

GREAT PLAINS DISPATCH

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

February 2009

Volume IX

Number 2

ANNUAL MUSEUM BUSINESS MEETING

The annual Great Plains Transportation Museum business meeting will be held
Friday, February 19, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

Location of the meeting will be: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1101 N. River
Blvd, Wichita, Kansas.



LOOKING BACK

By Michael M. Bartels



60 YEARS AGO

Sixty years ago the Burlington discontinued motor trains Nos. 189 and 190 between Marion, Neb., and St. Francis, Kan., Feb. 25, 1950. The portion between Oxford, Neb., and Marion lasted until May 15, 1950.

80 YEARS AGO

The February 1930 *Frisco Employees' Magazine* said a special train carried the cast of "Poor Father," the play of the Frisco Employees' Club of Neodesha, Kan., to Beaumont Jan. 5, 1930, for its final presentation at the high school.

The same issue said Gene Autry, a Frisco telegrapher from Sapulpa, Okla., just returned from New York City, where he made eight records of 16 songs for the Velvetone people. "It seems that this musical genius has a bright future. ... Meantime one finds him had at work as a telegrapher in the Frisco offices at Sapulpa, and working hard on his repertoire,

and when his chance comes, it will find him ready to accept it."

The Feb. 16, 1930, *Wichita Eagle* pictured the new Missouri Pacific car shop.

90 YEARS AGO

Streetcar conductors and motormen went on a new work schedule Feb. 1, 1920: two shifts a day, 5:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.-midnight. Formerly there were three shifts of 10 and a half hours with one day off every two weeks. The new schedule was adopted at the request of the men. (*Wichita Beacon*, Feb. 2, 1920)

Charles R. Lewis, for eight years superintendent of the Wichita Railroad & Light Co., was named superintendent of the Arkansas Valley Interurban. Succeeding him was Howard Patten, superintendent of the Topeka lines since 1910. His brother is Albert H. Patten, general manager in Kansas for the McKinley Syndicate, which controls the Wichita system.

(*Wichita Beacon*, Feb. 7, 12, 1920)

Six carloads of steel were received Feb. 9, 1920, from the Pueblo mills for the new AVI tracks. Ties were on their way. Final working plans for the terminal buildings were expected from the architects in Chicago that week. (*Wichita Beacon*, Feb. 10, 1920)

The city commission adopted an ordinance providing fines of \$5 to \$50 for smoking in streetcars. (*Wichita Beacon*, Feb. 11, 1920)

A Stock Yards streetcar and a Stock Yards jitney bus collided Feb. 20, 1920, on Market Street at the Missouri Pacific tracks. (*Wichita Eagle*, Feb. 21, 1920)

The streetcar loop in front of Friends University campus is to be removed and a wye built one block south at the southeast corner of the school grounds. The car line is to be extended one block south to University Avenue where the switch will be built. (*Wichita Eagle*, Feb. 21, 1920)

The street railway replaced its old system of transfers with a new one that had a punched check good on any line provided it isn't a parallel one. (*Wichita Eagle*, Feb. 26, 1920)

Plans have been decided on for the AVI passenger and freight depots at Waco and Douglas. The passenger depot will face on Douglas on the west end of the Morgan tract and the freight depot will face on Waco just south of where the old cement stone barn is being torn down. Cost of the buildings and terminal tracks will be about \$100,000. George Theis, president of the AVI, announced Feb. 26, 1920, the company had purchased two more cars for limited service between Wichita and Hutchinson. They are on their way to Wichita but it will be a month to six weeks before they are put in service. They will be 50 feet long and can maintain a speed of 50 mph while pulling one or two passenger coaches or trailers. (*Wichita Beacon*, Feb. 26, 1920)



**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 February NRHS meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual GPTM membership meeting.

The meeting will be held Friday, February 19, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 1101 N. River Blvd in Wichita. Meeting time is 7:30 pm.

**FUTURE NRHS
PROGRAMS**

For future programs the specific content and for which month has not all been confirmed. Here is what is presently known. April will be the Topeka Chapter exchange program, June will be the annual picnic, September will be the banquet (somewhere), October will be the Kansas City Chapter exchange program, chapter member and retired railroad employee Lee Swanson will present the November program with an Ohio setting, and December will be the traditional slide-free-for all again. And for one of the other months J. H. Koehn will present one of his Kansas depots programs.

OTHER EVENTS

Feb. 20 – Lawrence Train Show, Douglas Co. Fairgrounds, Bldg #21, Lawrence, 9 AM-5 PM.
www.lawrencemodelrailroadclub.org

Feb. 20 - Stillwater Train Show at the Payne County Expo Center, Stillwater, OK from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mar. 27 – Joplin Museum Complex Model Railroad Show, Schifferdecker Park, 7th & Schifferdecker Sts., 9:00-3:00. Information: rick Gardner, rickgardner@sofnet.com

Apr. 17 – Ozark Model Railroad Association, Springfield Catholic High School, 2340 S. Eastgate Ave., Spring-

field. Information: Ron Williams, 417-883-5350

Apr. 17-18 - Cowley County Railroad Heritage Days. Paris Park, Arkansas City. Events include Family Fun Days, Railroader's Reunion and Train Show. 620-442-6750

Apr. 23-25 - KRHS Convention, Sedalia, MO. www.katyrailroad.org

May 28-30 - Katy Days Festival, Forest Park, Parsons, KS.
www.katydays.com

Apr. 24-25 – Western Heritage Division Train Show, Burke High, Omaha, Sat. 9:00-5:00, Sun. 10:00-4:00.
blundquist@cox.net, whdnmra.info

June 4-6, 11-13 - Thomas the Tank Engine, Midland Railway, Baldwin City, KS. 1-800-651-0388
www.midland-ry.org

July 21-25 - SFRH&MS Convention, Denver, CO. www.atsfrr.com

July 21-16 - NRHS Convention, Scranton, PA
www.endlessmountainrails.com

July 28-31 - UPHS Convention, Boise, ID. www.ups.org

Oct. 16-17 – Two Depot Train Show, Kingman Co. Activity Center, South Main, Kingman, Sat. 9:00-5:00, Sun. noon-4:00. Displays also at Santa Fe Depot and MoPac Depot. sfdepot@sbcglobal.net or 620-532-2142



RAILROADING IN WICHITA FEBRUARY 1910

By Fred Tefft

February 8

The first street car around the new loop will be run this afternoon. Many years ago cars used to encircle the same block. Until additional cars are received, only the College Hill, Fairmount and Cleveland cars will be run on the loop.

February 12

Street cars will start using the new loop around the block including 1st and Market streets tomorrow. All the cars on the College Hill, Fairmount, and Cleveland avenue lines will be run around the loop.

Hereafter conductors on Wichita street cars will be able to tell when it is cold enough to turn on the heat in their cars by looking at a sign on a pole at the intersection of Main and Douglas. Superintendent Morrison believes this will give more uniformity in this matter.

February 15

Contract for first unit of Orient Stops has been awarded. To cost \$400,000 and employ about 200 men. There are 49 acres in the Orient tract in southwest corner of the city. First unit of shops will include erecting shop, car shop, planing mill, power house, store house, round house, coal chutes, water tanks, etc. Construction to start within 30 days and be completed by next November or December.

February 16

Effective Monday, February 21, the Missouri Pacific will operate a passenger train daily except Sunday between Wichita and McPherson.

Small Wichita Railroad and Light company advertisement about the new service around the downtown loop -- now being used by College Hill, Fair-

mount, and Cleveland Avenue cars. Notice dated February 12, 1910.

February 19

A large number of right-of-way contracts were filed yesterday by the Arkansas Valley Interurban Railroad company in the recorder of deeds office.

Missouri Pacific will inaugurate a new train service from Wichita to McPherson tomorrow. Leave Wichita at 7:00 a.m. and arrive McPherson at 11:10 a.m. Leave McPherson at 1:00 p.m. and arrive Wichita at 5:15 p.m.

February 22

A temporary track is being built by the street car company from the "Y" on Porter avenue to a point about 800 feet north near the new Riverside club house in order that persons attending the opening celebration at the club house Thursday may ride the entire distance. It will not be removed until after the Bar banquet there March 4. Work started on the track today and it will be finished tomorrow.

February 24

Report of talk of building a street car line to the Orient shops. Route undecided -- alternatives being proposed. Article says Orient Railroad has let contract for building 149 miles of track from San Angelo to Del Rio, Texas to connect with the National Railway Company of Mexico. To be completed by September 1910.

February 26

West Side residents are preparing petitions asking for extension of street car line to Orient via line south on Osage and Campbell avenues from Douglas and then west four blocks on Dayton to Martinson avenue.

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

UP MUSEUM DISPLAY WILL FOCUS ON PASSENGER RAIL TRAVEL

"Next stop, Council Bluffs."

At one time, Americans traveled across the country primarily by train; and the Union Pacific Railroad Museum, 200 Pearl St., is moving forward with a large exhibit to recreate what those days were like. The exhibit is called America Travels by Rail.

"It's a new, permanent exhibit being developed, an exhibit that talks entirely about passenger trains," said Beth Lindquist, museum director.

The exhibit will be located on the south side of the top floor.

"The entire area will be redone," Lindquist said. "The exhibit will talk about the heyday of passenger travel and streamline trains. A lot of trains for the Union Pacific were called Streamliners."

How the exhibit will actually look is still being "fine tuned," Lindquist said; but it will offer viewers a glimpse of what a passenger coach car, a lounge car and a dining car looked and felt like during the height of rail traveling.

"It will give the visitors a sense of what it was like to be in those cars," she said.

The idea for the exhibit had its roots about three years ago among museum officials discussing how to provide more information about this part of railroading, Lindquist said. There is currently a small section in that area of the museum that deals with passenger travel, and the existing section will be enhanced by the new project, she said.

Grants were awarded and donations given to fund the project, she added.

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A company called Proto Productions, which, at \$343,000, submitted the lowest of several bids for the project, was approved by the Council Bluffs City Council Monday evening to fabricate and install the pieces.

“We hope to open by late spring,” Lindquist said.

When finished, the America Travels by Rail exhibit will be seen by at least 25,000 people over a 12-month period. That’s the average number of visitors who walk through the Council Bluffs tourist attraction each year, Lindquist said.

“Obviously, you always would like to have more, but we’re happy with that number,” she said.

The Daily Nonpareil, Council Bluffs, IA

HEART OF THE HEART- LANDS TRAIN RIDES (tentative schedule)

Saturday, April 24 – Winfield. 4 hour round trip

Saturday, May 1 – Bartlesville Steam Engine Fund. Bartlesville to ???

Saturday, May 8 – Cherry Blossom Festival. Cherryvale to ???

Saturday-Sunday, September 4-5 – Little Balkin Days. Saturday: Pittsburg to Cherokee; Sunday: Pittsburg to Carona

Saturday, September 25 – Artist Alley. Chanute to Humboldt

Saturday-Sunday, October 16-17 – Pumpkin Patch. Carona

NEWTON FLOUR MILL

By Sam Andrews

While Newton became a operating hub on the Santa Fe for over 100 years, it is often overlooked that the town was a flour milling center with three mills operating for nearly the same amount of time. The last of the city mills to be built is now the only one left grinding



Amtrak 4 makes the stop at Hutchinson, KS Sunday, January 31 at 11:01 AM. With BNSF 7552/AMTK 71/138 on the point, eight Amtrak cars and four BNSF business cars the train is 8:40 late. Photo by Lynn Aldrich

36 years after the sale to Cargill, the sign on the head-house reads Ross. Photo by Fred Tefft



Harvey County resident Ru-

dolph Goerz formed the Goerz Milling Company which began business on December 4, 1918 at the new mill site connected to the Santa Fe tracks just west of the Missouri Pacific crossing. Goerz sold his mill to Paul and Murray Ross in 1936 of which then a name change to American Flours took place in 1942. The firm became part of the newly formed Ross Industries in 1959 and Ross then sold to Cargill in 1974. Starting in 2001, the mill switched to Horizon Milling which became a holding company within Cargill

For much of the life of this mill, most

business consisted of sacked export flour hauled to the gulf coast via Santa Fe or Mopac/UP. Due to changing markets in the flour industry, Newton became a all bulk domestic bakery mill in 1993. The final boxcar shipments left the mill dock bound for Lake Charles, LA on the UP in October, 1993

Rail service to the mill is in the hands of 2nd shift M-F job YNEW202 which uses a former Santa Fe caboos as a shove car. No work takes place on weekends and holidays.

KS SENATE PASSENGER RAIL HEARING

Northern Flyer Alliance, Inc. www.northflyer.org

Senate Bill (SB)409 will be on the docket at the Kansas State Senate Transportation Committee meeting Wednesday at 8:30am at the capitol. Northern Flyer Alliance, Inc. leadership will testify in support of the bill. Passenger rail service restoration between Kansas City, Wichita, Oklahoma City, and Fort Worth depends upon the passage of such legislation. Bill specifics follow:

SB409 proposes to...

- 1) establish a Kansas passenger rail service program.
- 2) create a Kansas revolving fund for future passenger rail funding.
- 3) enable the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) to enter into agreements with passenger rail carriers, such as Amtrak, and other entities to establish and maintain state supplemental passenger rail services.

The state's fiscal condition precludes any expectation that the revolving fund will receive funding this year. However, the establishment of such a fund demonstrates to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) that Kansas is serious about passenger rail development.

Northern Flyer Alliance, Inc. President Deborah Fischer Stout commented, "All of the news is positive. Amtrak is expected to release its corridor feasibility study by the end of March. We received word on January 27 that the FRA awarded the state \$250,000 in funding to begin a Service Development Plan (SDP). The economic importance of the route has been quantified by the University of Kansas School of Business with a return ratio of 3.2 : 1. We are delighted with KDOT's progress toward the possible reestablishment of service over this route."

Fischer Stout added that first year federal funding grants through the FRA administered High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) program awards totaled \$8 billion nationally. Kansas and Oklahoma must complete a SDP in order to qualify for sizeable future HSIPR grants. Both Kansas and Oklahoma have each committed to matching the SDP grant with each state contributing 25% (\$125,000).

<http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2010/409.pdf>

<http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2010/2552.pdf>

KANSAS SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HEARING

February 3, 2010; 8:30AM
 Kansas State Capitol
 300 SW 10th Street
 Room: 152-S
 Topeka, KS 66612

**THE GREAT PLAINS
 TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM
 Membership and Volunteer Application**

Membership Categories

Regular Memberships

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35

Supporting Memberships

<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> 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: _____
 Add me to your special activities mail list
 I would like to receive my newsletter via E-mail

I am paying by

- Cash Discover Visa
 Check Master Card

_____ Exp. Date

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

Date Received: _____

Please remit to:

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

February 2010

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

GREAT PLAINS
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 Great Plains Transportation
 Museum
 700 East Douglas Ave
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