

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

JUNE, 2009

SHREVEPORT, LA

OUR 28TH YEAR

Shreveport Union Station Burned 2 Days After Last Passenger Train !



On Monday, November 3, 1969 the KCS Southern Belle passenger train from Kansas City to New Orleans passed through the Shreveport Union Station and the station closed to passenger traffic.

Two days later, at 4:12 pm on Wednesday November 5, the Shreveport Fire Department received an alarm that a fire had broken out in the basement of the station. The basement had been used for years as a storage area and contained a number of old mattresses used by train crews to sleep there during layovers, plus old invoices, manifests and bills of lading. Fire Chief Dallas Greene said the fire may have been started by a transient who could have been sleeping there, but an investigation showed no signs of anyone being in the building when the fire broke out. All utilities had been cut off after the departure of the last train. No repairs were made to the building and it was soon completely demolished, including the train sheds.

The photos above were taken by Shreveport Journal photographer Bill Causey, Jr. and are printed courtesy of LSU Shreveport Noel Memorial Library Archives and Special Collections.

Work Is Ongoing at the McNeill Street Pumping Station

Interior cleaning has continued so that painting and window repair can be done soon. Then we can move in some display cases that were donated by LaRay Cook 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 museum 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 Website

Have you checked out our own website at www.rrvrhs.org ? You can see the newsletters in living color ! Thanks to Tommy Crenshaw for setting it up and updating it.

We Really Would Like to Have Your Email Address !!

Your email address is wanted 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). Out of almost 40 members, we only have 15 email addresses. Please send an email to your Editor (Dave Bland) at 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 Trip to the Texas State Railroad



Five Society members (Paul Hoge, Russell Pedro, Jared Schonfarber, Chuck Heimerdinger and Dave Bland) had a great time riding in our rented caboose at the Texas State Railroad on Saturday, May 23rd. Scheduled ex-T&P Steam Engine No. 201 was down, but we still had a wonderful experience viewing the run from the cupola and the rear platform. The train was pulled by ex-Point Comfort & Northern Diesel No. 7, which is a 1947 Alco 244C and is in great condition. Also, there were military exhibits and a military train in Palestine to look at during our layover there. Too bad more members did not participate. (Photos by Paul Hoge and Dave Bland)

Due to circumstances beyond our control (the cylinder babbitt and bolt broke yesterday during trial run), the steam engine will be replaced by the diesel engine this morning, May 23, 2009.



The Bulletin Board - Events and Information for Railroaders

Society Meeting on June 19 at the Glen Retirement Village

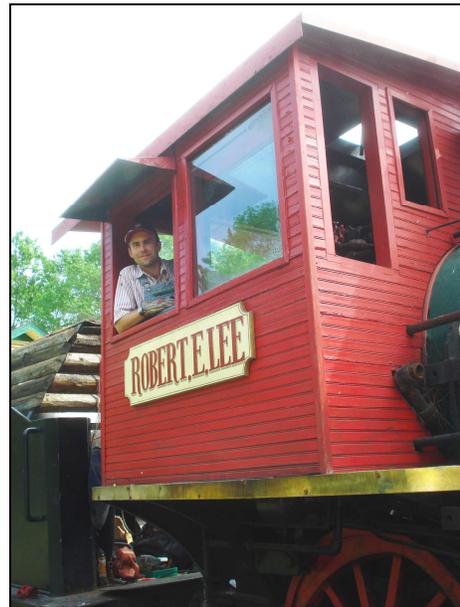
The next meeting will be held on Friday, **June 19** at 7 p.m. in the auditorium at the Glen Retirement Village, 403 East Flournoy Lucas Road. The Glen Retirement Village is located on the south side of Flournoy Lucas Road between Ellerbe Road and Youree Drive (Highway 1). (Please do not confuse it with 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), the trip to the Texas State RR and other activities. A program will be presented. For information or directions call Dave Bland at (318) 470-5933.

Upcoming Events

- June 16 "Building Boxcars at the Marshall Shops" 7 pm at the T&P Depot Museum in Marshall
- July 4 Libertyfest at Southern Forest Heritage Museum (Longleaf) honoring Higgins Boats
- July 23-26 Train Festival in Owosso, Michigan featuring SP 4449, PM 1225, Nickel Plate 765, etc.
- August 18 "Fascinating T&P Artifacts" 7 pm at the T&P Depot Museum in Marshall

The Historic Jefferson Railway Company



Russell Pedro, your editor and his wife rode the train on a pretty Saturday afternoon recently. The Engineer was our own Tommy Crenshaw, who operates the train on most week-ends. See www.jeffersonrailway.com for schedules and fares. In addition to afternoon runs, they have a "Ghost Train" at night. Give it a try!

The President's Message – June 2009

Hello Railfans:

As I am writing this article I am watching the movie "The Longest Day" which is about the June 6, 1944 D-Day Invasion of Normandy. Today is the 65th anniversary of that event. It is hard to believe that it has been that long ago. It has been 28 years ago that we started the RRVRHS, Inc. We've been trying to find a home for our society since then. As most of you know, we now have a home. Several members have already spent two Saturdays working to clean up the inside of a very good brick building that is located at the McNeill Street Pumping Station, which is on the register of National Historic Sites, is a National Historic Landmark and also a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The first Saturday was spent removing lumber from the building and sweeping up many years of dust and bird droppings. On the second Saturday we washed the ceiling and walls with water hoses to remove more dust, dirt dober nests and some paint. At the next work session we will use a power washer to remove the old paint from inside the structure. If you can come out and help, contact Gary Fox at 631-9164 for work sessions and times. Come help make the museum a reality.

A couple of weekends ago, five of us went to the Texas State Railroad to ride the train. The caboose was chartered by us and we were the only ones on it except for the rear brakeman. It was a great ride and everyone enjoyed the outing. We had lunch in the caboose during the ride. It was the next best thing to riding in the engine cab. The military exhibits at Palestine were great. There were men and women dressed in American, British, Aussie, German and several other uniforms. Many different types of vintage military vehicles, guns, tents and even a military train were on display. There were also people dressed in Civil War costumes with weapons, etc. Several dealers were selling vintage war surplus items. There were Huey helicopter rides for people who wanted to experience that type of thrill. Later in the day after the train left to return to Rusk there was a mock battle. The trip was well worth the time and we all had a good time. I hope next year we can repeat this trip and hope more members will attend.

Well, so long for the month and hope to see you at the next meeting.

Happy Railroading!

Russell

RED RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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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

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 _____