

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

March, 2012

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 31st Year

Signs of the Times



The Texas & Pacific Station on Market Street in Shreveport was opened in 1941. It was a beautiful art-deco styled building and served the public well even as passenger train traffic declined in the 1960's. In order to decrease the time required to pick up and unload passengers in Shreveport, a small station was built on West 70th Street south of the airport in 1964. That eliminated the time required to take the train

downtown to the station on Market Street. T&P passenger service through Shreveport was discontinued entirely in 1969.

After passenger service to the Market St. station was terminated, the building was used by James S. Noel to store his collection of over 200,000 books. In 1994 his book collection was moved to the new James S. Noel Memorial Library at LSU Shreveport and the building became empty. It was purchased by the City of Shreveport.

Later, the City of Shreveport offered the station to the Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society for use as a museum. However, Mayor Keith Hightower changed his mind over a period of time because his proposed convention center and Hilton Hotel needed the T&P station property for their use. Some discussions were held about using the station as a restaurant or entry way into the hotel, but the final result was demolition of the station in 2005.

No one seemed to know what happened to the large “The Texas & Pacific Station” sign that was on the side of the building or the two smaller “Texas and Pacific” signs that were over the entrances.

In January, Gary “Sherlock” Fox made a few contacts in search of the signs. He was directed to Mr. Joe Brown in the City of Shreveport SPAR Maintenance Department who acknowledged that the signs were stored at their facility on Shreveport-Barksdale Highway. We immediately went to the storage yard and “claimed” the signs! The small ones were picked up that day and Mr. Brown had the large one delivered to the McNeill Street Pumping Station a few days later. The signs have been cleaned up and we are deciding how to display them. As Russell Pedro reported in our February Newsletter, it will cost \$2,500 to replace the neon lights on just one of the small signs.

Next RRVRS Meeting on March 16 at the Glen

The meeting will be held on Friday, **March 16 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.



Food for Soldiers

Society member Conway Link recently forwarded a great video about a canteen operated by the ladies of North Platte, Nebraska during World War II. If you haven't seen it you can go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and do a search for North Platte Canteen. It reminds us of how everyone was pulling together during WW II.

Your Editor sent the video to his uncle, Russell Yeager, who lives in Florida. During WW II he was a machinist at the Texas & Pacific Railway Hollywood Yard roundhouse in Shreveport. He responded by sending this story:

“There were canteens all over the USA, also. I can remember my mom and sister and a carload of neighbors meeting troop trains. I remember one time, especially, that we were in the roundhouse working feverishly on the steam engine that was needed to pull a troop train that was parked on a side track a short distance from us. An officer came into the roundhouse and asked if there was any place nearby that the soldiers could buy some food. There was not, but all 37 of us gave him our lunch boxes and bags to take to them while our truck went to the nearest restaurant to get more food. The restaurant charged us nothing when they found out where we were taking the food! They also handed us a basket full of fruit to take to them!”



Shown above is the Texas & Pacific Railway Hollywood Yard roundhouse and a group of roundhouse workers, including some of those who gave their lunch boxes to the soldiers. Russell Yeager is standing, third from the right. Machinist D. D. Bland, Sr. is kneeling, second from left.

Upcoming Events

- March 16 RRVVHS Meeting at the Glen – 7 p.m.
- April 20 RRVVHS Meeting at the Glen – 7 p.m.
- April 29-30 Union Pacific 844 in New Orleans for Louisiana Bicentennial Celebration

The President's Message – March 2012

Hello Railfans!

Dave tells me it is writing time again. I hope that you don't think writing a column each month is something I don't like to do, in fact I have come to look forward to doing it. It's just that it is hard to find something to write about, so sometimes I just ramble around and hope one of you can find something interesting or informative. Please keep reading!

A couple of months ago I became treasurer of the Shreveport Historic Preservation Society. Believe me, that is a difficult and demanding job. When you handle someone else's money and you want to get it right it takes a lot of time and I want to do right. I say this because I now know what Bill Hashieder has been going through for the past twenty-something years. He has had a job to do and has done it right.

Last week Dave and I went over to Bill's place of business to look through the Society files for information about the Caspiana Depot, and came across all of the bills, treasurer's reports and paperwork he has handled as treasurer. He has done it right, and we owe him a great big "thank you" for a job well done. By the way, Bill will be going into the hospital on March 14 for a hip replacement. I would like for all of you to keep him in your prayers and we wish Bill a full and swift recovery.

The museum is now a reality with only a little more to be done before we can open for visitors. I have finished the drawing and materials list for the handicap ramp and we will go to the supply house this week for prices. Mary Durusau, Director of Museums in the Louisiana Secretary of State Office, has indicated that she might be able to give us the money for the ramp. We are working on the museum about two days a week and if you would like to help out call Gary Fox (631-9164) for the times.

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 www.rrvrhs.org

It's time to pay your 2012 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 _____