

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

January, 2011

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 30th Year

Trip to Vivian



“We took a trip on the train to Vivian...and it was fun!” Those words were spoken by a first grader from Werner Park Elementary School in 1954 after his class took a train ride for a field trip. The top left picture shows them buying their tickets at Shreveport Union Station. The kids have to reach up to give the agent their money! They were probably going to leave about 7:15 a.m. on the northbound Southern Belle and arrive 33 miles and 43 minutes later in Vivian.

To the right of that picture, we see a young boy getting his ticket punched by the Conductor. That is an exciting experience not many kids get to feel today. (Anyone know who the Conductor was?)

The bottom left photo shows three cute little girls intently watching the scenery go by. Note the fancy dresses, white shoes, hat, purse and curly hair. Wow, how times have changed !

In the bottom right photo, the kids are waving “Bye” to their train as it left the Vivian depot headed north toward Texarkana . They were then bussed to a school in Vivian to visit a class there.



The wonderful teacher, Miss Ann McNair, was also dressed well. She is shown above reviewing the day’s excitement with the children. Note what she has written on the blackboard:

Our Train Ride To Vivian
We bought our tickets.
The train was on track 8.
We all got on the train.
The train went slow on the track.
The conductor took up our tickets.

Miss McNair had prepared the children for the past six months by reading stories about train trips and conductors and a little boy who had lost his ticket. They had learned to sing half a dozen songs (“Clickity Clack, Clickity Clack, the train is coming down the track...”) and had drawn many pictures of trains. “It’s the new way of teaching”, said Miss McNair. Her “new way” was teaching by doing, seeing and experiencing. Well done, Miss McNair !!

Thanks to the LSUS Noel Memorial Library Archives for a copy of the Sunday May 16, 1954 Shreveport Times containing a feature story from which this Newsletter article was written. The feature story was written by Keith Coulbourn and the photos were taken by Langston McEachern.



The Union Pacific Railroad is planning to run their steam engine / passenger train somewhere in the U.S. this year. The route will be chosen based on votes cast online. Anyone can vote. There are four possible excursion routes. One route is the "Baton Rouge Rambler" that includes Shreveport, so please vote for it.

The route with the most votes at midnight Jan. 17 will be selected for the excursion!

Visit upexcursion.com to vote!

Historic Jefferson Railway “ENGINEER FOR A DAY” Program

Joe Hedl, one of our members, has provided this preliminary information about a program they will be offering soon. Give him a call at 903-938-5615 if you would like more information.

Full day course: Morning session covers steam engine principles, safety, and locomotive operation. After lunch, with you as ENGINEER, the engine is fired and you drive the train through the Piney Woods along the Caddo River. Next trip, you move to FIREMAN, then to BRAKEMAN and finally SWITCHMAN. Experience all 4 positions that make up our train crew.

Class size is limited to 4 students
For schedule and availability call 903-938-5615
Website: www.jeffersonrailway.com
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Next RRVRS Meeting on January 21 at the Glen

The meeting will be held on Friday, **January 21** 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 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

Jan. 15-16 Plano Train Show
Jan. 21 RRVRS Meeting at the Glen – 7 p.m.
Feb. 18 RRVRS Meeting at the Glen – 7 p.m.

See Current and Previous Newsletters in **COLOR at our website**

(Thanks to Tommy Crenshaw)

www.rvrhs.org

The President's Message – January 2011

Hello Railfans:

Happy New Year !

I was talking to Dave this afternoon and he reminded me that we have been a group of individuals with a common goal and common interest for thirty years, almost a third of a century. Where has time gone? I was really hoping that we would be in the museum by the end of 2010 but as you are aware that was not to be, but we are making progress and I think we will make it this year. We still have a lot of work to finish the museum building so plan to work some Saturdays this Spring and Summer.

Also, Gary has been making progress on the outdoor exhibit area north of the driveway between Common Street and the pump station. Yours truly is working on a model of this area that Gary will use in his discussion with the mayor and City Council.

At the December meeting we discussed nominations for officers this coming year and the election will be at the January meeting. Dave has decided to step down as Vice President, but he will continue publishing the newsletter. I would like to thank Dave for serving and commend him for a job very well done. Kelly Jo will be seeking the Vice President's job in the coming year and the rest of the officers will be running for their old jobs again. Please come to the meeting and make your wishes known by voting.

I would also like to ask you to go online and vote for the future route of the Union Pacific Steam program.

Well, I'm hoping for another good year. See you at the meeting.

Happy Railroading!

Russell

**RED RIVER VALLEY
RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
Shreveport, LA
www.rrvrhs.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 2011 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 _____