

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

May, 2012

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 31st Year

Among Our Treasures.....

Our museum contains many interesting items, a few of which will be highlighted in this edition of the newsletter. Come see the museum on May 19 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm and eat some fish while you are there !

Station Signs



Signs used at Shreveport Union Station to guide passengers to their train (*The Shreveporter*) or (*Southern Belle*). They show the train number, departure time and destinations. The signs are on loan from the LSU Shreveport Noel Memorial Library Archives and Special Collections.

KCS/L&A Stencil



Stencils like this were used to paint the KCS/L&A logo on cabooses, boxcars, etc. Note the arrow which is pointing from left to right. All the logos painted on diesel engines, etc. had the arrow pointing from right to left. A reason for this difference has not been found. The stencil was found by Paul Hoge in a caboose he owns, wrapped up and stored in a closet. It now hangs on a wall of our museum.

Civil War Era Rail



In 1984 a city worker was using a backhoe on Commerce Street near the old Illinois Central freight station, which is now part of the downtown Festival Plaza. He found the remains of building foundations and sections of old railroad track. According to a Shreveport *Times* article on April 21, 1984 “Shreveport attorney Gary Fox was driving by and recognized the track as a narrow type used before 1870....Fox was involved in research on track used to plate the Confederate ironclad *Missouri*, which was armored at a yard on the south bank of Cross Bayou during the Civil War.”

This 8-foot section of the old cast iron rail will be displayed in the museum.

Interesting Tidbit of History

Jay Gould was a financier and railroad baron who became president of the Texas & Pacific Railway in 1881. As president of the T&P, Gould sold the original 2 ½ acre tract for the Shreveport water works to Samuel Bullock, owner of the Shreveport Water Works Company, in 1887. The T&P tracks went along beside Caddo Street where the overpass is today, which is how Gould came to own the land. Construction on the new water plant was finished in August 1887 to provide Shreveport its first municipal running water. The water plant included the land on which our RRVRS Museum is located. So our museum is located on what was once railroad property !

Dale Ward, Executive Director of the Shreveport Water Works Museum told your editor about this history recently. A copy of the deed signed by both Gould and Bullock is on display in the Shreveport Water Works Museum.

RRVRS Informal Museum Opening and Fish Fry on May 19

Instead of having our regular meeting on Friday, May 18 we will have a short business meeting and a Fish Fry at the McNeill Street Pumping Station on Saturday, May 19. The address is 142 N. Common St. in Shreveport. You will be able to tour our museum and the Shreveport Water Works Museum. We will have fish, shrimp, hush puppies, cold slaw, etc. The time is from 3 to 7 p.m., and we will eat about 5 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per attendee, and you can pay when you get there. If you would like to bring a dessert or other dish, please call Kelly Jo at (318) 347-7008. **Bring a friend!**

Jefferson Train Days May 19-20

Attend the grand opening of the Texas Pacific Train Depot and see the R. D. Moses train layout at the Jefferson Historical Museum. Ride the Historic Jefferson Railway on a live steam train through the scenic Piney Woods along the Big Cypress Bayou. Tour the resplendent business car "Atalanta" that belonged to rail baron, Jay Gould. Watch beautiful operating model train displays and layouts and visit with model railroading club members at the Jefferson Transportation Center.

There should be train rides on both days but be sure to check their website or call before you go.
www.jeffersonrailway.com Telephone 903-742-2041

Upcoming Events – May is a busy month !

- May 12 National Train Day
- May 19 RRVRHS Museum Open House & Fish Fry at the Museum
(McNeill St. Pumping Station)
- May 19-20 Jefferson Train Days
- May 26 Southern Forest Heritage Museum - Heritage Day 2012 – Longleaf, LA
www.forestheritagemuseum.org
- May 25-27 Texas State Railroad Memorial Day Armed Forces Event – Palestine, TX



Please Provide Your Email Address So You Can Receive the Newsletter Quicker and in COLOR !!

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

The President's Message – May 2012

Hello Railfans!

Five years ago I addressed five goals that I felt were important for the society to achieve. I believe that we have met about 70% of them.

First was to acquire a permanent site for a museum to house our collection of artifacts and equipment. We now have a very good museum building with all of our small artifacts housed in it. We also have a site for all our equipment although it is not the best location because of the size, but it will work.

Second was a need to recruit new members. We have a few new members but we have fallen short in this effort. We need more young blood to carry on the great work that we have all started. Let's make an effort to recruit some new people.

Third was the goal of painting our equipment to preserve it from further deterioration. This goal was partially achieved in that we painted engine 1140, which was a large task. It looks good, as you have seen in photographs or in person by visiting Camp Minden. We still need to do more.

The fourth goal was to compile a complete inventory of all our equipment and other items. Dave has done a good job with this and has compiled a complete listing with pictures.

Fifth was the goal of finding a permanent location to display and restore the Caspiana Depot. We have met this goal because the depot will be moved to the area to the right of the driveway into the Water Works Museum.

We have made significant advances on most of our goals and are continuing to work on them.

This month will be our annual Spring Fish Fry and unofficial opening of the first phase of the museum. I hope to see all of you there.

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 _____