

Reminisce by Truman Koehn

Dawn on June 24 as the way freight out of Butler / Milwaukee heads up to South Yard in Sheboygan. The way freight is about 7.7 miles from South Yard--northbound as the sun comes up at the main crossing in Oostburg, pop. 2,800. As one might guess, Oostburg is a very Dutch community and considered today as the most conservative community in Wisconsin according to the media. Back when the C&NW operated this line and every town had a depot agent, in Oostburg EVERY agent that worked in Oostburg was Protestant. No Catholics allowed in Oostburg. The RR men knew this--no one else did---but this was up to 40 years ago when Oostburg had an agent. Some of you may be surprised to learn this. When you work the line, you have to know the territory. Oostburg and Cedar Grove, both shut down on Sundays. Tight. Road crews could not eat at either station on Sundays. People went to church-and nothing else. Nothing. These communities took a very dim view of the trains and the crews operating on Sundays. The RR men were not held in high esteem by the citizens of Cedar Grove or Oostburg due to working on Sundays.

Life along the Shoreline---very close to Lake Michigan. This is all that remains of the Green Bay district---Milwaukee to Sheboygan. She was a mighty fine line.  
Photo by Rich P. on Flickr

<https://flic.kr/p/ucwfkN>