



July Meeting

The July meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on July 11, 2018 in the Webb Center in Carona, KS. There were 17 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Jack Evans, Joe Murphey, Guy Ferguson, W.D. Carter, Dick Rauniker, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Bryson Spahn, Ivan & Denzil Voorhees, Brian Carlson, John Chambers, Steven Gardner, Fred & Ruth Maxwell, Darrell Cave, and John Randall.

Summer Hours

Summer is here. Be thinking about volunteering during our open weekends during the summer. The 1st and 3rd weekends of August are all we have left.

Fredonia Gate

The Fredonia gate project is now almost complete with the exception of the installation of the locking bar that engages into the latch assembly of the gate opening mechanism. This work can be done at a later date if necessary. Currently the gate latches satisfactorily below the signal box with no problems. The gate adds a lot to the railroad effect to the museum grounds. There are two lanterns that were originally installed on the gate but we have been removing the bottom one when the museum is closed, for obvious reasons.



Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson

Columbus Sesquicentennial

The train ride out of Columbus went off without any problems. The coaches and crew were on site early which gave sufficient time to get the cars opened and the generator started along with the air conditioning. The weather was ideal with moderate temperatures and no rain. Around 250 people rode the train from Columbus toward the Sherwin Junction and returned. There was also a very good turnout of members to staff the coaches. Don Richardson, Denzil and Ivan Voorhees, Mike and Connie Peyton, John Chambers, Mike Sheward, Nick Ybarra, Brian Carlson, Kathy, Larry and Bryson Spahn and Gordon Garrett.

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 KCS Fairmont track inspection car that was restored by John Spahn. This car was used between Pittsburg and Joplin.

Announcements

- The next meeting will be August 8, 2018 at the Webb Center in Carona, KS. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm.



The Tallgrass on the siding at Carona

Semaphore Signal Arms

Ken Albrecht, had a surprise for us when he arrived for the slide show. He had brought two semaphores that he donated to the Heartlands. They are supposedly Northern Pacific. One of the arms has to be painted and is hanging over the west



Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson



Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson

door of the new addition. The other one has been painted and is now hanging on the west wall of the new addition as well. Many thanks to Ken for his generous donation. He said that he had a couple of engine marker lamps that he may also donate.

Miners Museum Exhibit

John Chambers and Dick Rauniker are going to give a presentation at the Miners Museum in Franklin for their monthly topic at their museum on. This month, John will be discussing the moving of the 1023 from Pittsburg to Carona. In August, Heartlands' member, Dick Rauniker, will be discussing the movement of coal from the area mines by various railroads. John and Dick have done these types of presentations in the past. This relationship with area museums also promotes the Heart of Heartlands and our railroad history library.

For more information, contact the Miners Hall Museum at 620-347-4220 or www.minershallmuseum.com

Railroads
Backbone of the Mining Industry

Hosted by Heart of the Heartlands



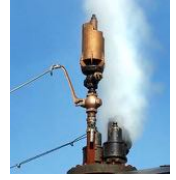
July 2 - September 27

MHM
MINERS HALL MUSEUM

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!



Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad

For a fun little trip, not too far from Southeast Kansas, try the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad. This little railroad is located in Abilene, KS. Operating on the former Rock Island Branch through Abilene, the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad offers train rides from the historic Rock Island Depot in Abilene to Enterprise, KS. This little trip on the former Rock Island Railroad is a nice 6 mile trip to Enterprise. Once at Enterprise, riders disembark and can visit the Hoffman Grist Mill. At the mill, riders can see a demonstration of wheat being ground into flour, similar to the way it was performed in the 1880's. Bags of flour, among other items of interest, are available for purchase. Riders then climb aboard the train for the return trip to Abilene.

The railroad has rides scheduled throughout the summer months. There are regular excursion train rides as well as some steam locomotive rides. In addition to those rides, there are dinner train rides from time to time. Regular Passenger train rides run from May thru October with departures on Saturdays at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. On Sundays, there is one ride at 2:00 pm. From Memorial Day thru Labor Day, rides are on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 10:00 am and again at 2:00 pm. These three days are in addition to the Saturday and Sunday rides. For details about when the steam locomotive is running and when dinner trains are in operation, check out their website at www.asvrr.org. Also, next door to the depot is the Eisenhower Library and Museum. This is another site worth visiting.

Our family went to Abilene in August of 2017 and enjoyed our ride on the A&SVR. We did not make a steam locomotive ride, but the trip was enjoyable for all of us. We enjoyed the little mill in Enterprise and brought back a couple of bags of the fresh flour. For a historical little side trip fairly close to the area, check out the A&SVR.

While in Abilene, one particular place of interest to eat is the Brookville Hotel. Although this establishment began in 1870 in Brookville, KS, west of Salina, it is still serving family style chicken dinners. The menu is simple, a half chicken that is skillet fried with all you can eat sides of sweet-sour cole-slaw, cottage cheese, mashed potatoes with cream gravy, cream-style corn and baking powder biscuits with creamy butter and preserves. For desert, home style ice cream! Bring your appetite for the food is plenty and the environment is wonderful.

- Brian Carlson

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!



Photo courtesy of John Chambers

A SKOL freight train passes the Carona depot during a weekend the museum was open.

From the Past...

Tri-State Traction

Conrad, Edward A. *Tri-State Traction* Blue Springs, MO: HeartlandRails Publishing Co., 2004.

This book tells the history of the three interurban trolley systems of Southwest Missouri, Southeast Kansas and Northeast Oklahoma. The lines are the Southwest Missouri, Joplin & Pittsburg and the Northeast Oklahoma. The author covers all aspects of each line from construction, operations, equipment to demise. The book has many photographs, maps and diagrams. It even has a section on each line where the reader can go out in the field and follow the lines using current maps and descriptions of what is remaining. It is well researched and written and covers a very interesting era in local transportation. It is out of print but can be found for sale on the internet or book dealers.

Railroads in Oklahoma

Hofsommer, Donovan L., editor. *Railroads in Oklahoma* Oklahoma City, OK: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1977.

This book contains over nine essays by various authors on railroads in Oklahoma including interurbans, short lines, wrecks and Indian relationships. Each story is well researched and written. There is even a section in the back showing other books to read on this subject. A second printing was done in 1982 and an internet search came up on Amazon with three copies, the cheapest at \$125.00 so maybe hard to find at a low price. It is worth it for anyone interested in Oklahoma railroads.

June 11, 2018 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The July 2018 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands, Inc. was called to order at 7:00 pm, July 11, 2018, by president Larry Spahn. There were 17 members in attendance.

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the June meeting were approved as mailed. The motion for approval was made by Jack Evans and seconded by Tom Johnston. It passed by the membership present.

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the the treasurer's report, Joe Murphey moved to accept the report, W.D. Carter seconded the motion, the motion passed by the membership present.

Old Business:

Fredonia gate:

The Fredonia gate project is now complete with the exception of the installation of the locking bar that engages into the latch assembly of the gate opening mechanism. This work can be done at a later date if necessary, currently the gate latches satisfactorily below the signal box with no problems. The gate adds a lot to the railroad effect of the museum grounds. There are two lanterns that were originally installed on the gate but we have been removing the bottom one when the museum is closed, for obvious reasons.

Columbus Sequential Celebration:

The train ride out of Columbus went off without any problems. The coaches and crew were on site early which gave sufficient time to get the cars opened and the generator started along with the ac. The weather was ideal with moderate temperatures and with no rain. Around 250 people rode the train from Columbus toward the Sherwin Junction and return. There was also a very good turnout of members to staff the coaches. Don Richardson, Denzil and Ivan Voorhees, Mike and Connie Peyton, John Chambers, Mike Sheward, Nick Ybarra, Brian Carlson, Kathy, Larry and Bryson Spahn and Gordon Garrett.

Summer Time Hours and Volunteers:

We were open for the weekend on July 7th & 8th with several visitors on both days. We will also be open on July 21st and 22nd. As always, we need members to volunteer to help with having the museum and grounds tours and to be in the museum. We will have to keep a very close eye on the small children as they cannot keep their hands off things as we again learned last time the museum was open. It seems that some parents and grandparents do not pay any attention to what their kids are doing. Thanks to John Chambers, Kathy and Larry Spahn, Jack Evans and Brian Carlson for being on the grounds the weekend of July 7th & 8th.

Grass Cutting/Spraying:

Jim Lovell and his brother John came out and mowed the grass, of which there is plenty of, for the first weekend of June visitors. It would be nice if the rain would let up a bit, the grass grows fast enough without all of the watering.

New Business:

Dead Tree:

The elm tree in front of the museum has been removed by Jeremy's Tree Service. They cut the tree down as close as they could and then cut up the rest into small pieces that member Tom Johnston came over and loaded up on his truck and took home, Tom had to make two trips. Tom said that he never passes up free fire wood. Jim Lovell, who was there to cut the grass helped Tom load the wood. The overhanging limb on the elm tree north of the museum was also cut off and hauled away.

Semaphore Signal Arms:

Heartland member, Ken Albright, had a surprise for us when he arrived for the slide show. He had brought two semaphores that he donated to the Heartlands. They are supposedly Northern Pacific. One of the arms has already be painted and is hanging over the west door of the new addition. The other one will be finished and put up soon. Many thanks to Ken for his generous donation. He said that he had a couple of engine marker lamps that he may also donate.

Railroad Bench:

The wheel set has been painted a shiny black and Steve Parsons, the welder that has already done so much for the Heartlands, is planning on stopping in and see what it will take to get the wheels ready to be a bench.

Correspondence:

John Chambers and Dick Rauniker are going to give a presentation at the Miners Museum in Franklin for their monthly topic at their museum on. This month, John will be discussing the moving of the 1023 from Pittsburg to Carona. In August, Heartlands' member, Dick Rauniker, will be discussing the movement of coal from the area mines by various railroads. John and Dick have done these types of presentations in the past. This relationship with area museums also promotes the Heart of Heartlands and our railroad history library.

We have received word that the KCS holiday train will be in Pittsburg on December 7, 2018.

It was moved by Darrell Cave and seconded by John Chambers to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by approval vote of the membership present.