

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

July, 2012

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 31<sup>st</sup> Year

## Great Additions to Our Museum !



Richie Self, owner of American Coins and Collectibles, has a unique and valuable set of railroad notes issued by the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Texas Railroad Company during the Civil War. Many were printed on paper from old bonds, and most were issued in Monroe on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1862. The notes were issued in various denominations from twenty-five cents to five dollars and used for currency. Richie made perfect color copies of the notes, had them matted and framed in two beautiful displays, and donated them to the society. He also donated copies of other notes, bonds and stock certificates. Thank you, Richie !



Gene Winegeart (shown above), a long-time supporter of the McNeill Street Pumping Station Preservation Society, donated the collection of his late uncle, Russell Stewart, to the society. It contains about 1,000 black & white photos of steam locomotives, several old volumes of the *Official Guide of the Railways & Steam Navigation Lines*, a few books and other memorabilia. The collection is particularly

significant in that Mr. Stewart collected the items during 1938-1942, went off to serve our country in World War II and was killed on April 9, 1945 in the battle of Okinawa. His collection remained intact and preserved by his parents, then his sister and was passed on to us by Gene after she died. The photographs were still tied with string into neat bundles when we received them. We really appreciate your donation, Gene !

## **1904 Map of Shreveport Railroad Yards**

An original 10 ft. by 3 ft. linen map showing railroad tracks, yards and facilities in Shreveport, dated 1904, has been in storage for several years. In order to display it in our museum it was digitized, reduced to a much more manageable size of 5 ft. by 20 inches, printed in color, mounted on archival foam board and encapsulated in Mylar. The map is displayed in a way that visitors can easily view it without damaging the copy.

## **The Handicap Ramp is Almost Completed**



The ramp to allow handicapped people to enter our museum is almost completed. It has been a long, hot project for several society members and friends. As mentioned in previous newsletters, the State of Louisiana and specifically Mary Durusau has been very helpful by paying for the materials which cost over \$3000.00. Completion of the ramp is a big step toward having an official opening where everyone can easily gain access to the building.

## **Next RRVRS Meeting on July 20 at the Glen**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, **July 20** at **7 p.m.** in the library at the Glen Retirement Village, 403 East Flourney 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 Flourney Lucas Road between Ellerbe Road and Youree Drive (Highway 1). For information or directions call Dave Bland at (318) 470-5933.

## **Upcoming Events**

- |           |                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| July 20   | RRVRS Meeting – 7 p.m. at the Glen |
| August 17 | RRVRS Meeting – 7 p.m. at the Glen |



## **Please Provide Your Email Address So You Can Receive the Newsletter Quicker (and cheaper) in COLOR !!**

Send your editor an email ([DDBlund@aol.com](mailto:DDBlund@aol.com)) to get yours added to the RRVRS email list. Your email address will not be seen by others when you get the newsletter.

## The President's Message – July 2012

Hello Railfans!

As I take pen in hand to write this article, I think back over the years and all the false starts and false hopes that we have had in our efforts to build something we could be proud of and present to the people of Shreveport and the state. I think we have really made a good start on that dream. Yes, I said start. We have a long way to go and I don't think that a museum is ever "finished". It is always evolving and changing. The building we now have is only the beginning. We must now re-double our efforts and move our locomotives, railroad cars and depot to the McNeill Street Pumping Station location. Once that is done we will have to cosmetically restore everything so that the public can see and enjoy the equipment as it looked like when it was in use. This is not going to be easy, but it is a labor of love and with time we will accomplish everything we always dreamed of and have strived for all these years. We can be proud of what we have done so far.

We wish our friends that started out with us so long ago could be with us now to enjoy the moment. We all need to step back and think about what we have done. Thank you!

Happy Railroading!  
Russell

### **RED RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. Shreveport, LA**

Russell Pedro – President      Kelly Jo Brunettin – Vice President  
Gary Fox – Secretary      Bill Hasheider – Treasurer  
Dave Bland – Newsletter Editor – 797-8008 – [DDBland@aol.com](mailto:DDBland@aol.com)    [www.rrvrhs.org](http://www.rrvrhs.org)

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### **If You Haven't Done So, Please Pay Your 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

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