

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

JANUARY, 2010

SHREVEPORT, LA

OUR 29TH YEAR

Railroading in Shreveport 100 Years Ago



SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

The population of Shreveport—U. S. Census 1910—28,015. City Directory, 1910, issued since census taken, shows total of 32,845. Total population within two miles of center of city, 45,526.

Shreveport has 41 manufactories, 47 wholesale houses and other retail establishments.

Ten Railroads, as follows, enter the city: Houston & Shreveport (Southern Pacific); Kansas City Southern; Missouri, Kansas & Texas; Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific (Queen and Crescent); St. Louis Southwestern; Texas & Pacific; Louisiana Railway & Navigation Co.; Louisiana & Arkansas; Texarkana, Shreveport & Natchez; Texas & Pacific (Natchitoches Division). There are two large railroad shops here, fifty-eight passenger trains daily, and river navigation.

Shreveport is one of the largest cotton and lumber markets in the South, and handles over 250,000 bales of cotton annually.

Shreveport is over 190 miles from any other important shipping point.

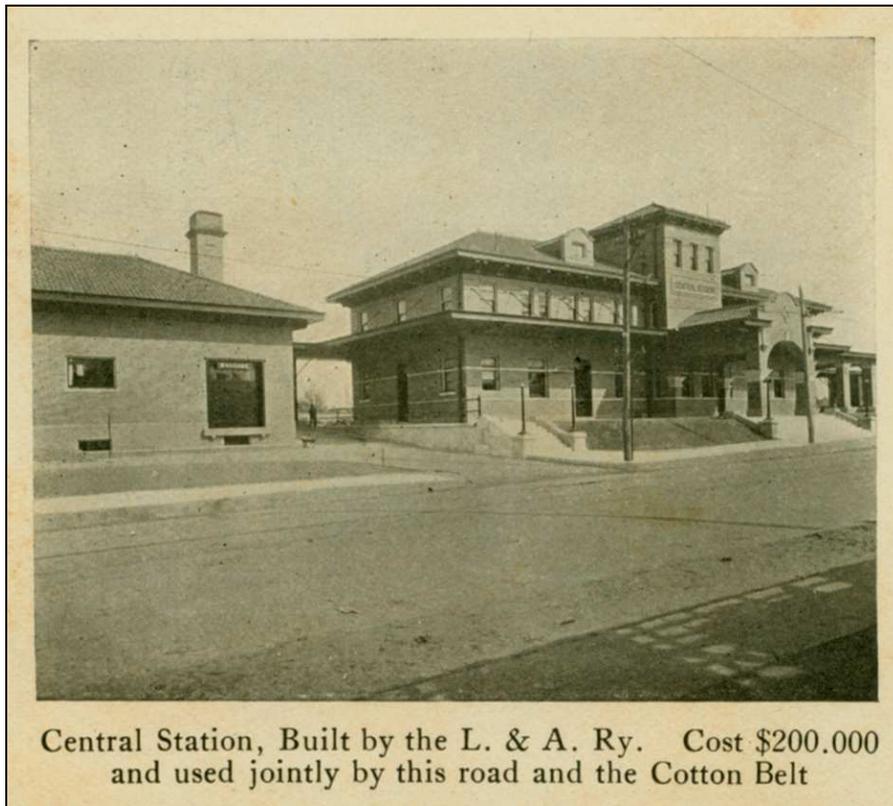
More than two hundred traveling salesmen make their homes in Shreveport. Shreveport boasts of being the best paved city of its size in the South, having 36 miles of paved streets and 24 miles are being built now.

There are 4 first-class banks in Shreveport, and the bank deposits now average \$12,000,000.

City values based on the assessment roll are about \$30,000,000. The taxes are based on a 40 per cent. valuation. The total rate of taxation is $14\frac{7}{8}$ mills.

Shreveport has 26 miles of electric street railway, and a new line is being built to a new manufacturing section.

Shreveport and vicinity offer the man of limited means inducements and opportunities for advancement superior to those of any other country on the globe. Here is the richest section of the United States; the banks are full of money for all kinds of legitimate business. The sum of \$12,000,000 on deposit in Shreveport shows conclusively that this is a profit-producing country.



These photos and the information about Shreveport were published on postcards in 1910, just a “short” 100 years ago. The Louisiana & Arkansas Railway completed its line into Shreveport on July 1, 1910 with their purchase of the Minden East & West Railroad, and Central Station on Marshall Street was built that year. William Buchanan, L&A president, secured Cotton Belt as a joint tenant of Central Station, and passenger service continued there until 1940 when KCS/L&A operations were consolidated at the Union Station. Central Station is the only remaining passenger station building in Shreveport, since Union Station was destroyed by fire in 1969 and the T&P Station was torn down in 2005 to make room for the Convention Center. The Central Station building is now being used as a bar.

The information on page 1 is very interesting. Of the 10 railroads mentioned, only KCS remains. The others have been merged into current railroads such as Union Pacific. Only 3 railroads are listed in the 2009 Shreveport telephone book (KCS, Burlington Northern and Union Pacific). Other interesting “facts” listed are:

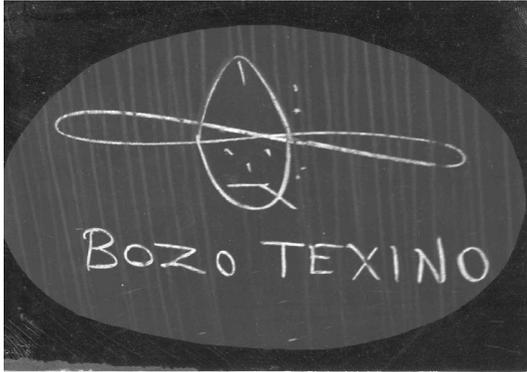
“...fifty-eight passenger trains daily...”

“More than two hundred traveling salesmen make their homes in Shreveport.”

“Shreveport...having 36 miles of paved streets and 24 miles are being built now.”

“Shreveport has 26 miles of electric street railway...”

“...the richest section of the United States; the banks are full of money for all kinds of legitimate business.”



Bill Daniel to Present Program at January 15 RRVRS Meeting

Vagabond filmmaker and photographer, Bill Daniel will screen and discuss his film “*Who is Bozo Texino?*”, a personal documentary on the secret history of hobo and rail worker graffiti. Daniel began photographing railroad tags in 1983 and started riding freights and filming in 1987. In the following 16 years Daniel uncovered a particularly American folkloric practice that has been overlooked for over a century. “*Who is Bozo Texino?*” has since screened in festivals worldwide and at over 350 venues in the US. Daniel was recently awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for his next project which deals with peak oil and climate change. At the screening Daniel will have copies of the film for sale, as well as copies of his book on the same subject, “*Mostly True.*” For more info go to www.billdaniel.net

The meeting will be held on Friday, **January 15** at **7 p.m.** in the auditorium 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 any of this special program. We are very fortunate to have Bill at our meeting. 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.

Congratulations to Mark Brunettin !

Officers for 2010 were elected at our December meeting. Mark Brunettin was elected Secretary, and other officers will remain the same (Russell Pedro – President, Dave Bland – Vice President and Bill Hashieder – Treasurer). Gary Fox, who has been Secretary for many years, decided not to run for office again but we look forward to his continued contributions to our Society.

Thanks to the Rose Center Engineers and Crew

There was a really good turnout of over 1100 riders at the American Rose Center this year. Thanks to John Parnell, Mark & Kelly Jo Brunettin, Eric & Jared Schonfarber, Dave Bland, Randy Guy, Russell Pedro, Scott Maddox and Bill Hashieder for operating the train. Special thanks go to Bill for being there every night! Frank Head and Tommy Crenshaw did engine and track repairs as needed, and the entire workforce was coordinated by Gary Fox. The thing that makes it worthwhile is seeing the smiles on those kids' faces!

Upcoming Events

Jan. 15	RRVRS Monthly Meeting at the Glen with special guest Bill Daniel
Jan. 16-17	Train Show in Plano, Texas
Feb. 19	RRVRS Monthly Meeting at the Glen

The President's Message – January 2010

Hello Railfans:

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and I wish everyone a very happy New Year. I believe that 2010 will be our year for getting into the museum. Gary met the electrician at the McNeill Street site on Saturday, January 2nd so that he (the electrician) could do a material take off for the electrical job. As I pointed out in the last newsletter the brick work is almost complete, lacking one more work session. Next we will be replacing the windows.

At the December meeting we held our annual elections and the current officers were re-elected with the exception of Secretary. The Secretary will be Mark Brunettin. Welcome aboard, Mark! I know Mark will do a good job but he has some very big shoes to fill. I would like to thank Gary for his work the past many years. Gary is responsible for most of what the Society has accomplished in the past. He has worked tirelessly both in front of and behind the scenes for so many years. I talked with him and he said that he will continue to do all that he can for our goals. Thank you Gary!

Several meetings ago Dave presented a program and video on railroad hobos and their art on railcars. At our January meeting Mr. Bill Daniel, the person who produced and filmed the video, will be our guest speaker. I hope everyone will plan to attend the next meeting to meet Mr. Daniel and hear what he has to say personally on the subject. Please invite your family and friends to this meeting. We will have a very short business meeting and devote almost the entire evening to what promises to be a very informative program. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Happy Railroading!
Russell

RED RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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www.rvrhs.org

Russell Pedro – President Dave Bland – Vice President

Mark Brunettin – Secretary Bill Hasheider – Treasurer

Dave Bland – Newsletter Editor – 797-8008 – DDBland@aol.com

It is time to pay your 2010 Annual 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 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____