

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

JULY, 2010

SHREVEPORT, LA

OUR 29TH YEAR

No Wonder There are No More Steam Engines !!



On September 10, 1951 approximately 60 housewives carrying dirty mops and signs proclaiming “Down With The Soot” marched on the Illinois Central roundhouse in Bossier City. They were protesting against the large amounts of dirt and soot which they say came from the railroad yards. The women marched into the yard about 5:30 pm and knocked on the office door. The superintendent said the company would do everything in its power to see that the soot was kept at a minimum. (What else could he say?) One woman stopped traffic on East Texas St. with a large “Stop” sign and a whistle! Some of the women carried signs saying “Our Homes are Ruined”, “Why Not Move?”, “Bossier – the Soot City”.

At the time of the protest, a lawsuit was awaiting action by the United States Supreme Court. A judgment of \$43,863.34 with 5 percent interest had been handed down to the plaintiffs in 1948. It was appealed to the circuit court of appeals and sustained. The railroad then made an application to the Supreme Court for a review of the case. One of the women said the smoke was cut down during the trial but soon resumed as bad as ever.

The superintendent said his company had tried its best to keep the smoke to a minimum, and that the company had already gone 75 percent diesel.

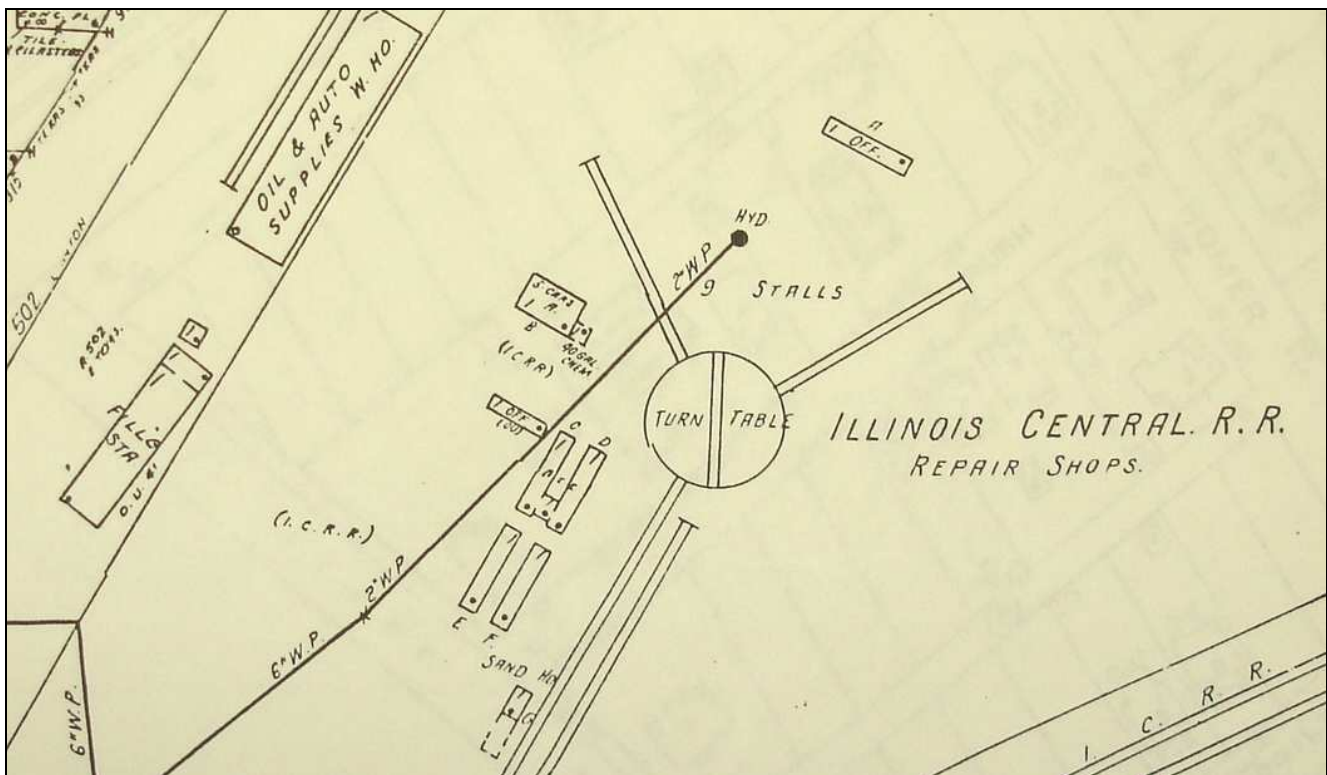
Obviously, the women were not satisfied. One said that sometimes it looks like someone was standing outside her window throwing dirt in by the shovel full, and that she would wake up in the morning to find her bed full of soot and her face black!

Well, eventually they got their way because steam engines were gone in a few years. Too bad.....



Mrs. J. B. McCraw knocked on the superintendent's door. She was backed up by the other protesters.

(Langston McEachern photographs courtesy of LSU Shreveport Noel Memorial Library Archives and Special Collections.)



This was the layout of the Illinois Central roundhouse in 1961 according to a Sanborn fire insurance map at the LSUS Archives. Nine locomotive stalls are indicated although only 2 tracks are drawn in. The heavy black line shows a 2 inch water pipe with a fire hydrant at the end.

Upcoming Events

July 16 RRVRHS meeting at the Glen – 7 p.m.
July 17 & 24 Texas State RR “The Little Engine That Could”
August 20 RRVRHS meeting at the Glen – 7 p.m.
Oct. 15, etc. Texas State RR “Day Out With Thomas”

Next RRVrHS Meeting on July 16 at the Glen

The meeting will be held on Friday, **July 16** 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. A program will be presented. 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.

Historic Jefferson Railway in Jefferson, Texas

If you are interested in being trained as a relief engineer for the railway, call Gary Fox at (318) 631-9164

Support Our Friends !

McNeill Street Pumping Station in Shreveport

Take a tour and see the building that has been offered to the RRVrHS for a museum.
Call (318) 221-3388 for hours and information

Texas & Pacific Railway Museum at the Marshall Depot

Call (903) 938-9495 for hours and information

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

(Thanks to Tommy Crenshaw)

www.rrvrhs.org

The President's Message – July 2010

Hello Railfans:

As I am writing this article there are a lot of people celebrating the fourth of July by shooting fireworks. I wonder what someone from another world would think if they were observing this country at night and seeing all those fireworks going off with all the different colored lights. They probably would think we were crazy wasting so much money, time and energy. Early this afternoon it sounded like a war in my neighborhood. Well, it's all in fun and celebrating 234 years of freedom. Happy Birthday, America !

Two weeks ago I ordered the windows for the museum and they should be coming in soon. We will be needing your help removing and replacing the windows, so Gary will be calling to organize work parties in the near future. I think it will take about 4 Saturdays to do all the work. Please plan to help as much as you can. It will not be heavy work but hot and messy.

At our last meeting our benefactor donated another large sum to help pay for the work being done on the museum. Also, the truck that Kelly Jo secured was sold for \$800 and this will help with the expenses. (Go get'em Kelly Jo!)

At the next meeting Charles Devilbiss will show some footage of moving a very large locomotive and how it was done.

Well, this is a short column this month. Not much to report. Hope to 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 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 _____