



August Meeting

The August meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on August 12, 2020 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 15 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Kathy & Larry Spahn, Jack Evans, Ed Brinkmeyer, Alan Chilton, Joe Murphey, Ivan & Denzil Vorhees, Darrell Cave, Bob Capps, Connie & Mike Payton, Brian Carlson, John Chambers and Nicolas Ybarra.

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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Rides Cancelled

Word has been received that Chanute Artist Alley, scheduled for September 26 has been canceled. We have also found on Facebook that the Western Heritage Weekend in Dewey, OK has also been cancelled. With those two cancelations as well as Pittsburg's Little Balkans' Days originally scheduled for September 5, we officially have lost all of our 2020 train rides. Hopefully 2021 will be better and we will be back on the rails with rides!

Larry Byer's Collection

Larry Byers, a gentleman who has visited our museum in the past, contacted John Chambers in regards to his wishes to donate his collection of sixty railroad belt buckles along with the four display cases that house the collection, to the Heartlands. Larry Spahn and John Chambers recently worked on mounting the four display cases inside of the Morgan Addition. Mr. Byers also wrote some information on his background and his collection. It is framed and mounted to the left of the collection. Thanks goes out to Mr. Byers for his donation.



Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn

Jack Evans Donation

Heartland member, Jack Evans has donated his collection of transportation related items to the Heartlands. Jack also donated the display case that they are housed in. Kathy and Larry Spahn went to Jack's home in Pittsburg and picked up the items and display case and brought them to Carona. Jack also came and helped unload the case and set up the display. We extend a big Heartland thank you to Jack for his donation.

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 July picture was of the Good Times Caboose #1990. It was built in April 1970 for the Southern Pacific railroad and retired by them in the 1980's. It was purchased by Watco in 1990 and converted at their Coffeyville, KS car shop into a small business care with dining tables, chairs and a mini bar. An observation platform was added complete with drumhead. it is used for special occasions by Watco.

Announcements

- The September meeting will be held September 9th at 7:00 pm at the Webb Center. All those in attendance are asked to where a mask.

Gordon Garrett

On August 20, 2020, longtime Heart of the Heartlands member, Gordon Garrett passed away. For over 25 years, Gordon was a regular volunteer on most train rides. Until recently, he was also an active participant in motor car rides. He was a collector of many railroad items, some of which are on display currently in the museum at Carona. Even though Gordon lived near Springfield, MO, he attended several meetings at the Webb Center each year with his most recent attendance in July. Our condolences go out to Gordon's family; he will be greatly missed.



Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson

Summer Visits

The COVID-19 pandemic has decreased the number of visitors to Carona and our museum grounds. As has been mentioned in previous newsletters, the decision was to be closed for July and August during our regularly scheduled weekends of being open to the public. There have been several visitors to the outside displays, but the museum has been closed to most visitors. There have been some private, small groups allowed to tour the museum under the guidance of one of our members (usually Larry Spahn or John Chambers). The groups that do attend wear masks and are in small groups, usually the size of a family. Hopefully next summer will be better and we can be back on our normal schedule for the public to view our museum and outdoor displays.

Ballard Donation

Jane and Bob Ballard, long time Heartland members, contacted John Chambers and asked that we come over and see what we would like to have of what remained of Jane's railroad collection. John Chambers and Larry and Kathy Spahn went over and picked up all of the articles they offered and brought them back to Carona where John has started listing the items. Several pieces have already found their way into our growing displays of railroad memorabilia. The kind donation from Jane and Bob is greatly appreciated!

August 12, 2020 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The August 12, 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, Darrell Cave moved, Jack Evans seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Mowing:

Dawn and Brian Carlson have been out several times and have been able to keep the grass under control. They have really worked hard to keep the grounds looking great. The wet area north of the Morgan Addition has finally dried out enough to be completely mowed.

Display Maintenance:

John Chambers spent several hours cleaning the Boston depot. It has been a while since any work has been done on the inside of the 140 year old structure. For several years the space between the walls of the bay area has been the home to a large hive of honey bees. Although they never bothered anyone they did make a mess of the agent's area and desk. Unfortunately the hive suffered the same fate of millions of bees across the nation and was killed by a virus or other disease. John worked on removing the thousands of dead bees and the mess they left behind. He has also been working on the display cases for the Larry Byers' collection.

New Business:

June Summer Visitation:

The resurgence of Covid 19 is still a concern and has negatively affected the number of visitors to the museum but several individuals have come by and enjoyed the outdoor displays, especially the 1023 engine.

SKOL Trestle Update:

The trestle that was destroyed by fire on the east side of Independence, KS has been replaced and train traffic has been restored. Crews worked around the clock on the project and luckily the heavy rains held off until the repairs were completed.

Donations:

We have received several very nice donations to our museum lately. Larry Byers contacted John Chambers and made arrangements to deliver his railroad buckle collection to Carona. Larry and his wife came by the museum on Saturday and delivered the collection. The sixty buckles are attractively displayed in four custom built display cases. We extend a big Heartland thank you to Larry for his donation to the Heartlands.

Ballard Donation:

Jane and Bob Ballard, long time Heartland members contacted John Chambers and asked that we come over and see what we would like to have of what remained of Jane's railroad collection. John Chambers and Larry and Kathy Spahn went over and picked up all of the articles and brought them back to Carona where John has started listing the items. Several pieces have already found their way into our growing displays of railroad memorabilia. Jane said that we could do what we wanted with the items we didn't use. The remaining items will be placed in our gift shop. We extend a big Heartland thank you to Jane and Bob for their support and donation to the Heartlands. Bob and Jane are going to move to Table Rock lake and have already purchased a home there.

Evans Donation:

Heartland member, Jack Evans has donated his collection of transportation related items to the Heartlands. Jack also donated the display case that they are housed in. Kathy and Larry Spahn went to Jack's home in Pittsburg and picked up the items and display case and brought them to Carona. Jack also came and helped unload the case and set up the display. We extend a big Heartland thank you to Jack for his donation.

Joe Carlson:

Joe stopped by and delivered several date nails and an unopened box of Frisco book matches that a friend had given him for our displays. The matches are the type that are housed in a replica of a Frisco box car and were given away to customers.

Correspondence:

- John Chamber recently participated in a Zoom meeting of the Arkansas-Boston Mountain of the NRHS. John presented DVD videos of the "Last Train from Cherryvale" and the "Union Electric Railway" and fielded questions about the showing. The Heartlands were also featured in the groups newsletter, The Arkansas Scrambler
- Brian Carlson read a letter from member Bill Bailey to the club. It was in regards to a KCS Railway, heavy cast steel bridge company builder plate that he is planning on donating to the Heartlands.
- Larry Spahn mentioned he would stop by the coop, the provider of our propane, to possibly pre-purchase propane for the upcoming winter.
- John Chambers talked about the SEK Museum Alliance. The Alliance is planning on setting up a passport for people to acquire and then receive "stamps" from each museum in southeast Kansas that the passport owner visits. Discussion was held but no action taken.

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