

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

NOVEMBER, 2009

SHREVEPORT, LA

OUR 28<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

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## Texas & Pacific Wreck Near Jefferson, Texas in 1946



The photo above shows an overview of a 55 car freight train wreck that occurred between Payne, Texas and Jefferson, Texas on November 6, 1946. Payne is about 7 miles northeast of Jefferson. The fireman was killed when he was smothered in mud as engine No. 661, a 2-10-4 type, landed on its left side while traveling 47 miles per hour in clear weather about 11:17 p.m.. The engineer was injured, as was the front brakeman and an off-duty employee of the mechanical department who were both riding in the “dog house” on the tender. Investigators determined that a broken rail was the probable cause of the wreck.

Several things are interesting about this wreck in addition to the way the fireman was killed. The cut for a new, straighter track had already been made before the wreck occurred. This enabled track workers to quickly lay new track in the cut (as shown at the bottom of the photo above) to allow freight and passenger train traffic to resume relatively soon after the wreck while the cleanup continued. This photo plus others below were taken by Shreveport Times photographer Langston McEachern on the day after the wreck occurred and are used courtesy of the LSU Shreveport Noel Memorial Library Archives and Special Collections.



This photo gives us another view of the wreck. You can see the deep cut for the new track just left of the airplane wing strut. Also, we can see the passenger train traveling on the new track on the right side of the strut. This was Train No. 7, the *Southerner*, the first passenger train to run through the area since the wreck. Considering that the wreck occurred close to midnight on the night before, this is remarkable. It was possible because the cut had already been made before the wreck. In the center of the photo below, we can see the steam engine lying on its left side. Note all of the people up close watching the cleanup activity, including a lady and a small child! A friend of your Editor was a young boy who was taken there by his dad, and remembers Hershey bars all over the ground! His dad would not let him pick them up.



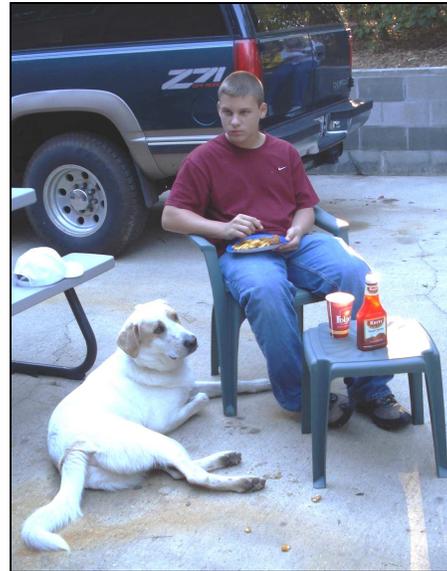
## **McNeill Street Pumping Station Railroad Exhibit**

A meeting between Louisiana Secretary of State museum officials (Cliff Deal and Lance Harris), McNeill Street Board Members (Dale Ward and James Mohr) and RRVRS officers (Russell Pedro and Gary Fox) occurred on October 13. Museum officials expressed their desire to work with the RRVRS on the railroad exhibit and to perhaps help with the expenses of renovating the building we are working on. Also, they fully support the move of D&R No.10 from Ford Park to the pump station and will do what they can to assist. We are excited about the opportunities that were discussed, and really appreciate everyone's support.

Recently we began to replace the mortar between the bricks where necessary. The interior is done but the exterior will require work, also. A budget has been prepared and submitted to Cliff Deal for possible funding. Please get involved and help! Call Gary Fox at 631-9164 for work dates and information.

The site is located at 142 N. Common Street. This is on the east side of the street 1/4 mile north of the intersection of Common with Caddo St. There is a "Shreveport Water Works Museum" sign in the front yard, as well as a large blue and white sign marking the driveway entrance.

## **THANKS to Kelly Jo, Mark and Charley !!**



We had a great time at the Brunnetin's on a beautiful fall day, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Russell, Gary and others cooked fish, french fries, hushpuppies, and shrimp. Kelly Jo cooked red beans and sausage, rice, etc. Others brought desserts. There were about 20 people in attendance, and you really missed a good time if you did not make it. Thanks to Mark and Jelly Jo for opening their beautiful, unique country home to us again, and to Charley for keeping us entertained. (Charley is the four-legged one)

## **Shreveport-Caddo Master Plan Workshop on November 17**

You have probably seen publicity about the neighborhood workshops that are being held to provide input to the Shreveport-Caddo master plan now being prepared. On Tuesday, November 17 from 6 until 8 p.m. a workshop covering the downtown and waterfront areas will be held at 400 Edwards St. This is our chance to provide input on development along Cross Bayou and other areas that we are interested in. Please plan to attend!

## **Society Meeting at the Glen Retirement Village**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, **November 20** at **7 p.m.** in the auditorium 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).

We will discuss renovation work at the McNeill Street Pumping Station (Shreveport Water Works Museum), moving D&R No. 10 and other activities. A great DVD about the history of the McNeill Street Pumping Station will shown. For information or directions call Dave Bland at (318) 470-5933.

### **Upcoming Events**

Nov. 17	Shreveport Master Plan Meeting (6 to 8:30 pm) at 400 Edwards St.
Nov. 20	RRVRHS Meeting and Program at the Glen Retirement Village
Dec. 18	RRVRHS Meeting and Program at the Glen Retirement Village

### **RRVRHS on the Internet**

Be sure to check out our own website at [www.rvrhs.org](http://www.rvrhs.org) where you can see the newsletters in living color. Thanks to Tommy Crenshaw for setting it up and updating it.

### **Email Addresses**

**Please** provide your email address to the Editor ([DDBland@aol.com](mailto:DDBland@aol.com)) so you can receive news and other information about current events. When email notifications are sent out, they are done in a manner that keeps your address confidential.

## The President's Message – November 2009

Hello Railfans:

Since our last meeting we have had one work session and it was a good one. We finished pointing up all the brick on the inside of the building at the pump station. Next we will be removing all the loose mortar on the outside of the building and replacing it with fresh mortar. After this has been finished we will be ready to replace the windows, install a drop ceiling, rewire the building, install a heating/AC system, resurface the floor, install display counters and build a handicap access ramp.

On October 13<sup>th</sup> Gary and I met with Mr. Cliff Deal and Mr. Lance Harris, both of the Louisiana Department of State. These men work for Mr. Jay Dardenne, the Secretary of State. Their job is coordinating all of the state museums. They asked us to supply them with a budget of our needs so they can help us with the museum. Both men were very positive about forthcoming help.

Dave and I compiled a realistic list of what we need to open the museum. This list along with the plan for moving D&R 10 to the pump station have been forwarded to Baton Rouge. Things are beginning to happen and we sure need all of you to support the Society and our efforts. Let's make the museum a reality! More later.

Happy Railroading!  
Russell

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

2424 Lakecrest Drive Shreveport, LA 71109

[www.rrvrhs.org](http://www.rrvrhs.org)

Russell Pedro – President      Dave Bland – Vice President  
Gary Fox – Secretary      Bill Hasheider – Treasurer  
Dave Bland – Newsletter Editor – 797-8008 – [DDBland@aol.com](mailto:DDBland@aol.com)

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### **It is time to pay your 2010 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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