

Transportation Unit
Bill Ruber, President

End of the Year brings the End of an Era.
Heritage brings an end to Ford Rouge Railroad!

Effective December 1, 2002, the Rouge Railroad came to a halt. After 80 plus years, Ford Motor Co. will silence the whistle of its railroad. You cannot help but wonder what Henry Ford would think. For more than 80 years, Ford employees have given dedicated rail service throughout the Rouge, but progress (Heritage) does not allow room to continue internal rail operations.

It all began with the birth of the Rouge Plant and grew to encompass the entire Rouge site. At its peak, the Ford Rouge Railroad consisted of 400 tracks covering over 130 miles of the 1,200 acre site with up to 2,000 rail cars on site loaded with everything from coal, gasoline, lumber, oil, ore, and machinery - just about everything it would take to produce both the automobile and the steel for it.

In order to move the tons of material and rail cars, Ford used up to 20 locomotives to meet the demands of various plants and the steel division. I can only imagine the headaches the rail employees experienced. Today, for a number of reasons, the Railroad dwindled to only few jobs and a couple of crews. They have become victims of a changing industry and I, for one, will miss the members of the railroad, and I would like to say to all Rouge railroad employees past and present, THANK YOU for all your dedicated service to fulfilling the needs of all the plants over the past 80 years. A job well done!!! The Transportation Committee, along with the leadership of Local 600, wishes you all the very best.

OTHER NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to all of the Industrial Lift Mechanics of DAP on your recent Award as Team of the Month for Best Practices. Application is going to be made for the RISE Award. GOOD LUCK!

Others I would like to recognize are all the drivers and Dispatch personnel who avoided SHUTDOWNS at both Michigan Truck and the DAP by stepping in and handling emergency loads when the scheduled carrier FAILED to show up at the supplier plant. It is good to know that we are still here to help save Ford the huge cost associated when other trucking companies fail! You all helped to save Ford Motor Co. tens of thousands of dollars in shutdown costs. WELL DONE - keep up the good work!

Your Committee would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

Condolences

Our condolences go out to John Saez on the loss of his father, and to Greg Torok on the loss of his father-in-law. Our thoughts are with you.

Retirements

Congratulations to Truck Driver Sam Motorjescu and Ted Zubik, Railroad, on their retirements. We wish you both the very best.