



## July Meeting

The July meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on July 12, 2023 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 12 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Joe Murphey, Paul Morgan, Rob McKnight, Ivan & Denzil Voorhees, Jack Evans, Darrell Cave, Larry & Kathy Spahn, Jim McKeel and Brian Carlson.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be August 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Webb Center in Carona.

## Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMlkqWyCxfDlf\\_ezgw3UyQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMlkqWyCxfDlf_ezgw3UyQ)

## Tree Removal

The tree removal company spent the day, July 19th, removing some of the trees around the museum. The main tree to remove was the pecan tree in front of the museum. Other trees around the grounds were also removed including a tree near the 1023 and one near the Plymouth Engine. Things do look different!

- Photos courtesy of John Chambers



The Pecan Has Fallen!



Working Near the Plymouth Engine



New View of the Webb Center



New 1023 Look from the Road

## Sunday Movie Days

Railroad Movies-Videos will be shown at the Webb Center on Sundays from 1:00-3:30 pm. Hopefully these will be well received and can be continued. Come on out and enjoy our museum and take in a movie.

## From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.

*These are photos of the Plymouth Engine when it sported it's blue color. Later it was repainted in its current black color. The snow photo is from February of 2004. The non snow photo was from October of 2003. Photo is from the Larry Spahn collection.*



## Dave Calwell Letter

Dave Calwell had some suggested changes in the material that is in the present information pamphlet that we are planning on having republished. Dave has several suggestions that we will consider when we have new ones printed. Dave is putting together the information and will send it to Larry or Brian Carlson for our consideration. Dave also mailed the group a copy of a booklet: Railroad Relics (The Village Depot) that he suggested be placed on the baggage cart or on the ticket counter of the Pauline Depot in the Morgan Center.

## Depots of the Past



Below are a few of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe depots in some of the collections the Heartlands have acquired.



Independence, KS



Girard, KS



Caney, KS



Cherryvale, KS



Pittsburg, KS

*The Independence, Girard, Caney and Cherryvale depots are from the Norman Almond Collection.*

*The Pittsburg depot is from the Dave Cash collection.*

## Announcements

- Museum hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Wednesday through Sunday.

### Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

[bcarlson@ckt.net](mailto:bcarlson@ckt.net)

620-820-9665 (leave message)

## July 12, 2023 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The July 12, 2023 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. 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 the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

### **Old Business:**

#### **June Slide Show:**

The slide show on June 24th was well attended. John Chambers reported about 15 people were in attendance.

#### **PSU Auto Group:**

John Chambers reported that the PSU Auto Group is planning on coming to the museum on Tuesday, August 1st. The plan is for them to come around 10:30-12:00, after the group visits Big Brutus. The group is around 12 people. Larry Spahn said he would come out to help with the group.

### **New Business:**

#### **Train Rides:**

Cameron called and let Larry know about some upcoming train rides on the SKOL. There will be two rides for Balkan Days on September 2nd, times to be determined. The Artist Alley train rides in Chanute are scheduled for September 30th with two rides, times to be determined. In December the rides for the first and second graders in Pittsburg will take place with the date and the time to be determined.

Cameron also mentioned that he will try and schedule maintenance on the passenger cars. After some discussion it was decided that John Chambers would request a meeting with Jerry Waun about possibly having some rides this fall out of Carona.

#### **Letter from Dave Calwell:**

Dave Calwell had some suggested changes in the material that is in the present information pamphlet that we are planning on having republished. Dave has several suggestions that we will consider when we have new ones printed. Dave is putting together the information and will send it to Larry or Brian Carlson for our consideration. Dave also mailed the group a copy of a booklet: Railroad Relics (The Village Depot) that he suggested be placed on the baggage cart or on the ticket counter of the Pauline Depot in the Morgan Center.

**Museum Report:**

John Chambers gave his monthly museum report. In the report, the following items were mentioned:

- John Parsons came with three of his grandchildren. He is going to check on the status of the stairs they are working on for the 1023 and the Empire engine. John Chambers informed Mr. Parsons that the mailboxes are ready for his team to pickup at their convenience. He also mentioned to John Chambers that he is thinking of having the Gay Parita, once the remodeling is finished, available for any use we may need in the future.
- Continued discussions with Vital Signs in Columbus. Currently looking at an open sign with hours posted on it and a safety disclaimer sign. Each sign would be \$100 plus \$50 for setup. Vital Signs is to be sending a final invoice to John Chambers
- Brochures are needed to be sent out to places in the area advertising what we have here at Carona. Brian is going to get brochures created.
- Larry asked how many visitors were at the museum on July 7th. According to Larry, Big Brutus had 200 visitors while we had five.
- John mentioned that during the month there were visitors from Norway and Australia.
- Inventory of souvenirs has been completed. We are running low on T-Shirts. Discussion was held about places to look for T-Shirts.
- John stated that he was going through Ron Morgan's items donated to the museum.

**Communications, Announcement, Additional Items:**

- Thank you to Dora Firmin for volunteering her time recently. She has been assisting in inventorying and consolidating t-shirts.
- Railroad Movies-Videos will be shown at the Webb Center on Sundays from 1:00-3:30 pm. Hopefully these will be well received and can be continued. Come on out and enjoy our museum and take in a movie.
- It was announced that the tree trimmers should be out to take care of the trees in the later part of July.
- Discussion was held briefly about possible uses for the Tallgrass. Brian Carlson suggested the possibility of using it as a Bed & Breakfast, if it could be repaired sufficiently. Liability concerns were a major factor in not pursuing the idea. Staffing was also mentioned, but the proximity to the active track was a detriment.
- Brian also mentioned that work on the brochure would begin. He also asked the group if they thought a fold out type of brochure or a single unfolded brochure would be desired. Discussion was briefly held but a clear decision was not made.

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

### 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!



## The Track is Where?

*- Article and photos by Heart of the Heartlands member, Brian Carlson*



View of the courthouse

In last month's issue, I talked about the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad that my wife and I visited this past March at the beginning of our spring break trip to Maryland and North Carolina. At the end of the week, on our return home, we made another stop for a railroad related adventure. Our destination was La Grange, Kentucky. The town of La Grange is about 25 miles northeast of Louisville just off Interstate 71 as it travels towards Cincinnati. What makes this town such an interesting stop is not just because it has a railroad that travels through but where the track makes its mark. The track travels right down the Main Street



Northbound Train Entering Main Street

for about 3-4 blocks. It is really quite an interesting sight to see CSX freight trains traveling about 10-15 miles an hour through the heart of the city!



Train - Parked Cars - Together

Originally, the section of line through La Grange was part of the Louisville and Nashville. The section running through La Grange was part of the system that connected Cincinnati and Louisville. For over 130 years the Louisville and Nashville operated under the same name. A feat that is not matched by many other railroads. During the consolidation times of the 1980's, the entire system came under the CSX system. CSX still operates the line today with 15-25 trains a day coming through town. La Grange has wonderful little shops and restaurants along Main Street. It is definitely a unique experience to see a freight train just a few feet from parked cars and just outside the window of the restaurant or shop you might happen to be in. The kindness and hospitality of the people of La Grange made the stop even more enjoyable and memorable. If you happen to be in northern Kentucky, the town of La Grange is definitely worth your time to visit.



Dinner and a Show



View Down Main Street