



## May Meeting

The May meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on May 9, 2018 in the Webb Center in Carona, KS. There were 23 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Jack Evans, Guy Ferguson, Fred & Ruth Maxwell, W.D. Carter, Joe Murphey, Bob Capps, Tom Johnston, Gordon Garrett, Alan Chilton, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Bryson Spahn, Don Richardson, Michael Sheward, Dick Rauikner, Brian Carlson, Ivan & Denzil Voorhees, Darrell Cave, Steven Gardner, Nicholas Ybarra and John Chambers.

## Summer Hours

Summer is coming. Be thinking about volunteering during our open weekends during the summer. Those are the 1st and 3rd weekends of June - August.

## 2018 Train Rides

The passenger rides for the spring portion of this year are still in question. The latest status update from the railroad has provided some information. Valves that are needed for the passenger cars are scheduled to be shipped to the railroad and arrive on May 22. Once those arrive, they will be installed. After installation of the valves, then the inspection of the cars can be performed. According to the railroad, the inspection is scheduled for Monday, May 28th and Tuesday, May 29th. Anything can happen that could delay the process. For starters, May 28th is Memorial Day. We are not sure if there will be work performed on that day, so there could be a delay of at least one day.

The June 2nd ride out of Bartlesville has been postponed again and moved to June 16th. There is hope that the cars will be ready for the Bartlesville ride on the 16th as well as the Columbus ride on June 23. It will be very close. As of now, the cars are not ready and there is not a way to guarantee they will be ready for the June 16th ride. Keep your fingers crossed and say some prayers. Hopefully things will work out and we will be able to have these two rides in June.

The next scheduled rides for the fall are in September with two rides on Saturday, September 1st out of Pittsburg, KS. There will be 3 rides on September 22nd out of Dewey, OK and then 3 more on September 29th out of Chanute, KS. Things should be in place for those rides. We await what the future holds for the June rides.

## What is it?

This is an item that is currently located in the Carona museum. What is it?



Answer next month

*Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson*

Last Month's picture was a flyer for *The Tulsan*. This was a daily passenger train from Tulsa, OK to Kansas City, MO. It was on the Santa Fe going through Bartlesville, OK, Chanute, KS, Ottawa, KS to Kansas City.

## Slide Show

The next slide show will be June 10, 2018 at the Webb Center. It will start at 11:00 am and run to 5:00 pm. Dick Rauniker has said he will bring a main dish of some sort. Anyone attending is asked to bring something to munch on too. Hope to see you there!

## Fredonia Gate

Steve Parsons completed work on the gate. He had to replace several pieces of pipe that were rusted out as well as reassembling the entire gate. Steve had to bring the gate back to Carona in pieces to weld it back together. He primed and put on a coat of white paint.



*Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn*



*Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn*

He came back the next day with his tractor and front loader and set the gate on the gate post. He pulled out the old gate posts and moved them to where they will be put up. He then removed the pile of dirt left from the post hole drilling. John Chambers and Larry Spahn assisted Steve in setting the gate. Steve also put the 1 1/2 inch pipe on the bottom of the gate. He is also going to rethread one of the mounting bolts that was damaged on the signal base. John Chambers and Don Richardson came out and put on a second coat of white paint on the gate post



*Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn*



*Photo courtesy of John Chambers*

and gate.

The next phase of the project is to set the lock box for the gate. This is the part that the gate latches to and "locks" the gate. A hole will need to be dug for the lock box, it will then need to be placed in the hole, and the hole filled. There is still some work to be done!



*Photo courtesy of John Chambers*

## Joplin Water Tower

Long time Heartland member, Jane Ballard, inquired with the club to see if there would be an interest in a water tower she was wanting to donate. It was a very large, (about 15,000 gallons), water tower that was used by the KCS at the Union Station in Joplin, MO. Discussion was held at the meeting about acquiring the water tower. There were concerns over the cost of the move as well as costs associated with building the necessary supports for displaying the tower. The lack of revenue last year and no revenue

## Announcements

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- The next meeting will be June 13, 2018 at the Webb Center in Carona, KS. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm.
- The museum and grounds will be open to the public on June 2 and June 3. Hours will be 11:00 am - 5:00 pm. If you are free either or both of those days, come out and help us show our collections to the public. The grounds will be open again in June on the 16th & 17th.
- Katy Days are May 25-27 at Parsons, KS. Their website is [www.katydays.com](http://www.katydays.com).

so far this year were also mentioned. It was moved and approved to not accept this donation at this time. A big thanks goes out to Jane for thinking of us.

## Grass Mowing

Project grass mowing has begun! With the warmer weather coupled with some rain, the grass mowing for 2018 is fully underway. Tom Johnston has put together the mowing list for this year. A Heartland thanks goes out to Tom for putting the list together for another year. Thanks also go out to those members that work on the mowing project to keep our grounds looking nice throughout the year. We have received numerous compliments in the past about how well we keep our grounds looking. Thanks to Larry Spahn, Tom Johnston and Dawn and Brian Carlson who have mowed the grounds already in March and April.



*Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn*

### A New Section!!!

This page is the third edition of a new section. This section is for a railroad point of interest that a member has visited or would like to visit. If anyone has a place to share, email Brian Carlson at [bcarlson@ckt.net](mailto:bcarlson@ckt.net). The place can be of any site railroad related. Whether it be a trip, a ride, a museum, any place of interest, please share with our members. If there is not a particular place submitted for a given month, then there will not be a place mentioned to visit for that month. Hope to see some interesting places!

### Got a spot?

Don't hesitate to send something in if you have a place you have been or would like to go to. Our members would love to hear about it!

# Whistle Stop!



## Parsons Historical & Iron Horse Museum

A local railroad museum to visit is the Parsons Historical and Iron Horse Museum located at 401 South 18th in Parsons, KS. They are open 1 to 4 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from May to October. Besides articles on Parsons



*Photo courtesy of John Chambers*



*Photo courtesy of John Chambers*

history there are many Katy railroad items housed in a replica depot. They also have several pieces of equipment including a diesel engine, a caboose, boxcars, track

equipment and a maintenance of way car with a model railroad display inside. They have really expanded the museum in the last two years and are not finished yet. This weekend, May 25-27, is the annual Katy Days celebration in Parsons. A busy



*Photo courtesy of John Chambers*

weekend for sure, but a great weekend to visit a historic railroad town. A trip to Parsons would not be without a visit to one of the many eating establishments in town. The top suggestions would be Ernesto's for Mexican food, The Kitchen Pass for an all around good menu, Horton's Pizza for some excellent pizza or The Hickory Hole for those that crave barbecue.



*Photo courtesy of John Chambers*

*- submitted by John Chambers*

## Another New Section!!!

This section is for a set of book reviews that member John Chambers has put together. We have several books in our small library at the Webb Center, but we are having more and more people ask about what books talk about the history of the railroads in the 4-state area. John has taken the time to produce these short book reviews to aid in ones' quest for that missing railroad history. Enjoy!

# From the Past...

## *The Town That Loved Katy...*

Quastler, I. E. and James J. Reisdorff. *The Town That Loved Katy. Parsons, Kansas and the M-K-T Railroad.*

David City, NE: South Platte Press, 2012.

The joint authors have done a very nice job writing about the city of Parsons and its long relationship with the Katy railroad. Having been founded by the company in 1871 and named after its first president Levi Parsons, this town has been inexorably linked with the railroad. The location of the company's main locomotive shops and biggest yard the number of employees has been in the thousands until the decline of the railroads starting in the mid 1950's. Today Parsons still celebrates its railroad heritage with the annual Katy Days festival every Memorial Day weekend. This book is well illustrated and written. It is a must book for anyone interested in the Katy and southeast Kansas history. Several of the photographs used are from the Heartlands railroad photo collection and that of member John Chambers.

Copies can be purchased from the publisher who also has railroad books on a variety of other subjects. Go to [www.southplattepress.com](http://www.southplattepress.com).

## *The Katy Railroad and the Last Frontier*

Masterson, V. V. *The Katy Railroad and the Last Frontier.* Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1952.

One of the classic railroad history books it is the only one ever done on the Katy railroad. All other Katy books since have been on certain aspects of the company but not a complete history. Masterson was an employee of the Katy's public relations department so the book reads in many ways like a promotional piece but it is very well researched with lots of foot notes. The author was able to gain access to many corporate records that unfortunately have since been destroyed. The story of the race to the Indian Territory border, birth of the city of Parsons, construction through Indian country and into Texas and the manipulations of Jay Gould are well told. The hardback edition was done in several printings and later in the 1980's a soft-back version with an updated forward was also printed several times. A check on Amazon showed both versions available starting at under \$10.

## May 9, 2018 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The May 2018 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands, Inc. was called to order at 7:00 pm, May 9, 2018, by president Larry Spahn. There were 23 members in attendance.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the April meeting were approved as mailed. The motion for approval was made by Alan Chilton and seconded by Jack Evans. It passed by the membership present.

**Treasurer's Report:** After the presentation of the the treasurer's report, Alan Chilton move to accept the report, Michael Sheward seconded the motion, the motion passed by the membership present.

### **Old Business:**

#### **2018 Train Rides:**

The passenger car rides for this year are still in question. The most recent word from Brad Snow is that there was a misunderstanding about the date when the coaches were to be inspected. Larry spoke with Brad shortly before the May 9th meeting and was informed that the valves had been ordered and that the car shop guys at Cornell would install them as soon as they arrive, hopefully the week ending on May 11th. Brad informed Larry that he hopes that they will be ready for Bartlesville but to wait until the end of this week for more information.

#### **Fredonia gate:**

Steve Parsons completed work on the gate. He had to replace several pieces of pipe that were rusted out as well as reassembling the entire gate. Steve had to bring the gate back to Carona in pieces to weld it back together. He also primed and put on a coat of white paint on it. He came back the next day with his tractor and front loader and set the gate on the gate post. He also pulled out the old gate posts and moved them to where they will be put up. He then removed the pile of dirt left from the post hole drilling. John Chambers and Larry Spahn assisted Steve in setting the gate. Steve also came out and put the 1 1/2 inch pipe on the bottom of the gate. He is also going to rethread one of the mounting bolts that was damaged on the signal base. John Chambers and Don Richardson came out and put on a second coat of white paint on the gate post and gate.

#### **May train ride:**

The planned train ride out of Carona had to be cancelled because the cars would not be ready in time to advertise the rides.

### **New Business:**

#### **Summer Time Houirs and Volunteers:**

It won't be very long until our summer visiting days will start. We will need volunteers to be at the museum on the first and third weekends of June, July and August. Saturday and Sunday hours on those

weekends are from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. This is only 12 days, 72 hours out of the entire year. Persons will be on site to direct the visitors to the displays and to keep them from climbing on the engines and cars. Some volunteers will also need to be inside the museum to make sure no one handles or plays with the displays. We will also have souvenirs available for sale, hats, tee shirts, etc. We need volunteers who can be here on these days. Don't be bashful, come out and help us present what we have to the public.

### **Joplin Water Tower:**

Long time Heartland member, Jane Ballard has inquired to see if we would be interested in a water tower she is wanting to donate. It is a very large, (about 15,000 gallon) water tower that was used by the KCS at the Union Station in Joplin, MO. It will be very costly to have it taken apart and moved to Carona where a concrete base would have to be built and then have the tank set up. The tank is more than likely coated with lead-based paint which is very costly to remove and remediate and then the tower would have to be primed and painted, another expensive job as well as the continuing maintenance that would be required. After discussion from the membership present, Don Richardson moved to thank Jane Ballard for the donation offer but to decline the offer and not accept the water tower. Michael Sheward seconded the motion. The motion passed by the membership present.

### **Grass Mowing Schedule:**

Thank you to Tom Johnson putting a list of members together for those volunteering to help keeping the grass at the museum mowed. These members are to be commended for assisting in keeping our grounds looking good. We have had many positive comments about the appearance of our museum displays and neatness of the grounds.

### **Slide Show:**

John Chambers reported that there will be another slide show on June 10, 2018 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

### **Correspondence:**

- Due to the small number of revenue producing train rides last year and the cancellation of rides this year, our income for the club's projects has been decreased considerably and will have to be closely monitored and possibly decreased to conserve funds for normal operation of the organization.
- Don Richardson announced that he is now on the Board of Directors for the Cherryvale Museum in Cherryvale, KS. He asked if it would be possible next year to have a ride in Cherryvale to help raise funds for that museum. It was agreed to bring that up at the annual meeting in November for discussion.
- Don Richardson also talked about a scratch built KCS model car that was built by Woodrow Moberly and is now on display in the Carona Museum.
- John Chambers had brochures available for the upcoming Katy Days in Parsons to be held on May 25-27, 2018 in Parsons, KS.
- There was also an update on the Boston Depot work. Russ Green was getting ready to restart work on the depot again now that the weather had warmed up.

- Nick Ybarra suggested the club look into doing something in May of 2019 in recognition of National Railroad Day.
- Larry Spahn talked briefly about their recent train trip to Reno, NV.
- Tom Johnston mentioned flyers for a train trip in October in the northeast part of the United States.

It was moved by Ivan Vorhees and seconded by Jack Evans to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by approval vote of the membership present.