



May Meeting

The May meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on May 12, 2021 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, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Bryson Spahn, Connie & Michael Payton, Jim McKeel, W.D. Carter, Ivan & Denzil Vorhees, Bill Gillifan, Darrell Cave, John Chambers and Brian Carlson.

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

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

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

Guests of Carona

Even with the limitations on groups, we are still receiving requests for special tours from people wanting to see what we have. John Chambers has been handling most of the requests and he, along with Larry and Kathy Spahn are there to greet the visitors to the museum complex. In the past month, some noteworthy individuals made the trip to Carona.

On April 24, 2021, the Rad Dads from Bella Vista, Arkansas toured the complex. Their stop in Carona was part of their weekend of camping and fishing and visiting museum's in the area. The group



Photo courtesy of Rad Dads Club



Photo courtesy of Rad Dads Club

enjoyed walking around and looking at the outdoor exhibits as well as taking in the displays inside the museum. A special thank you letter was received from the group, thanking the Heartlands and John Chambers for our wonderful hospitality and John's great stories and explanations of the exhibits. According to the group, their visit to Carona was the highlight of their weekend. To top it off, a SKO freight train came through, almost on cue, to the delight of the visitors. In the thank you, was a generous donation to the Heartlands which we extend our thanks to their generosity. They plan on returning to Carona in the future.



Photo courtesy of Rad Dads Club



Photo courtesy of Rad Dads Club

May 7, 2021 saw the arrival of the Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter of the National Railway



Photo courtesy of ABM NRHS

Historical Society. Upon their arrival, John Chambers led the group in touring the outdoor exhibits. They completed their outside quest for knowledge just as the rain began to



Photo courtesy of ABM NRHS

What is it?

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



Answer next month

Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson

April's "What is it?" The red "Katy" caboose was built in May of 1966. Retired by the Union Pacific railroad in 1989 after they had acquired the MKT railroad. Later acquired by Watco and donated to the Heart of the Heartlands.

Announcements

- The next meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands will be June 9, 2021 at the Webb Center starting at 7:00 pm.
- Slide Show! There is a slide show scheduled for June 19 from 11 am to 5 pm. Ken Albrecht and Bob Plough will present on the MoPac White River Line and the Frisco along the Spring River in Arkansas. Bring snacks and enjoy the show.

fall. After enjoying the lunch they had brought, they enjoyed the indoor displays of artifacts. The group also left a donation along with remarks of an enjoyable visit.

Brock Kerchner from Pennsylvania visited Carona on May 19, 2021 for about three hours. Brock is the president of the Conrail Historical Society and is the author of a new book coming out in September on the Conrail business car fleet and operations. His visit to Carona was to see the Watco business car, Tallgrass, a former Conrail car. Brock is going to donate a copy of his book to the Heartlands when it is released in September.



Brock Kerchner in the Tallgrass dining room.

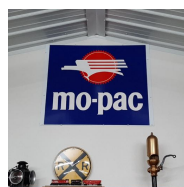
- Photo courtesy of John Chambers.

Dave Calwell Collection

The delivery of the sliding glass display doors has been completed. After discussing the need to transfer the doors and possibly damaging or breaking one or more with Dave Calwell, it was decided that it would be best if Larry Spahn deliver them directly to Dave's home in Topeka. Kathy and Larry Spahn went to Carona and carefully loaded the doors into his pickup and Larry headed to Topeka at 8:00 am the next morning. On the way Larry decided to call Jim McKeel, and asked if he wanted to meet Larry in Yates Center and go on to Topeka and help unload. Jim agreed and the two set off from Yates Center. After lunch we returned to Dave's home and he showed us how his work was progressing on the cataloging of his collection and then we headed back home.

Missouri Pacific Decals

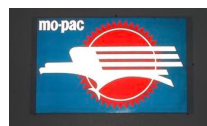
The MoPac decals that were donated to us by Perry Lambert over ten years ago have finally been put on display. The signs were put on backing by Vital Signs of Columbus, KS. Vital Signs also made and installed the



This decal would have been used on semi-truck trailers used by the MoPac.

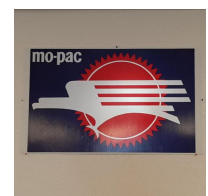
- John Chambers photo

decals on the 1023 and 1000 locomotives and have never charged us for their time and materials. Our thanks to them for their contributions to our projects.



This is the locomotive decal, reflecting the natural light in the darkened room.

- Larry Spahn Photo



This decal would have been used on MoPac locomotives or cabooses.

- John Chambers photo

Donations

- Mrs. Pam Potter, the daughter of John Roberts, a longtime engineer for the Kansas City Southern, donated three boxes of various railroad related papers that she had found in her father's belongings that she donated to the Heartlands museum.

Items of Interest

- Recently the museum was suffering from low water pressure. After a visit from the crew from Rural Water District #4, the problem has been resolved.
- Weed killer has been purchased to spray the grounds in an attempt to remove the weeds.
- A committee was formed to look into possible changes to membership dues. The committee made a presentation at the May meeting and the topic will be discussed at the June meeting.
- The annual Corporation taxes have been filed. Our thanks to member Darrell Cave for handling this item each year.

Summer Museum Hours

We have decided to open the museum up to visitors this summer following our normal schedule. Our normal museum hours are the first and third weekends of June, July, and August. June is just around the corner and thus the first weekend we will be open will be June 5-6. We need volunteers to help assist during these weekends. Even if you do not know that much about the exhibits, we need volunteers to watch people, especially the unguided children, keeping them safe and our displays and artifacts undamaged. Our gift shop is also open during these times and can always use a volunteer or two helping in this area. There are printed guides available as well for people to use as they tour the displays. Also, the QR code's are on the outdoor exhibits providing information for our guests. Our hours are 11:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday on the following dates: June 5-6, June 19-20, July 3-4, July 17-18, August 7-8 and August 21-22. If you can help during any of these weekends, it would be great!

Inquiry of Santa Fe #1050

John Chambers received an email from a young man asking the club for some insight on the rehabilitation efforts of the Santa Fe steam engine #1050 located in Riverside Park in Independence, KS. A fifth



grade student named Kellen Ebert, contacted the club asking for advice on how to proceed with his restoration plans of the #1050. On April 19, John Chambers along with fellow Heartlands member, Don Richardson, met with Kellen, his mother and a member of the Independence parks service in Riverside



Park to help answer Kellen's questions. Our role has been advice and avenues to explore. We hope Kellen's quest for restoration is successful.

Jackson Gilley is pictured in the photos. Photos courtesy of his dad, Gene Gilley. The Gilley family are new members to the Heartlands.

Clean Up Day

The depot museum clean up day held on April 24. The turnout was not as great as in the past, possibly due to Covid-19. Those attending were Connie Payton, Jack Evans, John Chambers and Kathy and Larry Spahn. A Big Heartlands Thank You to these members.

May 12, 2021 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The May 12, 2021 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. Darrell Cave seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the treasurer's report by treasurer Brian Carlson, Jim McKeel moved, John Chambers seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Dave Calwell Collection: The delivery of the sliding glass display doors has been completed. After discussing the need to transfer the doors and possibly damaging or breaking one or more with Dave Calwell, it was decided that it would be best if Larry Spahn deliver them directly to Dave's home in Topeka. Kathy and Larry Spahn went to Carona and carefully loaded the doors into his pickup and Larry headed to Topeka at 8:00 am the next morning. On the way Larry decided to call Jim McKeel, and asked if he wanted to meet Larry in Yates Center and go on to Topeka and help unload. Jim agreed and the two set off from Yates Center. After lunch we returned to Dave's home and he showed us how his work was progressing on the cataloging of his collection and then we headed back home.

Visits to Museum: Visitors to the museum continue with many calling ahead to arrange visits. John Chambers, Jack Evans and Larry met with the Chad Smith group, the Rad Dads, of Bella Vista, Arkansas, recently. They had spent the weekend enjoying camping, fishing and visiting our museum, which was the high point of their trip. Many of the visitors enjoyed taking the walking tour of the outdoor displays.

NRHS-Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter: A group of dedicated rail fans visited our museum on Friday, May 7th. The group arrived at Carona in the morning and due to threatening rain quickly began their tour of the outside displays. John Chambers gave the group a walking tour of the displays and they completed the tour as rain began to fall. The group decided to have their lunch inside and after eating did a tour of the inside displays. Everyone was pleased with the visit and enjoyed their visit. The club donated \$105.00 dollars to the Heartlands. Kathy and Larry Spahn were on hand to assist with the tour.

Water Pressure Problem Solved: We have had low water pressure in the museum and the outside water faucets for a while and it had really decreased lately. Larry called Fred Heistand, the RWD maintenance man, and he came out on May 7. Larry asked him to replace the meter well while he was here. It had always been to low and held water.

Herbicide Purchase: Larry got in touch with Cherokee County Noxious Weed Department and purchased seven and one half gallons of Mad Dog herbicide for use on weed control around the museum grounds and displays.

Clean Up Day: The depot museum clean up day held on April 24 did not have as many members present as we have had in the past which is probably due to Covid-19. Those attending were Connie Payton, Jack Evans, John Chambers and Kathy and Larry Spahn. A **Big Heartlands Thank You** to these members.

Membership Proposal: The membership committee presented a draft of the proposed membership fees for 2022. After discussion and suggestions from those present, the committee will produce a final draft to present to the club at the next meeting.

Annual Taxes: Member Darrell Cave announced that the tax returns for the year have been completed. Thanks to Darrell for taking care of this annual necessity.

New Business:

Santa Fe #1050 Locomotive in Independence, KS: John Chambers informed the club on the rehabilitation efforts of the Santa Fe steam engine #1050, by fifth grade student Kellen. On April 19, John Chambers along with fellow Heartlands member, Don Richardson, met with Kellen, his mother and a member of the parks' service where the locomotive currently resides.

Box Car: John Chambers briefed the club in regards to an email that was received on April 25th. The email was from a lady wanting information on a boxcar on her property that she wanted to renovate into a beauty shop.

Volunteers Needed for Summer Visits: Since we have decided to have the museum and displays open on the first and third weekends of June, July and August we will need volunteers to come out and assist in doing this. We need members inside the museum to show people the displays and to keep kids from trying to play with things. We also need help selling souvenirs.

Vital Signs: The MoPac decals that were donated to us by Perry Lambert over ten years ago have finally been put on display. The signs were put on backing by Vital Signs of Columbus, KS. Vital Signs also made and installed the decals on the 1023 and 1000 locomotives and have never charged us for their time and materials.

Donation: Mrs. Pam Potter, the daughter of John Roberts, a longtime engineer for the Kansas City Southern called and asked me to meet her in Frontenac. She had three boxes of various railroad related papers that she had found in her fathers belongings that she donated to the Heartlands museum.

Correspondence:

- Brian Carlson informed the group that the McCune Coop was to have their annual meeting on May 18.

- John Chambers mentioned the 2021 Kansas Travel Guide. The Cherokee County Economic Development will pay 25% of the cost to be in the travel guide for 2021. It was agreed to use the same listing as last year.
- Jim McKeel talked about an email we had received from Sunflower Publishing. The company produces the KANSAS! magazine. The magazine promotes places to see and visit all over the state. The Heart of the Heartlands will be featured in the future in their “Reasons We Love Kansas” section.
- Jim McKeel also informed the club that Kansas Sampler Foundation’s Big Kansas Road Trip will be hosted by Bourbon, Crawford and Cherokee Counties May 5-8, 2022. We have verified that our complex is on the list of places to visit.
- Brian Carlson read a letter to the club that was received from Heartland member Bill B. Bailey. The letter included information about early 20th century Kansas City Southern insulators as well as information on train order hoops used by passing train crews to “pickup” train orders on the fly.

Ivan Vorhees moved to adjourn the meeting. W.D. Carter seconded the motion and it passed by the membership present.

Back in Time?

This section is about railroad lines that may have since been abandoned. Where did they go? A brief history of some forgotten places.

Where Did They Go?

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Chanute, KS to Pittsburg, KS

This article originally appeared in the Heartland's May 2019 Newsletter.

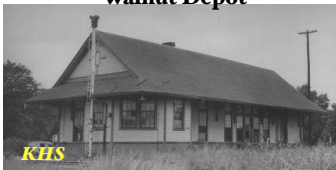
Chanute Depot



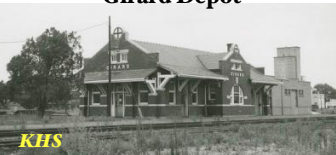
Erie Depot



Walnut Depot



Girard Depot



Frontenac Depot



Pittsburg Depot



KHS Photos - Kansas State Historical Society

The Girard branch of the Santa Fe served the communities of Chanute, Erie, Walnut, Girard, Frontenac and Pittsburg. It's terminus was in Chicopee, KS but the Santa Fe also had track rights on the Kansas City Southern railroad to Joplin, MO. The Santa Fe was one of four railroads that contributed to the construction of the Joplin Union Depot so they had passenger and freight service to Joplin. Construction of the line began in the early 1880's from Chanute and reached Girard in January 1884. The section from Girard to Frontenac was built in 1886-7 and reached Frontenac in April of 1887. It was in 1887 that the track made its way through Pittsburg and reached Chicopee. In 1912, the Santa Fe acquired track rights to Joplin.

The Girard branch was always a branch line and thus saw freight traffic with some passenger traffic mixed in. A large amount of passenger service was handled by motor cars or Doodlebugs. According to a time table from November 4, 1896, there was a daily freight train, one each direction between Chanute and Pittsburg. Also during this time was a couple of different passenger trains. Passenger train 242 would leave Pittsburg daily at 10:40 am and reach Chanute at 12:40 pm. At 3:00 pm, passenger train 241 would depart Chanute making its way back to Pittsburg with a 5:05 pm arrival time. During the day, passenger train 245 would leave Girard heading for Pittsburg at 9:55 am. That train would arrive in Pittsburg at 10:35 am. At 5:10 pm, passenger train 246 would leave Pittsburg to arrive back in Girard at 5:50 pm.

By June of 1938, there was still a daily freight train to and from Chanute to Pittsburg. However, passenger traffic was being handled by motor cars. The Girard to Pittsburg daily passenger train was gone, but there was still daily passenger traffic from Chanute to Pittsburg. Motor car passenger service would leave Chanute at 8:24 am and arrive in Pittsburg at 10:05 am. At 10:10 am, the motor car would leave Pittsburg heading back and arriving at Chanute at 11:50 am. The Chanute to Pittsburg morning run was also part of scheduled passenger service from Emporia to Pittsburg. The motor car would leave Emporia at 5:00 am and make the trek south of Emporia through Madison, KS to Benedict, KS to Chanute arriving around 8:10 am. It would then head to Pittsburg as scheduled.

Passenger trains on the Girard branch disappeared long before all passenger service on the Santa Fe ended on April 30, 1971, but the Girard branch line still provided mixed freight service. Prior to April 30, 1971, if one knew to ask an agent, one could purchase a ticket to ride on the line with a seat in the caboose. Freight service continued on the line till the track was abandoned on April 12, 1986.



Old Santa Fe grade. Looking east from the NE corner of Erie.



Overgrown concrete culvert on Santa Fe grade between Erie and Walnut.



Heading SE through Walnut. The MKT crossed in the tree line pictured here.



Former Joplin St crossing in Pittsburg. This is looking NE. The building in the background was at the south end of the Santa Fe yard. The yard ran north & south on the east side of Joplin Street.