



### May Meeting

The May meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on May 8, 2019 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 15 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Jack Evans, Alan Chilton, Brian Carlson, Larry & Kathy Spahn, Michael Sheward, Dick Rauniker, John Chambers, Ivan and Denzil Voorhees, Darrell Cave, Steve Gardner, and Connie & Mike Payton.

### Heart of the Heartlands

The monthly newsletter is constructed by Secretary-Treasurer Brian Carlson. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions you may reach him at: bcarlson@ckt.net 620-820-9665

## Wichita-Yoder Train Ride

The May 4th train ride from Wichita to Yoder was well attended with 185 persons riding the train and enjoying the trip. People from as far away as Texas, California and Illinois came to ride the train. Jim McKeel was contacted by KSN, Channel 3 TV, and was interviewed by a member of their news department about the upcoming ride. The interview was aired at 10:00 p.m. Thursday evening prior to the ride on Saturday.



Photo courtesy of Kathy Spahn

The interview was very well done and produced several more riders for the trip. Thanks to Jim McKeel for all of his work in making the rides out west successful. (Thanks to Brian Carlson for sharing the link of the interview.) A lot of things have to be planned and made to happen to make these



Photo courtesy of John Chambers

excursion rides possible. Without the outstanding support from Watco and the members of the SKOL and K&O railroads, these rides would not be possible.



Photo courtesy of John Chambers

Heartland members on hand to assist in the ride were Jim McKeel, Guy and Brenda Ferguson, Gordon Garrett, Denzil and Ivan Voorhees,



Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson

Dusty McCoy, John Chambers, Jack Evans, Brian Carlson, Matt Vogt and his son John, Phil Aylward, Kathy and Larry Spahn and Bryson Spahn. Many thanks to the members of the K&O management and staff for their assistance in presenting these excursion rides to the public. With the end of our spring passenger car train excursions, the passenger cars will be returning to Carona where they are normally stored until the upcoming fall train rides. The

Heartlands thank all of the members who donated their time and money to be on hand at all of our rides. We have great support from our membership to assist in making these excursion rides a pleasant

## What is it?

This is an item that is currently located in the Carona museum. What is it?



Answer next month

*Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson*

Last Month's picture was a spring wound clock out of the Santa Fe depot in Pekin, Illinois. Part of the John Downs collection

## Announcements

- The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Webb Center. We hope to see you there.
- The antique car club of Cassville, MO is planning on visiting the Carona museum on June 22. They hope to get here around 11:00 - 12:00.

## MKT Motor Car Donation

In mid April, Larry Stringer of Parsons donated a MKT Fairmont MT14 motorcar, MKT station signs from South Mound, KS and a Santa Fe motorcar indicator. We missed thanking him in the last newsletter and wanted to make sure we got him included in this one. The photo on the right is Mr. Stringer with the MKT Fairmont that he donated to the Heartland's. A Heartland thank you to Larry for his donation.



*Photo courtesy of John Chambers*



*Photo courtesy of Larry Spahn*

## Clearwater Train Ride

There were two train rides out of Clearwater on April 27. Both were well attended with 244 persons on the first ride and 250 on the second. The weather was very nice and the western scenery at it's finest. The plentiful spring rains had the prairies at their greenest with many of the native wild flowers in full bloom. Heartland members Jim McKeel, Dusty McCoy and Chuck Dugnolle were kept busy on the ride. The train really looked good, the cars and engines were spic and span with the "Shocker" engine feature at the head of the train. Many pictures were taken and shared on the internet.

## Summer Visitor Hours

We need volunteers to help out at the museum for the upcoming months of June, July and August. We will be open from **11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m** on June 1-2, June 15-16, July 6-7, July 20-21, August 3-4, and August 17-18. We have information available to help anyone tour the museum grounds. Members available to watch and help guide visitors are of the utmost need.

## Test Passenger Train

The operation of this train is still pending. All information at this time is **TENTATIVE** and subject to change or cancellation.

## Donation

Heartland member Jim VanBeceleare recently donated several KCS related items to our library. Jim did a lot of work on the preservation of the 1023. He was aboard the engine when it was moved into Schlanger Park in 1956. A depot chair from the Frisco depot in Cherryvale, KS was donated by the family of R.J. Zinc. Bob served in the Philippines with the 749th railroad battalion during WWII. He worked for the Frisco as an agent and telegrapher in many of the area stations before retiring from the BN in 1982.

## Grass Mowing

April was a busy month. The grounds needed mowing every week. May has been a challenge dodging rain. It has been a challenge getting the grounds mowed between rains and not getting the mowers stuck.

## Eagle Scout Project

With school wrapping up, we had not heard any more from our Eagle Scout candidate, Seth Lindsey. At the end of May, Larry met with him in regards to his plans on beginning the work on the WPA outhouse. We will keep you posted as this project progresses.

## Souvenir Sales

The souvenir sales were very good at all of the train rides. We have greatly reduced the number of tee shirts and have sold most of our supply of hats and all of our stuffed animals. We have re-ordered the wooden train whistles.

## New Addition

Jim Page of Better Built by Barnes came out and moved the storage building back to the west where it will be out of the way to start on construction. If it ever stops raining we are planning on having the footing and floor poured for the new addition. Treiber Finishing of St. Paul, Kansas was the low bidder. The club moved to have Treiber Finishing pour the floor for the addition to the museum. When it is dry enough to do any work without getting stuck, Treiber Finishing will begin the project.

## Note from the Editor..

I hope that everyone enjoys the monthly newsletter. Sometimes it is later than I wish for it to be sent out, but there are months that are more challenging than others in getting things done in a timely manner in my daily world. Thanks for your patience.

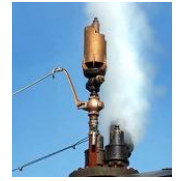
I wanted to take a moment and mention something that we are doing more and more of as time goes by. With the benefits of technology and the ease at which pictures and video can be posted on the internet, we are coming across more and more items of interest to our members. For example, last month member Jim McKeel was featured in an interview for Channel 3 in Wichita. The link for that interview was sent to those members who have given an email address to us. Some of our members only receive a mailed copy of the monthly newsletter. That is great! We are glad to have you as a member. However, if you would like to still receive your newsletter mailed to you BUT ALSO would like to receive things from the club such as videos, pictures, links to interesting articles, etc. send me your email address and we can get you setup. You will still have your monthly newsletter delivered to you via the USPS.



### Got a spot?

Don't hesitate to send something in if you have a place you have been or would like to go to. Our members would love to hear about it!

# Whistle Stop!



## Another Trip Through the Ozarks

My wife and I were on the road again recently. Thank goodness she is such a wonderful and supportive person, plus enjoys train rides. We took a trip on the Branson Scenic Railway as our quest for rides on the rails continued. Running on tracks owned and operated by the Missouri and Northern Arkansas Railway, the train departs from the historic depot in downtown Branson, MO. On our particular day for our journey, there were two scheduled rides. The one we chose departed at 11:30 a.m. heading south out of Branson. The train traveled 20 miles south to the Barren Fork Trestle in Arkansas. Once there, the train returned to Branson arriving back at the station around 1:20. This allowed the crew time to prepare for the second trip of the day that was scheduled to depart at 2:00 p.m. On the day we rode the train, just as we were arriving back at the station, a severe thunderstorm was gracing Branson with its presence. As a result, the 2:00 p.m. ride was cancelled.



With the abundance of rain that has fallen in the area, everything was nice and green and full of life. The view was a very nice and pleasant one and I can only imagine that during the fall foliage it would be beautiful as well. The railway operates from March through December. Rides in March through May consist of the daily 11:30 and 2:00 rides, Monday through Friday. On Saturday's in those three month's the 11:30 and 2:00 rides are joined by a 5:00 p.m. dinner train ride. There are no rides on Sunday's in those months. In June and July, their Monday - Friday schedule picks up an additional train ride at 4:30 p.m. They have a popular Polar Express ride schedule that starts in November. It must be a big hit because when we were there, they were advertising that their Polar Express tickets had gone on sale in April. Check out their website, <https://www.bransontrain.com>, to learn more.



We enjoyed the trip on their vintage Budd Company produced equipment. They had 3 vista dome cars, as well as a snack car and dining coaches. The price for the Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. ride was about \$30 per person. That is a little below the average price of things in Branson it seems so that was nice as well. So, if you are looking for a ride of about 2 hours, through some scenic countryside, you might give the Branson Scenic Railway a try.

- Brian Carlson

## Book Review Section!!!

This section is for a set of book reviews that member John Chambers has put together. We have several books in our small library at the Webb Center, but we are having more and more people ask about what books talk about the history of the railroads in the 4-state area. John has taken the time to produce these short book reviews to aid in ones' quest for that missing railroad history. Enjoy!



Museum open for visitors July 2018

## From the Past...

The following two books are on the same subject the Arkansas Valley Interurban which is the trolley line that linked Wichita to Newton and Hutchinson.

### *Arkansas Valley Interurban*

Isely, M.D. (Doc). *Arkansas Valley Interurban*. Glendale, CA: Interurbans, 1977 revised edition.

This soft back book is an update of the original done in 1956 which tells the history of the AVI from its inception in 1903 to its demise in 1942. Like so many other interurbans the automobile and improved roads killed this once active line. This book does a good job telling the story of this company. It is well illustrated with photographs, maps and a car roster. The back of the book has a chapter on the Hutchinson & Northern Railway which was another electric road which operated for freight only in Hutchinson. Copies can be found on Amazon starting under \$10.00 and up.

### *Arkansas Valley Interurban: The Electric Way*

Collins, Robert. *Arkansas Valley Interurban: The Electric Way*. David City, NE: South Platte Press, 1999.

Another soft back book on the AVI. Robert Collins has done a good job telling the history of this trolley line. It mirrors some of the same information in the Isely book and has some of the same photographs but it does expand on the end of the AVI. It also has a more complete roster of equipment and a section on what remains of the line. It is still for sale by the publisher, check out their website at [www.southplattepress.com](http://www.southplattepress.com).

## May 8, 2019 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The May 8, 2019 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Darrell Cave moved to accept the minutes as mailed. Michael Sheward seconded the motion, the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** After the presentation of the treasurer's report by treasurer Brian Carlson, Jack Evans moved, Alan Chilton seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

### Old Business:

**Clearwater, Kansas Train Ride:** The two train rides were well attended with 244 persons on the first ride and 250 on the second. The weather was very nice and the western scenery at it's finest. The plentiful spring rains had the prairies at their greenest with many of the native wild flowers in full bloom. Heartland members Jim McKeel, Dusty McCoy and Chuck Dugnolle were kept busy on the ride. The train really looked good, the cars and engines were spic and span with the "Shocker" engine feature at the head of the train. Many pictures were taken and shared on the internet.

**Wichita-Yoder Train Ride:** The May 4th train ride from Wichita to Yoder was well attended with 185 persons riding the train and enjoyed by all. Persons from as far away as Texas, California and Illinois came to ride the train. Jim McKeel was contacted by KSN, Channel 3 TV and was interviewed by a member of their new department about the upcoming ride. The interview was aired at 10:00 p.m. Thursday evening prior to the ride on Saturday. This interview was very well done and produced several more riders for the trip. Thanks to Jim McKeel for all of his work in making the rides out west successful. (Thanks to Brian Carlson for sharing the link of the interview.) A lot of things have to be planned and made to happen to make these excursion rides possible. Without the outstanding support from Watco and the members of the SKOL and K&O railroads, these rides would not be possible. Heartland members on hand to assist in the ride were Jim McKeel, Guy and Brenda Ferguson, Gordon Garrett, Denzil and Ivan Voorhees, Dusty McCoy, John Chambers, Jack Evans, Brian Carlson, Matt Vogt and his son John, Phil Aylward, Kathy and Larry Spahn and Bryson Spahn. Many thanks to the members of the K&O management and staff for their assistance in presenting these excursion rides to the public. With the end of our spring passenger car train excursions, the passenger cars will be returning to Carona where they are normally stored until the upcoming fall train rides. Larry thanked all of the Heartland members who donated their time and money to be on hand at all of our rides. We have great support from our membership to assist in making these excursion rides a pleasant and enjoyable event for the passengers that come to ride the trains.

**Test Passenger Train:** No new information has been received at this time. The operation of this train is still pending. All available information at this time is **TENTATIVE** and subject to change or cancellation.

**New Addition:** Jim Page of Better Built by Barnes came out and moved the storage building back to the west where it will be out of the way to start on construction. If it ever stops raining we are planning on having the footing and floor poured for the new addition. Treiber Finishing of St. Paul, Kansas is the apparent low bidder. Jack Evans moved to accept the bid from Treiber Finishing for \$11,700 for the pouring of the floor for the addition to the museum. Darrel Cave seconded the motion and the motion passed. When it is dry enough to do any work without getting stuck, Treiber Finishing will be the project.

**Eagle Scout Project:** No further word has been received from Eagle Scout, Seth Lindsey on when he plans beginning the work on the WPA outhouse. Seth is still in school and is busy finishing up the school year.

### **New Business:**

**Summer Hours:** We need volunteers to help out at the museum for the upcoming months of June, July and August. We will be open from **11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m** on June 1&2, June 15&16, July 6&7, July 20&21, August 3&4, and August 17&18.

**Grass Mowing:** The grass needed to be mowed four times during the month of April and May doesn't look much better. The old Snapper mower is not running real well but is still doing the job. The new Hustler is working fine. It does have a left rear tire that has a slow leak and needs to be checked before using. The air compressor is still usable in the mower shed. A cord is being used to plug into the receptacle at the rear of the museum. This is a temporary solution.

**Car Club:** The antique car club of Cassville, MO is planning on visiting the Carona museum on June 22. They hope to get here around 11:00 - 12:00. With the age of the cars varying from 1900's - 1970's the arrival time may change. The number of cars attending is very dependent upon the weather.

**Fence Removal:** Comments have been received about the barbed wire fence on the north side of the museum. It has been partially removed because of the construction of the new addition. It is dangerous to mow around and is really no longer needed and this section needs to be removed. After some discussion, it was agreed to find possible alternatives to keep a fence along the road to discourage unauthorized entry into the museum grounds.

**Souvenirs:** The souvenir sales were very good at all of the train rides. We have greatly reduced the number of tee shirts and have sold most of our supply of hats and all of our stuffed animals. We have re-ordered the wooden train whistles.

### **Correspondence:**

- Darrell Cave announced that the taxes for the club have been filed. Thanks Darrell for taking care of this annual requirement.
- Bob Black who lives in the former Gay Parita on the corner, donated some Haldeman-Julius books to the Heartlands.

**Donations:** Heartland member Jim VanBeceleare recently donated several KCS related items to our library. Jim did a lot of work on the preservation of the 1023. He was aboard the engine when it was moved into Schlanger Park in 1956. A depot chair from the Frisco depot in Cherryvale, KS was donated by the family of R.J. Zinc. Bob served in the Philippines with the 749th railroad battalion during WWII. He worked for the Frisco as an agent and telegrapher in many of the area stations before retiring from the BN in 1982.

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