

# Roxsand

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Spanish  
Version

## MOW & Safety

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Maintenance of way, or (MOW), by definition, refers to the maintenance, construction and improvement of rail infrastructure, including tracks, ballast,

grade and line side structures such as signals and signs.

The most fundamental tasks of the MOW are construction, repair and replacement of railroad tracks and its supporting ballast grade.

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## Rail maintenance - then and now



**Gandy Dancers maintained  
railroad tracks manually in  
the 1900s**



After the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, railroad workers were called Gandy Dancers, it is a slang term that was used for railroad workers in the U.S. more formally referred to as “section hands” who laid and maintained railroad tracks years before the work was done by machines.

Gandy Dancers would use songs and chants to coordinate their work. Rhythm was necessary both to synchronize the manual labor and maintain the morale of workers.

Work songs and hollers were sung in a call and response format to direct the picking up and the manipulating of steel rails, hauling and stacking of ties and the lining of the tracks with lining bars.

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Today, the overall concept of railroad work is not a lot different, although you will most likely not hear any of us singing rhythmic chants on the D&I railroad, you will see us using communication and team work to accomplish the more labor intense tasks.

The hydraulic tools and track parts are still very heavy and not always realistic to use a crane. Teamwork is very important to us, as it was back then to accomplish the work while avoiding accidents and injuries.

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## Track Completion

There are roughly 3000 anchors put



in place with sledge hammers in every 1/2 mile of track. Ideally, it is best to put on anchors in the afternoon when the rail temperature is as warm as possible, preferably 100 degrees or above to allow the rail the most thermal expansion.

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One of the last steps before completion is to install the new rail anchors on the base of the rail to help hold it in place.



Eric Heuer, Bob Kilber and Matt Buffington  
hitting on new rail anchors

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**MOW replaced a half-mile of new main line track just north of Hawarden, IA.**



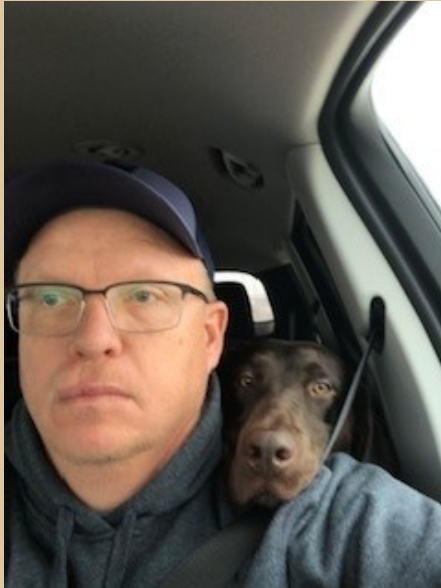
Matt Buffington grooming the trans  
load tracks with the ballast regulator  
at Hawarden



Completion of the new track

The 80-year-old rail was replaced with heavier more dependable rail along with 500 new ties, ballast and surfacing.

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Clark Danielson/Railroad  
Maintenance Manager

## My top 5 favorite dog breeds!

- Labrador Retriever
- German Shepard
- Golden Retriever
- Border Collie
- Alaskan Huskie

## Employee Anniversaries

### Five Years

Mary Anderson  
Summit

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## Happy Birthday

### June 26

Levi Gabrielson  
Ortonville

Lance Williams  
Ortonville

### June 27

Robert Everist  
L. G. Everist, Inc.

Tim Thies  
Myrl & Roy's Shop

### June 29

Chad Hartman  
L. G. Everist, Inc.

Wayne Thietje  
Myrl & Roy's Fleet

### June 30



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and applications go  
to [www.LGEverist.com](http://www.LGEverist.com)

Charles Mohning  
Akron Shop

Isaias Martinez  
Firestone



**Friday, June 23  
to  
Sunday, June 25**



## 2023 Quarry Days

The quarrying of red quartzite in Dell Rapids goes back more than 120 years.

In 1987, the community began this annual summer festival in celebration of that history.

Enjoy family entertainment, a parade, a 5k and 1 Mile walk or run, craft and food vendors in the park, a car show, an ice cream social, a kayak race, a street dance, a fishing derby, train rides, fireworks and more.

*If you have employees who would like to receive the Roxsand and do not have a work email, have them submit their personal email to [info@lgeverist.com](mailto:info@lgeverist.com)*

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