

GREAT PLAINS DISPATCH

The Official Newsletter of the Great Plains Transportation Museum
and the Wichita Chapter National Railway Historical Society

February 2008

Volume VII

Number 2

ANNUAL MUSEUM BUSINESS MEETING

The annual Great Plains Transportation Museum business meeting will be held Friday, February 15, 2008 at 7:30 PM. Location of the meeting will be: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1101 N. River Blvd, Wichita, Kansas.

RAILROADING IN WICHITA

FEBRUARY 1908

By Fred Tefft

About 3,000 car loads of sand are shipped out of Wichita each year. There are two firms that ship sand, the Jackson-Walker Company and Schwartz Brothers. Their sand pumps are located south of Douglas Avenue and north of Maple Street.

Commodore S. L. Nelson resigned his position as general manager of Wichita Railroad and Light company. Nelson arrived here to take charge on January 2, 1900, and that service has grown and improved greatly since then. "In 1899 we operated (sometimes) eight cars and carried less than 400,000 people. In 1907 we operated regularly 21 cars and carried more than six million people (including transfers)." Nelson was replaced by H. E. Chubbuck of Ottawa, Illinois.

The Van Noy Railroad News Company of Kansas City has purchased the dining room and service at the Missouri Pacific station and will take charge of its operation

Nine thousand white oak ties have

been received by the Missouri Pacific to be used in construction of new track between Ft. Scott and Wichita.

The Orient railway is putting in a track, in the yards south of its depot (at southeast corner of Douglas and Mosley) for the purpose of making connections with the Santa Fe to Rock Island tracks. A large force of men with teams and scrapers are grading the roadbed south of Division Street preparatory to laying the track, which will be completed in about a week.

When this connection has been made, the Orient will put on its own switch engines and do its own switching and handling its own cars. At present Orient cars are turned over to the Frisco for delivery to connecting lines.

Dr. Edward N. Tihen's Notes from Wichita Newspapers, Special Collections and University Archives, Wichita State University Libraries

1911 TRACK ELEVATION

By Sam Andrews

The mid town track elevation project in Wichita was first proposed by the mayor in 1907 and finally got off the ground in 1911 when the three rail-

roads involved agreed to terms.

Construction began October, 1911. A construction firm from Texas was awarded the bid with a crew of 55 men on the job.

The First & Second Street underpasses opened for street traffic in March, 1913. The first train to pass over Douglass on the new tracks took place May 26, 1913. This was a Santa Fe work train.

In October, 1913 most of the new mainline tracks were by then ready for full time use. Santa Fe became the first railroad to use the elevated line through downtown and their street level mainline tracks were then taken out of service. By March, 1914 the Rock Island and the Frisco were using the elevated tracks and their own mainline tracks downtown were also ripped up.

As part of the new track layout, control point interlocking towers were put in service at the new stations of South Junction & North Junction. This operation went on line in Spring 1914 and remained so until the towers were closed in 1969.



**THE MISSION OF
THE GREAT PLAINS
TRANSPORTATION
MUSEUM**

To be *THE* Railroad Museum
Of Kansas.

Dedicated to record and exhibit the importance of railroad transportation in the human, agricultural, commercial and industrial heritage of Wichita, Kansas and the Great Plains.

To showcase that heritage with an "Action Display" of rail equipment operation. Giving visitors an exciting learning experience through motion, set in an unique, historic and scenic urban location.

To enhance the action display with significant and appropriate railroad locomotives, rolling stock, equipment and structures; through interpretive displays, dioramas, exhibits and media; and educational and community programs.



The GREAT PLAINS DISPATCHER is the official monthly newsletter of the Wichita Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, Inc. and the Great Plains Transportation Museum, Inc. Members receive the DISPATCHER as part of their membership. All material submitted for publication should be submitted by the 25th of the month for publication in the next months DISPATCHER. Submissions may be sent to the editor at: editor@gptm.us, 316-744-7259 or 700 E. Douglas, Wichita, KS 67202-3506

**FEBRUARY NRHS
MEETING**

The Wichita Chapter's monthly program will include a look back at the museum's 20 year history, and a tribute to Lloyd Stagner.

The meeting will be held Friday, February 15 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 1101 N. River Blvd in Wichita. Meeting time is 7:30 pm.

NRHS DUES

NRHS has mailed the dues notices. ***IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A DUES NOTICE***, contact Steve Corp, treasurer, at 683-4758.

Mail your renewals to:

Steve Corp
5609 Shadybrook St
Wichita, KS 67208-1756

Also, the statement needs to be included with the payment. Doing this will lessen the workload of the treasurer.

The new dues rates are listed below.

Regular Member
Individual \$46

Family membership.
Primary member \$ 46 plus additional family members at \$12 per member. For example, a family of 4 would be \$46 + 3X \$12 for a sum of \$82.

Student Member \$25

At-Large Member \$34

HELP WANTED

The vice-president position is still vacant. Contact David or Harvey if you can help.

FUTURE NRHS MEETINGS

- Mar.: K&O RR guest speaker
- Apr.: Topeka Chapter exchange program.
- May: Open
- June: Annual picnic
- July: Platform meeting
- Aug.: Platform meeting
- Sept.: Annual banquet
- Oct.: Kansas City Chapter exchange program
- Nov.: Open
- Dec.: Slide free-for-all

QUAD-CHAPTER MEETING

The Wichita Chapter will host this year's quad-chapter meeting Saturday, May 24. Details to follow.

OTHER EVENTS

Feb. 9-10 – Wichita Train Show, Cessna Activity Center. Sat: 9–5, Sun: 12 Noon–4.
Info: aylward1@cox.net

Feb. 23 – Lawrence Model Railroaders Annual Train Show, Douglas Co. Fairgrounds, Lawrence.
Info: jimforegolf@hotmail.com

Apr. 17-20 - KRHS spring meet, Kansas City, MO
www.katyrailroad.org

June 16-22 - NRHS convention, Ft. Worth, TX
www.lonestarrails2008.com

July 9-13 - SFRH&MS convention, Riverside, CA
www.atsfr.com

July 23-26 UPHS convention, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka, KS
www.uphs.org

Oct. 3-5 - MPHS convention, Leavenworth, KS
www.mopac.org

FROM YOUR EDITOR

As I write this column, my thoughts are focused on the loss of our dear friend. Lloyd was always there whenever anyone had a question dealing with railroad history. I relied on Lloyd for information for each end every issue of the Dispatcher. It was a rare occasion when Lloyd could not answer my questions.

I would like to put together an article about Lloyd for publication in the Dispatcher. However, I cannot do it without your assistance. My plan is to assemble an article of memories of Lloyd. Each and every one who ever met Lloyd has a story to tell. Some have pictures that can be shared. In this, every one of us can have a part in telling the story of our dear friend, preserving these memories for the future.

Send your submissions to:
Fred Tefft
4957 N Parkhurst Ct
Bel Aire, KS 67220

E-mail: editor@gptm.us Phone: 316-744-7259

Or stop by the museum and share in person on Saturday mornings.



Lloyd enjoying the train ride with Joyce Allen on a Quad-chapter trip to Yoder. May 8, 2004

Photo by Andrew Klamka

MUSEUM DUES

Please send in your dues payment to keep your membership current. Even better, visit the museum and pay in person.

GPTM MEMBERSHIP

THE GREAT PLAINS
TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM
Membership and Volunteer
Application

Membership Categories

Museum Regular Memberships

- Individual \$20
- Family \$30

Museum Supporting Memberships

- Sustaining \$50
- Contributing \$100
- Sponsor \$250
- Patron \$500
- Benefactor \$1000

I want to volunteer in the following areas:

- Shop & restoration
- Gift shop
- Interpretive guide/Tours
- Fund raising
- Displays & artifacts
- Library
- General Maintenance
- Office
- Planning & Development
- Newsletter
- Other: _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Signature: _____

Please remit to:

Great Plains Transportation Museum
Membership Coordinator
700 E. Douglas Ave
Wichita, KS 67202-3506



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**WICHITA CHAPTER NRHS
MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES JAN. 18, 2008**

Quorum Check and Call to order:

President David Meek called to order the regular meeting of the Chapter at 7:35 pm in The Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. He announced that a quorum was present.

Approval of minutes from last meeting:

The minutes of the December 21, 2007 meeting were read by R. Hitchcock. A motion was made by Norm Walters to accept the minutes, as read, and seconded by J. Harvey Koehn. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer Report: In his absence, David Meek read Steve Corp's financial report. Norm Walters made a motion to accept and J. Harvey Koehn seconded the motion to accept. Motion carried.

National Director: Director's meeting in Dallas on the Saturday a week from tomorrow.

Vice-President Report: J. Harvey Koehn VP Report first before National Director's. He reported a change in Quad Chapter meeting to May 17. May 24 is the Memorial Day weekend. Possibly, there will be a train ride to Yoder KS and back. Museum's annual meeting is in February. Harvey will look back at history of museum. Harvey brought some show and tell items such as an Employee's TT from Rock Island 1934. Joyce Allen showed a picture in which she desired information on the location of the image. It showed a train wreck.

President's Report: Fernley & Fernley is the National's office contractor so they are taking on several projects as time goes by. National will cease having any paid staff. J. Harvey Koehn reported on the health status of Lloyd Stagner. He had a bad heart at-

tack on Saturday, January 12, 2008. He was on life support at St. Francis. Last night they decided to partially scale down the life support which helped him breathe. He survived the change in life support. He was sedated and rested better last night the 17th. Surgery is still undecided as far as we know. He had open heart surgery in 1989, according to Norm Walters.

Historian – Lloyd Stagner: no report

Old & New Business: Under new business, revised By-Laws discussion was the subject of the program today. Keith Williamson moved and Norm Walters seconded a motion to approve the By-Laws as Amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Eddie Allen and seconded by Norm Walters. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Richard Hitchcock, Secretary

**WICHITA CHAPTER NRHS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JAN. 5, 2008**

Roll call: The following persons were present: Steve Corp, Treasurer, David Meek, President, Fred Tefft, Editor, Lloyd Stagner, Historian, Richard Hitchcock, Secretary. Meeting called to order at 10:40 am, Saturday, January 5, 2008.

Minutes: The November minutes were read. Steve Corp moved to approve the minutes as read, Lloyd Stagner 2nd. Motion carried.

Treasurer: Steve Corp gave a treasurer's report. Steve deposited \$1550 in the bank account. Check written for membership dues to national last week. Motion to approve by J. Harvey

Koehn, Fred Tefft 2nd and the Motion carried. On renewals, Steve Corp commented on the difficulties with the report form he was reading. The report did not show all the total amounts he needed.

Reports and Old Business:

New national address: NRHS, 100 north 20th street, 4th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1443, on February 1st. Fernley and Fernley is the firm hired to handle their office work.

Harvey's reports: director's meeting in Dallas in January, he reports. He will not be able to be there. The National Convention is in Ft. Worth in June. Quad Chapter update: J. Harvey Koehn is working on a date of May 24th, but a train ride is not firmed up at this time. It would be on the K&O and use box lunches. He proposes Jet BBQ. He would like to choose the train route. Entertainment has not been decided as of now. The Meeting will be on a Saturday. David asked if the City Historian would help. High School graduations and commencement exercises may interfere about that time. J. Harvey Koehn suggested the train ride at Watson Park as an attraction. He is going to explore people at WSU who are interested. The VP update, no change from last regular meeting.

New Business: David Meek: We need to attract new members and get current members to attend the chapter meetings. The chapter will have a table at the train show in 2008. Board Meeting dates next are March 1st, May 3rd, July is open, September 6th, November 1st. SFH&MS meeting in 2008 is in Riverside California July 9 through 13.

J. Harvey Koehn made a motion to adjourn and Steve Corp seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. At 11:19 a.m. we adjourned.

Richard Hitchcock, Secretary

LLOYD E. STAGNER

Lloyd E. Stagner, 84, passed away Friday (Jan. 18, 2008) at Via Christi Regional Medical Center-St. Francis campus in Wichita.

He was born March 2, 1923, in Newkirk, Okla., to Lloyd Sr. and Della (Thompson) Stagner. They preceded him in death.

Lloyd married Marilyn Davis on Oct. 12, 1972, in Topeka. She survives of Newton.

He was a retired Santa Fe Railway Station agent and author of books and magazine articles on American steam locomotives.

He was a veteran of World War II, serving in the U.S. Army. He was a member of Trinity Heights United Methodist Church in Newton, the National Railway Historical Society, Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, Harvey County Historical Society and the Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society.

Other survivors include sons, Matthew Stagner and wife, Lisa Lombard, of Oak Park, Ill., and Murray Stagner and wife, Lana, of Grapevine, Texas; daughter, Marla Jane Summer of South Paris, Maine; and three grandchildren.



Lloyd Stagner (right) with Lee Clerico at a NRHS meeting Oct. 20, 2006.
Photo by J.H. Koehn

He also was preceded in death by a brother, Giles E. Stagner.

Visitation will be from 1 to 9 p.m. today at Petersen Funeral Home in Newton.

Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home chapel, with the Rev. Phil Fischer of Trinity Heights UMC officiating.

Burial will be at McPherson City Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Heights UMC or Great Plains Transportation Museum in Wichita in care of the funeral home.

The Newton Kansan

RIO GRANDE SCENIC NEWS & CORRECTION

One problem with relying on the internet for rail news is that any person can post a story. This time, your editor was given incorrect information.

The dome cars that went to the San Luis & Rio Grande were not as originally posted. These cars were 509, 510, 511, 551 & 554. Theses big dome cars were built by the Budd Company and delivered to the AT&SF in 1954.

Unable to reach an agreement with Amtrak on their sell, the cars were operated on the Auto-Train until bankruptcy in 1981. The cars were purchased by Westours in the mid-80s and placed in storage. Beginning in 1993 the cars were completely rebuilt before being shipped to Alaska and placed in service from Fairbanks to Anchorage.

In 2003 new big domes began replacing the Santa Fe cars, and this group of 5 cars went to the San Luis & Rio Grande.

TRAIN AND SEMI COLLIDE

On the afternoon of Wednesday, Jan. 23 an eastbound semi-truck slammed into the side of a northbound Union Pacific train on K-196, just west of Whitewater, KS.

The driver of the semi received minor injuries. His truck, loaded with milo, struck the side of the train while passing two vehicles that were stopped, waiting on the train. The collision derailed 36 empty grain hoppers on the train. The train crew members were not injured. According to witnesses, the warning signals were flashing and the crossing gates were down.

Sources: *The Newton Kansan, Kansas Highway Patrol Crash Log*




*The eastbound semi-truck was dragged by the northbound train before coming to rest in the ditch a half-mile west of Whitewater.
Photo courtesy the Newton Kansan*



*Former AT&SF 509 in Alamosa, CO.
Photo by Carlos Llamas*

February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 <i>Museum Open Work Day</i>
3	4	5 <i>Evening Work Session</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>Wichita Train Show</i> <i>Museum Open Work Day</i>
10 <i>Wichita Train Show</i>	11	12 <i>Evening Work Session</i>	13	14 	15 <i>NRHS Meeting</i>	16 <i>Museum Open Work Day</i>
17	18	19 <i>Evening Work Session</i>	20 <i>GPTM BOD</i>	21	22	23 <i>Museum Open Work Day</i>
24	25	26 <i>Evening Work Session</i>	27	28	29	

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