

GREAT PLAINS DISPATCH

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

FEBRUARY 2012

Volume XI

Number 2

ANNUAL MUSEUM BUSINESS MEETING

The annual Great Plains Transportation Museum business meeting will be held
Friday, February 17, 2012 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



40 YEARS AGO

The Feb. 21, 1972, Wichita Eagle-Beacon had an article about old Frisco caboose No. 876 at the Great Plains Transportation Museum. Built in 1904, it operated between St. Louis and Springfield, Mo., until being retired in 1960.

70 YEARS AGO

Additional bus service on several routes was announced by A.J. Cleary, vice president and general manager of the Wichita Transportation Co. He said the company was trying to buy new buses to take care of increased ridership due to growth in the city and tire rationing. (Wichita Beacon, Feb. 20, 1942)

80 YEARS AGO

The Feb. 6, 1932, Wichita Eagle reported the death of Peter Schulte, 81. For many years he lived on a farm southwest of the city. In 1906 when the Orient was being extended southwest from Wichita, he gave the railroad a right of way through his farm,

and officials in turn honored him by building a depot on his land and naming it Schulte.

The Interstate Commerce Commission on Feb. 13, 1932, approved the application of the Arkansas Valley Interurban to establish a connection with the Rock Island at Hutchinson to give it a more satisfactory connection with steam railroads. The proposed two-mile extension would cost \$75,572, but will provide better service than the present connection via the Hutchinson & Northern. At present AVI uses the lines of the Hutchinson street railway from the city limits to downtown. The Hutchinson company is now in the hands of a receiver. (Wichita Beacon, Feb. 14, 1932)

90 YEARS AGO

Rock Island has sent eight new 2-8-2s, Nos. 2610-2617, to the Kansas division to replace the 2500s in service here.

The first one arrived Jan. 25th. The older 2500s are being sent to Texas. (Wichita Beacon, Feb. 5, 1922)

George Theis Jr., president of the AVI, left yesterday for a visit to Hutchinson, where the road is building a spur to the salt works. (Wichita Eagle, Feb. 11, 1922)

Orient private car No. 100 will go in the shops this week. Car No. 200 will take its place. Passenger coach No. 120 will be turned out of the shops about Feb. 14th after complete overhaul and painting. Engine No. 138, just out of the shops, was put on a corn train last week. (Wichita Beacon, Feb. 12, 1922)

AVI officials have staked off the ground for their new station at Halstead to be built on East Second Street. It will cost about \$7,000. (Wichita Beacon, Feb. 17, 1922)

Eighty percent of the cars used by the local traction company are of the Birney safety design and in time the entire system will be so equipped. (Wichita Eagle, Feb. 20, 1922)

(Continued on page 3)



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

FEBRUARY NRHS MEETING

The February NRHS meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual GPTM membership meeting. The program after the museum's annual meeting will be a review of this past year's activities at the museum and a review, with recent photographs and now vintage photographs, of the past 25 years. The Great Plains Transportation Museum opened its doors to the public for the first time in December 20, 1986.

The meeting will be held Friday, February 17, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church 1101 N. River Blvd in 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.

NRHS PROGRAMS FOR 2012

March: Member Robert Walz will present the March program. The topic will be the Garden City Western. You may recall his article in the NRHS Bulletin about the GCW. His program will cover the topic more extensively with photographs and he will include material acquired since the publication of the article.

April: Topeka Chapter exchange program. Topic TBA.

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.

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.

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

Feb. 18 - Lawrence Model Railroad Show, Douglas Co. Fairgrounds, 2010 N. Harper, Lawrence, 9-5

Feb. 18 - Payne Co. Train Show. Payne Co. Expo Center, Stillwater, OK.

Mar. 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

Mar. 31 - Joplin Museum Complex Train Show, Schifferdecker Park, 7th & Schifferdecker, 9-3. Info: Rick Gardner, rickgardner@sofnet.com

Apr. 21 - Ozarks Model Railroad Show, Central Bible College, Fieldhouse, Grant Ave. & Norton Rd, Springfield, MO, 9-3. Info: Ron Williams, rswilliams1@mchsi.com

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

Santa Fe 93.com

LOOKING BACK

(Continued from page 1)

One man was killed and seven injured when a Rock Island passenger train struck a 13th Street jitney bus at 13th and Mead at 6:55 a.m. Feb. 21, 1922. (Wichita Beacon, Feb. 21, 1922; Wichita Eagle, Feb. 22, 1922)

Missouri Pacific switch engine No. 9501 struck a stalled car at Central Avenue yesterday. (Wichita Eagle, Feb. 21, 1922)

Santa Fe's Panhandle Division will begin extensive track improvements in March, including laying new 80-pound rails to replace 52-pound rails on the Wichita & Western branch between Murdock and Kingman. (Wichita Beacon, Feb. 26, 1922)

The Feb. 27, 1922, Wichita Eagle said the Orient lost \$1.2 million in 1921 and will abandon operations by July 1st unless relief comes. The operating deficit reached \$105,000 in January 1922, the greatest monthly deficit since the beginning of federal control. The Orient employs about 500 in Wichita and represents a total investment of \$40 million.

The Feb. 28, 1922, Beacon had a report of plans to change Frisco's entry into the city, bringing it in on 29th Street north until reaching the Ellsworth branch, which would then carry trains south to the elevated tracks.

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!

NEW HOME FOR WTTC

The Wichita Toy Train Club has found a new home. Location is 130 S. Laura. Cleaning and preparation began New Years' week-end.



**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

RAILROADING IN WICHITA FEBRUARY 1912

By Fred Tefft

February 1

Hereafter when the city firemen have to lay a line of hose across the street track there will be no need to stop traffic on that car line as has been the case in the past in Wichita. The street car company has received some "hose bridges" which can be placed on the rails and which have apertures in them through which the hose can be passed. The bridges are high enough so the cars can pass over the line of hose without injuring it. These hose bridges have been turned over to the fire department for use whenever needed.

February 6

Commissioner Roetzel has persuaded Wichita Railroad and Light company to adopt a more universal system of transfers. By the system now used, patrons have to tell the conductor exactly which line they wish a transfer to. By the new system a person coming to down town and desiring to go east may board any car going in that direction. The company has also agreed to stop its cars on both sides of Market street.

February 7

Floor plan diagram of Wichita's new union depot. Depot to be 260 feet long and 100 feet wide, with front 54 feet high of stone trimmed with terra cotta. Ceiling of concourse 28 feet high. Main waiting room 120 feet by 65 feet. Ticket offices 50 by eighteen feet. Harvey dining room 65 by 30 feet will seat about 70. Baggage room 100 by 45 feet.

February 14

Article says A. E. Stilwell, president of the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient, is having difficulty selling ten million dollars worth of bonds for making improvements on the railroad. Accompanying Mr. Stilwell's prospectus offering the bonds for sale is a bitter attack

on "the money trust." Comment by A. C. Jobes, formerly of Wichita, and now vice-president of First National Bank of Kansas City.

February 17

A freight depot for the Arkansas Valley Interurban Railway company is to be built at once on 1st Street near the company's passenger station. Workmen began work on the foundation for the building this morning. It will be of brick, 20 by 40 feet, and constructed in such a manner that an addition can be built on the north when more room is needed. The Missouri Pacific is building a new depot at Iuka to replace the one which burned last summer.

February 20

After a delay of months, work was resumed yesterday on the West Central avenue pavement. The street car track is torn out from west of the railroad almost to Main street, forcing patrons to walk from Main street two and a half blocks west to catch a stub service that connects to Riverside. The track will be replaced in two or three days. The crossing of the Missouri Pacific tracks was torn out yesterday and a new one installed. Although the car line is to be double track from Main street to the park, only one crossing was put in over the Missouri Pacific tracks owing to objections. Brick laying was also started at the west end of Central avenue.

February 24

The roof of the Missouri Pacific depot at Mt. Hope was damaged by fire Sunday morning.

February 26

Heavy snow fall yesterday and last night. Although the street car company operated its electric track sweeper and two salt cars all night, the cars on some of the lines were not able to run until a late hour this morning. Several late cars last night left the tracks or were stalled, and at least five of them did not get to the barn at all. However all

the lines were open and running by 9:00 a.m. today.

February 28

A man was killed last night by Santa Fe engine No. 2190.

Through service on the Riverside street car line was restored this morning. The line was torn up on Central Avenue about ten days ago to enable the paving contractor to complete his work, but the work was delayed by the heavy snow.

At present the South Main street cars run only to Skinner street, where the loop is situated. On special occasions the cars run two blocks south to the ball park. Now an effort is being made to transfer the loop to Levy Street and thus have the extra two blocks on the regular car route.

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

ROCK ISLAND E UNITS TO BE MOVED

By Fred Tefft

In the month of June, 2007 Dan Sabin, President of the Iowa Northern Railway announced the purchase of Rock Island E6 #630 and E8 #652 for the Manly Jct. Railroad Museum. Both units were stored at the Kansas Midland Railway in Baldwin City.

In Sept. 2010 these units were moved to Ottawa for interchange with the BNSF to transport to Mid American Car in Kansas City, Mo. Not a wheel has turned since.

On Jan. 29, 2012 Dan Sabin announced that the BNSF has agreed to operate a special train and deliver the units to Kansas City. No date has been established for the move.

OUT OF THE ASHES...**Woodland Scenics Recovers Quickly from Fire at Manufacturing Plant**

Many of you may have already heard that we had a fire at our manufacturing plant in Linn Creek, Missouri on Thursday, January 5, 2012. We have much to be thankful for.

We are most grateful that no one was hurt. Our employees followed evacuation procedures to the letter, getting everyone out of here, accounted for and shutting down power sources.

The Osage Beach Fire Department and several other responding fire departments were amazing. They responded quickly and their professionalism and tireless efforts successfully contained the fire.

The determined cause of the fire was the failure of an electrical motor, and the fire took eight percent of our total facilities. Manufacturing and shipping operations in other buildings continued even as the firefighters fought the blaze.

Several of us returned to work Friday morning to assist with clean-up and get business operations up and running. We took orders and shipped product, and some of us even worked through the weekend to make sure that we were all back to work Monday morning, January 9.

We are so grateful for the outpouring of support we received from our friends and customers. We heard from folks from all over the world. We are very appreciative and humbled by all the encouragement, prayers and offers to help. Thanks again!

We still have some clean-up to do, but we are back to business as usual!

The Scenic View January 2012

FROM THE FEBRUARY 1962 DISPATCHER

Here's a Switch! - - Sometime during the last week in January the heating plant at the Mo Pac passenger depot on West Douglas was out of order. To provide heat for the station the Mo Pac brought out diesel engine no. 4146 and used its steam generator for a heat supply. Although this is the first time we have heard of such a use for a diesel we were informed that this has been done a number of times. As a matter of fact it has been done at the Mo Pac depot in the past when the heating plant boiler was being serviced.

Also in this issue of the Dispatcher was a reminder about the Tri-Chapter meeting in Kansas City for Sunday, February 18. The Rock Island would leave Wichita at 4:49 a.m., and arrive in KC at 9:00 a.m. The Santa Fe would leave Wichita at 7:35 a.m. and arrive in KC at 12:05 p.m. The round trip fare was \$12.87.

TOPEKA CHAPTER'S UPCOMING DRIVING TOUR

The 2012 Driving Tour will be held, Saturday, March 17th, weather permitting. The routes will start in our own back yard, beginning with the Missouri Pacific roadbed from Topeka through Lomax to the Waverly area. Another abandoned railroad we will study will be the Santa Fe "Peavine Line" from Quenemo to Osage City. Plans are to include the Osage City railroad and mining museum in the former-Santa Fe depot. Lunch will be each on their own at a diner in the area yet to be chosen. Volunteers are being sought to drive a caravan along the route from town to town. A handout showing maps and photos is being prepared for participants to purchase. Anyone wishing to come along may contact Robbie Chitwood at chapter meeting in Febru-

ary and March, or email at robchit@yahoo.com. Historical details of the lines may be found in the March "SPARKS". Wear green!

THE WICHITA EAGLE

By Sam Andrews

Our hometown newspaper, the Wichita Eagle, began publishing in 1872. 2012 marks its 140th year. We will take a look at how the railroad is part of getting the newspaper delivered to us each day.

The Eagle buys its newsprint from a paper mill way out west in Washington. The newsprint is formed into huge rolls that weigh several thousand pounds each. The finished product is then shipped by rail to Wichita. It takes lots of paper to make the paper and coupled with the fact the Eagle is the largest newspaper in the state, box-cars of newsprint are always on the move towards Wichita. The newsprint rolls are unloaded at the Eagle plant downtown located on former Frisco track.

BNSF yard job YWIC201 switches the Eagle as needed during the week. This writer worked the 201 on a night a visit to the Eagle took place. While doing some back & forth switch moves across Waterman, a pedestrian walked by and commented he was surprised to see a train. The man had a brown bag, talked with slurred speech and may have had alcohol on the breath. We told him there is a train here a few times a week during the evening, its short and doesn't stay for long. We also advised him to be careful. Satisfied the answer the man thanked us, shook our hands and went on his way.

The next time you read an edition of the Eagle, remember the newsprint in your hand traveled by rail many miles through many states to reach your front door.

February 2012

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

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