

# GREAT PLAINS DISPATCH

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

MARCH 2012

Volume X I

Number 3



## LOOKING BACK

By Michael M. Bartels



### 50 YEARS AGO

Missouri Pacific was denied permission yesterday to discontinue passenger trains Nos. 411 and 412 between Wichita and Geneseo. (Wichita Eagle, March 29, 1962) (It lasted until Jan. 4, 1965.)

### 60 YEARS AGO

The March 15, 1952, Wichita Eagle pictured a pile driver starting to drive piling for a new Kellogg Street viaduct over the tracks.

Frisco applied to the Kansas Corporation Commission to discontinue trains Nos. 303 and 304 between Wichita and Neodesha. A hearing was set for June 6th at Eureka. (Wichita Eagle, March 27th)

Six new Twin Coaches were added to the Wichita Transportation Co, fleet March 28, 1952. Four routes were changed March 30th as a result of the acquisition of the Suburban Transportation Co. (Wichita Eagle, March 29, 1952)

### 70 YEARS AGO

Ten new 27-passenger buses

were delivered to the Wichita Transportation Co. over the weekend and all will be in service by today. They constitute the first delivery of 26 new coaches ordered in 1941. General Manager A.J. Cleary said the remaining 16 would be in service before autumn, including 10 giant 36-passenger vehicles. Fifteen buses ordered in 1940 were delivered last year. Addition of the 10 puts 110 buses now in operation. Four are held in reserve. Orders for the 41 buses made in the last two years represents more coaches than the city had altogether in 1935, when the change-over was made from streetcars. Cleary said bus traffic was already up 45 percent over last year. (Wichita Eagle, Wichita Beacon, March 2, 3, 1942)

John Wenzel, 73, a prominent Wichita building contractor for several decades, died March 4, 1942. Among others, he built Union Station. (Wichita Beacon, March 4, 1942)

Robert B. Campbell, former head of the Arkansas Valley Interurban, has been appointed field representative for the Kansas State Indus-

trial Development Commission. He will seek to obtain prime war contracts and sub-contracts for Kansas plants. (Wichita Eagle, March 27, 1942)

City commissioners last night placed on first reading an ordinance granting a franchise to the new Emergency Transportation Inc. to permit mass transportation of aircraft workers to plants outside the city limits. It was chartered by the owners of the Wichita Transportation Co. to solve the problem of driving outside the city limits. It visualizes use of 25 large buses and also Santa Fe trains. Under the plan these buses would operate from a downtown terminal and carry workers to the plants at 10 cents a trip. (Wichita Eagle, Wichita Beacon, March 31, 1942)

### 90 YEARS AGO

The March 5, 1922, Eagle had an article about Orient locomotive No. 252, which is returning to Wichita after many years in Mexico and repair in the National Railway shops in Chihuahua. It was converted from wood to coal, but still has a diamond stack. The Beacon of the

same date says switch engine No. 18 pulled into the back shop last week for light repairs.

The Hutchinson & Northern Railroad is today constructing a connecting track between the Arkansas Valley Interurban and yards that are being established in the east part of the city, in the industrial section and near the Carey Salt plants. Emerson Carey, president of the company, said George Theis Jr. had completed traffic agreements between AVI and the Midland Valley, Orient and Frisco that would bring the traffic of those roads into Hutchinson via the electric line. (Wichita Eagle, March 9, 1922)

R.B. Campbell, AVI general manager, announced today complete freight service will be offered by the AVI between Wichita, Hutchinson, Newton and intermediate points. (Wichita Beacon, March 23, 1922)

Missouri Pacific switch engine No. 1207 from the Colorado Division was received here last week for service. (Wichita Beacon, March 26, 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 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

**MARCH NRHS MEETING**

For the March program chapter member Robert Walz will be presenting a talk and pictures on the Garden City Western Railway. The presentation is a visual history of the Garden City Western based on Bob's Summer 2010 NRHS Bulletin article. It contains some additional information, he did not have for the article and many additional photos of the line, not used in the article as well as several obtained since.

The meeting will be held Fri., March 16, 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.

**NRHS PROGRAMS FOR 2012**

April 20: Topeka Chapter exchange program. Topic TBA.

May program: Any takers?

June program: Typically has been the annual chapter picnic month. Any takers to organize the picnic?

July: Platform meeting... maybe....somewhere.

August: Any takers?

September: Banquet month. Will there be a banquet? Stay tuned.

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.

December: Annual slide free-for-all.

**TRI-CHAPTER MEETING**

June 02: 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**

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. 24-25 - Great Train Expo, Century 2 ,Exhibition Hall , Wichita. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4. Adults \$7, kids (under 12) free. www.GreatTrainExpo.com

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.atsfrr.com

**Santa Fe 93.com**

**FROM THE MARCH  
1962 ISSUE OF THE  
DISPATCHER**

Historical note of interest: On October 1, 1869, the Santa Fe made the first live-stock shipment over its new line. Two carloads of cattle were brought in from Burlingame and transferred to the Kansas Pacific for shipment to eastern markets. (This issue of the DS noted that its source of information was from Volume II, Number 1, March 1948 issue of *The Shawnee County Historical Society Bulletin*.)

Also discussed in this issue of the DS was a summary of the 8th annual tri-chapter meeting in Kansas City. The date of this meeting was February 18, 1962. The attendees rode a KCS train to Fairmont to view the "Heart of America Railway Museum". Afterward they all had dinner (The reader should assume that "dinner" was the noon meal.) at a place called Jerry's Restaurant and then met and assembled in a room in Union Station for slides and door prizes.

**FROM THE NRHS  
PRESIDENT**

First I would like to thank the 31 members who have renewed as of Feb. 25, 2012. This is a little less than half of the members we had last year.

Second I would like to apologize to all of the renewed members who received a letter from national. The chapter has a new treasurer, Wes Helena, who is

working to correct the communication issues between the Wichita Chapter, NRHS, and the accounting firm that handles national's business matters and membership. The plan is to have the issues resolved mid-March.

Also, the museum could use a lot more help, especially in the area of painting and prep work on most of the rolling stock. The SantaFe93.com website has been set up to accept donations for the restoration of 93. Thank you,  
David Meek

**WICHITA LOCALS  
ABOLISHED**

BNSF locals that have been operating out of Wichita, KS were abolished in early February. The L-KAN0091 operated from Wichita to Newton and return. The L-KAN0101 operated from Wichita to Arkansas City and back. There was a local that operated from Wichita to Wellington and return on Friday only basically to make use of the crew that was a relief for other locals. Replacing the locals are trains M-NEWARK and M-ARKNEW operating between Newton and Arkansas City. The M-NEWARK originates at Newton at 17:00 daily except Sunday with a scheduled arrival in Arkansas City at 23:00 the same evening. It is basically a local as it has work at Wichita, Winfield and Hackney on the way. The M-ARKNEW operates out of Arkansas City daily except Monday departing also at 17:00 and scheduled to arrive in Newton at 23:00.

**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

\_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_  
Account Number      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 MARCH 1912

By Fred Tefft

### March 5

The Rock Island plans to reballast its track between Marion and Wichita this summer to permit a faster schedule for The Firefly, which is pulled by engines of the 800 class which can make a speed of 75 m.p.h. hauling twelve cars.

### March 6

During February the Interurban carried 29,000 passengers. Consideration of extending line to the south.

### March 8

The Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway Company was placed in the hands of a receiver by Judge Pollock in the federal court at Kansas City, Kansas, this morning. Edward Dickinson of Kansas City, vice-president and general manager of the company, J. O. Davidson, of Wichita, and M. L. Turner, of Oklahoma City, were named receivers. The receivership was applied for by a committee of English bondholders, according to Frederick Hurdle, of London, and Lord Munson, representatives of the English interests, who are in New York. Mr. Hurdle attributed the company's troubles to difficulties in financing. Upwards of \$5,000,000 of the bonds were sold to English capitalists about two years ago. It is proposed to reorganize the company. In recent statements urging federal action against the so-called "money trust," A. E. Stilwell of New York, president of the company, told of difficulties in financing the road which is to connect Kansas City and Topolobampo, Mexico. Long article with details. Photograph of A. E. Stilwell on page 8. ("Three Are Receivers for the Orient")

### March 17

Abandoned as a power plant by the Wichita Street Railway and Light company a year ago, the old building at 10th and Wichita streets is to be trans-

formed into a modern street railway machine shop and equipped with new machinery to cost \$10,000. Changes in the building will cost \$2000, making total \$12,000. May 15, 1912 is the date set by the street car company for having the new machine shop finished. Since the building was abandoned, nearly twelve months ago, it has been unoccupied. However, most of the machinery used in generating power has been removed and the remainder will be taken out in the next few days. The power plant was abandoned by the street car company when it began to purchase power from the Kansas Gas and Electric company. The new shops will be across the street from the car barns and will be entered by tracks from the barns. Heretofore practically all repair work for the street car company has been sent to the shops of the McKinley Syndicate in Topeka. When the Wichita shops are finished street car repair work will be done at home.

### March 18

Work began this morning on the new Arkansas Valley Interurban freight station on 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The foundation was put in several weeks ago, but the bad weather has prevented work on the superstructure until now. The building will be of brick, 25 by 40 feet. Cement walks are to be put in at once on the north side of the court house square; there have never been walks leading from Elm street to the court house, but such walks will now be put in. They will run on the same angle as those on the south side of the court house.

### March 25

Report of eleven inch snow in Wichita on Saturday which hampered street car traffic badly until about noon on Sunday. Track sweeper and two salt cars were in use plus nearly 100 laborers clearing the tracks. The snow ruined the motors on ten cars. Snows this winter have cost the company about \$4000, said superintendent C. R. Lewis.

### March 27

Article about plan by Santa Fe to lower the Wichita and Western grade through West Wichita; from crossing of the Midland Valley to one block west of Meridian.

### March 28

The Arkansas Valley Interurban yesterday placed an order with the St. Louis Car company for six new cars, to be built within the next 90 days, to cost \$40,000. Three will be combination passenger and baggage cars similar to those now in use, two will be trailers, similar in appearance but lighter and without motors, and one will be a modern work car. The Wichita Railroad and Light Company has prepared a large room on the second floor of the Kos Harris building for use of the car men. A reading table and games will be provided. The new room is immediately over that on the first floor used by the car men for the past four or five years. The former room will be used to enlarge the company's office.

### March 30

Arthur E. Stilwell, promoter of the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway Company, has resigned as president of the Union Construction Company and of the International Construction Company and a petition for appointment of receivers for these companies filed with Judge Pollock in Wichita on March 13 has been forwarded to the federal court in Topeka. The indebtedness of the companies is near three million dollars. The Union Construction Company has the contract for laying track from Kansas City, Missouri to Lone Wolf, Oklahoma, and the International Construction Company has the contract for building the road from Lone Wolf, Oklahoma to Topolobampo, Mexico.

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

**THE SOUTHWEST EXPLORER**

April 28-May 4

**EQUIPMENT:**

Arizona Eastern E-8 6070 (ex-C&NW, paint is Black Widow); Cimarron River (ex-Frisco 14 rmte, 4 bdr. sleeper), Scenic View (ex-Santa Fe "Big Dome"), Golden Mission (ex-SP bedroom lounge), Caritas (open platform business car, ex-Frisco).

**SCHEDULE:**

Sat., April 28 8AM Depart St. Louis Amtrak station via former Frisco line to Tulsa via Springfield, MO and Neosho.

Sun., April 29 8AM Depart Tulsa for Ft. Worth via Ada, Denison, Sherman.

Mon., April 30 7AM Depart Ft. Worth for Monahans, TX via former Texas & Pacific. At Monahans, turn north on Texas-New Mexico RR to Hobbs, NM.

Tues., May 1 Free day in Hobbs. Optional tour of oil fields. Optional trip on West Texas & Lubbock in a caboose.

Wed., May 2 3AM Depart Hobbs for Monahans and El Paso. At El Paso we turn north on former SP "Golden State" route to Carrizozo.

Thurs., May 3 8AM Depart Carrizozo for Pratt via Tucumcari and Liberal, KS. (Ex-Rock Island line from Santa Rosa.)

Fri., May 4 8AM Depart Pratt for Kansas City. Arr. about 4PM.

[www.highirontravel.com](http://www.highirontravel.com)



**TYSON FOODS**

By Sam Andrews

Southwest Kansas is ground zero for the local meat packing industry with Tyson Foods in Holcomb being leader of the herd. Located nine miles west of Garden City, this operation started in 1979 by Iowa Beef Processors. Tyson acquired

IBP in 2002. Production during the early years averaged about 4000 head of cattle per day. This was increased to 5500 per day in 1991 making Holcomb the largest meat packing site in the industry.

Tyson is one of the largest rail shippers in southwest Kansas and because of this high volume of business, the railroad continues to keep an active road switcher lurking around Garden City.

While there are a few freezer cars per week loaded with package frozen meat, most loads are tank cars of tallow--a by-product. This white liquid is blood and grease cooked to a temperature of 3000 degrees and is used in foods, cosmetics and clothing.

The average 1000 lb steer provides 432 lbs of beef, the remaining 568 lbs is made into bone and fat (tallow). Since we now understand how a steer winds up on the dinner table, its time for a juicy steak!

**TOPEKA CHAPTER DRIVING TOUR**

Topeka Chapter NRHS Driving Tour will be held Sat., Mar. 17. Start in Topeka to Waverly and ending in Osage City. Tour the Osage City Railroad and Mining Museum in the former Santa Fe depot. Lunch at a diner. Information: Robbie Chitwood, [robchit@yahoo.com](mailto:robchit@yahoo.com)

**ENGINEER'S VESTS AVAILABLE THROUGH GIFT SHOP**

The museum gift shop is preparing to order engineer's vests. To obtain these at a good price, the order need to be for a minimum of 12 vests. Vests are constructed of 100% cotton denim fabric in antique hickory stripe design. They are designed to accommodate your railroad pocket watch with buttonholes on the V-neckline to support a watch chain or strap. Each vest has four patch pockets. Vests are unlined.

**Prices:**

- Sizes 36-50 \$65.00 each
- Sizes 52-54 \$68.00 each
- Sizes 56-58 \$71.00 each
- Size 60 \$74.00 each

If you have questions or want to order contact David Meek at the museum, phone 316-263-0944.



*Note: Patches are not included.*

# March 2012

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

**GREAT PLAINS**  
**DISPATCHER**  
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 Museum  
 700 East Douglas Ave  
 Wichita, KS 67202-3506  
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