



## June Meeting

The June meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on June 10, 2020 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 16 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Joe Murphey, Ivan & Denzil Vorhees, W.D. Carter, Alan Chilton, John Chambers, Brian Carlson, Jay Hastings, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Jim Lovell, Connie & Mike Payton, Bob Capps, Gordon Garrett, Tom Johnston and Darrell Cave.

## Heart of the Heartlands

The monthly newsletter is constructed by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Carlson. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions you may reach him at: bcarlson@ckt.net  
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## Covid-19

As we leave June and head into July, what a first half of 2020 it has been! We did have our June meeting as well as we were open for visitors on the weekend of June 6-7 and June 20-21. However, due to the recent upswing in Covid-19 cases in our area, we have decided to not be open for visitors the weekend of July 4-5. At the next meeting on July 8, the board will meet, along with any members in attendance to decide on what course of action will be taken for the rest of the summer in regards to visitors to our complex. If you do attend the meeting on July 8, we will be meeting outside, weather permitting, and asked that all that do attend wear a mask.

## Summer Visitors

The Heartlands had a “soft opening” on June 6th and 7th, which was our first scheduled weekend to be open for the general public. Approximately 20 guests arrived throughout the day on Saturday, despite the high temperatures and humidity. This was also the first weekend after many of the COVID-19 restrictions had been lifted. Sunday was a much smaller number of guests to the museum complex as only about two people were there. Members staffing the museum on both days were John Chambers, and Kathy and Larry Spahn. Jim McKeel and Bryson Spahn were on hand to assist on Sunday. With the increase in COVID-19 cases in the area, our next scheduled opening for visitors is yet to be determined.

### What is it?

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



Answer next month

*Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson*

The March picture was a picture of a set of china. The china was a Frisco Sloan pattern, with silverware and linen donated by Heartlands member Bob Still in memory of his parents.

### Announcements

- The July meeting will be held July 8th at 7:00 pm at the Webb Center. The meeting will be held outside, weather permitting. All those in attendance are asked to where a mask.

### Condolences

- We received word last month that longtime Heart of the Heartlands member, Rudy Titsworth passed away on May 29. Rudy lived in Golden City, MO and was a very active member in the Heartlands. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Doris, his daughter April, his son Jim and the rest of Rudy's family.

## Carona Depot



As you approach the Carona Depot and museum complex, one usually is traveling on Kansas highway 102. For many, many years, there was a sign that sat at the corner of K-102 and SW 20th St. The road, SW 20th St, runs in front of the museum entrance. The corner is about a quarter of a mile north of the grounds. Time and the elements had taken a toll on the sign, but thanks to a crew from Watco, the sign



*Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn*

has been replaced! The new sign was installed on June 10 by a young energetic group. The Heartlands wishes to thank Cameron Lundy and Watco for the generous contribution to our complex. Swing by and take a look! It is a welcome sight to see!



*Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn*

## Frisco - Mulberry Sign

Heart of the Heartlands member, Jay Hastings has been working on the old Frisco Mulberry sign that has long been on the grounds at Carona. The condition of the sign was so bad, that Jay volunteered to create a new one. He has been working on the sign in his limited free time, but is making progress. It is looking good Jay! Thanks for your time and contribution to the collection!



*Photo courtesy of Jay Hastings*



*Photo courtesy of Jay Hastings*

## June 10, 2020 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The June 10, 2020 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Alan Chilton moved to accept the minutes as mailed. Darrell Cave seconded the motion, the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** After the presentation of the treasurer's report by treasurer Brian Carlson, Alan Chilton moved, Darrell Cave seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

### Old Business:

#### **Mowing:**

The continuing rains have prevented the adequate mowing all of the grass around the museum and display areas recently. Dawn and Brian Carlson were able to keep the grass mowed completely but the recent rounds of rain have prevented Larry Spahn and Dawn and Brian from mowing all the grounds. Some areas are still water soaked and can not be mowed again. We have been able to keep the area around the 1023 and museum and depot areas presentable. The ditches have been so wet that we asked Cherokee County to mow them for us which they have. The large area around the Boston Depot has not been mowed in 3-4 weeks and the low area north of the museum has not been mowed yet this year. The grass in that area north of the museum is so tall that we may have to have it mowed with a tractor and bush hog when it is dry enough. We do not want the areas rutted up as it makes it hard to mow with our small mowers.

#### **Morgan Addition:**

We are beginning to move the tables and chairs into the Morgan Center where future meetings will be held. The baseboard and door molding trim was installed by Better Built when Kevin came out and installed the doors in the two closets. This was followed by the crew from All Seasons Floor that then came out and laid the carpet. This pretty much has all of the very expensive items completed and brings us to the next phase of the evolution of the Morgan addition which is the moving of the video systems which include the wiring, overhead projector, flat screen TV and screen. Like Yogi Berra once said "It's all over but the finishing"

### New Business:

#### **Depot Signs:**

Jay Hastings reported on the status of two railroad sign projects that he is currently working on. The Mulberry sign is almost done. The signs for the Morgan Addition are currently under construction.

The Carona Depot sign that sits at the corner of K-102 and SW 20th St. Has been replaced. The new sign was installed recently by a crew from Watco. The Heartlands wishes to thank Cameron Lundy and Watco for the generous contribution to our complex.

### **June Summer Visitation:**

The Heartlands had a “soft opening” on June 6th and 7th . Heartland members staffing the museum on both days were John Chambers, Kathy and Larry Spahn. Jim McKeel and Bryson Spahn were on hand to assist on Sunday. The temperature was hot and humid and visitation was light. There was approximately 20 guests on Saturday with two on Sunday. We need more people to assist. The next public visit will be on June 20-21. Discussion about being open on July 4th was also held.

### **Passenger Cars:**

Larry Spahn and John Chambers attempted to start the diesel generator on the 9202 car so they could assess the operation of the air conditioning systems on the coaches. It was discovered that the battery that starts the engine was dead. The battery was on a charger all night but would not take a charge and needs to be replaced. Cameron Lundy was notified of the need of a new battery.

### **Power Pole:**

The power pole that has the electric service to the Carona Depot has blown down taking the service mast, meter base and disconnect with it. It is our responsibility and will cost \$500.00 to replace. This does not include the cost of any of the work involved with reconnecting the service wires. The cost of having the meter is around \$37.00/month even if we use no electricity. As an alternative, until we have a greater need for a meter service, we already have a 5000 watt, 240/110 volt generator that was donated by Dave Parker that we can set up in the Carona depot freight room and use it when we need it. After some brief discussion, Darrell Cave moved to have the utility company replace the pole. Alan Chilton seconded the motion and the motion passed by the membership present.

### **1023 Entrance Steps and Platform:**

The wooden steps and supports on the platform are deteriorating and are in need of replacing. Several rotten pieces of wood have been replaced recently after being found to be in bad condition. The overall condition of the wood indicates that the entire platform will need to be replaced in the very near future. A metal one would be the preferred way to go as it will last a long time but will be very expensive.

### **Train and Motor Car Rides:**

The 2020 passenger train and motorcar rides have been postponed due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. The remaining rides are questionable and may not be held due to the unknown variables involved with the current situation. The loss of these rides will greatly curtail our yearly income and also affect the work on and around the museum and depot areas. We will be adjusting our plans accordingly.

### **Self Guided Tour Information:**

Brian Carlson and Bob Capps are continuing to work on the implementation of the new system.

According to Brian, Bob has completed his part and has made some excellent audio recordings of the passages for each of the outdoor displays. The next phase of the project is to have the QR code's placed in positions for people to be able to use them.

**In Memoriam:**

We are saddened to report that long time Heartland member, Rudy Titsworth of Golden City, Missouri has passed away. Rudy was very active in many Heartland activities including, staffing the passenger train rides, participating in motor car rides and working on the many projects the Heartlands have been involved with over the years. Rudy will be missed. We offer our condolences to his wife Doris and family.

**Correspondence:**

- John Chambers mentioned that we should look into possibilities for placing an alarm system on the Morgan Addition
- Don Richardson announced that he is the vice-president of the local Cherryvale group. Next year is the 150th anniversary of Cherryvale. Don asked the club to keep Cherryvale in their plans for a possibly ride in June or July of 2021.
- The Southeast Kansas Museum Coalition was mentioned. Brian Carlson has been attending some of the meetings as this group has been getting organized. The recent Covid-19 issues has prevented the group from meeting.
- Brian Carlson read a thank you card from All Seasons Floral
- Larry Spahn read a letter to the club from Dave Calwell.

Don Richardson moved to adjourn the meeting. Ivan Vorhees seconded the motion and it passed by the membership present.