

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

Web Site: WWW.RRVVRS.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

September, 2015

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 34th Year

Cedar Grove Tower, Spring 1937



This tower was located near Cedar Grove on the south side of Shreveport where the Texas and Pacific Railway and the Kansas City Southern Railway tracks crossed. The crossing was called a “diamond” because that is what the rail intersection looked like from above. In this photo, Texas and Pacific 4-6-0 No. 395 is passing the tower. (Photo from *Trains Magazine*, September 1962)

Train Orders (Form 19) were handwritten by the Operator in the tower and given to the train crew in person (requiring the train to stop) or passed to the crew “on the fly” using a “train order hoop” held by the operator or mounted on the tower. The hoop was Y-shaped, and the train order was tied on a string running between the two legs of the “Y”. The train orders were called “flimsies” because they were written on very thin paper due to the number of carbon copies needed. Instructions on the bottom of the form said: “*Conductor and Engineman must each have a copy of this order. Conductor must read this order to at least one Brakeman, and Engineman must permit Fireman to read this Order. Other members of Crew must familiarize themselves with Order.*”

Here are some train orders actually written by the Cedar Grove Tower operator in 1929 and 1930.
See if you can figure them out!

FORM 19 THE KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
TEXARKANA AND FORT SMITH RAILWAY COMPANY
FORM 19

TRAIN ORDER No. 56
Shops May 3, 1929
Cedar Grove Tower

TO Opr
CPR M.

Extra 707 south has right
over Extra 701 north Shops
to Mansfield wait at
Cedar Grove Tower until 8:40pm
Leaving until 9:01pm
for Extra 701 north

629

CONDUCTOR AND ENGINEER MUST EACH HAVE A COPY OF THIS ORDER.
Conductor must read this Order to all crew members, and Engineers must read it to their own crew.
Other members of crew must familiarize themselves with this Order.

MADE Com TIME 6:57pm OPERATOR

SAFETY FIRST

FORM 19 THE KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY
TEXARKANA AND FORT SMITH RAILWAY COMPANY
FORM 19

TRAIN ORDER No. 18
Shops Aug 1 to 30

TO OPR No 37
Cedar Grove Tower

X
CPR M.

No 56 Eng 704 wait at
Frickson until 8:01 am for No
37 Eng 493. No 37 Eng 493
has right over No 38 Eng 526
Cedar Grove Tower to Noble.
Extra 700 North has right over
No 37 Eng 493 Jessville to
Converse.

629

CONDUCTOR AND ENGINEER MUST EACH HAVE A COPY OF THIS ORDER.
Conductor must read this Order to all crew members, and Engineers must read it to their own crew.
Other members of crew must familiarize themselves with this Order.

MADE Com TIME 6:36am OPERATOR

SAFETY FIRST

Upcoming Events

September 18 – RRVRHS Meeting – 7 p.m. - Shreveport Water Works Museum –
142 N. Common St. Call (318) 797-8008 for information.

Oct. 2 - 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.

The President's Message

Russell is currently in M. D. Anderson Hospital in Houston where he is being treated for periodic elevated temperatures, but expects to be released this week. He will stay in Katy with his sister for awhile until he receives his next chemotherapy treatments. He continues to experience some of the known side effects of that treatment, so please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Dave Bland

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

Next Meeting
September 18