

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

Web Site: WWW.RRVVRS.ORG On Facebook: [Shreveport Railroad Museum](https://www.facebook.com/ShreveportRailroadMuseum)
Russell Pedro – President W. Conway Link – Vice-President Jim McClure – Secretary
Bill Hasheider – Treasurer Dave Bland – Newsletter Editor – DDBland@aol.com

August, 2015

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 34th Year

The Train Ride at Hamel's Amusement Park



These kids are sure having fun in at Hamel's Amusement Park in 1984! Did you take your kids there (and ride along with them?). This photo was on the cover of *River Cities Magazine* in July of that year. As you probably remember, Hamel's was on E. 70th Street next to the Jimmy Davis Bridge. It began in the 1960's as a petting zoo and just the small train pictured here, but in 1969 they decided to add a little more excitement. First, the "Kiddie Barn" was added so that birthday parties could be held. Rides like the merry-go-round and the helicopters were added, then the roller coaster, the swings, the parachute ride, a go-cart race course, and the log ride. In 1984 there were a total of 17 rides and several food and game concessions. A Ferris wheel and bumper cars were also added. Kids (and adults) did not have to wait for the State Fair to come or go all the way to Six Flags Over Texas to have fun.

The park fell into hard times in the early 1990s when a tornado literally bent their Ferris wheel in half, and with the rides removed, the park served as grounds for a monthly arts and crafts exposition. Shortly thereafter, in 1999 it closed permanently. Most of the rides, including the train, were auctioned off on November 15, 1999. The train was an Allan Herschell S-24 "Iron Horse" (24" inch gauge). The Allan Herschell Company was a company that specialized in the creation of amusement rides, particularly carousels and roller coasters.



The black & white photos above were taken on April 17, 1968, the day of the inaugural run of the train. Special needs children were the guests. (Black & white photos courtesy of LSU Noe Memorial Library Archives & Special Collections.)

Upcoming Events

August 21 – RRVRHS Meeting – 7 p.m. - Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. Call (318) 797-8008 for information.

Sept. 4 - First Friday Railroad Photography Meeting – 7:30 p.m. at the Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. – Call (318) 797-8008 for information.

The President's Message

Russell is in Shreveport now between monthly trips to M. D. Anderson in Houston, and was able to take his chemotherapy medication here. He is experiencing some of the known side effects of that treatment, so please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Dave Bland

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
3012 Nottingham Drive
Shreveport, LA 71115

Next Meeting
August 21