

## A Testimonial to Steve Hashagen

Steve was my friend. I first met Steve when he came to Lou Lane, interested in joining the club. He was the guy with the corvette parked outside. Most guys with corvettes don't show an interest in model trains (present company excepted, Barry). He seemed like a decent enough guy, and it turns out we had a lot in common. After attending a few meetings, he began to show an interest in the internal political workings of the club. "At last," I thought, "someone with the same interests we have." He began to express an interest in the future of All Points North. "At last, someone with the same vision we have," I thought. He showed an aptitude for managerial actions, and decision making prowess. "At last, someone besides me to run for president." Steve took over the office as though to the manor born. He did a phenomenal job of running our show. We owe where we are now to him.

There were the many Saturdays, and a few nights that we drove around in my old van looking for property for the club house. Remember the mobile home off Kuykendahl that we looked at? He once remarked to me: "Do you think the people in these neighborhoods are looking at us as gung ho model railroaders, or two middle aged guys cruising around in a van?" Well, at least I wasn't president any more.

That was just after Steve shared with us his vision for our future. "Get out there and find us some property, any where. We will go and look at anything." This prompted our sage and wise secretary to thoughtfully muse, "What is this guy smoking, and why won't he share it?" It was a bold and ambitious undertaking, but thanks to Steve, we are the only club in probably three surrounding counties that is not someone's tenant. If we stay the course, and follow Steve's plan, it will be free and clear in approximately 4 years. The original 5 year plan Steve laid out to acquire property, pay for it, raise the money to build the clubhouse, and start to run trains came to fruition in 3 and 1/2 years, because of his infectious spirit, drive, and administrative skills.

I remember when I heard Steve was first sick. It was a phone call from Jane Butler telling me that Steve was in the hospital. "No, you're mistaken. He and Betty are in Hawaii on vacation," I said. "No" she said, "he has some kind of kidney problem." Surely Steve would have called if he was sick. But it was so, and Steve began a long battle against tough odds. I think god must have needed someone to organize his train club, so Steve got an even bigger presidency. Betty and Stephanie, we owe what you see here to your husband, and your father. Without him, we would still be moving the modules in and out of storage, and going to shows on weekends we would not have had the good times we have had, nor met some of the fine new people we have met. We would be all the poorer for not having known him. On behalf of the club, I want to thank you for sharing him with us. And to all our wives and sweethearts, because of Steve, when we tell you we are going to the club to run trains, we really are going to run trains. Thanks to Steve Hashagen, I still play with trains. Thank you.

Speech given by member Charlie Richmond at APN's 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party, just prior to the re-dedication of APN's building as the Steve Hashagen Memorial Clubhouse – July 15, 2006