

GREAT PLAINS DISPATCH

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

June 2010

Volume IX

Number 6

Wichita Chapter, NRHS & GPTM ANNUAL PICNIC

ALL MUSEUM MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

Date: Saturday, June 19, 2010

Time: Fellowship at 5:30 PM Eat at 6:00 PM

Location: Great Plains Transportation Museum
700 E. Douglas in Wichita's Oldtown

**BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS.
BRING 2 COVERED DISHES TO SHARE
COME HAVE SOME FUN AND FELLOWSHIP**



**ICED TEA AND LEMONADE WILL BE PROVIDED
ALONG WITH HAMBURGERS, HOTDOGS, CHIPS, CONDIMENTS, PLATES, CUPS
& PLASTIC WARE .**

**WITH A LITTLE LUCK, THE RAILROADS WILL
PROVIDE THE ENTERTAINMENT.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS ON WHAT
TO BRING CALL HARVEY KOEHN.**

Phone: 316-733-2085

E-mail: jhkoehn@prodigy.net





**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

JUNE NRHS MEETING

As noted on page 1, the annual will be held Sat. June 19, at the *Great Plains Transportation Museum*, 700 E. Douglas, Wichita.

FUTURE NRHS PROGRAMS

- July** - - Annual platform meeting along the BNSF east of Main St. in Wellington. Bring a sack lunch.
- August** - - Video presentation of the late Mike Hurley on Santa Fe rule books. Also video of Lloyd Stagner and Mike Hurley on railroad hand and lantern signals.
- September** - - Annual banquet, Northern Flyer Alliance presentation
- October** - - Kansas City Chapter exchange program.
- November** - - Lee Swanson will present the program with an Ohio setting.
- December** - - The traditional slide-free-for all again.

OTHER EVENTS

- June 4-6, 11-13 - Thomas the Tank Engine, Midland Railway, Baldwin City, KS. www.midland-ry.org
- June 12-13 - Pittsburg Model RR Show, Meadowbrook Mall, Pittsburg. Sat. 9:00-9:00, Sun. 1:00-4:00
- June 22-26 - NRHS Convention, Scranton, PA www.endlessmountainrails.com
- July 21-25 - SFRH&MS Convention, Denver, CO. www.atsfr.com
- July 22-25 - Topeka N-Track Assoc. and Topeka Model Railroaders will display at Shawnee Co. 4-H Fair, Expo Center, Topeka
- July 28-31 - UPHS Convention, Boise, ID. www.uphs.org
- Aug. 21 - Planes, Trains & Automobiles Show, Waterville, 9:00-4:00. Car

show, silent movies, airplane fly-in, model train display, train rides, food. Benefit: Marshall Co. Railroad Historic Society. www.centralbranchrailroad.org

Sept. 10-11 - RITS Convention, Burlington, IA. www.rits.org

Oct. 16-17 - Two Depot Train Show, Kingman Co. Activity Center, Sat. 9:00-5:00, Sun. noon-4:00. Displays also at Santa Fe Depot and MoPac Depot. sfdepot@sbcglobal.net or 620-532-2142

Oct. 23-24 - Western Ks. Train Show, Ellis Co. Fairgrounds, Hays. Sat. 9:00-5:00, Sun 11:00-4:00. klk@mchsi.com

Nov. 6-7 - Mid-Continent Prototype Modelers, Lions Activity Center, 150 S. Main, Benton. Sat. 9:00-5:00, Sun 11:00-5:00. mcpmmeet@hotmail.com

Dec. 11-12 - MacTrax Show, McPherson Comm. Bldg., 122 E. Marlin, McPherson. Sat. 10:00-5:00, Sun 11:00-4:00. skytracker@ks-usa.net

KCS TO RAZE LOCOMOTIVE FACILITY

Having obtained the required permits and made the appropriate notifications, The Kansas City Southern Railway Company (KCSR) announced June 3 that it will begin staging equipment for the demolition of its former locomotive maintenance facility at 1700 Stilwell in Pittsburg, KS, next week. The entire demolition process is anticipated to take approximately three months.

The facility, which is owned entirely by KCSR and located wholly on KCSR property, is outdated and has sat unused for many years. Demolition will eliminate the potential for health and safety concerns that have resulted recently from flooding and trespassing incidents in and around the facility.
KCS News

RAILROADING IN WICHITA

JUNE 1910

By Fred Tefft

June 1

City threatens to forfeit street car company's franchise on West Douglas west of Exposition if it doesn't proceed to build the line soon.

June 3

Plans for a new half million dollar power plant for Kansas Gas and Electric will be completed within two weeks and ready for bids of the contractors. Site has been purchased and consists of between six and seven acres lying along the Arkansas river between 2nd and 3rd streets, with a frontage of about 800 feet on 3rd street and nearly 600 feet long north and south. Cost of the land was approximately \$25,000.

Street car company plans to begin construction of its new barns on North Waco about August 1st, or sooner if possible. New barn and shops to be 110 by 300 feet, with trackage for 45 cars. The street car company has agreed to shelter and service the Arkansas Valley Interurban cars until the latter company can build its own barns.

June 8

Four miles of track have been completed between Wichita and Valley Center by the Interurban Construction Company. The grading gang is now working between Valley Center and Sedgwick and has finished one and a half miles of grade.

Annual meetings of Arkansas Valley Interurban Railway company and the Interurban Construction company were held yesterday. Officers and boards of directors were elected

Article reports rumor that the West

Riverside street car line will be taken up if the petition to pave Franklin avenue is allowed, and this is upsetting the residents of West Riverside. Says the West Riverside line hasn't paid running expenses since it was installed and the company cannot afford the added expense of paving between the rails.

Celebration to be held today in anticipation of the opening of the new Kiowa, Hardtner and Pacific railway line. The new road will extend about eleven miles from Kiowa to Hardtner and has been leased to the Missouri Pacific railway. About seven miles of it has been completed from the Kiowa end. Trains will run from Kiowa to the end of the line today, and autos will convey visitors from there to the new town of Hardtner, where a new \$6000 depot has been completed.

June 9

The Interurban Construction company has completed four miles of track between Wichita and Valley Center and have now moved north to work on the stretch of land between Sedgwick and Valley Center. Fences along the right-of-way have been completed along the line from Wichita to Valley Center and the fence gang is now working from Valley Center to Sedgwick.

June 10

Passenger trains on all branch lines of the Santa Fe are to be equipped with solid vestibuled steel frame cars in place of the old wooden carriers. The Englewood train running out of Wichita has already been equipped with new steel chair cars.

June 16

Steel laying on the first unit of the Arkansas Valley Interurban from Valley Center to Wichita will reach Sullivan's dam heading southward by Saturday night, and the entire stretch will be

completed within ten days.

June 21

Assessed valuation of railroads in Kansas in 1910:

AT&SF	\$130,658,000
CRI&P	\$51,300,000
KCM&O	\$1,598,000
MP	\$79,103,000
MK&T	\$17,959,000
SLSF	\$24,338,000
UP	\$47,454,000

June 22

Advertisement for sale of the Arkansas Valley Interurban stock states: "The graders are three miles north of Valley Center. The bridge is being built near Sullivan's dam. Only two and a half miles of track yet to lay between Wichita and Valley Center."

Charles Lawrence is preparing to build a two story brick building 25 by 140 feet on the lot directly south of the new Butts building in first block on North Lawrence.

Article with details of some Orient Shops buildings. Building permits now being taken out -- total cost \$242,000. Locomotive repair shops to be 152 by 225 feet. Round house will be 90 by 270 feet with ten stalls.

Rock Island Railway company has started work on its new yards north of the city. Expected to be completed in next six weeks.

June 23

Building permit issued yesterday for round house 90 by 270 feet, with capacity for ten engines, to Orient Railroad company. Cost \$22,000. Also for a stone, brick and steel building 220 by 152 feet to cost \$85,000 and a concrete power house 60 by 73 feet to cost \$11,000.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

June 24

A gang of 35 Mexicans brought in direct from Mexico by the Rock Island railway yesterday began unloading ties and rails for the company's new yards northeast of the city. Eighteen cars of steel have been stored at Kechi and 42 cars of ties have been stationed on sidings at Haysville. Work of laying the tracks and erecting the round house, power plant, water tank, coal chutes and cinder pits will be rushed. All told, twelve tracks will be laid. The improvements will cost about \$200,000.

June 29

Work was begun yesterday on the track of the street railway on the Fairmount line, which is being repaired in connection with the paving of Hillside avenue. The street car company is fixing the track along this street and expects to have it ready to concrete by Friday. Two transfers are now necessary on this line between Douglas avenue and the cemetery.

June 30

Article on controversy between Missouri Pacific and street railway company over the crossing on West Douglas avenue. Board of Railway Commissioners have ordered the street railway company to put in a derail device at the crossing (necessitating a stop and throwing of a switch by the motorman before proceeding), so that Missouri Pacific has withdrawn its injunction preventing the street railway company from building its line across the Missouri Pacific tracks.

Article saying the city commission a few weeks ago passed an ordinance asking the Santa Fe, Rock Island, and Frisco to lower their grades and to pave their crossings with brick at Douglas avenue, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd streets.

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

WICHITA'S 29TH STREET ELEVATOR

By Sam Andrews

Consolidated Flour Mills operated a flour milling plant at Newton which was totally destroyed in a March, 1959 fire. The company operated a chain of area grain elevators which became a supplier of wheat to the Newton mill. One such elevator was built in 1940 at 29th & the Frisco tracks. This was a concrete structure. A later expansion took place when more concrete tanks were added. A 3rd expansion of metal bins later were added on the property, giving the elevator a capacity of 2 million bushels.

The company later sold the elevator to an outfit called Western Grain. This was a big business account for the Frisco and into the BN years. One track served the elevator which holds 12 cars.

Western sold the elevator to Farmers Grain Cooperative of Walton in 1999. Three years later Farmers Grain was merged into the Mid-Kansas Cooperative Association of Moundridge. The present owners do no shipping by rail and chances are that will not change.

CATERPILLAR, GE IN IRON-HORSE RACE

Caterpillar Inc. is pushing further into the rail business by buying a maker of locomotives, and taking on General Electric Co. in the process.

On June 1, the heavy-equipment maker said it would pay \$820 million for Electro-Motive Diesel, in a bet that freight transport will grow as the economy strengthens.

Caterpillar, which with this deal has invested \$2 billion since 2006 in the rail and transit sector, said its acquisition of Electro-Motive Diesel will make it the second largest locomotive and rail services provider in the U.S. behind GE. *Wall Street Journal*

CONDOLENCES

We lost two members during the month of May. Our thoughts and prayers for those left behind.

JANET CORP

Corp, Janet Inez (Moore), 70, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, homemaker and friend, passed away Sunday, May 9, 2010. She is survived by her husband, Steve; daughters, Pamela Cox and Diana (Chuck) Drake; granddaughters, Jessica Francis, Amanda Drake, Sarah (Chris) Allaman and Megan Cox; grandson, Darren Francis; and great-grandson, Braylen Allaman; brothers, Gary (Gay) Moore and Scott (Betsy) Moore. She is preceded in death by her parents, Lonnie and Vera Moore and stepson, Douglas Corp; beloved companion, Sassy. Visitation 5-7 p.m., Wednesday, May 12, at Baker Funeral Home, 100 S. Cedar, Valley Center. Services 1 p.m., Thursday, May 13, at Baker Funeral Home, Valley Center. Interment following the service at White Chapel, 1824 N. Oliver, Wichita. *Wichita Eagle*

MYRON HAINES

Haines, Myron K., 52, Project Management Specialist at Spirit Aerosystems passed away May 16, 2010. He was preceded in death by his father Gordon Haines. His survivors are mother Betty Haines and companion Lyle A. Davis of Broken Arrow, OK; brother Gregg of Wichita and a host of great friends. Funeral service is 1:00 pm Friday, May 21 at Resthaven Mortuary. Donations can be made to The American Heart Association. *Wichita Eagle*



LOOKING BACK

By Michael M. Bartels



THIRTY YEARS AGO

The Oklahoma, Kansas & Texas Railroad, formed by Katy to operate the idle Rock Island between Dallas and Atchison, Kan., began operation in June 1980. Lloyd Stagner reported seeing MKT GP7 No. 91 switching in Wichita. There were two separate periods of OKT operation before it bought the property in 1982.

FORTY YEARS AGO

The Flying Scotsman, with 4-6-2 No. 4472, came north on the Katy from Texas, going from Parsons, Kan., to Kansas City June 23, 1970. The train was on a U.S. promotional tour from 1969 to 1972. It's now owned by Britain's National Railway Museum in York, which hopes to have it running again in 2011.

50 YEARS AGO

On June 26, 1960, 45 cars and a diesel unit in tow derailed when Rock Island freight No. 94, out of control due to lack of air, entered a siding at Pratt, Kan., at excessive speed. The Interstate Commerce Commission blamed failure to make a required air test when a fourth unit was added at Liberal. (<http://dotlibrary.specialcollection.net/>)

80 YEARS AGO

The June 1, 1930, Wichita Eagle magazine section had an article about Santa Fe's refrigerator car repair shops.

Col. Landis, a government railroad expert, will survey the Wichita Northwestern Railway to determine whether

rehabilitation for profitable operation or sale is possible. It was built in 1912-13 by a group of Hutchinson men and put in hands of a receiver in 1922. (Wichita Eagle, June 18, 1930)

Wig-wag signals were being erected by the Santa Fe at crossings of Bayley with Main, Water and Lawrence. (Wichita Eagle, June 28, 1930)

Santa Fe was abandoning the Wichita and Western right of way and the property will revert to the city. It's 100 feet wide and 10,560 feet long, from the west bank of the Big Arkansas to the west city limits. It was deeded to the Santa Fe nearly 50 years ago by Robert Lawrence. Tracks are to be taken up at once. (Wichita Beacon, June 9, 1930)

90 YEARS AGO

The city commission decided not to allow the streetcar company to build a loop on private property purchased recently at the corner of Hiram and University avenues. It will be requested to remove its loop now at that corner and construct either a wye or loop one block west on University. (Wichita Eagle, June 15, 23, 1920)

Riverside streetcar No. 253 jumped the track June 16, 1920, on Central Avenue at the curve into Riverside Park. (Wichita Eagle, June 17, 1920)

A four-ton piece of "special work" was put in place June 16, 1920, where the Arkansas Valley Interurban crosses the Missouri Pacific on Ackerman's Island to reach its new terminal at Waco and Douglas. Rails have been completed up to the MoPac and the line will be completed to the east bank of the Ar-


kansas in a day or two. It will take about 60 days to complete all the switches, tracks and loops at the new terminal grounds, by which time the freight depot will probably be completed. Total cost of the new line and terminal facilities will not fall much below a half million dollars. The freight and passenger stations alone will cost \$125,000. The freight depot will have six doors and a team track on the south, and two large doors and a double track on the north, so four cars can unload at once. The second floor will contain club rooms for employees. The car shops, now being built by Shuler and Shuler north of Second Street on Ackerman's Island, will cost \$35,000-\$40,000. In addition to space for 10 cars, it includes a carpenter shop, paint shop, oil house and store room. It will be ready within 30 days. (Wichita Beacon, June 17, 1920; Wichita Eagle, June 17, 20, 1920)

MoPac on June 21, 1920, added a third train between Wichita and Geneseo. (Wichita Eagle, June 22, 1920)

The Soldiers and Sailors Club, organized by the Salvation Army in May 1919 to aid servicemen and their families and operated in the old Frisco depot, will close Friday night June 25th. (Wichita Beacon, June 22, 1920)

Two thousand harvest hands have been carried daily by the AVI between Wichita and Hutchinson the last six days. There is usually a big bunch of harvesters awaiting the departure of every train. So heavy has been the traffic that much of the time it is necessary to run doubleheader trains and occasionally an extra. (Wichita Beacon, June 25, 1920)

June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Evening Work Session	2	3	4	5 Museum Open Work Day
6 Museum Open	7	8 Evening Work Session	9	10	11	12 Museum Open Work Day
13 Museum Open	14 	15 Evening Work Session	16	17	18	19 Picnic Museum Open Work Day
20 Father's Day Museum Open	21	22 Evening Work Session	23	24	25	26 Museum Open Work Day
27 Museum Open	28	29 Evening Work Session	30			

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DISPATCHER
 Great Plains Transportation
 Museum
 700 East Douglas Ave
 Wichita, KS 67202-3506
 (316) 263-0944
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