

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

Web Site: WWW.RRVRHS.ORG

On Facebook: [Shreveport Railroad Museum](https://www.facebook.com/ShreveportRailroadMuseum)

Russell Pedro – President

W. Conway Link – Vice-President

Jim McClure – Secretary

Bill Hasheider – Treasurer

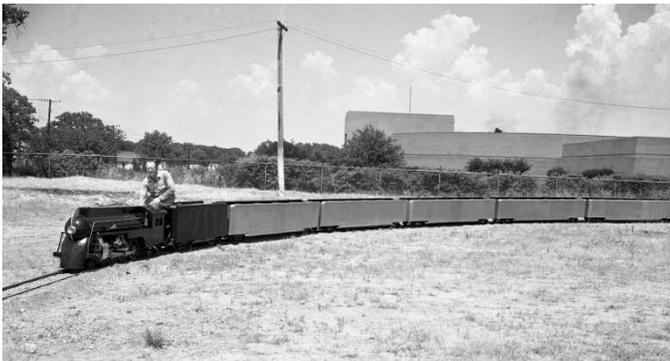
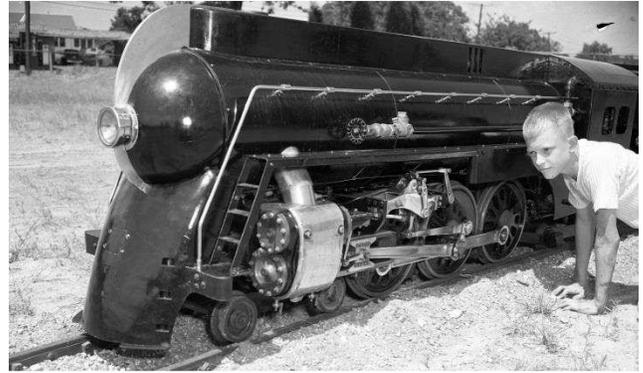
Dave Bland – Newsletter Editor – DDBland@aol.com

March, 2015

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 34th Year

A Great Steam Train Ride at the Louisiana State Fair Grounds

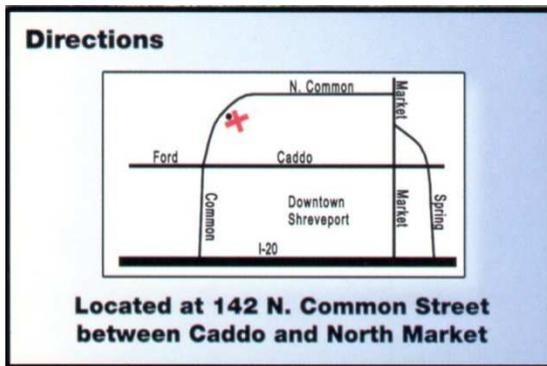


These photos accompanied a story in the August 3, 1947 *Shreveport Times* titled “New York Central’s Louisiana Branch”. An ex-test pilot named H. C. “Cliff” Callihan built this 12-inch gauge replica of a New York Central 4-6-4 “Hudson” type steam engine from blue prints supplied by the railroad. Mr. Callihan scaled the drawings down, had wooden patterns made and a local foundry cast and machined the parts. The boiler presented a particular challenge. He obtained a list of qualified boiler companies from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, but after several out of town companies refused the order he had a local boiler and tank company build it. It took them a year to deliver it. The one-ton oil burning engine cost him about \$7,500 to build, and the total train including 5 stainless steel cars cost \$13,000. He spent over 3 years on the project.

A few days before the August 1947 story ran in the paper the train steamed along the track at the Fair Grounds for the first time, chugging away from the loading platform, whistling through a green wooden tunnel that served as a “round house” at night and coming back to the platform with a few lucky neighborhood kids that were on the trial run.

Does anyone know how long the train ran at the Fair Grounds and what happened to it? Please let your Editor know if you have any information.

(Photos courtesy of the LSU Shreveport Noel Memorial Library Archives & Special Collections.)



Upcoming Events

March 20 – RRV RHS Meeting – 7 p.m. - Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. - call (318) 797-8008 for information.

April 3 - First Friday Railroad Photography Meeting – 7:30 p.m. at the Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. – call (318) 797-8008 for information.

May 9 – Shreveport Model Train Show – River View Hall – 10 to 6

The President’s Message

As most of you know, Russell had a heart attack on January 29th, and bypass surgery on Feb. 24th at Texas Heart Institute in Houston. He got out of the hospital last Thursday, March 5th and is at his sister Connie's house in Katy, Texas. He will go to M. D. Anderson this week for blood tests and a decision on further treatments.

He wanted me to thank everyone for their cards, calls, thoughts and prayers.

We look forward to having Russell back with us soon. Please continue your thoughts and prayers.

Dave Bland
Editor

It is time to pay your 2015 Dues!

Please send a check or money order for \$20.00 with this membership form to Bill Hasheider at 6813 Despot Road, Shreveport, LA 71108

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society
3012 Nottingham Drive
Shreveport, LA 71115

Next Meeting
March 20