

ABILENE ALFALFA MILL is seen to the north in first open space as you head east to Enterprise. Smoky Hill river bottom land is excellent soil to produce this legume rich in nutrients. It is dehydrated for animal and human consumption. Watch for alfalfa fields on your way to Enterprise.

A TANGENT of many miles is ahead of you. A railroad has CURVES and TANGENTS, a straight piece of track. Travel by air lets you see little of America the Beautiful. At 70 MPH a car window lets you see a bit more. But at 10 MPH aboard the rocking, rolling equipment of the ASVR you see it all! Live the sights and sounds of railroad travel 100 years ago. Enjoy the grandeur of Kansas at "see-level."

GAMBREL ROOF BARN is to the north about a mile east of Jeep Road. This is the most popular style of farm barn in Kansas. The beautiful stone in this barn is from the Enterprise Woolen Mill of 1872. C. Hoffman built his first flour mill on the north bank of the Smoky Hill at Enterprise in 1869 where it ran until 1880 when he moved the operation to the south bank in the old woolen mill. Flour production ended in 1933 and the 60 foot stone walls were pulled down in 1943.

1993 FLOOD WASHOUT will be crossed west of the Smoky Hill River bridge. Some 500 ties on this line have been replaced by Gary Fiedler and Craig Rose with some others helping. If you sight the rails, they are far from straight, but without expensive track laying equipment, the miracle is how volunteer labor replaced this extensive washout.

SMOKY HILL RIVER BRIDGE will enclose you above and on both sides. When people in scorn and ridicule talk about TREELESS KANSAS, tell them about this stretch of track east of the Smoky Hill River just before you reach Enterprise. You will stop where the old depot was located.

ENTERPRISE HOTEL is just to the south of where the train stops. 100 years ago it was a short walk to a room and meals.

BUFFALO GRASS can be seen by the pile of poles. Called "Kansas wool" by some, it is always short and thick. It can live without rain and will appear to be dead, but when a rain comes, it is rich and green once more! Kansas had the best buffalo grass range in the west.

ABB RAYMOND manufacturing facility is to the east on both sides of the track as you step off the train at Enterprise. It specializes in complex machining operations and precision assembly of equipment to meet the most demanding specifications. Its roots go back to 1868 when Christian Hoffman hired another Swiss settler, Jacob Ehram, to build a dam across the river to power his grist mill. Jacob did so well in building the walnut log dam that Christian asked him to build his mill that went into operation in November of 1869. Jacob worked at various jobs and in 1872 opened a general repair shop for wagons and other equipment. Later he began to manufacture parts and equipment for mills and factories. In 1883, when Enterprise population was around 800, the J. B. Ehram Machine Company was incorporated. This developed into a machine shop, foundry, and sheet metal facility that produced a wide range of products. Large gypsum deposits at nearby Dillon, Hope, and Gypsum City gave the company a favorable location for working with this industry. These early experiences provided the Ehram company with useful knowledge when the plasterboard industry was established. The Ehram patented plasterboard lath punch and the plasterboard cut-off knife are acknowledged leaders in their field. In years since World War II the foundry was sold to a firm that built a new one at Junction City. The sheet metal production facilities were moved to Concordia, but Enterprise retains the machine shop.

CHRISTIAN & ELSEBETH HOFFMAN came to Enterprise in 1868, then called LOUDEN'S FALLS because of the rocky river bottom at this location. His flour mill completed in November, 1869, produced 75 barrels a day. In 1905, when incorporated as the C. HOFFMAN AND SON MILLING COMPANY, it was producing 1,100 barrels daily. His mill and 100,000 bushel wooden 1891 elevator were just north of the railroad on both sides of the present highway crossing the river. The Hoffman mill was the first in Kansas to demonstrate the superiority of hard winter wheat. The first shipment of Kansas flour into a European market came from the Hoffman mill.

CARRY NATION arrived in Enterprise about 7 a.m. on January 23, 1901, invited by Catherine Hoffman. She came from Wichita where she used iron pipe on a saloon. A reporter said a hatchet would be more colorful. The drug alcohol was as illegal in Kansas then as marijuana is today. She chopped up two saloons and left her hatchet that is still in Dickinson County.

The ABILENE AND SMOKY VALLEY RAILROAD is an impossible dream come true. No one is paid for all the work of saving and operating this train. It is a labor of love from youth, women, and men. Maybe you will take a moment and thank the crew. And there are many, many more who have worked hard and long you will not see today. You might want to write a letter and tell what you enjoyed most.

Persons who give \$85 a rail are buying the line from Enterprise to Woodbine. A permanent display will hang in the depot with the alphabetical listing of name and town of all persons who buy rail with the number of rail they buy. The total amount you give for the rail in an income tax deductible gift. In the depot at Abilene give your check for as many rail as you can so persons will stand and read this display and thank you and others for saving the line to Woodbine. Look at the names already there and add yours. You also can buy rail in the name of your parents, children, and grandchildren so they will also be on this alphabetical list.

This little flyer was written by Rev. Dick Taylor. In 1934, his family moved to a farm on the south east edge of Enterprise when he was in the Fourth Grade. Here he joined the church, graduated from High School, left for the Navy when 17, returned after the war to marry his high school sweetheart. On Summer nights long ago in the old farmstead, he listened as powerful steam engines of the Santa Fe and Rock Island labored up grades south and east of town hauling long trains from the Kansas wheat harvest. May this flyer help you love railroads, love Kansas, and love history as he does.

If you are glad this old Rock Island Line has been saved, thank the two who had the vision, who have the mechanical know-how, who have worked to put equipment in operating condition, who spent hours on paper work, and who travel the country finding what is needed - JOE MINICK & FRED SCHMIDT