

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

www.rrvrhs.org

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December, 2014

SHREVEPORT, LA

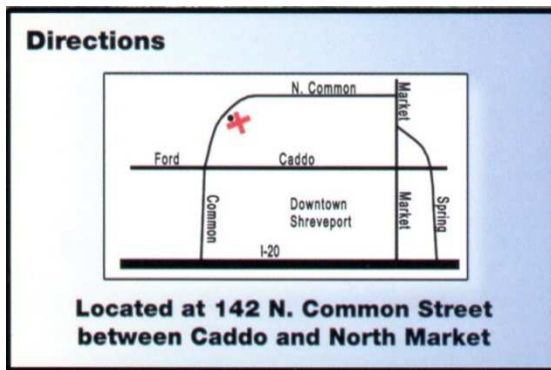
Our 33rd Year

Can You See Why This Boy Is So Happy?



This unidentified boy is understandably very happy with his Christmas presents, especially the new Marx electric train. The year was probably in the late 1940's. Marx trains ran on 3-rail track like Lionel. They were less expensive than Lionel, but very durable. In 1935 they began production of their seemingly endless run of the *American Classic "6 Inch Tin"* toy trains. This smaller sized "non-scale" train would run nicely on 027 track, a size which Marx exclusively used for all its train lines. Detail would be handled by ink lithographing on tin. Early models used two-color lithography on the body as well as on the base. They were built to run on 0 gauge track. Marx would invent their own "toy scale" for the early train cars, they would have a height similar to 0 and S scale, but only about half the length. Engines, tenders and cabooses were semi-scale. This new rounded and streamlined "Six Inch" design is one that would prove to be a favorite for all times, withstanding four decades of production. Marx was the last train manufacturer to change completely over to plastic (1972). This 6 inch tin series continued all the way into the 1970's and are probably the most widely recognized of Marx trains.

Note that he also got a wagon, toy car, a drum, a Roy Rogers blanket, cowboy boots and Tinker Toys. He must have been a good boy all year long! I hope you have been good enough to get a new train toy this Christmas. If you know who this happy boy is, please let your Editor know (DDBland@aol.com).



Upcoming Events

Dec. 19 – RRVVHS Meeting – 7 p.m. - Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. - call (318) 458-3123 for information.

Jan. 2 - 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 !

First, I would like to congratulate Jeff Everson on his re-election to the City Council. Jeff has been a friend of our group and is taking an active and aggressive approach to help us acquire the piece of land we need to finish the museum.

Last week during Thanksgiving long-time member Charlie DeVilbiss suffered a mild stroke while visiting his son in Texas. He was rushed to the hospital but released later that day. He did not have any paralysis or memory loss, and later that week they cleaned out his arteries. The last word I received was that he was doing fine. Keep him in your prayers.

At the last First Friday meeting Dave Bland brought the show which was on a flash drive. It was a first rate show consisting of old photographs of trains around Shreveport, new 1950’s cars on transport trucks, aerial photos of Shreveport from 1925, and Sanborn maps of railroad related areas of Shreveport from 1889 to 1964. I have to say everyone thoroughly enjoyed this very informative show.

This month we will have a meeting on the 19th and I hope to see you all there. Election of officers will be held. Well, that’s about all I have this time. I would like to wish all of you a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Happy Railroading!
Russell

It is time to pay your 2015 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
Dec. 19