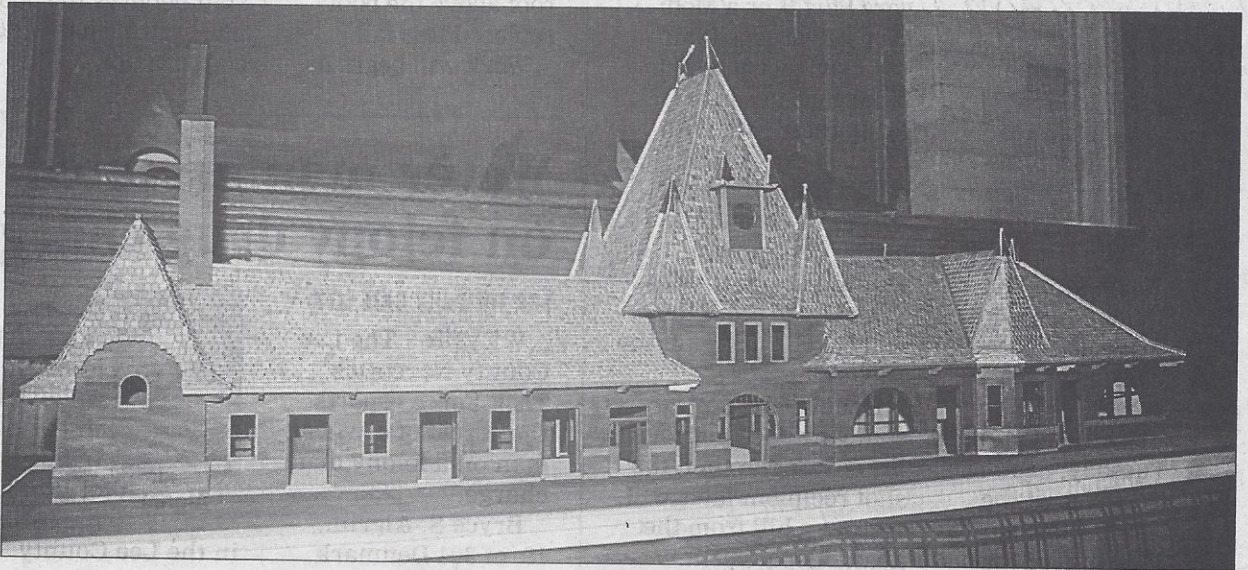


DEPOT: Neal Vogel also compiled a historic structure report for the depot



MEGAN McNEILL / DAILY GATE CITY

Neal Vogel, a Keokuk native and principle owner of Restoric LLC in Chicago, is responsible for the creation of this scale model of the restored Keokuk Union Depot. It and other artifacts were on display Thursday at a fundraising campaign kickoff at the depot.

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"This town has molded me and my career for almost 28 years," Vogel said.

He's brought several of his classes from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago to study the depot's architecture. One of his students, Christen Sundquist, used the depot as the topic of her master's thesis and was responsible for putting the building back on the National Register of Historic Places.

Vogel compiled for the depot a historic structure report, a

lengthy document detailing the building's historical and architectural significance.

The report was edited by Richard Leonard, volunteer and director of the depot foundation, and submitted to the Jeffris Family Foundation as part of the grant application.

Tom Jeffris, president of the Jeffris Family Foundation, emailed Smith to congratulate Vogel and the depot foundation for providing one of the best historic structure reports he'd seen in 20 years.

DEPOT DAYS

During the campaign kickoff, Keokuk Mayor Tom Marion read a proclamation declaring Saturday through Friday, Sept. 19, as Depot Days.

A series of open houses during the coming week will allow the community to tour the depot and learn more about the capital campaign.

The first open house is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and the public is invited to return to the depot for a Carol Montag concert at 8 p.m. See Wednesday's Daily Gate City for more information

about the concert.

Additional open houses are from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday and 9 a.m. to noon Sept. 19.

From 5:30 to 6 p.m. during the Thursday open house, depot representatives will share plans for further restoration following the roof project.

"We will do a marvelous job of restoring to Keokuk a treasure that we all need to know we have," Smith said.

For more information, go to www.keokukuniondepot.org or www.depot125.org.