

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

September, 2013

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 32nd Year

Texas & Pacific Steam Pile Driver PD1



This Texas & Pacific Railway steam driven pile driver was working on a temporary overpass on Kings Highway in March, 1958. A new overpass was constructed in connection with the widening of Kings Highway between Fairfield Ave. and Velva Street. The new overpass was included in the 1955 street bond improvement program. The Times photo was taken by Langston McEachern on March 26, 1958 and is shown courtesy of the LSU Shreveport Noel Memorial Library Archives & Special Collections.

Note the operator sitting in the doorway and the workman standing by the pole about to be hoisted. The pole was about 40 ft. long, sharpened on one end and rounded on the other. It was hoisted up, put in place, and hammered into the ground by repeated blows from a heavy weight that was pulled up by the rig and dropped. Bam! Bam! Bam! Hundreds of times for each post! The pile driver could not move itself along the track, it had to be put in place by a diesel locomotive since steam locomotives were gone by this time.



The flat railroad car behind the pile driver is numbered T&P X1239. It appears to contain a tender from a steam locomotive containing water and coal to fuel the steam engine inside the pile driver. Texas & Pacific Annual Reports listed as many as 6 pile drivers on their roster which covered Louisiana and Texas.

Note the number of posts that have already been driven in, and the old 2 door sedan about to go through the overpass (1946 Plymouth?). Also note the large number of electrical/telephone wires on the pole in the foreground. There are about 50 insulators visible.

There is still an overpass at this location on Kings Highway. It was a double track when used by the Texas & Pacific and the Missouri Pacific, but now is a single track used by the Union Pacific. There is another railroad overpass about 100 yards to the east on Kings Highway, originally used by the Southern Pacific.

Shreveport Railroad Museum on Facebook

Check out **Shreveport Railroad Museum** on **Facebook.com** to see some neat photos. Post some photos and comments yourself. It's a great way to introduce our activities to a new audience of young(er) people!

WWW.RRVRHS.ORG

Don't forget that our past newsletters back to 2009 can be seen in living **COLOR** on www.rvrhs.org thanks to member Tommy Crenshaw. Tommy has maintained this website for several years and people often use it. Thanks Tommy!

Next Meeting on Sept 20

The next meeting of the Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society will be held on Friday, **September 20** 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 (318) 470-5933.

Upcoming Events

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| Sept. 20 | RRVRHS Meeting – 7 pm at the Glen Retirement Village |
| Oct. 4 | First Friday Railroad Photography Meeting – 7:30 pm at the Shreveport Water Works Museum/Railroad Museum – 142. N. Common Street |
| Oct. 5-27 | Pumpkin Patch Express, Texas State Railroad, 11:30 am & 2:30 pm departing from Rusk every Saturday and Sunday – See www.texasstaterr.com or call 1-(877) 726-7245 |
| Nov. 9-10 | 29 th Annual Fort Worth Train Show, Will Rogers Memorial Center, Ft. Worth, TX |

The President's Message – September 2013

Hello Railfans !

I see by the calendar and Dave's phone calls that it is time to write another story for the newsletter.

Summer is almost gone and cooler weather is just around the corner. We have not been doing much on the museum because of the big Grand Opening last May and the hot weather but it is time to start on phase two. I have been working on the model of the hill area on the north side of the driveway. As soon as it is finished I can start getting bids to finish the museum. Gary has been in touch with city officials and we know what they need in the way of cost estimates. I will be calling on all of you to help again.

We did not have a Spring banquet this year because of the grand opening but it is now time for our annual Fall banquet in October. I will be getting in touch with everyone in the near future about our plans. We will be having the same menu as last time.

As you know, the "Ozone Room" at the McNeil Street Pumping Station is complete and can be used as a meeting room for all kinds of special events. In connection with this the First Friday group has voted to move their meetings to the pump station and the first meeting was held there on September 6th. I would like to invite everyone to attend the First Friday meetings as we always have lots of train pictures in the form of slides or movies. This group is not connected with the Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society in any way. There are no dues or fees to pay and there is no organization, but it has been going on for over 40 years. So invite everyone to attend and be a part of this group also.

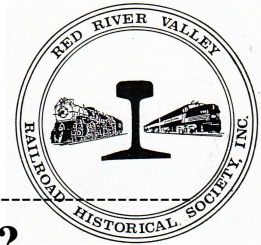
Also be advised that the Texas State RR and Jefferson RR are having Fall specials. Plan to attend some of those events.

Happy Railroading!
Russell

RED RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Shreveport, LA www.rrvrhs.org

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Are You Up-To-Date On Your 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