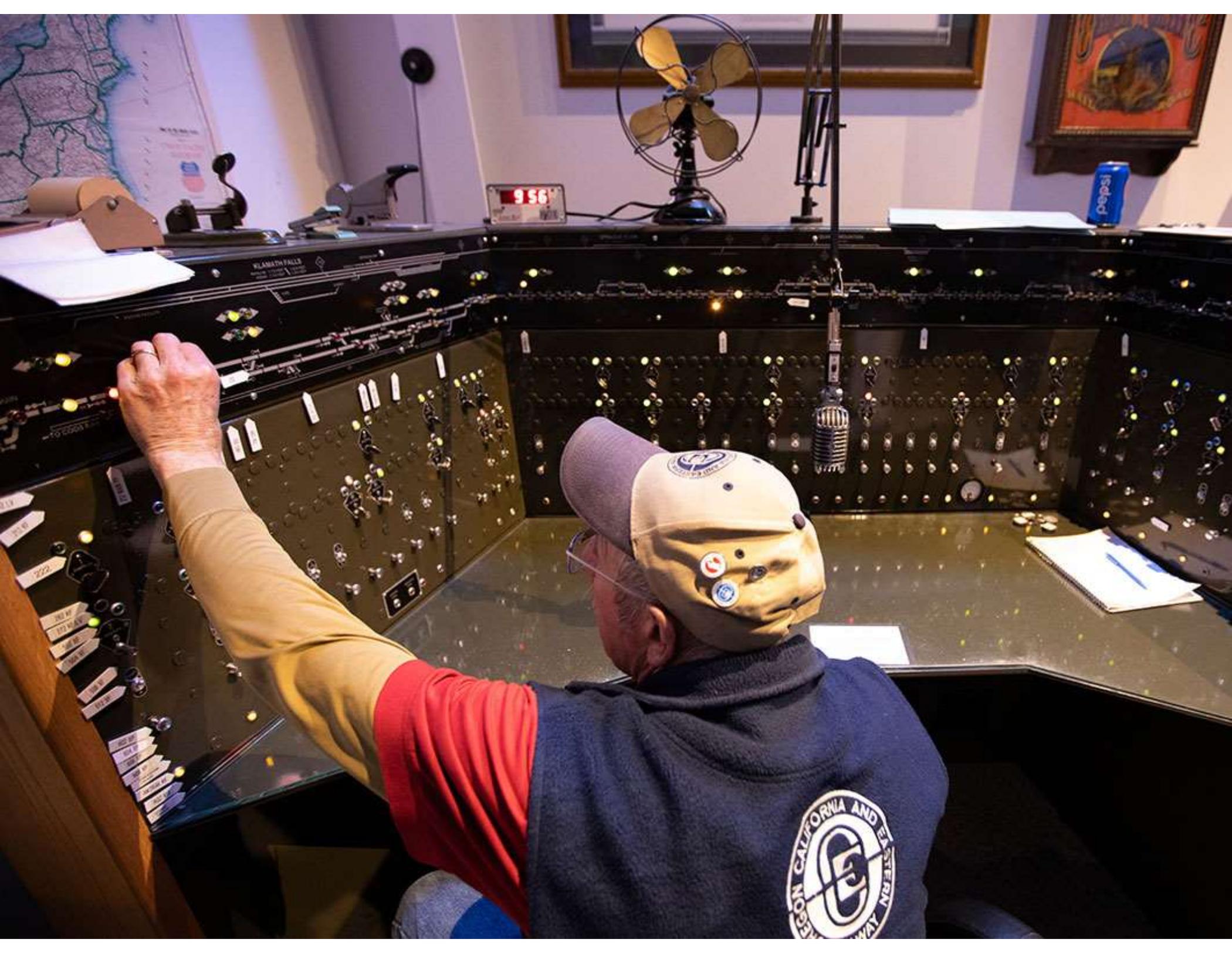


We need to get from all that
EMPTY space to...



...something like this at Colorado Model Railroad Museum, but with our layout plan, our theme & our story to tell.







Merchandise

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270-A

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4360

4365

6712

SP

About our theme & story to tell...

- The City of Independence is known as the “Queen City of Trails” & draws much of its fame & notoriety from the trails & their role in westward expansion.
- One part of our story is to take up the theme of “Trails” as the trails gave way to “Rails,” as depicted in the next several screens.



The Story We Want to Tell...

- Travel by boat upriver from St. Louis over “Big Muddy” to “Jump-off” Point in Independence
- Santa Fe Trail – 869.9 miles long
- California Trail – 2,000 miles long
- Oregon Trail – 2,000 miles long



The Story We Want to Tell...

- Railroads had experienced dynamic expansion east of the Mississippi, but it was not until 1849 that St. Louis secured a charter for the first railroad west of the Mississippi...

The Pacific Railroad



The Story We Want to Tell...

- The last spike connecting the two parts of the Pacific Railroad was driven on 9-9-1865. This completed the first railroad spanning the state of Missouri.
- Inaugural trip the next day departed Kansas City at 3:00 a.m. and arrived in St. Louis at 5:00 p.m.
- Other railroad completed during time of PacRR included St. Louis & Iron Mountain, the Cairo & Fulton, the Southwest Branch of the Pacific Railroad, the North Missouri, and the Hannibal & St. Joseph.



We believe Missouri Model Railroad Museum is the perfect place to tell the story of Missouri from the wagon trails to the steel rails that crossed this state & helped in the expansion of this great country and development of the Great State of Missouri.



The Story We Want to Tell...

- Kansas City & St. Louis are ranked as the second & third largest rail transportation centers in the nation, respectively, with..
 - **Kansas City ranking second to Chicago by a slight margin in freight tonnage &**
 - **Ranking second-busiest in freight rail traffic only to Chicago.**

Missouri's rail system moves the equivalent of more than 21 million truckloads per year.



The Story is NOT being told in Missouri, & Missouri will be a better place when it is told

- History comes alive when someone is able to visit a place that enables them to touch the past.
- It is said that we learn from our past in order to achieve greater influence over the future. The metro is alive with rails and people who have been held back from this opportunity to share and display a wealth of history about trains.
- For that reason, we have to preserve this history in Missouri of the rich rails, and serving as a model of who we are, where we came from and how we, as a nation got to where we are now in Missouri.



- The museum in historic Independence will attract people of all ages to experiences hands-on the history of railroads in Missouri
 - **Artifacts** – railroad signals, lanterns, uniforms, signs, tools, equipment, & memorabilia of all kinds, along with publications and a research library.
 - **Exhibits** – the re-creation of historic railroads in scale, their location and special stopping points throughout Missouri.
 - **Programs** – lively educational and creative seminars, videos, and educational speakers.



1st Year Plan

- We digressed from talking about what we need in order to fill our empty Museum.
- **Fundraising** is the highest priority.
- We need \$\$ from individuals, families, foundations, small businesses & corporations of any size. Every dollar helps.
- Our goal is to secure sustainable underwriting for 2024 and beyond.
- We are in the process of filling our final seats on our board of directors.



1st Year Plan

- The NFTM closed on July 1, 2023 & moved to a temporary location, completing the move just recently & making our building available for repairs and upgrades.
- Renovations are near completion & we will soon be able to start our “build.”
- A tentative opening date of May 11, 2024 – National Train Day.



1st Year Plan

- The “Build” begins...
- We start construction of displays, collecting artifacts & arranging them in place.
- We estimate a Volunteer Corps of 75 museum & railroad enthusiasts will make this all happen.
- Using local media, our website, newsletters & other important events, we will keep visitors & members abreast of what is happening at the museum.



Membership Opportunities

- When you become a member of the **Missouri Model Railroad Museum**, you join an enthusiastic community of model railroaders, historians and people who just love railroads and their history.
- Several levels of membership will be offered.



Our Volunteers

Our programs and operations at the museum wouldn't be possible without the help of our volunteers.

By becoming a volunteer you will be joining a community of passionate model railroaders. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Building several scale model railroads.
- Managing artifact & historical document & photographs.
- Special events.
- Gift Shop.



Item Donations Wanted

- **MMRM** welcomes & appreciates the donation of railroad artifacts & memorabilia whether full-size railroad or scale model railroad.
- Rare &/or antique items may be put on display or used in other ways, including as part of actual exhibits & layouts.
- Other model railroading items may be used in youth programs, clinics & workshops, or taken to the Museum Marketplace for additional life in the hobby, while raising needed funds for **MMRM**.





Thank You!