



July Meeting

The July Meeting of Heart of the Heartlands was held July 12, 2017, at the Webb Center in Carona, KS. There were 18 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Cimarron River Triangle Train Trip

It appears that Jim McKeel will be the only Heartland member going on this ride. There is still a time if you are interested. Jim is planning on traveling to Virginia to ride some of the tourist railroads in the area in the near future.

Webb Center gets a printer

Darrell Cave found a Xerox Color Laser printer for the Webb Center. After approval of the club, the printer will be used in the Webb Center for various printing needs of the museum and the club.



Photo courtesy of Bill Gillfillan

Coffeyville Refinery Engine

It has been reported that the CVR engine that has been setting in Coffeyville since February may have been vandalized. The batteries are missing and the lock removed from the cab. All of the engine compartment doors have been left open. Although there is concern on the condition of the engine, there has been no official report on any vandalism to the engine at this time. Rick Webb and Brad Snow have been notified and Brad is working on getting it moved. There are items that need to be repaired before the move can take place. The railroad is working on a cost for repair of the items. More news will be posted as we learn more.

Block Signal

The BNSF signal maintainer came by the Webb Center and left us the electrical schematics and engineering specification as well as all of the inspection records that were with the signal. Again we would like to thank the BNSF railroad and their employees that helped us with the acquisition of the signal and moving and setting it on the new base for us. Without their help the signal would not have been saved and would most likely ended up in a junk gondola. The signal is now standing tall and is an attractive addition to the 1023 display. A big Heartland thank you to all of the people for their time and assistance on this project.



Where is it?

This section is a little bit of trivia. Here is the challenge:

- The pictures above are station signs that are currently in our museum.
- For each, what county and state was the town located in?
- What railroad owned each of those station signs?

The answers will be in next month's newsletter.

Photos courtesy of Brian Carlson

Last Month's signs:

Military - Cherokee County, KS - MKT
(Between Columbus & Galena)

Elk Falls - Elk County, KS - ATSF

Admire - Lyon County, KS - MOP

Motor Car Donation

The KCS ST-2 motor car that Steve Gardner donated to the Heartlands was picked up last weekend by several Heartland members. Joe Murphey and his friend Doug brought Joe's trailer over and met with Larry and Bryson Spahn, John Chambers and Steve Gardner to load the



motor car. Joe is taking the motor car to his home to evaluate just what needs to be done to make the car whole again. Several parts are missing and setting out in the weather has taken its toll on the old motor car. Steve also donated an old KCS cross buck which is of the type that used old boiler tubing that was cut and flattened and drilled on the end for attachment of the cross buck. Steve also donated an old KCS switch stand which is very heavy. After everything was loaded Steve mentioned that he had an eight foot lighted display case that we could have if we wanted it. There was no room on the trailers or trucks for the display case but after looking it over it was decided that we would come back and get it after we unloaded everything. Joe and his friend Doug followed us to Carona to help unload the items and then he headed home to Joplin. John Chambers and Larry Spahn returned to the shop and with a lot of help got the display case on the truck. It was left on the truck until the July meeting when it was unloaded. Steve also donated an older slide projection system. Thanks go out to Steve for his donations to the Heart of the Heartlands!

Summer Hour Visitors

The Webb Center and museum grounds were open to the public on June 27th and 28th. Heartland members that donated their time to help show visitors around were John Chambers, Michael Sheward, Jack Evans, Bryson Spahn and Larry & Kathy Spahn. Once again there were many visitors to the Webb Center. The KCS 1023 is a highly visited display with many coming specifically to see it. We need to have volunteers for the remaining first and third weekends in July and August. The museum will be open from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm on these days. If you can volunteer it will be greatly appreciated.

Passenger Cars

The passenger cars are still in Cherryvale. They have not been cleaned, any minor repairs made, or the AC ran as of yet. The September rides will be here before we know it.

Grass Mowing

Tom Johnston, John Shomin, Joe Murphey and Brad Bourbina have been working hard to keep the grounds looking good so far. It is now July and the rain has let up. Hopefully the drier weather will allow for some catch up time in areas that have not been cut due to the wet ground.

Weed Spraying

Heartland member Joe Carlson, recently brought his ATV and sprayer to the museum for a couple of hours. He sprayed weed killer on the parking lot and around the structures on the property. He plans to return in a week or two to hit anything missed. A big Heartland thank you to Joe for doing this service.

Upcoming Train Rides

A very busy September is in store for the train crews of the passenger cars.

- **Class of 1956 Train Ride:** We have been informed by Brad Snow that Kaye Lynn Webb is having a train ride for the PHS Class of 1956 in September. This ride is usually on a Sunday and leaves from Elm St. in Pittsburg around 11:00 am and travels to Carona. A luncheon is served to the class in the Webb Center and the group can tour our displays before returning to Pittsburg around 2:00 pm.

- **Little Balkans Train Rides:** Brad Snow reports that there will be two rides out of Pittsburg, KS on the morning of September 5th. In the past, these rides have left at 9:00 am and 11:00 am. At this point in time, we have not received confirmation on those times. On Sunday, the 6th, there will also be a ride from Pittsburg, KS to the Carona depot and museum. This is affectionately known as "The Chicken Train". The train in the past has left Pittsburg at 10:00 am and returned to Pittsburg around 2:00 pm. Again, we are awaiting official confirmation of those times.

- **Chanute Artist Alley Rides:** Three rides are planned for the Artist Alley celebration in Chanute on September 30th. 10:00am, 1:00pm and 3:00pm. This ride has been provided by Watco for many years, back when flat cars with bales of straw for seats were used and occasionally a caboose.

- **Dewey, Oklahoma Train Ride:** We have been in touch with the groups involved with three train rides out of Dewey on September 23, 2017. They are very excited to have the train in their city and feel that the rides should be sold out. The tickets are being printed and they will be delivered to them to put on sale.

Correspondence

John Chambers received an email from Janet Miller, Cherokee County Economic Development Director asking if we would like something about the museum in the 2018 Kansas Travel Guide. The publication is available online and also is sent out to about 400,000 places. Darrell Cave moved to spend \$85 to have information about our museum placed in the travel guide. Jack Evans seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the membership present. John Chambers will work with Janet on getting our information in the publication.

Jim McKeel received a request from a gentleman from Alabama for a copy of the Last Train from Cherryvale DVD. It was agreed that for \$25 a DVD would be shipped to the purchaser in Alabama.

Empire Engine

Vital Signs of Columbus recently placed the logos on the Empire Engine. They have helped provide the finishing touches on more than one of our projects. Thanks go out to them!



Colorado Train Rides

Dave Parker and Larry Spahn recently took a whirlwind trip to Colorado to ride four of their scenic railroads. The first day took them to Canon City and the Royal Gorge train ride with tickets for the first class observation car. This was a great ride and it passes beneath the suspension bridge which is over nine hundred feet above the train. The next day found them aboard the Cinco Animas with first class accommodations on the Durango Silverton Scenic railroad. They rode the train to Silverton and took the bus back to Durango, the bus ride was also a neat trip. From Durango they traveled to Chama, New Mexico where they spent the night in the old Shamrock Hotel just across the street from the station. Jim McKeel, another Heartland member that has spent a lot of time with the railroad had left the morning before they arrived. The next day the two rode aboard the first class Parlor Car on the trip to Antonito. A very good meal was served to the passengers at Osier, the midway point of the trip. Upon their arrival at Antonito they took the bus back to Chama. From Chama the duo went to Alamosa where they spent the night. The next morning found them aboard the La Vita Pass train, in the observation car, naturally. This trip proved to be interesting, aside from the scenery a sun kink developed beneath the car they were riding moving the ties and rails along with the coach twelve-fifteen inches toward the edge of of the ballast. This happened on a curve with a very sharp drop off of a couple of hundred feet. The remains of several freight cars were still in the process of being removed after the last derailment. After several hours waiting for the track crew who assessed the problem, the train was walked slowly through the problem area. This made the stay in La Vita longer than anticipated when it was decided that the track could not be repaired in time to get us back to Alamosa until long after dark. A bus eventually arrived to pick us up for the ride back. It turned out that the bus was not an air conditioned scenic cruiser but a very old, underpowered, forty five passenger, yellow, school bus without any air conditioning other than putting the windows down. After several stanzas of 99 bottles of beer on the wall and the wheels of the bus go round and round, the group arrived back in Alamosa around 7:15pm. The pair then headed east toward home. It was planned to maybe spend the night in Dodge or Garden City. Dave who was driving was still wide awake and it was decided to keep on going until we got tired. We arrived home around 7:00am the next morning and the trip is now filed away in our memories. I highly recommend this trip to anyone who likes a lot of beautiful scenery and old time mountain railroading. My personal rating of the train rides were: #1, the Cumbres Toltec, # 2, the Royal Gorge, #3, the Durango Silverton and last was the La Vita Pass train.

July 12, 2017 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The July 2017 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands Corporation was called to order by president Larry Spahn at 7:00 pm at the Webb Center building. Members in attendance were: Jack Evans, Brian Carlson, Alan Chilton, Bob Capps, Bryson Spahn, Larry & Kathy Spahn, Ivan & Denzil Voorhees, Dirk Rauikner, John Chambers, Gordon Garrett, Joe Carlson, Darrell Cave, Steve Gardner, Joe Murphy and Jim & Shirley Ann Hogben.

Minutes: The minutes of the June meeting were approved. [Jack Evans, Alan Chilton]

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer presented the monthly treasure's report describing the expenditures and monies received for the past month. The report was approved by a vote of the membership present. [Alan Chilton, Darrell Cave]

Old Business:

Block Signal: The BNSF signal maintainer came by the Webb Center and left us the electrical schematics and engineering specification as well as all of the inspection records that were with the signal. Again we would like to thank the BNSF railroad and their employees that helped us with the acquisition of the signal and moving and setting it on the new base for us. Without their help the signal would not have been saved and would most likely ended up in a junk gondola. The signal is now standing tall and is an attractive addition to the 1023 display. A big Heartland thank you to all of the people for their time and assistance on this project.

Grass Mowing: The heavy rains continue to be a pain to the volunteers who have been trying to get grass mowed. Every time it is almost dry enough to cut it rains again. Tom Johnston, John Shomin, Joe Murphey and Brad Bourbina have been working hard to keep the grounds looking good so far. It is now July and the rain keeps on falling. Let's hope that it will be drier for the July, August and September members who also signed up to mow the grass.

Coffeyville Refinery Engine: It has been reported that the CVR engine that has been setting in Coffeyville since February may have been vandalized. The batteries are missing and the lock removed from the cab. All of the engine compartment doors have been left open. Although there is concern on the condition of the engine, there has been no official report on any vandalism to the engine at this time. Rick Webb and Brad Snow have been notified and Brad is working on getting it moved. There are items that need to be repaired before the move can take place. The railroad is working on a cost for repair of the items. More news will be posted as we learn more.

New Business:

Motor Car Donation: The KCS ST-2 motor car that Steve Gardner donated to the Heartlands was picked up last weekend by several Heartland members. Joe Murphey and his friend Doug brought Joe's trailer over and met with Larry and Bryson Spahn, John Chambers and Steve Gardner to load

the motor car. Joe is taking the motor car to his home to evaluate just what needs to be done to make the car whole again. Several parts are missing and setting out in the weather has taken its toll on the old motor car. Steve also donated an old KCS cross buck which is of the type that used old boiler tubing that was cut and flattened and drilled on the end for attachment of the cross buck. Steve also donated an old KCS switch stand which is very heavy. After everything was loaded Steve mentioned that he had an eight foot lighted display case that we could have if we wanted it. There was no room on the trailers or trucks for the display case but after looking it over it was decided that we would come back and get it after we unloaded everything. Joe and his friend Doug followed us to Carona to help unload the items and then he headed home to Joplin. Joe will clean the car up and see what needs to be done and will get back with us. John Chambers and Larry Spahn returned to the shop and with a lot of help got the display case on the truck. It has been left on the truck until it is delivered to Carona where it will be unloaded. Steve also donated an older slide projection system. John Chambers moved to give Steve an honorary internet membership, Darrell Cave seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the membership present.

Passenger Cars: The passenger cars are still in Cherryvale and have not been cleaned or any minor repairs made as of yet. The AC also needs to be ran and checked for proper cooling. September will be here before we know it.

Weed Spraying: Heartland member, Joe Carlson, brought his ATV and sprayer to the museum on Sunday for a couple of hours. He mixed up and sprayed fifty gallons of weed killer on the parking lot, around the building, signals and other displays. Joe had already sprayed the area once and this was his follow up trip to get what was missed. A big Heartland thank you to Joe for taking the time and trouble to do this for us.

Summer Hours: The Webb Center and museum grounds were open to the public on June 27th and 28th. Heartland members that donated their time to help show visitors around were John Chambers, Michael Sheward, Jack Evans, Bryson Spahn and Larry & Kathy Spahn. Once again there were many visitors to the Webb Center. The KCS 1023 is a highly visited display with many coming specifically to see it. We need to have volunteers for the remaining first and third weekends in July and August. The museum will be open from 11:00 am until 5:00 pm on these days. If you can volunteer it will be greatly appreciated.

New Printer: Darrell Cave reported that he had found a color laser printer for the Webb Center. John Chambers moved to purchase the Xerox Phaser 6510/N Color Laser Printer at a cost of \$158.41. Alan Chilton seconded and the membership passed the motion.

Docent Guide Project: John Chambers and Alan Chilton reported that they are making progress on a docent guide program for the museum for volunteers to use when our museum is open to visitors. Bob Capps is working with them on a video training guide as well.

Cimarron River Triangle Train Trip Ride: It appears that Jim McKeel will be the only Heartland member going on this ride. There is still a time if you are interested. Jim is planning on traveling to Virginia to ride some of the tourist railroads in the area in the near future.

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scenery a sun kink developed beneath the car they were riding moving the ties and rails along with the coach twelve-fifteen inches toward the edge of of the ballast. This happened on a curve with a very sharp drop off of a couple of hundred feet. The remains of several freight cars were still in the process of being removed after the last derailment. After several hours waiting for the track crew who assessed the problem, the train was walked slowly through the problem area. This made the stay in La Veta longer than anticipated when it was decided that the track could not be repaired in time to get us back to Alamosa until long after dark. A bus eventually arrived to pick us up for the ride back. It turned out that the bus was not an air conditioned scenic cruiser but a very old, underpowered, forty five passenger, yellow, school bus without any air conditioning other than putting the windows down. After several stanzas of 99 bottles of beer on the wall and the wheels of the bus go round and round, the group arrived back in Alamosa around 7:15pm. The pair then headed east toward home. It was planned to maybe spend the night in Dodge or Garden City. Dave who was driving was still wide awake and it was decided to keep on going until we got tired. We arrived home around 7:00am the next morning and the trip is now filed away in our memories. I highly recommend this trip to anyone who likes a lot of beautiful scenery and old time mountain railroading. My personal rating of the train rides were: #1, the Cumbres Toltec, # 2, the Royal Gorge, #3, the Durango Silverton and last was the La Veta Pass train on the San Louis and Rio Grande Railroad.

Correspondence:

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Jim McKeel received a request from a gentleman from Alabama for a copy of the Last Train from Cherryvale DVD. It was agreed that for \$25 a DVD would be shipped to the purchaser in Alabama.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was passed, meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm. [Alan Chilton, Ivan Vorhees]