

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

www.rvrhs.org

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SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 33rd Year

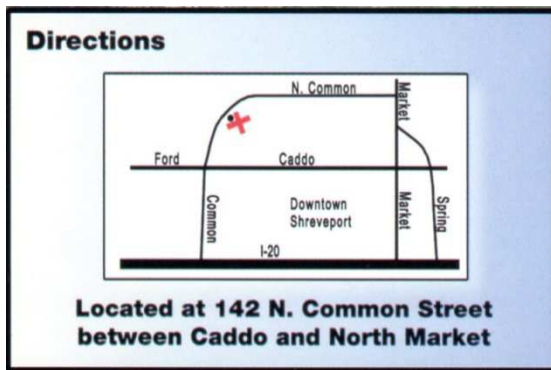
Where the Southern Crosses the Yellow Dog



One of our long-time members, Gay Means, sent these interesting photos and comments to share with our newsletter readers. Thanks, Gay!

“Hopefully, most of us have heard of the “Yellow Dog” railroad, the little “cotton chopping” local railroad. Perhaps many of us upon informing strangers on the golf course or elsewhere that we have an interest in railroads have been asked “Where does the Southern Cross the Dog?” Well until that occasion I never heard of either. I knew about Silver City and the Illinois Central where my uncle Clifford was station attendant. They lived upstairs above the station and Clifford would go down and deal with passengers and his other duties mostly in the middle of the night. The train shook the entire building! I also knew that my mother as a child would ride the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad from Anguilla to Vicksburg. In June, my son Nathaniel and I had been to Memphis and decided to drive home through the Mississippi Delta. He wanted to see Ruleville and Doddville. I had seen the Delta all of my life... it clicked in my brain that perhaps since we were so close to Moorhead I would like to see where the Southern Railroad crossed the “Dog” (Yazoo Delta Railroad). Moorhead also calls itself the home of the blues as does every other Delta town. The town has quite a nice display to commemorate the Yellow Dog, and the Southern still operates and is probably a part of the Illinois Central. The Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad station still stands in Vicksburg and is part of their new transportation complex.”

Editor’s note: According to Wikipedia, the Yazoo Delta Railway (Moorhead-Ruleville) appears in a number of blues songs as the Yellow Dog Railroad. According to W. C. Handy, locals assigned the words “Yellow Dog” to the letters Y.D. on the freight trains that they saw.



Upcoming Events

August 15 -RRVRHS Meeting – **NEW LOCATION** - 7 p.m. at the **Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St.** – call (318) 458-3123 for information.

Sept. 5 - First Friday Railroad Photography Meeting – 7:30 p.m. at the Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. – call (318) 458-3123 for information.

The President’s Message

Hello Railfans !

I hope everyone is having a good summer. So far it has not been as hot as last year and the rain has been a welcome relief. I just returned from Colorado where it rained every day. The day I rode the train it was so cold that I did not enjoy the ride. Well, I guess it’s time to get back to work and back down to reality.

Next Friday I am having a meeting with the city to discuss the piece of land next to Common Street. We hope to get a favorable response from the meeting. Last Monday I had a meeting with Dale Ward and he said that this year so far the number of visitors at the Water Works Museum has been up over 50%. I hope that increase is because of our RR museum but there is no way to prove that. Also at that meeting Gary and I learned that at the present time there is not much chance we will be allowed to build the 7 ½ inch gauge railroad at the museum. The state is concerned with liability but efforts are still being made.

I am sad to report that member Boyd Christensen passed away at age 96 on July 12 after a short illness. Boyd lived at The Glen and often gave copies of his *Trains* magazines to Dave to pass on to other RRVRHS members. He is survived by his son Harold, also a member.

I hope that everyone remembers that our meeting place has been changed from The Glen to the Water Works Museum on N. Common St. I am looking forward to seeing all of you there, maybe even some who have not been to the meetings in a long time.

Happy Railroading!
Russell

Are You Up-to-Date on Your Dues ?

Please send a check or money order for \$20.00 with this membership form to Bill Hasheider at 6813 Despot Road, Shreveport, LA 71108

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society
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**NEW MEETING
LOCATION !**