

# **Behind the History of Glen Carbon Central Railroad**

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in response to an inquiry, Tom Johnson wrote:

*“When I joined the club in 1998 there was no written narrative about the history of the railroad or the community and it was decided by members that one should be written. I was the author of this history. Since the town and surrounding communities were real and, at that time, still had rail service but the Glen Carbon Central Railroad was fictional the history became a mixture of prototype and fantasy. In reality by 1998 the Union Pacific still operated freight service through Glen Carbon and its former railroad right-of-way is, I believe, now the bike path. UP acquired that trackage when it bought the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad in 1995, and before it was C&NW it was Litchfield and Madison.*

*The other tracks that were still there in 1998 but no longer in use belonged to Norfolk Southern (formerly Wabash). As I recall they were being taken up when I joined but were clearly out of service by then. I recall being told Illinois Central Railroad also had a right-of-way in Glen Carbon but that it didn't figure into the scenery club was actively modeling.*

*When I created the history the time frame to be modeled had already been decided by those who were then club members. And the fictional club railroad was already determined to be the Glen Carbon Central. My wife, Nancy, produced the logo and related artwork in camera-ready form which we sent to the late Don Manlick from Manitowoc, Wisconsin who had agreed to produce decals for club. Don made top-quality decals commercially and club purchased enough decal sheets to do the steam locomotives and rolling stock club then owned. Subsequently member John Troyke bought an Alps printer and he printed added decals until Alps supplies were no longer available and John's health declined such that he could no longer do the work. It's my recollection that John applied decals to our club equipment. There is decal artwork in a three-ring binder on the club's bookcase under the north side of the layout. For a period of time around 2000 I supplied a number of Accurail 40' painted and data only cars to club to be decaled both for club ownership and also to be sold to members and interested others. It's a project we could do again.*

*So, yes, some of it is true and some is fictional. Some of our members are very knowledgeable about the history of the greater St. Louis area including the Illinois collar counties. We could go through the history line by line and I could tell you what I created, if you wish. My intent in the history I created was to make the GCC seem real by weaving its story into the prototype world.*

*Tom”*