

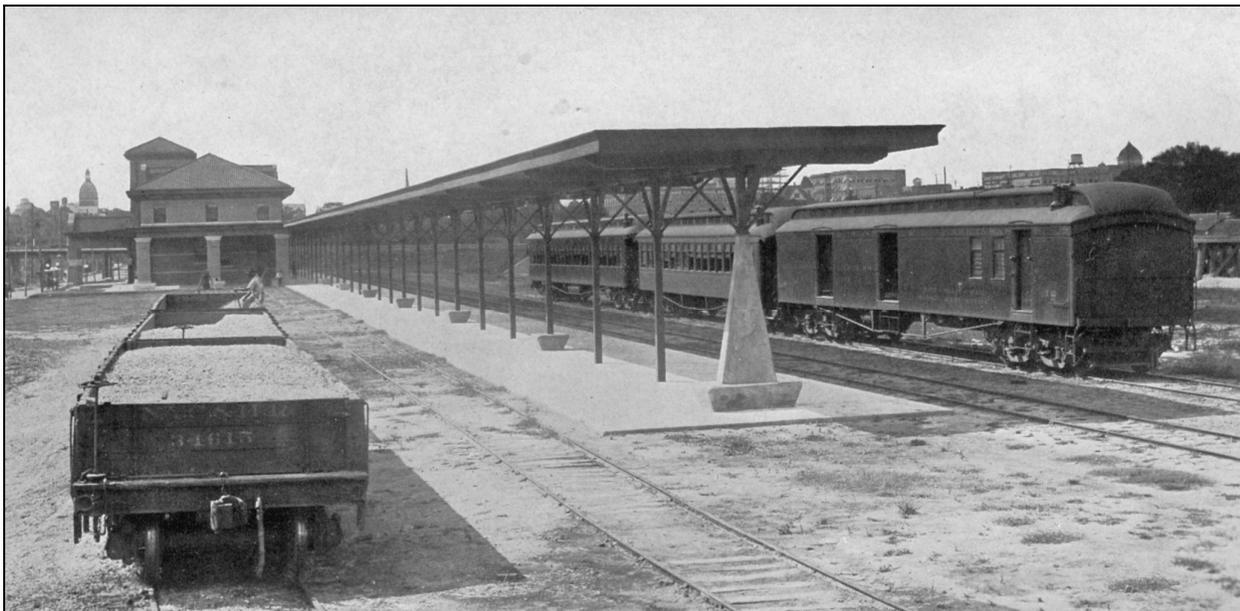
# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

*April, 2013*

SHREVEPORT, LA

*Our 32<sup>nd</sup> Year*

## Shreveport's Only Surviving Passenger Train Station



Shown above is Shreveport's *Central Station* located at 1025 Marshall Street, which opened in 1911. The front is still pretty much the same, except that the portico on the right has been removed. Note the street car tracks in front of the station. The south side, however, is significantly different now because the passenger shed and tracks have been removed. Interstate 20 passes over this area now and the Society has a baggage car and diesel switcher stored there.

By building this impressive structure, William Buchanan of the Louisiana & Arkansas Railway made a statement to the community that his railroad was here to stay. He secured the Cotton Belt as a tenant in addition to his L&A Railway. L&A was purchased in 1928 by the KCS. Passenger service at this station ended in 1940 when the KCS/L&A operations were consolidated at KCS-owned Union Station. Offices remained in the building until new facilities were opened in 1956 at Deramus Yard. The building is privately owned and the downstairs contains a cocktail lounge and bar. (Photos courtesy of the LSU Shreveport Noel Memorial Library Archives & Special Collections.)



## Railfanning in Virginia



Your Editor had the privilege of going to Roanoke, Virginia last month to ride behind Southern Railway Engine No. 630, the good looking 2-8-0 shown in the left photo above. One trip ran west from Roanoke to Radford and the other trip ran east from Roanoke to Lynchburg. Southern Railway 630 is owned and very well maintained by the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum in Chattanooga, and runs excursions frequently throughout the year.

Other railroad attractions in Roanoke are the Virginia Museum of Transportation where many steam, diesel and electric locomotives are on display, including Norfolk & Western No. 611 and Norfolk & Western No. 1218 shown above, and the O. Winston Link Museum. As mentioned last month, there is a serious effort underway to get N&W 611 back under steam. There are several railroad historical groups in the state:



The state has an official Rail Heritage Region which was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2010 to highlight and promote their rich railroad heritage. Historically, the region was home to the largest concentration of rail facilities in the state: the famous shops of the Norfolk and Western Railway in Roanoke, the shops and yards of the Chesapeake and Ohio at Clifton Forge, the Southern Railway facilities at Monroe, and the facilities of the Virginian Railway in Roanoke. These railroads ran through the region, with the crossroads in Lynchburg. The region contains many rail heritage museums, sites, and societies. You should consider these opportunities when you plan your next railfan trip.

## **Next Meeting on April 19**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, **April 19** at **7 p.m.** in the library at the Glen Retirement Village, 403 East Flournoy Lucas Road. **Please be on time** for the beginning of the meeting so you won't miss anything. The Glen Retirement Village is located on the south side of Flournoy Lucas Road between Ellerbe Road and Youree Drive (Highway 1). For information or directions call Dave Bland at (318) 470-5933.

## **Upcoming Events**

- April 19 RRVRHS Meeting – 7 pm at the Glen Retirement Village
- May 11 ***Hidden History Tour: Downtown's Railroad Past and RRVRHS Museum Grand Opening***
- May 17 RRVRHS Meeting – 7 pm at the Glen Retirement Village
- May 18-19 Jefferson Train Days

## **Shreveport – Bossier City Attractions**

Keep up with things to do and see around town by checking or subscribing to [www.20x49.com](http://www.20x49.com) The name signifies that we are at the crossroads of I-20 and I-49.

**If you would like to see the newsletter in color and save the Society money by receiving it through email instead of snail-mail, please notify your Editor at [DDBland@aol.com](mailto:DDBland@aol.com)**

## The President's Message – April 2013

Hello Railfans!

Current Events – Spring has sprung, and I hope everyone had a good Easter holiday. I sure am glad that we finally have some warm weather so we can get out and enjoy the outdoors, and take care of those Spring chores.

Last Saturday we set up our booth at the Train & Toy show that was held at the First Baptist Church on Ockley Drive in Shreveport. They had a full house of vendors with all kinds of trains and toys for sale. We talked to a lot of people who did not know we have a railroad museum in town, and everyone expressed an interest in visiting our museum. I gave out a lot of cards and brochures with our information on them. While I was there Saturday Liz Swaine got on the P.A. system and gave us a very good plug, complimenting us on our museum and telling everyone about the upcoming railroad event on May 11. Liz also officially joined our organization. We had a good turnout of our members, also. Paul Hoge and LaRay Cook came by along with Charles Goodrich and Jim McClure. Larry Davis also came by and spent a lot of time at our booth. I would like to thank Bert Sams for asking us to be a part of his show and say also that he and his groups of Lionel friends did a very good job putting on his first train & toy show.

Reflections – While I was at the show I was noticing the people that were visiting and buying items. They were all people that are part of our “older” generation. The few young people that were there with their family did not show much interest in the trains or even the toys. Most of them were playing games on their cell phones, which got me to thinking. Is our hobby is a dying hobby? Who is going to inherit our toys? I guess that it really doesn't matter as long as we enjoy them. So have fun with the things that you collect and value!

Well, more on this matter in a future letter.

Happy Railroading!  
Russell

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

**Shreveport, LA** [www.rrvrhs.org](http://www.rrvrhs.org)

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### **Have You Paid Your 2013 Dues ?**

**(The date beside your name on the newsletter envelope indicates the latest year you have paid your 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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