



June Meeting

The June meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on June 12, 2024 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 15 members and 1 guest present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Rob McKnight, Paul Morgan, David Parker, Larry & Kathy Spahn, Jack Evans, John Randall, Guy & Brenda Ferguson, guest Gage Ferguson, Brian Carlson, Denzil & Ivan Voorhees, Michael Sheward, and Darrell Cave,.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm, July 10, 2024 at the Webb Center in Carona.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxftDif_ezgw3UyQ

Missouri Pacific Emblem

The Missouri Pacific terra-cotta emblem that was located above the doorway to the freight station in Coffeyville has found its way to



MOP Emblem - Prior to razing

Carona. For decades, it was a fixture on the freight station and division office building for the MoPac. Later, for 10 years, it served as



MOP Emblem - Restored

the headquarters for Watco. When the building was torn down in October of 2015, the emblem was salvaged and placed into storage. There were four layers of brick that were still attached to the emblem and it was in dire need of some love and attention. Through the hard work of Kevin Anselmi, the emblem has been restored and now awaits display in the Webb Center at Carona. The plan is to construct a stand for it to be displayed in, similar to the Union Pacific emblem we currently have.



MOP Building - October 2015

- Photos by John Chambers

Train Depot Bench Donation

Heartland's member, Bob Still recently donated a depot bench to the museum. Larry Spahn and Brian Carlson recently met Bob at Decatur, Arkansas to pickup the bench and deliver it to Carona. Interestingly, the meeting took place at the KCS depot in Decatur; a remnant of an important piece of local history.

The depot bench was once used in the Chicago & Northwestern depot located in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Brian Holtz donated the bench to Bob Still so that it could be protected from the elements. Bob submitted the following story sent to him from Brian.



Lake Geneva Depot

From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.

These pictures were taken from an October 2014 car club that visited Carona. Over the years we have had several car clubs visit the museum and the grounds.

- Unknown photos



“When I was very young our family did not have much money and lived in Elmhurst, IL a suburb of Chicago. It was wartime (WWII). My father did not have to go to war as he was in the specialty steel business.

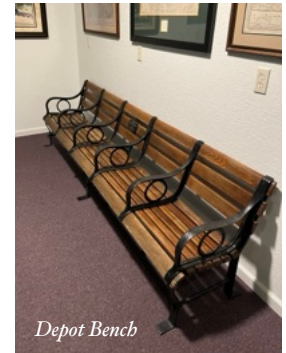


Larry Spahn & Bob Still

My Dad tried to give us a vacation and we would rent a room above a bar in Lake Geneva. I can remember going through the bar on our way to the beach across the street. I was between ages 3 and 6 and can remember the patrons patting my head and calling me “Whitey” because of my blond hair. The jukebox kept playing the song “Lay That Pistol Down, Babe” and the bar patrons would all laugh when I would say the name of the song!

While Mom and I would go to the beach, Dad would drive to Rockford to work with steel users. On Friday, Dad would take the C&NW commuter train from Lake Geneva to Chicago to do office work. We would meet the train when he returned. I remember it was usually 5 or 6 green cars with the big parlor car on the rear. It was pulled by a 1600 series Pacific (4-6-2), which seemed bigger than the 1500 series I was used to on commuter trains serving Elmhurst.

Saturday was the highlight, taking the mail boat around Lake Geneva. The boat would glide by the piers of the big homes and the mailman would jump off the front of the boat, put the mail in the box and jump on the rear of the boat. Very exciting for a young kid. I never saw him get wet or miss the boat and have to go around again!”



Depot Bench

Although it is from the C&NW, the bench is very similar to benches that would have been found in the four state area back when depots were plentiful and important parts of each community. It’s new service is going to be providing a place for people to rest while watching the model trains go through the layout in the Morgan Addition.

Announcements

- The Sunflower Summer Program runs from May 25 - August 11, 2024. This program is free to participants and allows them free admission to venues in Kansas. For us, we receive \$5 for every person that uses a “ticket” at our museum. Participants must be Kansas residents.

USD 506 Visits Carona

On June 7th, the USD 506 school district in Altamont, KS brought their summer school students to Carona on a field trip. With 78 students and sponsors divided among three buses, the morning



Photo by John Chambers

was filled with lots of activity. The buses spent time over a three hour period between our museum and Big Brutus. We had one bus at a time before the bus left for Brutus and was



Photo by John Chambers

replaced by another. Heartland member Don Richardson was aboard the KCS 1023 steam engine to explain the workings of a steam locomotive and to answer questions. Jim McKeel, David Parker, and Kathy and Larry Spahn were inside the Webb Center to show the groups the many displays and to answer questions. John Chambers gave a tour of the outdoor rolling stock and the Boston and Carona Depots. We received a \$200 donation from the school for their visit. Thanks goes out to all 2 the members that came in on Friday to help with this large group.

Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

bcarlson@ckt.net

620-820-9665 (leave message)

Additional Announcements

- As the summer begins, we expect more and more visitors at the museum. If you can come out on a Saturday or Sunday to help with visitors, it would be greatly appreciated.
- The SEK Museum Alliance passports are now available! We have our initial stock of 25 passports to provide to those interested visitors. The idea behind the passports is for an individual to pickup a passport at any of the participating museums in SE Kansas. They then take the passport to the various museums as they visit them and receive a stamp marking their visit.
- Reminder that the new rack cards advertising the Heart of the Heartlands are being distributed. If you know of a location that would be a good fit for our cards, let us know!

Heart of the Heartlands

6769 NW 20th St.
Scammon, KS 66773

Phone: 620-448-1065

Museum Director Report for May

Report by John Chambers

- The rain and end of school year activities seemed to have reduced the number of visitors on a daily basis, but larger groups of visitors have boosted the numbers.
- Between the May and June meetings there were 251 guests which included 78 from the Labette County school district.
- Besides the normal four state region we had people from Nebraska, South Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, Utah, Texas, Louisiana, Washington, Arizona and California, but no foreign countries.
- Member Mike Sypult spent most of one day doing research and scanning photos for one of his presentations.
- George Hoyt an old friend of the late Don and Oda Keeney came by to see their collection and he donated a stack of blank Frisco railroad forms that his sister had saved when she was a station agent.
- The Cherokee County museum in Columbus donated several boxes of three ring photo binders and two metal filing cabinets that Larry and I went and retrieved.
- There were two young guys from Arkansas and Louisiana stopped by and stayed around four hours. They were in the area after following the CP 2816 steam locomotive.
- Another two from Oklahoma and California also come by and stayed most of another day. All four were very impressed with the museum and have posted several pictures and information on their Facebook pages.
- There was a gentleman from Kansas City that was really interested in our signal collection. Turns out he used to be a signal maintainer for the UP and now works for a company that designs and builds modern railroad signal systems.
- John Rosacker from Kansas City called and said he had two large boxes of items he wanted to donate. He retired after 35 years with KDOT and ODOT Railroad Divisions. He has worked with Watco and the Webb's on many projects. The material he donated includes books, timetables, track charts and other state reports.
- A lady from Baxter Springs visited and videoed most of the museum for her YouTube channel. Her channel is named "Along the Way" and the video is "A Journey through the Heartlands Railroad Museum: Train Cars, Old Depots and Models" and is close to one hour long.
- Overall, even though we were slow during some of this time those who visited all seem to come away very impressed with the museum. There was even a couple from Illinois that gave us \$20 and the lady hugged me for staying late after we had closed and for showing them around.

June 12, 2024 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The June 12, 2024 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of previous meeting: Jack Evans moved to accept the minutes as mailed. Guy Ferguson seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the treasurer's report by treasurer Brian Carlson, Darrell Cave moved and Paul Morgan seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Missouri Pacific Emblem:

Kevin Anselmi called recently and said that the Missouri Pacific emblem salvaged from the offices in Coffeyville had been restored. He will have it delivered to the museum in the near future. The emblem looks very nice with all of the broken and chipped pieces restored and painted. The emblem is made from terra cotta and was badly in need of restoration. When we acquired the emblem it had four layers of bricks still attached to the back and was heavy and difficult to handle. These have been removed. We will need to have a display stand made to display it properly.

Monthly Museum and Visitors Report:

John Chambers gave his museum and visitors report:

- Attendance was down according to John, citing the end of school and the continuation of rain.
- Discussed the school visit from the USD 506 School District on June 7, 2024. There were 78 students and sponsors that were in attendance.

Rob McKnight Train Show Report:

Rob reported on the recent train show he had attended in Dewey, Oklahoma.

- The crowd was smaller than other shows.
- He had \$99 in sales plus a \$4 donation.
- Rob also mentioned that the brochures were running low.
- Brian will get another round ready to send to the printers to create new ones. This batch will have the Heartlands' phone number on it.

New Business:

Depot Bench:

Heartland member, Bob Still has recently donated a six person depot bench to the Heart of the Heartlands. It is made of oak and has cast arm legs and rest dividers. The bench has a plaque that honors

Brian and Joy Holtz and was once used by passengers riding the Chicago and Northwestern Railway. The seat is in excellent condition and will be a nice addition to our museum

Labette County District School Students Visit:

On Friday morning, June 7, a group of approximately eighty students and their chaperones visited the Webb Center for a guided tour of our displays. The students also visited Big Brutus. Don Richardson was aboard the KCS 1023 steam engine to explain the workings of a steam engine and to answer any questions the students had. Jim McKeel, David Parker and Kathy and Larry Spahn were inside the Webb Center to show the groups all of the many the displays and answered any questions the students had. John Chambers gave a tour of the outdoor rolling stock and the Boston and Carona depots.

Television Set:

The flat screen television set in the museum has given up the ghost and now needs to be replaced. Larry checked on a few sets at Wal-Mart where they have a couple of 70 inch sets for \$498.00. John Randall moved to spend a maximum of \$600 on a new TV. Guy Ferguson seconded the motion and it was passed by the members present.

Other Items:

- The Southeast High School alumni would be meeting at the Parita on Saturday, June 15th.

John Randall moved to adjourn the meeting. Jack Evans seconded the motion and it passed by the membership present.