

GREAT PLAINS DISPATCH

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

March 2008

Volume VII

Number 3

QUAD CHAPTER MEET

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2008

Excursion on the Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad to Yoder

Lunch at the Carriage Crossing Restaurant in Yoder

Full details will be sent to chapter members in the very near future.

WICHITA'S MISSOURI PACIFIC DEPOT

By Sam Andrews

The old Missouri Pacific depot at 302 W. Douglas opened January 2, 1901 when train #5 arrived from Kansas City at 7:25 AM. This was in a brick structure 70' X 140' and two stories tall. The ground level was for passenger operations while the top level housed Wichita Division Superintendent offices consisting of agents, clerks, telegraph and dispatching staff.

The flagship Missouri Pacific train to serve Wichita was Geneseo-Wichita 411/412 which was a stub section of St. Louis-Denver 11/12, the Colorado Eagle. This service started during 1942. The Wichita section carried a Denver Pullman until it was taken off February 28, 1961. A year later the train numbers were changed to 34/35.

In May 1964 the depot closed and what little passenger business remained moved north one block to the freight depot at 220 W 1st. Ticket office hours were open for

only one hour nightly from 9:00-10:00 PM. In 1965 the old depot was then torn down.

The final run of 34/35 took place January 4, 1965 when the last train departed from town at 10:20 PM. with a crew of five and about 20 passengers. Of this rider total, 13 had roundtrip tickets to Geneseo and three Denver's. The remainder were riding to Hutchinson and Geneseo. This ended Missouri Pa-

cific passenger service to Wichita that began in 1883.

Trains 11/12 themselves across northern Kansas were abolished April 1966 which ended the final Missouri Pacific varnish in the Sunflower state.

*Wichita's Missouri Pacific Depot,
302 W. Douglas, circa 1925
Wichita Public Library Photograph
Collection*





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 a 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

FINAL
NOTICE
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

MARCH NRHS
MEETING

The Wichita Chapter's monthly program will be a program by Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad employee Barry Karlsberg titled: "My Career In Railroading"

The meeting will be held Friday, March 21 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 1101 N. River Blvd in Wichita. Meeting time is 7:30 pm.

FUTURE NRHS
MEETINGS

Apr.: Topeka Chapter exchange program.
May: Open
June: Annual picnic
July: Platform meeting
Aug.: Platform meeting at GPTM
Sept.: Annual banquet in Kingman
Oct.: Kansas City Chapter exchange program
Nov.: Open
Dec.: Slide free-for-all

OTHER EVENTS

Sat., Mar. 15 - Wichita Garden Railroad Society, 2:00
Jim Carter 721-3857

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

Apr. 26-27 - Trains on the Plains KS Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, KS
marcajacobos@sbcglobal.net

May 15-18 - Mid-Continent Regional Convention - NMRA, Branson, MO
www.mcor-nmra.org

May 17 - 2nd Annual Kingman Santa Fe Car Show, Kingman, KS
Call 620-532-3671

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

Sept. 11-14 - RITS Convention, Burlington, IA.
<http://faculty.simpson.edu/RITS/www>

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

HELP WANTED

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

TRIBUTE TO LLOYD STAGNER

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

I am needing your help with this project. My plan is to have a publication for the Quad-Chapter meeting May 17.

KANSAS CABOOSE LISTING

For many years, Roger Kirkpatrick has been tracking captive caboose around the country.

This last year, he has shared the responsibilities with volunteers for selected states.

I am now both the Kansas list coordinator as well as the RI list coordinator.

Please send sightings to me as well as questions and I will do my best to answer or find someone who could help. I can send the current list upon request if you will send me any additions or corrections.

John Matrow
2753 N Pershing St
Wichita, KS 67220
jmatrow@juno.com

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 _____
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 Telephone: _____
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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 FEB 15, 2008

Quorum Check and Call to order:

President David Meek called to order the regular meeting of the Chapter at 7:30 pm at The Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. He announced that a quorum was present.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 18, 2008 meeting were read by the Secretary. A motion was made by J. Harvey Koehn to accept the minutes, as read, and seconded by John Deck. The motion carried.

Treasurer: Steve Corp gave the financial report. J. Harvey Koehn made a motion to accept and Norm Walters seconded the motion to accept. Motion carried.

National Director: J. Harvey Koehn reported the National had their January meeting. He reported that the Quad Chapter meeting will eat at Carriage Crossing in Yoder; it will be a late lunch. Fare estimate is \$45 - \$50. Only one RDC car will be available, but the track has been upgraded. He is negotiating for the use of the Kingman depot. The Quad Chapter meeting is to be held on May 17th.

President's Report: David Meek has researched questions about the By-Laws from last month but has more work to do on this. The National will be storing a lot of material during their office move.

Program: In this month's program, Harvey had a slide show of the move of 3768 and a PowerPoint presentation of the history of the Museum, this month. He had a recording of an interview with Lloyd Stagner and some information about Mike Hurley.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by John Deck and seconded by Norm Walters.

The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Richard Hitchcock, secretary, Wichita Chapter - NRHS

WICHITA CHAPTER NRHS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2008

Roll call

The following persons were present: J. Harvey Koehn, Steve Corp, David Meek, Fred Tefft, Richard Hitchcock

The Meeting was called to order at 10:40 am, Saturday, March 1, 2008. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Minutes: The January minutes were read. Fred moved to approve the minutes as read, J. Harvey Koehn 2nd, the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer: Steve Corp gave a treasurer's report. He told us NRHS has not cashed our check and he has some checks to deposit. Fred asked if any members had not renewed, and we were told there were a few. Steve asked if the National was going to send cut off notices to members in arrears. David answered in the affirmative. Some say they did not get a notice to renew. J. Harvey Koehn moved and Fred seconded the motion to accept; the motion carried.

Reports and Old Business: VP report: March program, a report on a career in Railroading from a man at K&O. April: Topeka, a video or DVD interview with one who had a career on the railroad. The Quad Chapter meeting is in May, June is the annual picnic; July platform meeting is TBD. August □ platform meeting at the Great Plains Transportation Museum. September is the banquet at Kingman KS. October is with the KC chapter. November is open right now. Quad

Chapter is planned for May 17th. The Train leaves at 11 o'clock and dine at 2:30 pm in Yoder, returning about 6:30 pm. Food will not be served on the train. The board discussed the pricing of the tickets concerning the costs of printing and postage for notices above the cost of using the train. We will have a sit down meal at Carriage Crossing. A postmark of May 7th would be the cut off for registrations. Final date of registration was proposed to be May 10th. Early registration received by us ends April 12th. He had no new National news. Fred sent material to NRHS about the chapter for 2007 yearbook.

President's Report: David asked for recommendations for a new Chapter Historian. The job description was discussed for the board's review. Fred has volunteered to be the Acting Historian. Harvey will ask Lee Clerico about what material he may have. David made a motion to approve Fred as Historian and the board approved the position occupied by Fred.

Old Business: Fred brought up his request for material and information about Lloyd Stagner and has made a bibliography of Stagner books. He was searching for magazine articles, but expressed difficulty. Harvey has some information relating to the NRHS Bulletin. April TRAINS carries the obituary on Lloyd Stagner.

New Business: Harvey said we need to purchase a projector screen for the Chapter meetings. Steve thought there was one in a closet at the Museum.

J. Harvey Koehn made a motion to adjourn and Fred seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. At 11:31 a.m. we adjourned.

Richard Hitchcock, Secretary of the Wichita Chapter, NRHS

RAILROADING IN WICHITA MARCH 1908

By Fred Tefft

Street railway officials have indicated their willingness to pay 5 percent per year of the cost of a new permanent street railway bridge at Douglas Avenue to the city or county for placing of their tracks on the new concrete bridge, i.e., an annual rental of \$500 (the estimated cost of new bridge being \$10,000). But it seems unlikely the county commission will accept this proposal.

At a conference held Saturday it was verbally agreed that the street car company, the city, and the county would each pay one-third of the cost of moving the street car bridge, provided the county can legally do so.

Letter to editor from College Hill resident urging the street car company to put destination signs on the sides of all the cars. Says the company put on a few side signs but didn't finish the job, and for many cars it is still necessary to walk to the end of the car to see the sign.

Report of further rumors of a Wichita-Hutchinson interurban line. Article also says the new general manager of the Wichita Railroad and Light Company ordered the changing of the Fairmount line from Rutan to Hillside during his recent visit and establishment of a continual half hour service through from the college to the city. Superintendent Morrison says the extension of the West Side line to Mt. Carmel will also come, but probably not until completion of the new Douglas Avenue bridge.

A through service to Fairmount was put into effect yesterday by the Wichita Street Railway Company. Through cars will leave Main and Douglas at 15 and 45 minutes after the hour.

Report of death yesterday in New York of Russell Harding, former resident of Wichita, and vice-president and general manager of the Missouri Pacific Railway, at age 55, of complications of liver and stomach troubles. In 1885 he was superintendent of the Ft. Scott, Wichita, and Western Railway with headquarters in Wichita. He left Wichita in 1895 and was succeeded by A. H. Webb as division superintendent of the Wichita division.

J. G. Ross, E. H. Hendershot, and W. J. Achelbohl are visiting Wichita today representing the financial interests of the street railway company of which the Wichita Railroad and Light Company is a part. They are inspecting the lines here, and this is their first visit to Wichita.

Report of quarrel in city council between those wanting Waco street car line built first and those wanting the Hillside line to Fairmount built first. No action.

Article reports on recommendations Superintendent Morrison will proposed in his yearly budget to be submitted soon to the eastern directors of the Wichita Street Railway Company. He will recommend spending \$100,000 for improvements. About \$50,000 will be for the laying of double track and paving on North Topeka if the city decides to pave that street. Better service on the baseball park line is also planned. Manager Chubbuck during his recent visit here said he should try to secure some trailer cars from the factory before the season opened. More copper for circuit feeders on this line and it is expected that this will be supplied. Another improvement contemplated is a 90 foot switch between 17th and 18th streets on the Stock Yards line, which will permit the use of one more car on this line to relieve the strain during the congested times. Work on the new Fairmount route will begin as soon as the city grades the street.

City council yesterday deferred action on giving street railway company to build its line on Hillside Avenue by amendment to the company's franchise.

Plans for a bridge over the drainage canal on East Douglas Avenue were adopted. They were drawn by the street railway company's engineers and presented by the city engineer and call for a concrete bridge, to cost approximately \$10,000.

Article about the Stock Yards Trackage association of the four railroads, Missouri Pacific, Santa Fe, Rock Island and Frisco, which handles the switching at the stock yards. They join in maintaining a switch engine and crew. About \$8000 will be spent on improvements to the track and facilities this year.

Enough names have been secured on the Orient bond petition to assure that they will be re-submitted to the voters.

The fender of street car No. 136 apparently saved a young woman who crossed the corner of 1st and Main this morning and was struck by the car. She was uninjured.

Wichita's "Jonah" street car, Number 142, has passed out of existence, the result of a fire which nearly destroyed the car yesterday morning. The street railway company will consign it to the scrap pile. The fire occurred near the loop in Riverside Park when the trolley wire broke, the end of the live wire wrapping around the front of the car and setting it ablaze. Number 142 is known by every street car man in Wichita as the unlucky car. One shooting affray, two or three accidents, and numerous wrecks have been attributed to this car.

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

March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 NRHS BOD Museum Open Work Day
2	3	4 <i>Evening Work Session</i>	5	6	7	8 Museum Open Work Day
9 <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	10	11 <i>Evening Work Session</i>	12	13	14	15 Museum Open Work Day
16	17	18 <i>Evening Work Session</i>	19	20	21 <i>NRHS Meeting</i>	22 Museum Open Work Day
23	24	25 <i>Evening Work Session</i>	26 <i>GPTM BOD</i>	27	28	29 Museum Open Work Day
30	31					

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