

GREAT PLAINS DISPATCH

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

JANUARY 2012

Volume XI

Number I



LOOKING BACK

By Michael M. Bartels



50 YEARS AGO

Missouri Pacific hooked up a diesel engine as a heating unit for the depot Jan. 27, 1962, after an explosion and fire damaged the depot boiler room located in a metal building at First and Webb. (Wichita Eagle, Jan. 28, 1962)

An ice jam damaged or destroyed several bridges, including lesser damage to Santa Fe's trestle a block south of Lincoln Street. (Wichita Eagle, Jan. 29, 1962)

60 YEARS AGO

Demolition of 38-year-old Kellogg Street viaduct started Jan. 29, 1952, in preparation for building a new viaduct over the tracks. (Wichita Eagle, Jan. 30, 1952)

70 YEARS AGO

A \$322,000 program to provide additional buses for the unexpected demand on the present facilities of the Wichita Transportation Co. was announced by A.J. Cleary, vice president and general manager. Orders had now been placed for 26 buses of different types, some larger than any yet seen here. Some retired older buses would have to be pressed back into service. The 410,000 tokens now in circulation were not adequate to meet daily requirements, but 50,000 more had been ordered. (Wichita Beacon, Jan. 16, 1942)

The Jan. 25, 1942, Beacon had a half-page ad by Arkansas Valley Railway advertising three daily fast freights between Wichita and Hutchinson, leaving at 7 a.m., 12:01 p.m. and 6 p.m. and leaving Hutchinson at 12:01 p.m., 5:15 p.m. and 9 p.m. It said the company had invested more than \$300,000 since purchasing the railway.

The Jan. 31, 1942, Beacon said Arkansas Valley Railway today asked the

Interstate Commerce Commission for permission to abandon its 60-mile railroad. W.E. Stanley, attorney for the company, said the application was made because of reduced income caused by competing lines. "If we abandon the line now," he said, "we can clean everything up and pay off our obligations."

80 YEARS AGO

The Santa Fe on Jan. 8, 1932, filed formal notice with the register of deeds of abandonment of the old Wichita & Western right of way--a strip 100 feet wide and two miles long, from the Arkansas River to the west city limits. It was originally granted Aug. 20, 1883, and was condemned for the original Wichita & Western enterprise. (Wichita Beacon, Wichita Eagle, Jan. 9, 1932)

Wichita Transportation Co. reported a deficit of \$36,940.50 for 1931, led by a 20.45 percent decline in bus and streetcar fare revenue. A deficit had also been recorded in 1930. (Wichita Beacon, Jan. 24, 1932)

90 YEARS AGO

Dinner dances were given for all Arkansas Valley Interurban employees Jan. 2nd and 4th at the Interurban station. (Wichita Eagle, Jan. 3, 1922)

Three people were killed Jan. 7, 1922, when their car was struck by AVI car No. 15 at the 11th Street entrance to Sim Park. (Wichita Beacon, Wichita Eagle, Jan. 8, 1922)

The city commission put on first reading an ordinance requiring AVI to reduce speed at all crossings to 10 mph. (Wichita Eagle, Jan. 11, 1922)

Effective Jan. 15, 1922, AVI cut service from 14 trains to 13 a day, dropping No. 45 from Wichita at 9:50 pm. and No.

46 from Hutchinson at 9:40 p.m. It was the first curtailment since the peak business period of 1920-21. (Wichita Beacon, Jan. 10, 1922; Wichita Eagle, Jan. 12, 1922)

A carload of special work to be used in curves and crossings has been ordered by the Wichita Railroad & Light Co. and will probably arrive in seven to 10 days. The largest single piece is to be used at Main and Douglas, the old special work having become worn until it is quite noisy. (Wichita Beacon, Jan. 13, 1922; Wichita Eagle, Jan. 24, 1922)

AVI is soon expecting to handle carload freight originating on other lines. Arrangements are nearly completed at the Wichita end of the line and are under way for a connection with the Rock Island at Hutchinson. (Wichita Beacon, Jan. 15, 1922)

The cash box of a South Main streetcar was stolen Jan. 16, 1922, while being turned at the loop on the south end. (Wichita Eagle, Jan. 17, 1922)

Coach No. 409 has been completed by the Orient shops and will leave for the coast division in Mexico. It is not the kind of car seen here. It has no vestibules, is cheaply constructed and is painted ordinary boxcar red. It has Orient on the sides. (Wichita Beacon, Jan. 22, 1922)

The Jan. 22, 1922, Eagle had an article about a longtime Rock Island engineer, now retired, whose first engine here was old No. 210.

A proposed zoning ordinance would prevent the Midland Valley from building a roundhouse on its property north of Douglas Avenue just west of the baseball grounds. City officials are discussing an extension of Second Street west from the Second Street bridge across the MV property. (Wichita Beacon, Jan. 30, 1922)



**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

JANUARY NRHS PROGRAM

The January program will be a DVD from Dr. Wes Helena titled "Memories".

Dr. Wes adds that this film was shot by Cecil Martz, the father of one of my co-workers, who is herself now retired.

It covers late steam and early Diesel trains with many views of life around the railroad from Chillicothe to Chicago.

It would be great if more Santa Fe fans or others familiar with the topic or area could see this and add commentary on what is seen.

The meeting will be held Fri., January 20, 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.

FROM THE NRHS PRESIDENT

DUES! DUES! DUES! Yes, it is that time again, dues paying time for the NRHS Wichita Chapter. Dec. 31, 2011 was the due date and as of that less than one half of our 2011 members had renewed. I do realize that money is tight, however, some of our poorer members have already renewed. Please renew ASAP as we will not be able to remind you as in the past.

2012 looks to be a good year for the Wichita Chapter's programs as Bob Walz and Harvey Koehn have a good lineup of programs already in place; we do need someone to take charge, organize and run the annual picnic.

We do need a treasurer and a vice president for a full list of officers.

One of my New Year's resolutions for 2012 is to write more of the From the President columns.

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and a safe New Year's eve and day.

David

NRHS PROGRAMS FOR 2012

February program: After the annual meeting a look back at some highlights of the museum's 25 years of being open to the public.

April: Topeka Chapter exchange program.

October: Kansas City Chapter exchange program

November: Dr. Chris Gabel, Professor of Military History at the Army Command and General Staff College (and a PRR fan) will be speaking on Civil War northern railroad generalship.

June: We will be hosting the annual quad chapter meet. The topic will be the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient Railway. John McCall, co-author of the book The Orient, will be the guest speaker.

OTHER EVENTS

Feb. 11-12, 2012 - Wichita Train Show & Swap Meet, Cessna Activity Center. Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-4.

Phil Aylward 316-830-6608

March 17-18 - 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@odsg

April 26-29 - Katy Railroad Historical Society Convention, Smithville, TX. www.katyrailroad.org

May 26 - Cherry Valley Model Train Show, Phillips Recreation Center, Broadway & Heacock, Parsons, Sat. 9-5. Free admission. www.katydays.com

June 18-24 - NRHS Convention, Cedar Rapids, IA. www.nrhs.com

June 19-24 - Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society Convention, Temple, TX. www.atsfr.com

**ZIMMERDALE
DERAILMENT**

By Sam Andrews

December 21, 1984 turned out to be a not so good trip for the Missouri Pacific local running from El Dorado-McPherson. This is one of those times when everyone on the job wishes they would have taken a layoff day.

After working the Santa Fe transfer at Newton the local departed around noon with a planned stop for beans at the trackside Hitching Post Cafe in Hesston. Those plans got changed. Near Zimmerdale a broken rail derailed a few cars on the end of the train including the caboose which tipped over onto its side. No one was in the car at the time as all crewmen boarded the engine upon leaving Newton. This most likely prevented an injury.

The damaged caboose was a flattop car. It was removed from service and never to be seen again on the local. Short length flattop car MP 13737 then became the assigned caboose for locals 667/668.

**WICHITA TRAIN
SHOW & SWAP MEET**

The train show for 2012 will be at Cessna Activity Center located at 2744 George Washington Blvd. in Wichita Kansas on Saturday February 11th and Sunday February 12, 2012. Two full days of fun, with operating layouts and over 100 tables

full of model train items to choose from. Modular Layouts, Vendors, Switching & Modeling Contests and Modeling Clinics! Admission is \$6 for both days. Children 10 and under are FREE with a paid adult! **SCOUTS IN UNIFORMS GET IN FREE!**

WARREN CHAMBERS



Chambers, Warren (Homer), 77, passed away January 5, 2012. Funeral services 2:00 pm, Wednesday, at Broadway Mortuary Chapel. Warren was born March 13, 1934 to Earl and Nettie Chambers. He graduated from East High School and attended Le Tourneau University. Warren had many interests and hobbies, including motorcycles and model trains. Later in life, he started experimenting with different media in painting, which had been a desire for years. Warren was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Garnet; and sister, Ada Rose. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Chambers and 2 nephews. A memorial has been established with Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice. Share condolences at www.CozineMemorial.com. Services by Broadway Mortuary.
Wichita Eagle

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

Membership Categories

<u>Regular Memberships</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35
<u>Supporting Memberships</u>	
<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

RAILROADING IN WICHITA JANUARY 1912

By Fred Tefft

January 1

The street car company carried 1,386,000 passengers during the six weeks of the Billy Sunday meetings.

January 2

Because of constant delay of Cleveland avenue cars in crossing the railroad tracks on East Douglas, this line will be made a stub around the Market street loop beginning today. The Riverside line will now be operated in connection with the South Emporia line, giving Riverside a straight 12 minute service all day.

January 9

Wichita Railroad and Light Company advertisement giving some changes in routing and colored light designations of routes.

O. A. Boyle, vice president and general manager, reports the Arkansas Valley Interurban carried 33,108 passengers during December.

January 10

Razing of buildings between the Santa Fe and Rock Island tracks was commenced yesterday, starting with the two story Rock Island building which was erected two years ago by W. O. Bretch. The other brick building to be razed is the old Santa Fe hotel building, 50 by 120 feet, which was erected in the 1880s and was at one time a pretentious hotel.

Advertisement by Wichita Railroad and Light company listing the new colored light signals on the various street car lines.

January 12

Complaint by C. R. Lewis, superintendent of transportation, about people spitting on floor of street cars and leaving them filthy.

The street car company has installed a new sand drying plant capable of dry-

ing from ten to twelve yards of sand a day.

January 13

Wichita Railroad and Light advertisement regarding keeping street cars clean.

January 18

Article about plans for new union station. Active work should start in March.

Workmen are razing the brick buildings on the south side of Douglas avenue between the Santa Fe and Rock Island tracks. These buildings include the old Santa Fe hotel building, the W. H. Bretch building, and the Mahan building. The interior of the buildings has been removed and workmen are now taking down the roofs. In a few days, the work of razing the walls will commence. About half of the Lehmann-Higginson stock has been moved to the company's temporary location in the Hockaday building on North Mosley. The Lehmann-Higginson building has frontage of 135 feet on Santa Fe avenue and 96½ feet on William street and cost about \$70,000.

January 19

Electric lights are being installed in the Missouri Pacific passenger depot at a cost of about \$350. The platform will be lighted with six 100-Watt Tungstens, and all told there will be about 100 electric lights in the building. For many years gas has been used in lighting the depot. The work will be completed in about a week.

January 21

The Lehmann-Higginson Wholesale Grocer company have purchased a building site 125 by 132 feet on the north side of 1st street between Mead and Rock Island for about \$30,000, and will construct a new four story reinforced [sic] concrete building there to cost about \$60-70,000. Work will be started within the next two weeks, with completion due by September 1. The company sold its old building on north side of William street between Santa Fe

and Rock Island depots to the Wichita Union Terminal Railway company about a month ago and will open for business tomorrow at its temporary location in the old Hockaday Paint company building at 140-148 North Mosley. Razing of its old building will start February 5 so as to have the site cleared by March 15.

January 28

Effective today the Midland Valley Railroad will discontinue passenger trains No. 9 and 10 between Wichita and Arkansas City. No. 9 arrived here from Arkansas City at 10:15 a.m. and No. 10 returned to Arkansas City at 4:00 p.m. and had been in operation since the road opened its service to Wichita on October 4, 1911.

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

UNION PACIFIC POLICY FOR PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO RECORDING

Safety is of paramount importance to Union Pacific Railroad. Taking pictures or video while on Union Pacific property is dangerous, so when taking pictures or video of Union Pacific Railroad trains or structures:

Stay off Union Pacific Railroad property. This includes tracks, bridges, buildings and signal towers.

At passenger stations, Amtrak and Union Pacific's commuter partner guidelines must be followed.

Obey all safety rules, regulations and instructions provided by law enforcement and Union Pacific employees.

Violators are subject to a citation for trespassing on railroad property.

Union Pacific will seek removal from publication any photograph or video that violates this policy.

www.uprr.com

NEWS FROM WAYNOKA

The 2012 Waynoka Historical Society calendar features the Waynoka Air-Rail Museum. The photos are great. Cover photos are in color. Proceeds help support the Society. Cost is \$6.50 plus \$2.50 for mailing. Mail your order to Museum Gift Shop, PO Box 193, Waynoka OK 73860. For credit card orders, call 580-824-1886. Oklahoma residents add 9% sales tax.

The Waynoka Historical Society has reached their fundraising goal of \$100,000 to match TEA-21 funds from the Oklahoma Dept of Transportation. The funds will finish the restoration of the county-seat-style Santa Fe Depot. This is the Society's third Transportation Enhancement grant. The first one restored the Harvey House, repaired the depot roof and removed the paint from the depot bricks. The second one restored the depot's doors and windows. Oklahoma Centennial funds paved parking areas and funded the professionally done museum on the 2nd floor of the Harvey House. Visitors are always welcome!

NEW HOME FOUND FOR KCS 1023

By John Chambers

The Pittsburg, Kansas city commission unanimously voted today to donate KCS K-1 class 0-8-0 steam locomotive #1023 currently located in Schlanger Park to the Heart of the Heartlands railroad historical group to move, restore and display at their museum complex in Carona, Kansas. The 1023 is the only KCS steam locomotive preserved and was donated to the city and moved to the park in 1955. It was originally built as E-3 class 2-8-0 #488 by Alco in July 1906. It was rebuilt at the KCS Pittsburg shops into 0-8-0 #1023 in Dec. 1925. The locomotive has been sitting in the open since moved and has been vandalized and had its asbestos removed in the 1990's.

It will be restored for static display and a cover built over it. It will be moved by truck the 20 miles to Carona with funding donated by the Webb family and Watco Companies of Pittsburg. Watco CEO Rick Webb's grandfather, W.B. "Bus" Johnson, Supt. of Machinery for the KCS in 1955 was instrumental in saving the engine from being scrapped and getting it donated to the city of Pittsburg. Donations have also been received from the KCS Foundation and another local Pittsburg business owner. The Heartlands is currently seeking donations to help in the restoration effort. See their website for contact information at www.heartlandstrainclub.org.

AUTHORITIES SAY EXHAUST FAN MOTOR CAUSED WOODLAND SCENICS FIRE

by Meghan Lane

LINN CREEK, MO -- Just a day after a massive fire left part of Woodland Scenics in rubble, it was back to work for employees in Linn Creek.

They were able to work in parts of the plant not damaged by fire, which authorities said started because of an electrical issue.

Osage Beach Fire Chief Jeff Dorheauer said an exhaust motor fan is to blame.

Friday, crews spent the day picking up the pieces.

While Woodland Scenic's employees sifted through the debris, electricians made sure the area

was safe from live wires and firefighters inspected the area to make sure nothing would reignite.

Thursday night nearly a dozen fire departments from around the area responded and Smith said they were there until the early hours of Friday morning.

"It was just smoke, just a lot of smoke and you could see fire right of of the top part of it," neighbor Jim Fisher said.

"It's a significant impact to us, and it would be a big loss if we lost them," Fisher said.

Woodland Scenics, a manufacturer of model railroad scenery supplies, is the largest employer in Linn Creek. The company employs about 150 people.

But while the damage looked extensive the owners said none of their employees will be out of a job because of it.

"I was glad to hear they were going to use most of their own help for the clean-up and rebuilding it," Fisher said.

Fire departments responded from as far away as Columbia Thursday afternoon. www.connectmidmissouri.com



Woodland Scenics occupies several buildings in Linn Creek. The building on the right was razed to help extinguish the burning plastics.

www.connectmidmissouri.com

January 2012

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

GREAT PLAINS
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 Great Plains Transportation
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