

(First part copied and edited from a contribution by Mary Sue Spurgeon.)

“A Time to Remember” was the theme of the Brownstown Area Sesquicentennial in 1966 that highlighted Brownstown’s history. It took most of the community working together to carry out that memorable celebration.

We have a new opportunity to preserve a portion of Brownstown’s and Ewing’s past. Many of us have memories of the old Ewing Depot. Remember congregation at the Depot awaiting the trains to take us on our senior trips? What about the train that stopped to pick up the Boy Scouts to take them to the 1953 Boy Scout Jamboree in California? People talk of taking the train to Cincinnati to see the Reds play at Crosley Field. In 1969, many of us stood in silence around the Depot to see President Eisenhower’s funeral train pass on its way from Washington, DC to Abilene, Kansas. John Mellencamp’s ‘Cherry Bomb’ music video contains scenes of the BHS class of 1960 leaving on its senior trip from the Ewing Depot.”

The Brownstown/Ewing Main Street organization is working to save the same Ewing Depot. The Railroad has agreed to donate the Depot to the town of Brownstown, and the land for its placement has been acquired through a generous donation. The final step is to raise \$25,000 to move the Depot to its new location. BEMS is asking people from Brownstown to donate the money for this portion of the project.

The moving and restoring of the Ewing, IN Depot area is an important step forward in rebuilding and remembering the greatness of the knowledge and enjoyment that lies in the American Past. This Depot Restoration area offers a unique travel, history and genealogy panorama seldom equaled.

Joe Robertson remembers well the “Watchman’s Shelter” and how (Mr. Huckleberry) preformed his duties of the early 1920’s. Mr. Huckleberry would hear the train whistle and would step outside his shelter with his little round stop sign and the traffic across the tracks would stop. We had no bars, bells or whistles or mechanical helps. Joe Robertson knew of no other such traffic stop arrangement anywhere.

However, one of Brownstown’s prominent citizens (Carl Shake) reported that his neighborhood also had such a small manned traffic signal shelter and that he would volunteer to personally build such a shelter, following a sketch by Caitlyn Swartwood, and donate the shelter to the project.

The Railroad Area and Depot gives Jackson County seven listing entries on the Indiana Historic Pathways Map and a real tourism boost.

Donations are tax deductible and will be deposited in a fund at the Community Foundation of Jackson County (until BEMS obtains their own 501©3 status.) The town Board can issue resolutions to draw needed money from that fund when proper invoices are provided.

Your donations are needed soon so the work can begin. Please make this project a new “Time to Remember” for our community.

Written by Joe Robertson