

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

Jeff Cornelius – Secretary

Bill Hasheider – Treasurer

Dave Bland – Newsletter Editor – DDBland@aol.com

September, 2016

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 35th Year

We Deeply Regret...

“WE DEEPLY REGRET the situation which brings about this action. (We, too, have loved the passenger train!)” WN Deramus, III

Those were the closing words in a brochure addressed to *Patrons and Friends of Kansas City Southern Lines* published in 1967. William N. Deramus, III, was president of KCS/L&A from 1962 to 1973. They were announcing the discontinuation of all passenger train service. KCS was given permission to discontinue its last passenger service from Kansas City to New Orleans on November 3, 1969.

(Shreveport’s Union Station was gutted by fire 3 days later.) In May of 1968, KCS had been granted permission to discontinue its Kansas City to Port Arthur passenger service.



(The photo above appeared in the *Shreveport Journal*, announcing a Community Photo Fair to be held where readers were encouraged to bring old photographs in their personal collections for copying and use in the LSU Shreveport Noel Memorial Library Archives & Collections. There were many donations.)

The KCS brochure contained some interesting background information:

“We deeply regret the necessity to discontinue this service, but it is no longer possible to absorb the losses that result from passenger operations. In the year 1965 the loss to the company from passenger train operations amounted to approximately \$2,700,000. In 1966 this loss increased to approximately \$2,900,000. An important part of passenger train revenues comes from the transportation of mail for the U. S. Post Office Department. Two Railway Post Office (R.P.O.) cars have already been removed from our passenger trains, and we have been notified that the remaining R.P.O. cars will be removed on January 12, 1968...It certainly would not be in the best interests of our shippers, employees or stockholders to continue a service that cannot even closely approximate its cost.”

Upcoming Events

September 16 – RRVRHS Meeting – 7 p.m. - Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. Call (318) 458-3123 for information.

Oct. 7 - First Friday Railroad Photography Meeting – 7:30 p.m. at the Shreveport Water Works Museum – 142 N. Common St. – Call (318) 458-3123 for information.

The President’s Message

Hello Railfans!

I hope everyone has had a great summer. We have made very good progress on the museum. A small group including Jeff Cornelius, Dave Bland, Jim McClure, Conway Link, Gary Fox and myself reworked the proposed agreement with the city for the use of the site located next to the Water Works Museum. Dave and I met with an attorney, Frank Dodson, and he agreed to re-work our proposal for presentation to the city.

We had a very good meeting last month with Bobby Jelks from the Franks Foundation in attendance. He really wants to help and made many good suggestions of things we need to do. He arranged for Dale Ward and I to meet with Billy Grisham, a retired contractor, to act as the project manager for the construction of the museum site. Billy has secured a bid to clear the property for \$8,500.

Dave Bland has submitted a new grant application to the Union Pacific Foundation for \$20,000. We won’t know anything until February 2017.

I received a very nice letter from Dale Ward, Executive Director of the Shreveport Water Works Museum commenting on how our current museum has been favorably received by everyone. He also mentioned that a Monroe newspaper has contacted him about doing a story on both museums.

Well, that’s about all the news I have this time. Hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

Happy Railroading!
Russell

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

Next Meeting
September 16