



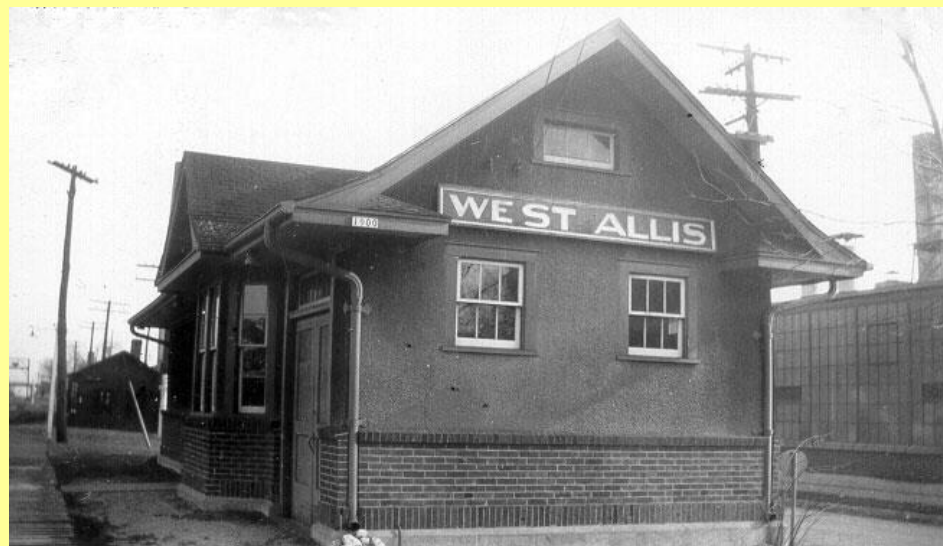
Russ Melichar Retires

Wisconsin Division

40 Years of Service

Wisconsin Division Signal Maintainer **Russell J. Melichar** retired on December 30, 2008. **Russ** hired out on the C&NW in 1968 as a Signal Maintainer Helper out of Butler, Wisconsin. A few years later, he was promoted as Assistant Signal Maintainer at St. Francis. Then in 1974, he was promoted to Signal Maintainer at West Allis, Wisconsin. **Russ** was the last signal maintainer to work out of the West Allis depot before it closed in 1977. After the depot closed, he returned to St. Francis for a few years and then transferred to Butler, remaining there until his retirement. **Russ** worked 40 years without an injury. In November 2008, **Russ** was voted employee of the month for the Chicago service unit. **Russ** now plans to go hunting, fishing and spend time with his grand kids. He is also planning an Amtrak trip to Texas with his wife Sharon to visit friends.

Russ is a member of the C&NW Veterans and we sure hope he stays in touch with us. We all wish him a long retirement and the best of luck. *(Thanks to Dave Hawley for this news and the fine photo.)*



Signal Maintainer **Bob McMillan** (left) says good bye to **Russ Melichar** on **Russ**' last day of work. **Russ** hired out on the C&NW in 1968 and Bob came in 1979. The picture was taken by **Dave Hawley** at Silver Spring Road just north of Butler Yard on December 30, 2008.

Here's the West Allis Depot a few years before **Russ** hired out – in 1947 to be exact. Photo courtesy of Don Ross.



Here's the gang that gathered at Butler Tuesday morning to say good bye to **Russ** (3rd from the left) and send him off to retirement. Left to right – Engineer **Dave Hawley** (Illinois Division), **Rich Neither**, **Brian Stemp**, **Scott Bockhop** (all Wisconsin Division. Engineers) and Conductor **John Schoettel** (Wisconsin Division). **Dave** has known **Russ** for 35 years and wasn't about to miss this occasion! Photo by **Emily Hawley** on 12/30/08.

