

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

July, 2013

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 32nd Year

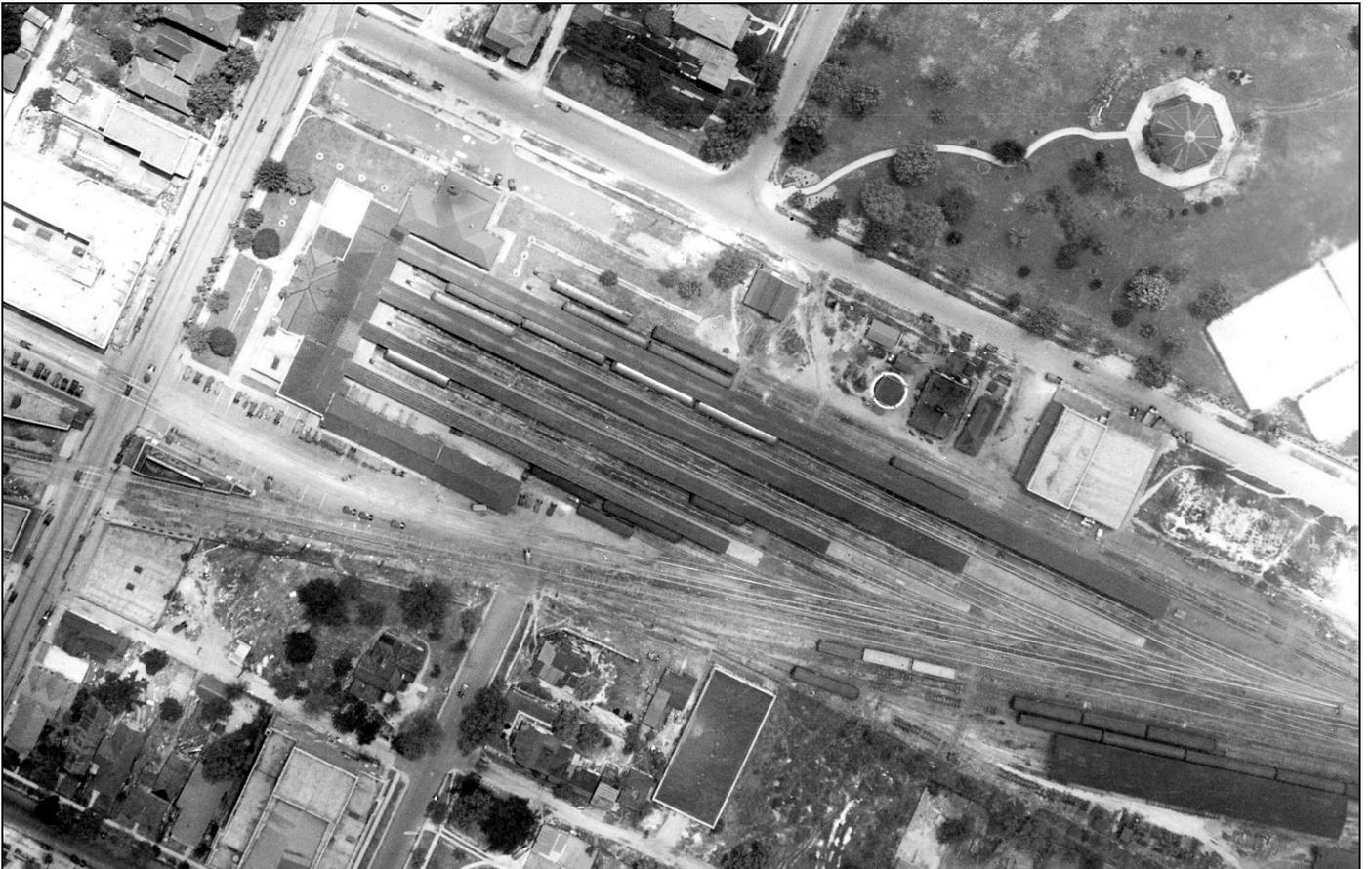
Aerial Photos of Shreveport in 1925 Showing Railroad Activity



This remarkable photo was taken over Shreveport by Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Inc. in 1925. Above is a view of downtown with the Texas & Pacific Railway “Y” at the bottom, and the three bridges over Red River at the top (Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific Railroad Bridge, Traffic Bridge and Cotton Belt Railroad Bridge). The “Y” was used to turn trains around. For example, passenger trains headed into the T&P Station on Market Street were turned around and backed into the station. Note how many residences were still downtown. Also, the 3-story Shreveport Macaroni Manufacturing building is in the bottom center at the top of the “Y”. That building still is in use by the macaroni company! You can see it on your left as you travel from downtown to the McNeill Street Pumping Station just before you cross under the railroad overpass.



The photo above shows the smokestack of the Arsenal Hill electric power plant (now SWEPCO) in the foreground and the McNeill Street Pumping Station in the center. Note the Texas & Pacific Railway “Y” track on the right running along the path of current-day North Common Street and the “A Frame” Bridge in the upper left corner.



The dizzying overhead view on the previous page shows Union Station and a portion of Princess Park. Take a minute to get oriented, since the top of the photo is roughly pointing south. Louisiana Avenue is on the left and Common Street is in the center, before the Common Street Overpass was built literally over the Union Station train sheds. Note the triangular shaped KCS Café building on the left side, and the streetcar tracks on Louisiana Avenue.

These photos are from a set of 28 excellent 9 inch x 7 inch black & white aerial photographs in collection MMss148 at the LSU - Shreveport Noel Memorial Library, Archives and Special Collections. The aerials show several views of downtown Shreveport and the adjacent land, the Fair Grounds and the Texas & Pacific Railway shops at Hollywood Yards which had just been completed. The photos are in a leather booklet issued to Huff-Daland Dusters.



Fairchild F-1 Aerial Camera

As mentioned on page 1, the photos were taken by Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Inc., a company founded by Sherman Mills Fairchild (1896–1971). He was an inventor and entrepreneur who founded over 70 companies, including Fairchild Aircraft, Fairchild Industries, Fairchild Aviation Corporation, and Fairchild Camera and Instrument. Fairchild made significant contributions to the aviation industry and was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 1979. His Fairchild Semiconductor Company played a defining role in the development of Silicon Valley. He held over 30 patents for products ranging from the silicon semiconductor to the 8-mm. home sound motion-picture camera. Fairchild is also responsible for inventing the first synchronized camera shutter and flash as well as developing new technologies for aerial cameras that were later used on the Apollo Missions. In 1917, after being rejected from the military because of his poor health Fairchild was determined to find another way to support the World War I effort. Fairchild and his father went to Washington and won a government contract to develop an improved aerial camera. The camera featured a shutter that was inside the lens, thereby reducing the significant image distortion caused by the slow shutter speeds that could not keep up with the movement of the plane. The U.S. government gave Fairchild a budget of \$7,000; the project, however, ended up costing \$40,000; his father paid the difference. Although the military did not accept his camera until the war effort was over, the U.S. government did purchase two cameras for training. Undeterred, Fairchild went on to focus his attention on developing a more advanced camera, and in February 1920 he established the Fairchild Aerial Camera Corporation. Shortly thereafter the U.S. Army ordered 20 additional Fairchild cameras and selected it as the standard for aerial cameras. The need for Fairchild's aerial cameras continued to grow; during World War II 90% of all aerial cameras used by Allied Forces were of Fairchild design or manufacture.

Check Out Shreveport Railroad Museum on Facebook !

There is now a Facebook page for the **Shreveport Railroad Museum**! Check it out to see some neat photos. Tell your friends about it and post some photos and comments yourself. It's a great way to introduce our activities to a new audience of young(er) people!

Next Meeting on July 19

The next meeting of the Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society will be held on Friday, **July 19** at **7 p.m.** in the **library** 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.

The President's Message – July 2013

Our president, Russell Pedro, is taking a well-deserved vacation and gone to ride trains and relax. Russell has a house in South Fork, Colorado and said he and Dorothy would probably go to Chama, New Mexico to ride the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad that travels 64 scenic miles between Chama, New Mexico and Antonito, Colorado.

Have fun, Russell !

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

Russell Pedro – President Gary Fox – Secretary Bill Hasheider – Treasurer
Dave Bland – Newsletter Editor – 797-8008 – DDBland@aol.com



Have You Paid Your 2013 Dues ?

(The date beside your name on the newsletter envelope indicates the latest year you have paid your 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 _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

If you would like to see the newsletter in color and save the Society money by receiving it through email instead of snail-mail, please notify your Editor at DDBland@aol.com