



April Meeting

The April meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on April 14, 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: Jack Evans, Darrell Cave, W.D. Carter, Ivan & Denzil Vorhees, Jim McKeel, Brian Carlson, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Bryson Spahn, Connie & Michael Payton and John Chambers.

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

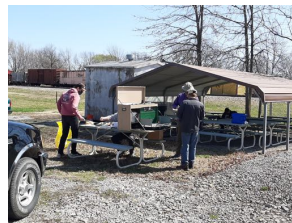
Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxfDIf_ezgw3UyQ

Boy Scouts Visit Carona

Scout Troop # 299, from the Kansas City area finally got a break in the weather and came down for their visit to our museum and Big Brutus. They came down on Saturday morning and set up their tents and sleeping bags. After getting a fire going they cooked a very good lunch which consisted of a Dutch oven cooked



chicken enchiladas before going to Brutus for their tour. They were there a couple of hours before returning to Carona and taking the tour of the museum and outdoor attractions. John Chambers and Jack Evans treated the group to a very interesting and detailed visit of our grounds and depots plus the tour of our museum displays. After the tour they built another fire and cooked a chili and corn bread supper in the Dutch oven. A strawberry Bundt cake dessert was also



cooked in the Dutch oven. The troop enjoyed the evening and turned in around 10:00pm. John Chambers spent the night with the group but instead of sleeping on the ground, he stayed in the museum. The group rose early and after breakfast they broke camp and headed back to the city. Everyone enjoyed the visit.



- Photos courtesy of John Chambers

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

March's "What is it?" A 50 foot plug door boxcar built in February 1973 and assigned to move beer for the Anheuser Busch Company of St. Louis. It was purchased by the Heartlands to use for storage.

Announcements

- The next meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands will be May 12, 2021 at the Webb Center starting at 7:00 pm.
- Discussions are ongoing in regards to train rides in 2021. The next possible dates being discussed are Little Balkans Days, Labor Day weekend. Stay tuned.
- Visitors are arriving just about every time someone is at Carona. We are definitely on peoples' radars.

April 2021 Newsletter

Levi White Visit

White, the banjo player that visited the museum back in January, has completed his video and banjo tribute to John Henry and has sent us a You Tube video and it is worth taking a look at. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62qAHL5M0hQ&t=2s>

Dave Calwell Collection

Dave Calwell and his friend Kent Nelsen came to Carona for a short visit to determine the best location to set up his collection of railroad memorabilia and to take measurements for the display and display cases. Dave's friend Kent is a retired contractor and a man of many skills. Larry and John showed him the sliding glass display doors and he said that he would include several of the lockable doors in the display cases that he will build. The doors were donated to the Heartlands many years ago by Lamar Davis, a long time member of the Heartlands. Lamar bought the eight doors at an auction and brought them to Carona and donated them. He said that someday we will be able to use them. They have been stored in the MOP boxcar for many years. Dave is currently continuing the cataloging of his entire collection and is packing the items as he goes. There is a lot of work that will have to be done in preparation for the arrival of Dave's collection.

Big Brutus Event

There is a large event planned for the weekend of May 14th, 15th and 16th at Big Brutus. Over 7,000 visitors are expected to attend the three day affair. The event is being put on by a group of outdoor enthusiasts that are into remote, off-road camping using their highly modified vehicles. Vendors and displays and live music will be provided. It was agreed by all those present that we will be open on May 14-16 to handle the potential visitors to the complex in conjunction with the large event planned at Big Brutus. If you can volunteer to help at Carona during any of the three days, please come and help out. There is self-guided material available to give to visitors. We need your help in being there for the potential large number of people that could be in attendance.

Bill Downes Donation

Bill Downes, the son of John Downes, sent the Heartlands several items that he had found while going through some of his father's papers. Included are several railroad stamps, an 1881 employee pass from the Santa Fe Railroad from Council Grove to Pauline and several railroad logos that he had collected over the years. Mr. Downes also enclosed a donation of \$100.00 to the Heartlands. A Big Heartland thank you to Bill for his donations, they are greatly appreciated. 2

April 14, 2020 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The April 14, 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: John Chambers moved to accept the minutes as mailed. Jack Evans seconded the motion, the motion passed.

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

Old Business:

Levi White Visit: Levi White, the banjo player that visited the museum back in January, has completed his video and banjo tribute to John Henry and has sent us a You Tube video and it is worth taking a look at.

Boy Scott Visit: Scout Troop # 299, from the Kansas City area finally got a break in the weather and came down for their visit to our museum and Big Brutus. They came down on Saturday morning and set up their tents and sleeping bags. After getting a fire going they cooked a very good lunch which consisted of a Dutch oven cooked chicken enchiladas before going to Brutus for their tour. They were there a couple of hours before returning to Carona and taking the tour of the museum and outdoor attractions. John Chambers and Jack Evans treated the group to a very interesting and detailed visit of our grounds and depots plus the tour of our museum displays. After the tour they built another fire and cooked a chili and corn bread supper in the Dutch oven. A strawberry Bundt cake dessert was also cooked in the Dutch oven. The troop enjoyed the evening and turned in around 10:00pm. John Chambers spent the night with the group but instead of sleeping on the ground, he stayed in the museum. The group rose early and after breakfast they broke camp and headed back to the city. Everyone enjoyed the visit.

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Dave Calwell Visit: Dave Calwell and his friend Kent Nelsen came to Carona for a short visit to determine the best location to set up his collection of railroad memorabilia and to take measurements for the display and display cases. Dave's friend Kent is a retired contractor and a man of many skills. Larry and John showed him the sliding glass display doors and he said that he would include several of the lockable doors in the display cases that he will build. The doors were donated to the Heartlands many years ago by Lamar

Davis, a long time member of the Heartlands. Lamar bought the eight doors at an auction and brought them to Carona and donated them. He said that someday we will be able to use them. They have been stored in the MOP boxcar for many years. Dave is currently cataloging his entire collection and is packing the items as he goes. There is a lot of work that will have to be done in preparation for the arrival of Dave's collection. There will also be quite a lot of work in building the displays and setting up the collection. Dave said that he will be here for the set up and arrangement of the collection.

Dave Calwell called and asked if we could meet him at Yates Center with the sliding doors, it was decided that it would be best to assemble the display cases there rather than assemble them at Carona as there will be no mistakes in any measurements. He would like to have the doors sometime next week. Discussion was held and suggestions made on how to arrange for transportation of the glass doors. Larry Spahn would contact Dave and discuss the ideas with him and come to a solution for deliver of the doors.

Big Brutus: There is a large event planned for the weekend of May 14th, 15th and 16th at Big Brutus. Over 7,000 visitors are expected to attend the three day affair. The event is being put on by a group of outdoor enthusiasts that are into remote, off-road camping using their highly modified vehicles. Vendors and displays and live music will be provided. It was agreed by all those present that we will be open on May 14-16 to handle the potential visitors to the complex in conjunction with the large event planned at Big Brutus.

Train Rides and other activities for 2021: Cameron Lundy called and discussed the possibility of train rides for Little Balkans Days. He said that the COTS inspection is moving right along and that the car shop is awaiting the arrival of the rebuilt brake valve assemblies. Cameron said that there are conversations going on about the Balkan Days train rides. Larry mentioned the Artist Alley Rides in Chanute and that the Western Days Committee in Dewey, Oklahoma had called requesting rides in October of this year. Covid-19 is still a main concern as it should be.

Museum Visits: John Chambers reported that there are quite a number of visitors that he has shown around the museum when he has been working on displays and cataloging.

Grass Mowing: It's that time of the year again, already. Larry changed the oil in the mowers and they should be ready. He took the battery out of the Snapper and took it to his home to charge it. He returned later and put the battery in the mower and it started right up, he mowed most of the grass around the museum and displays on the east side of the tracks. Discussion was held about setting up a list for volunteers that will help out in mowing over the summer. Brian Carlson will be getting with Tom Johnston in getting the list reestablished. Tom was coordinating the mowers in the past, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Other New Business:

- Brian Carlson mentioned that updates to the Heartlands brochure would take place during the summer. The supply of the brochures is running low and there are changes that need to be made in the brochure. The current version is about 5 years old.
- Restoring electric power to the east side of the tracks was discussed. After much discussion, John Chambers moved to table the discussion till the next meeting, Jim McKeel seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- It was agreed to have a work day at the Carona museum complex on Saturday, April 24 at 10:00 am
- Chad Smith of Bella Vista, Arkansas called and will be visiting the area on Saturday, April 24 and has requested a visit to our museum. His family will be camping at Brutus and has heard about our railroad museum and would appreciate a tour.

Correspondence:

- Larry Spahn received a call from a group in Joplin. They inquired about bringing a small group out to the museum complex on May 4th, at 10:30. Larry and John Chambers will be out to greet them.
- Larry Spahn received a call from the Altamont elementary school in Altamont, KS about a possible group of students coming out to the museum complex in June.
- John Chambers received a call from a church in Altamont inquiring about possible train rides out of the museum complex.
- John Chambers informed the group that the Arkansas Boston Mountains NRHS chapter was meeting on April 15th, to finalize plans for a visit to Carona in the next couple of months. ADDENDUM: The group plans on being at Carona on May 7 starting around 10:30-10:45.
- John Chambers received an email from Janet Miller, Cherokee County Economic Development Director, inquiring if we would be interested in being included in the 2022 Kansas Travel Guide. The Kansas Travel Guide has about 350,000 distributed annually. This year, the Cherokee County Economic Development Corporation Board decided to pay 25% of any Cherokee County attraction interested in being in the guide. Darrell Cave moved and Jim McKeel second a motion to be in the 2022 guide. Motion passed. The Heart of the Heartlands was in the 2021 guide. Cost is normally \$80 but this year, since 25% is going to be covered, the Heartlands cost will be \$60.

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