

# GREAT PLAINS DISPATCH

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

MARCH 2011

Volume X

Number 3



## LOOKING BACK

By Michael M. Bartels



### 40 YEARS AGO

The March 15, 1971, Wichita Eagle-Beacon had an article about the Great Plains Railroad Museum, located in Union Station. It had been in operation since 1955.

### 50 YEARS AGO

Missouri Pacific announced it had discontinued its through sleeping car from Wichita to Denver via Geneseo. Its last trip was Feb. 28th. (Wichita Eagle, March 1, 1961)

William Bain, a juvenile officer for Judge James V. Riddel Jr., was writing a 400-page book on the history of the Frisco, to be published by Sage Books of Denver. (Wichita Eagle, March 11, 1961)

Frisco General Agent George Snyder presented a donated caboose to the Wichita Chapter NRHS at a spur northwest of the Broadview Hotel March 19, 1961. Negotiations began more than a year earlier. (Wichita Eagle, March 20, 1961)

The March 31, 1961, Wichita Eagle had a biographical article about C.W. Carleton, MoPac assistant general freight and passenger agent. He had been in Wichita the past 16 years but was being transferred to a new position in St. Joseph, Mo., April 1st.

### 60 YEARS AGO

The March 11, 1951, Wichita Eagle pictured two miniature steam locomotives to be used at Joyland Hillside and Central amusement parks when they open March 17th. They were built to scale by the Ottaway Amusement Co. of Wichita.

### 80 YEARS AGO

MoPac plans to spend more than \$700,000 on Wichita Division improvements this summer. Preliminary work starts in April and actual track-laying in May. Forty-three miles between Wichita and Hutchinson will be relaid with new 90-pound rail at a cost of nearly \$400,000, 20 miles between Wichita and Yates Center relaid with 90-pound rail at more than \$200,000, seven miles of 75-pound rail will be placed on the line between Eldorado and McPherson for nearly \$50,000 and six miles on the Larned line. In addition, bridges will be strengthened or rebuilt between Wichita and Fort Scott to be safe for the new 1900-series 2-8-4s. (Wichita Beacon, March 15, 1931)

A Transcontinental and Western Air passenger plane crashed at 11 a.m. March 31, 1931, near Bazaar, Kan., killing Notre Dame football coach Knute Rockne and seven others. (Wichita Beacon, March 31, 1931)

### 90 YEARS AGO

Santa Fe's Wichita & Western branch from Wichita to Pratt is to be relaid with heavy steel, starting this month, replacing the old 56-pound rail. (Wichita Eagle, March 2, 1921)

The city and the Arkansas Valley Interurban are to join in constructing a combined pavilion and station in Sim Park near the Murdock Street entrance. The city portion will be headquarters for golfers, connected to the station with an open-wall pavilion. It will be built with old paving bricks. (Wichita Eagle, March 23, 1921)

Two masked men held up the conductor of streetcar No. 250 at the end of the West Riverside line yesterday evening. (Wichita Eagle, March 24, 1921)

Work on closing up the exits under the tracks at Union Station is about completed. The exits never have been used as they would have thrown travelers out on the street, leading them away from the interior of the station and confusing the public. (Wichita Eagle, March 26, 1961)





**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

**MARCH  
NRHS MEETING**

The March program will be a presentation by Randy Spillman about Working For The Railroad.

The meeting will be held Fri., March 18, at the *Great Plains Transportation Museum*, 700 E. Douglas, Wichita. Meeting time is 7:30 pm.

There will be the 6:00 p.m. informal dinner gathering at the Riverside Cafe, 739 W. 13th, Wichita before the meeting.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

April: Topeka Ch. Exchange Program  
May: Robert Walz on the Santa Fe Speedway

June 18: Annual Picnic

July 29: KC Ch. Exchange Program about the Rock Island on July 29.

*Please note that this is a change from the normal third Friday.*

August: ??

September: Annual Banquet

October: KC Ch. Exchange Program

November: ??

December: Annual Slide-Free-for-All

If you have a presentation you would like to assist with, contact Harvey Koehn.

**OTHER EVENTS**

March 19-20 – Boot Hill Model Railroad Show, Finney Co. Fairgrounds, W. Pavilion Bldg, 601 Lake Ave., Garden City, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4. Info: Robert Simmons, ras@odsgc.net

April 9 – Ozark Model Railroad Show, Springfield Catholic High School, 2340 S. Eastgate, Springfield, MO, 9-3. Info: Ron Williams, rjwilliams1@mchsi.com

April 15-17 - Katy Railroad Historical Society Convention, Clarion Inn, Wichita. www.katyrailroad.org

April 16-17 - Hutchinson Fiesta Train, Wichita to Hutchinson with lunch at the Anchor Inn Mexican Restaurant. Tickets at Engine House Hobbies, 316-685-6608

May 21-22 – Cherokee Strip Land Rush Museum Train Show, Agri-Business Bldg, 712 W. Washington, Arkansas City, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Info: 620-442-6750

May 28-29 – Cherry Valley Model Train Show, Phillips Recreation Center, Broadway & Heacock, Parsons, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-2. Free admission. In connection with Katy Day Festival. Info: john@dvmrc.com

June 8-11 – Railroad Station Historical Society Convention, Best Western Saddleback Inn, Oklahoma City. Info: TheodoreXakellis@juno.com

June 16-19 - Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society Convention, Phoenix, AZ. www.atsfrr.com

June 20-26 - NRHS Convention, Tacoma, WA. www.cascaderails2011.com

June 21-27 – National Garden Railway Convention, Overland Park International Trade Center, 115th & Metcalf, Overland Park; hosted by KCGRS. Info: Dave Roberts, gscalesfun@hotmail.com

Aug. 6 – Turkey Creek Division, MCoR NMRA Meet, Lenexa Community Center, 13420 Oak, Lenexa, 8-3, model & photo contests, swap tables, railroad groups; 3:30-9:00 layout tours. Info: Robert Jefferis, jeffbob@everestkc.net

Sept. 17 – Frisco Convention, Frisco Bldg, Springfield, MO. Info: Ron Williams, rjwilliams1@mchsi.com

Oct. 22-23 - Two Depot Model Train show, Kingman Armory. Sat. 9-5, Sun. 11-4. Info: Anita Cheatum, sfdepot@sbcglobal.net

**BARBARA L WALTERS**

October 22, 1935 - February 2, 2011



Walters, Barbara L., 75, retired IRS Taxpayer Advocate, passed February 2, 2011 at her son's home while under the care of Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, after a courageous battle with cancer. Viewing is Friday, 12 to 8 p.m., with family receiving 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., and services will be at Resthaven Mortuary on Saturday, February 5 at 3 p.m., with interment at Resthaven.

She was born in Wichita to Jeff and Veda McDonald who preceded her in death. She married Norman Walters in 1969 when her sons, J. Patrick (Susan) Walters and Tim (Deniece) Stephens were nine and eight years old, they survive her passing. She is also survived by two brothers Jerry and Don McDonald; two sisters Veda Myers and Brenda Tatro; nine grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

She attended Wichita Public Schools and Wichita University to prepare for careers in banking and aircraft before joining IRS. Her pleasures were simple and included reading, gardening, traveling to Canada, Spain and many smaller trips during her life. She always enjoyed caring for her many pet dogs and cats through the years.

For those who had the opportunity to really know her virtues, no explanation is necessary. For those who did not

know her wonderful traits, no explanation is possible. A memorial has been established in lieu of flowers with The Kansas Humane Society. Condolences may be offered at [www.resthavenmortuary-cemetery.com](http://www.resthavenmortuary-cemetery.com).

**WICHITA LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE BUILDING****By Sam Andrews**

The old Livestock Exchange Building at 21st & Rock Island tracks was built in 1909. The two story concrete structure with a large front porch sat at the entrance of the stockyards and became the focal point along the 21st street corridor in the north end district.

Housed in the complex were general offices of the stockyards, branch offices of the packing plants, several livestock commission firms, Stockyards National Bank, a restaurant, barbershop, stores and a cigar stand. KFH radio maintained a branch studio on site. For many years, station farm reporter Bruce Behemyer broadcast up to minute market reports which ended with the sound of a ringing cowbell.

There were railroad connections associated with the exchange. A streetcar

route called the Stockyard Line ended at the building.

For 60 years, Wichita Terminal Association offices were on the top floor until vacating in 1970. The Katy used a couple rooms for its Wichita office from 1982-1988.

Back in the 1920's, a local gangster named Eddie Adams, who was a rival of Wichita police, embraced the idea of robbing the Stockyards Bank. Legend has it Adams observed activities inside and outside of the exchange building for about two weeks to plan his robbery. With the building sitting between the Rock Island line and Wichita Terminal tracks coupled with heavy amounts of train traffic, Adams called off his proposed bank job fearing a train could be blocking 21st street making an escape route plan go wrong.

After the stockyards closed in 1980, the Livestock Exchange began to diminish and many offices soon became vacant. The building was last used as a work release center for prison inmates until closing in the early 1990's. The crumbling building was then torn down and with it went generations of Wichita history.

*Wichita Livestock Exchange Building at 702 East 21st St. Taken about 1935. Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum collection*



## RAILROADING IN WICHITA MARCH 1911

By Fred Tefft

### **March 1**

Materials for the Interurban wye to be built at the corner of 1st and Main streets and extending to the Interurban depot at the corner of 1st and Water streets, have been shipped out of Chicago. As soon as this equipment arrives, W. R. Morrison, superintendent of the Wichita Railroad and Light company, will commence the work of constructing the wye and tracks connecting up with the depot and freight yards of the Interurban.

### **March 3**

Ordinance was passed yesterday granting the Wichita and Midland Valley Railroad company right of way over certain streets in West Wichita. Article gives text of the ordinance.

### **March 7**

Officials of the Arkansas Valley Interurban announced that the new electric line will be built west from Newton to Hutchinson through important towns on that route.

### **March 8**

Ground was broken yesterday at Arkansas City on the extension of the Midland Valley Railroad to Wichita. One hundred and fifty teams are expected to be at work within the next two weeks.

### **March 10**

Arkansas Valley Interurban this week let contract for 40,000 ties and contract for rails to cover those ties will be let within a few days. These will be sufficient to complete the line to Newton and west to Halstead. The three new cars being built for the Arkansas Valley Interurban route will be ready for delivery within a few weeks.

### **March 12**

Commodore Nelson, of Peoria, Illinois, visiting in Wichita yesterday. He

bought the old Wichita railway for the McKinley Syndicate and rebuilt it and has always been a friend and admirer of Wichita. Says he bought six million dollars worth of property for the McKinley Syndicate last year, including the Topeka street railway and light plant, the Atchison street railway, and others.

### **March 16**

Within the next ten days the Rock Island railway will occupy its new facilities at 25<sup>th</sup> street. These cost over \$75,000 and consists of a roundhouse, coal chutes, oil tank, water service, cinder pits and turntables. The new yards included five tracks each 4,200 feet long, with a capacity of 600 cars. All freight trains will be made up in the new yards, eliminating switching and making up of trains in the downtown yards. All engines of the Rock Island railway in this city are now cared for by the Frisco roundhouse, but when the Rock Island moves into its new quarters it will have ample facilities for handling its own motive power.

### **March 22**

The Arkansas Valley Interurban's Construction company let contract this week for \$65,000 worth of steel rails, which will build the line from Sedgewick to Newton, eleven miles. Contracts for all the grading and for the copper trolley and feed wires have also been let. Another contract to be let this week is for the \$14,000 bridge over the Santa Fe railway southwest of Newton. Work was commenced this morning on the track for the Arkansas Valley Interurban on First Street from Main street to Water. There is some "special work" to be put in at the intersection of Main and First, and while some of the men are at work on this others are excavating for the track on 1st street. At a point just east of the interurban freight station a switch will be built north to the rear end of the interurban company's property, but the main track will run around the corner at 1st and Water and extend as far north on

Water as the rear end of the company's property, where it will turn east and join the other track.

All the work on the streets will be done by the street car company, but the track laying on the company's property will be done by men in the employ of the Interurban company. As soon as this track has been completed and the new freight car arrives from the East, the interurban freight business will be made much easier for shippers and for the employes. Instead of being compelled to meet the cars on the street and unload goods into them, persons having freight for the interurban will soon be able to have it hauled to the freight station the same as at any of the other freight depots. It is thought that the new freight car will be here in about three weeks.

### **March 24**

Over sixteen miles of grading is completed on the Midland Valley railway extension from Arkansas City to Wichita. Graders are now at work north of Oxford. The Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron company has the contract for building the bridges on the extension. The big bridges that are necessary include a bridge over the Arkansas river near Geuda Springs, one across Slate creek north of Geuda Springs, one across the Ninnescah river north of the Oxford, and one across the Cowskin north of Belle Plaine.

### **March 31**

A Waco avenue street car was derailed at corner of 1st and Main yesterday while passing over portion of swinging track where an excavation had been made below for six or eight inches and the rail spiked only to every second or fourth tie. Switches to connect with the Interurban station are being built at this point.

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

### UNION PACIFIC'S STEAM EXCURSION

Omaha, Neb., March 07, 2011 – The Little Rock Express begins May 29 with the arrival of Union Pacific's steam locomotive No. 3985 in Kansas City, Mo., and concludes June 9 in Little Rock, Ark., as part of Union Pacific's Great Excursion Adventure - You Route the Steam contest. More than 175,000 votes were cast for four different routes, with the Little Rock Express defeating the Tuscola Turn, Baton Rouge Rambler and Boise Express.

As a result, Union Pacific's legendary No. 3985 Challenger steam locomotive will make a goodwill tour starting in Kansas City, heading east through Jefferson City, Mo., and St. Louis before turning south en route to Little Rock. Details regarding the numerous steam locomotive stops will be announced soon. [www.up.com](http://www.up.com)

### WICHITA CHAPTER NRHS OFFICERS

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### THE LAST ROLL OF KODACHROME

By Fred Tefft

Seventy-five years after its introduction, Kodachrome is no more. Introduced in 1935 by Eastman Kodak, the oldest and most remembered brand of color film has succumbed to the digital revolution.

On December 30, 2010 the city of Parsons, Kansas was the center of attention, with news media from all over the world present to record the end of an era.

Dwayne's Photo in Parsons was the last licensed processor for Kodachrome film, thus becoming the center of attention. Jim DeNike, a Union Pacific employee from the Little Rock, Arkansas area was loading 1,580 rolls of freshly processed slides into his older maroon Pontiac. His bill was for \$15,798.

National Geographic photographer Steve McCurry was there with the last roll of Kodachrome produced by Kodak. Steve had returned with the roll from a shoot in India, stopping in New

York for a few photos. His last three frames were exposed in Parsons. Steve's journey is to be aired as a documentary this spring. Payment for processing will be made with a special print from the roll.

With all the media attention waning, Dwayne and his employees still had much work to do. Shipments of Kodachrome for processing were arriving from the four corners of the world. With the processor running nonstop, the employees worked around the clock until January 18, 2011. One roll was left to be processed, and that roll was special to them.

The last roll processed belonged to Dwayne Steinle, owner of Dwayne's Photo. On December 30, Dwayne had to try three cameras before locating one that functioned, and took photos in and around Parsons. Dwayne's last frame was a picture of all the employees standing in front of Dwayne's wearing shirts with the epitaph: "The best slide and movie film in history is now officially retired. Kodachrome: 1935-2010."



*Photographer Keel Middleton chose a locomotive with fading Warbonnet paint for his last exposure on Kodachrome film. Taken at Wellington, KS on December 6, 2010 at MP 238.1 of the Panhandle Sub.*

# March 2011

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

**GREAT PLAINS**  
**DISPATCHER**  
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