

# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

AUGUST, 2009

SHREVEPORT, LA

OUR 28<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

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## Gone But Not Forgotten: The Lucas Station



*“LUCAS (9.7 miles from Shreveport, altitude 159 ft., population 25) is a community of Italian immigrants engaged in dairying and truck-gardening for the Shreveport market.*

*Right from Lucas at the railroad station on a blacktop road to a path (L), 1.9 miles, at the western end of the bridge crossing Bayou Pierre; Left on this path 300 yards up the bluff overlooking the bayou to an old cedar, which is said to stand neat the site of the Caddo Indian Agency House.”*

That was information found in Louisiana- A Guide to the State published by workers of the Louisiana Writers’ Project in 1940. The Caddo Indian Agency House was where the treaty with the Caddo Indians was signed in 1835, opening the door for land ownership to the founders of Shreveport. There is a historical marker near that site today.

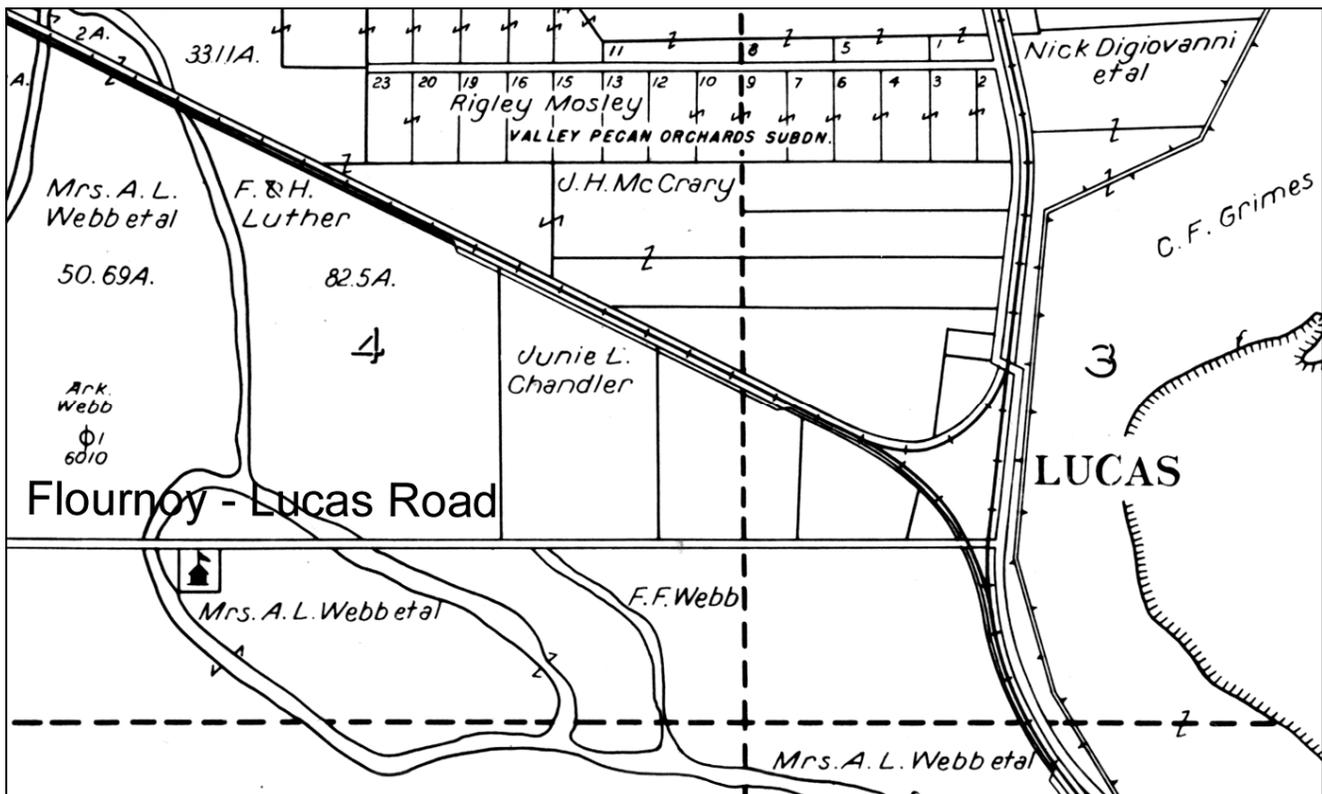
Your Editor took the photo above in 1986, after being alerted by Society member and UP Engineer George Grubbs that it may soon be demolished. It was located in the vicinity of the rusty old shed remaining now at that location. Of course, tracks have been removed but you can still see where the East Wye Connection crossed Highway 1.

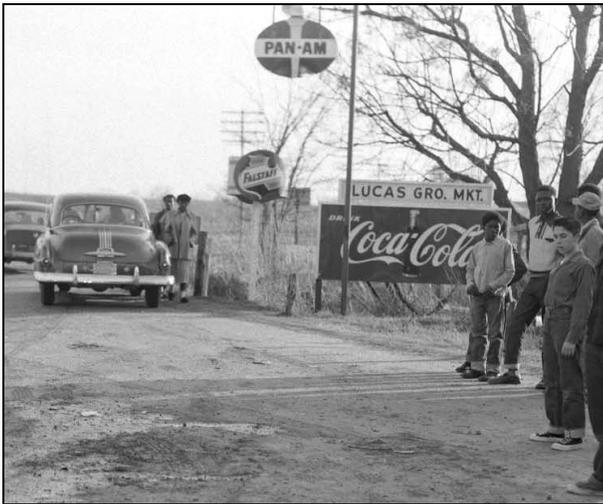
The Lucas railroad station was prominent on the Texas & Pacific Railway Company line between Shreveport and New Orleans. An excerpt from page 24 of the T&P List of Officers, Agents, Stations, Etc. dated May 1, 1925 is shown below.

LOUISIANA DIVISION – MAIN LINE – Marshall Sub-Division

<u>Milepost</u>	<u>Station</u>
304.41	Robson
305.97	Leonard
308.01	Lucas Wye, East Connection
308.07	<b>Lucas - Freight Sta., Local Ticket Off., Coupon Ticket Off., American Railway Express Off. – Agent O. H. Kennedy</b>
308.27	Lucas Wye, West Connection
315.22	Standard Oil Co. Spur
315.38	Cut Off Jct. Telegraph Off.
315.46	Cut Off Jct. East Wye Connection
315.62	Cut Off Jct. North Wye Connection
322.03	<b>Shreveport Passenger Sta.- Local Ticket Off., Coupon Ticket Off., Pullman Ticket Off., Western Union Telegraph Off. – Agent E. E. Fry</b>

A hand-written note next to Lucas in the T&P publication said “Closed 5/15/27”. We can tell by the stations listed that in 1925 the T&P was no longer going north from Lucas along the Red River to reach the Shreveport Passenger Station, but going to Cut Off Junction instead. Your Editor has not been able to determine exactly when the tracks from Lucas to Shreveport were removed. It is interesting that E. Kings Hwy (Old Harts Island Road) from Shreveport to Lucas still has the “S curve” indicating where the tracks crossed the road. Before Youree Drive was extended southward to Lucas, the Harts Island Road was Louisiana Highway 20 and was the primary route south out of Shreveport. Highway 20 was renumbered Highway 1 in 1955 as part of a state-wide renumbering project.





Photos of Lucas are hard to find. The photos above, taken by Frank McAneny to record accident scenes in 1950 and 1954, show the Lucas Grocery & Market at the “S curve”. In the top photo, a nice looking 1952 Chevrolet ran into the back of a Jax beer truck. If you look closely at the bottom photo you may be able to see the truck that ran into the store. (Photos courtesy of the LSUS Noel Memorial Library Archives)

## Work Is Ongoing at the McNeill Street Pumping Station



Interior cleaning of the railroad exhibit building has continued so that painting and window replacement can be done soon. Then we can move in the display cases and start to set up our exhibits. This is an opportunity we have been waiting a long time for, so please get involved and help! Call Gary Fox at 631-9164 for work dates and information.

The building is located at 142 N. Common Street. This is on the east side of the street 1/4 mile north of the intersection of Common with Caddo St. There is a "Shreveport Water Works Museum" sign in the front yard, as well as a large blue and white sign marking the driveway entrance.

### **RRVRHS on the Internet**

Be sure to check out our own website at [www.rvrhs.org](http://www.rvrhs.org) where you can see the newsletters in living color! Thanks to Tommy Crenshaw for setting it up and updating it.

Your email address is needed so that notices and other information can be sent to you quickly. A full-color version of our Newsletter is sent to our email list each month (in addition to mailing out the black & white printed version to those that want it). Out of almost 40 members, we only have 17 email addresses. Please send an email to your Editor (Dave Bland) at [DDBland@aol.com](mailto:DDBland@aol.com) so you can be added to the email list. If you recently received an email from Dave, no action is necessary unless you want to be removed from the list. Thanks!

### **Society Meeting on August 21 at the Glen Retirement Village**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, **August 21** at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at the Glen Retirement Village, 403 East Flournoy Lucas Road. The Glen Retirement Village is located on the south side of Flournoy Lucas Road between Ellerbe Road and Youree Drive (Highway 1). (Please do not confuse it with the Live Oak Retirement Home located on the north side of Flournoy Lucas Road.)

We will discuss renovation work at the McNeill Street Pumping Station (Shreveport Water Works Museum) and other activities. For information or directions call Dave Bland at (318) 470-5933.

### **Upcoming Events**

September 18 RRVRHS Meeting 7 pm at the Glen Retirement Village  
Oct 31-Nov 1 Train Show in Marshall

## The President's Message – August 2009

Hello Railfans:

More sad news this month. Last month I reported the passing of one of our long time members, Frank Allen. Frank was not what we would call a railfan. He liked things old and mechanical and he liked to bring them back to operating condition. This month I have to report to you about the passing of a true railfan, a railfan's railfan, Carl Richardson. He loved trains and everything about this hobby. Carl collected railroad memorabilia. He went to the flea market every weekend looking for railroad artifacts and he had a large collection of annual passes, lanterns and other articles. He spent hours taking pictures and working in the darkroom developing and printing them. A good many of us remember Carl on out of town trips shooting pictures. He was also a model railroader and had a large collection of models. He was a member of the historical society and worked at Cook's Trains for many years. He was a close friend to many of us and we will miss him greatly. Our heart goes out to his family and many friends. God bless.

We have been working most Saturdays on the railroad exhibit building at the McNeill Street Pumping Station. Last week we removed most of the pipes that went through the building interior and we have it looking pretty bare. Most of the paint has been removed. One more work session should finish the removal of paint on the walls. Next we will replace the windows and install a new drop down ceiling. Then we will be ready to paint. Come on out Saturday and give us a hand.

Happy Railroading!  
Russell

### **RED RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

2424 Lakecrest Drive Shreveport, LA 71109

[www.rvrhs.org](http://www.rvrhs.org)

Russell Pedro – President      Dave Bland – Vice President  
Gary Fox – Secretary      Bill Hasheider – Treasurer  
Dave Bland – Newsletter Editor – 797-8008 – [DDBland@aol.com](mailto:DDBland@aol.com)

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### **It is time to pay your 2009 Annual Dues**

Please send a check or money order for \$16.50 with this membership form to Bill Hasheider at 6813 Despot Road, Shreveport, LA 71108

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_