



August Meeting

The August meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on August 8, 2018 in the Webb Center in Carona, KS. There were 18 members and 2 guests present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Larry & Kathy Spahn, Jack Evans, John Chambers, Guy & Brenda Ferguson, Gage Ferguson, Dick Rauniker, Bryson Spahn, Ivan & Denzil Voorhees, Brian Carlson, Jimmie Lovell, Michael Sheward, Steven Gardner, Michael and Connie Payton, and Nicolas Ybarra. Our guests were Scott Binns and Curtis Milkey.

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.

2018 Fall Train Rides

The fall 2018 train rides are almost upon us. The rides for this fall are as follows:

- Little Balkans Days - Pittsburg, KS - September 1. There will be two rides with the first ride at 9:00 am and the second at 11:00 am. Loading will be at the intersection of Monroe and Elm Streets in Pittsburg. (No chicken ride to Carona this year)
- Dewey, OK - September 22. There will be 3 rides at Dewey again this year. Ride times are 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm. Loading will be at the railroad crossing on Don Tyler Avenue.
- Chanute, KS - September 29. There will be 3 rides at Chanute. We have not received confirmation of the times as of yet. In the past, they have been at 10:00, 1:00 and 3:00.

Miners Museum Exhibit

John Chambers gave a presentation to the public about moving the 1023 locomotive on July 15, 2018, "Moving a Behemoth". He presented our video of the move and answered many questions about the engine. There were over forty people attending the presentation. Dick Rauniker gave his presentation on "Railroads and Mining" at 2:00 pm on August 12, 2018. There will be more information in next month's newsletter.



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 Frisco velocipe on loan from Garrett Gordon. This is a single man inspection car before they became motorized.

Announcements

- The next meeting will be September 12, 2018 at the Webb Center in Carona, KS. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm.
- A slide show is scheduled for September 16 from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm at Carona
- There are tentative plans to revive an old tradition, "Hobo Days". A tentative date is October 13.

Boston Depot

Russ Green has been working hard on the paint removal, wire brushing and many repairs of the 132 year old structure, window sills, eaves, woodpecker holes and everything that has been neglected for many years. Russ works full time and spends his weekends working out here. He started priming the building early in August and managed to get a little over half of it done before he ran out of primer. We picked up another five gallons of oil base primer and ten gallons of the best Behr, semi-gloss house paint in yellow and five gallons of brown for trim. The old building is really soaking up the primer. Russ is also replacing the ginger bread woodwork over the bay. It was beyond repair and in danger of falling off. The Carona depot will be next but it is in a lot better shape and will be completed a lot faster. Then the motor car sheds will be repaired and primed and painted. This work has been needed done for a quite a while.



Donation

Pat Olson of Erie, KS called and asked if we would be interested in some of her late husband, Bill Ogle, railroad material. He worked for the Santa Fe and Frisco railroads for over thirty five years as a station agent and telegrapher. He worked in many of the local stations in our area including Frontenac, Pittsburg, Girard, Ottawa and Erie to name just a few.

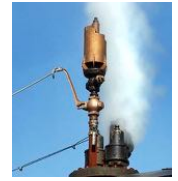
Propane

The McCune Co-op was having their annual customer appreciation days and had pre-paid propane on sale for \$1.30 a gallon. After our issue with the leaking pipe last winter, we did not have any prepaid gas left. The membership present at the August meeting voted to purchase up to 1000 gallons for the upcoming winter. Also, the membership decided to join the McCune Co-op with the benefits of membership seemed to be beneficial to the organization.

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!



White Pass & Yukon Route



Before you there may be some disagreement as to not this really fits

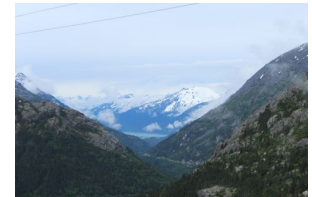


read on whether or into the



hinder you, please read on. So in the truly small town of Skagway Alaska, population 1,157, is an extraordinary little railroad. This narrow gauge railroad is 110 miles long and was started in 1898. According to the White Pass & Yukon Route website, construction began on

May 28, 1898. The first 20 miles involved climbing to the summit at an elevation of 3,000 feet. The summit was reached on February 18, 1899 with the first passenger train reaching the summit two days later. On July 29, 1900 the 110 mile line was completed in Carcross, Yukon Territory.



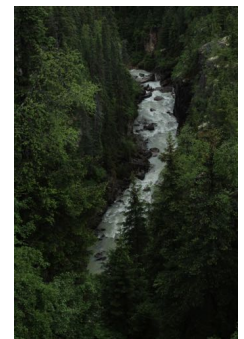
My wife and I traveled this little railroad to Carcross in June 2017. It was not the end of the line but was about 70 miles into the overall route. The scenery was unbelievable and breath taking. Definitely a far cry from the plains and fields of our area. Panoramic views of the valley and mountains are abundant everywhere. There are numerous trestles, some tunnels and plenty of small waterfalls fresh with melting snow running down the sides of the valley. If you should ever get the chance to visit this little railroad, you will not be disappointed!



White Pass & Yukon Route: <https://wpyr.com>

[Note: All photos here taken by Dawn Carlson while on the train. The trestle was a former trestle but was no longer in service]

- 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...

The St. Louis - San Francisco Transcontinental Railroad

Minor, H. Craig. *The St. Louis - San Francisco Transcontinental Railroad*. Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas Press, 1972.

This is the history of the Frisco railroad from 1853 to 1890 when it was actually trying to build a line between the cities in its corporate name. The company went through many name changes, trials and tribulations during this era and they are aptly documented in this book. I like the writing style though some might think it rather dry as it describes a lot of the corporate manipulations of the times and the maneuvers of several of the railroad tycoons in trying to stop the expansion of this company. It is a necessary book for anyone wanting to know why the Frisco never did make it to California. It describes the construction of the Frisco line to Wichita and other lines in the four state area. It is also out of print but can be found on Amazon for a reasonable price.

Railroads in Oklahoma

Burke, James. *The Iron Horse and I*. Self-published by the author with no copyright date. Only 1000 copies printed in two volumes.

This is the personal story of the author and his love of the steam locomotive and railroading from his earliest childhood until the end of active steam locomotive use. James Burke grew up in Climax and Eureka in the Flint Hills of Kansas. He recorded from a very early age the activity of the Santa Fe and Missouri Pacific railroads which passed through these towns by keeping notes and taking pictures. He also would take his camera on all trips and take pictures of the railroads he saw. He hoboed and road the rails throughout the region and beyond. Later he became a fireman on the Santa Fe but quit when the steam locomotives were retired. The writing style is excellent and the stories really come to life. The book is unusual in that the print is in long hand like a diary but is still very readable. The photographs are very good and record some unique events and places. This book should be in everyone's railroad library and used copies can be found on the internet and through Amazon.

August 8, 2018 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The August 2018 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands, Inc. was called to order at 7:00 pm, August 8, 2018, by president Larry Spahn. There were 18 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the July meeting were approved as mailed. The motion for approval was made by John Chambers and seconded by Guy Ferguson. It passed by the membership present.

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the the treasurer's report, Jack Evans moved to accept the report, Ivan Vorhees seconded the motion, the motion passed by the membership present.

Old Business:

2018 Train Rides:

Little Balkan Days: There will be two train rides for Balkans Days out of Pittsburg on Saturday, September 1. The first ride will depart at 9:00 am and the second ride will depart at 11:00 am. There will not be a Sunday Chicken Train Ride to Carona this year.

The Dewey, OK train ride has been approved for September 22. The request for a fourth ride caused a delay. The fourth ride was not approved but the three original rides were approved for the following departure times: 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, and 5:00 pm. The departure times were changed to work with the parade and marathon race times. Bartlesville is helping with the advertising for the rides.

Franklin Miners Museum Presentations:

John Chambers gave a presentation to the public about moving the 1023 locomotive on July 15, 2018, "Moving a Behemoth". He presented our video of the move and answered many questions about the engine. There were over forty people attending the presentation. Dick Rauniker will give his presentation on "Railroads and Mining" at 2:00 pm on August 12, 2018. Try and attend as this is our history.

Boston Depot:

Russ Green has been working hard on the paint removal, wire brushing and many repairs of the 132 year old structure, window sills, eaves, woodpecker holes and everything that has been neglected for many years. Russ works full time and spends his weekends working out here. He started priming the building last Sunday and managed to get a little over half of it done before he ran out of primer. I picked up another five gallons of oil base primer and ten gallons of the best Behr, semi-gloss house paint in yellow and five gallons of brown for trim. The old building is really soaking up the primer. Russ is also replacing the ginger bread woodwork over the bay. It was beyond repair and in danger of falling off. The Carona depot will be next but it is in a lot better shape and will be completed a lot faster. Then the motor car sheds will be repaired and primed and painted. This work has been needed done for a quite a while.

Out-House:

The old out house is beyond repair and plans are being made to replace it with a new one. Joe Carlson has

donated the concrete base from an old WPA outhouse and Russ says that he can make it look like the original. He will use treated lumber and we will place it over a properly prepared pit.

A Big Thank You:

To all of the members that have donated their time to staffing the museum for the few days during the summer that we are open to the public and also to those who have mowed the grass. Joe Carlson has come out twice and sprayed the weeds for us. We really need to have more members volunteer as the number of people we have visiting has increased dramatically.

Donation:

Pat Olson of Erie, KS called and asked if we would be interested in some of her late husband, Bill Ogle, railroad material. He worked for the Santa Fe and Frisco railroads for over thirty five years as a station agent and telegrapher. He worked in many of the local stations in our area including Frontenac, Pittsburg, Girard, Ottawa and Erie to name just a few.

New Business:

Slide Show:

A slide show is planned for Sunday, September 16, 2018 from 11:00AM to 5:00PM.

Hobo Days:

A suggestion has been made to revive one of our past events, Hobo Days and a cookout is tentatively being planned to be held on Saturday, October 13, 2018. After discussion, there is interest in having the cookout as planned.

Propane:

The McCune Co-op is having their annual customer appreciation days and will have pre-paid propane on sale for \$1.30 a gallon. We currently do not have any prepaid gas left. We used it up when we had the pipe rusted in two. Michael Sheward moved to purchase up to 1000 gallons of propane from the McCune Co-op. Michael Payton seconded the motion, motion passed by the membership present. Discussion was held about joining the McCune Co-op as a member. We normally buy our propane there and the benefits for having a membership seemed to be beneficial for the organization. John Chambers moved to join the McCune Co-op. Guy Ferguson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of the members present.

Correspondence:

- It was noted that John Rogers turned 103. He is the only person we know of that actually ran the 1023.
- We received a card from Bill Bailey informing us that he had been volunteering on the Cumbres & Toltec Railroad.

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