



July Meeting

The July meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on July 8, 2020 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 13 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Brian Carlson, Ivan & Denzil Vorhees, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Lois & Jim Carlson, John Chambers, Bob Capps, Jay Hastings, Darrell Cave and Ed Brinkmeyer.

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 620-820-9665

Covid-19

At the July meeting, it was decided to not be open for visitors on our remaining weekends of the summer. However it was agreed that private, small groups could come to the complex by scheduling an appointment. Groups would be kept small and those in attendance would be required to wear a mask. Numbers to schedule an appointment are located on our website.

Steps to the 1023



The steps to the 1023 locomotive are in need of replacement. The Heartlands picked up the steps at the conclusion of the FEMA temporary housing location in Joplin as a result of the 2011



tornado. They were well worn when we acquired them, but they were just what was needed as we completing the restoration of the 1023. Last month, Larry Spahn worked on replacing a couple of steps and reinforcing the steps to prolong their life. We are in the process of getting quotes for a set of replacement steps.



- Photos courtesy of Jim McKeel

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 June picture was a picture of the SEK 1000 locomotive. It was one of the first four locomotives used by Watco. The locomotive was retired by Watco and donated to the Heartlands on June 18, 2009. It was restored and dedicated on October 9, 2010 in memory of Dick Webb, founder of Watco and Heart of the Heartlands.

Announcements

- The August meeting will be held August 12th at 7:00 pm at the Webb Center. All those in attendance are asked to wear a mask.

Blast from the Past

Heartland's member, Jay Hastings found the picture below on a Facebook post. This is a 1966 picture of the Frisco & Santa Fe crossing in Fredonia, KS. The Santa Fe locomotives on the right are on the portion of track that went to Chanute. The Santa Fe line heading off towards the lower left of the picture went to Moline to Winfield. The Frisco line leaving towards the lower right side of the picture went to Neodesha and beyond to the east. The other direction went to Wichita.



One item of interest in the picture is the gate on the left side of the screen across the Santa Fe track. This is the same gate that is now at the entrance to our Carona Museum complex. Below is a photo taken by John Chambers on the 4th of July, 2020, of the same gate.



Photo courtesy of John Chambers

July 8, 2020 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The June 8, 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: Jack Evans 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, Darrell Cave moved, Bob Capps seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Mowing:

The rainy season is appears to be over and Larry Spahn and Dawn and Brian Carlson have been able to keep the grass under control. The ditches have finally dried up and have been mowed. Hopefully the grass growing will slow down with the increased heat and lack of rain.

Power Pole:

The power company has been notified about replacing the pole. Larry met with their representative at the site and gave him a check for \$500.00 for the cost of having the pole replaced. He said that it would be put on their (to do list) and expects that it will be replaced in two or three weeks, depending on their work schedule. Dig Safe has come out and marked the utilities and the tree trimmers have been here to clear the branches. The meter will not be installed right away. We are trying to see if we might be able to get a residential rate instead of a commercial rate.

New Business:

June Summer Visitation:

The resurgence of Covid 19 prompted the cancellation of our plans of having the museum open on the Fourth of July weekend. With the current health problems and the rise in new cases within the four state area, we need to consider cancelling the rest of the summer visits. It will be very difficult to maintain the proper distancing of visitors in the museum and if we would have someone who has visited and later tests positive for Covid 19 it will be difficult and expensive to disinfect the building. If we decide to stay open we will need more volunteers who will be on hand. After some discussion it was agreed that we would be closed for the rest of the season, but would take small groups by appointment only.

John Chambers also moved to allow the Board Officers to make changes to the hours of the museum, when needed. The changes were in determining if the museum would be open or closed on a scheduled date. Lois Carlson seconded the motion and the motion passed by the membership present.

Railroad Signage:

John Chambers, Jack Evans and Larry Spahn put up several of the signs that have been cluttering up the inside of the museum for too long. The signs are installed along the west outside wall of the Morgan addition where they can be easily viewed and enjoyed by everyone passing by. We have several more signs that we plan on placing on the east side of the building in the near future. Also, John Chambers painted the Missouri Pacific mile post at the front of the complex.

Passenger Cars:

The battery on the 9202 car has been replaced and the generator was started. The air conditioning operation was not satisfactory and Cameron Lundy was notified, he contacted CDL and they will be out to check the cars. They are swamped with trouble calls and have a huge back log. He said that they would be out to check the AC sooner if we need the coaches. Larry informed them that it may be a while before we use them and will call him if anything comes up.

SKOL Trestle Burns:

The trestle on the east side of Independence, KS has been destroyed by fire. The entire, five hundred foot long trestle will have to be completely replaced at an estimated cost of three to four million dollars. It will take several months to replace if it doesn't rain too much, the trestle is located in the river bottoms and floods often. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

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 are 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.

Little Balkan Days:

The City of Pittsburg has cancelled the Little Balkan Days Celebration for this year so there will be no passenger train rides. It is probable there will be no rides at Chanute for their Artist Alley event this year but have not heard anything either way.

Donations:

- John Chambers was recently contacted by Larry Byers, a gentleman who has visited our museum in the past and was wishing to donate his collection of sixty railroad belt buckles along with the four display cases that house the collection, to the Heartlands. The four cases are small, only 16.5 inches wide and will not take up much wall space. It was the consensus of those present to accept the donation.

- John Chambers explained that some of the Ron Morgan material dealt with Ron's involvement with the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad in Colorado. John moved that we donate the Cumbres & Toltec material to them. Brian Carlson seconded the motion and the motion passed by the membership present.

Correspondence:

- Larry reported that we have not heard anymore in regards to possibly replacing the wooden steps to the 1023. We are waiting on a quote from Jim Page, but for now, the steps are stable and steady.

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