



September Meeting

The September meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on September 8, 2021 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 14 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Jack Evans, Joe Murphey, Tom Johnston, Ivan & Denzil Vorhees, Bob Capps, John Chambers, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Paul Morgan, Bill Gillfillan, Brian Carlson, and Mike and Connie 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

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

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

Groups Visit the Museum

In the last 4-6 weeks there have been a couple of large groups that have visited the Webb Center and the outdoor exhibits on the museum grounds. There have also been several smaller groups as more and more people contact us to arrange tours and visits. Word is getting around about what we have for people to come out and enjoy the history that we strive to preserve. Perhaps in the future, when the pandemic ends, we can begin to pursue options to handle more guests on a more regular basis. Below are two large groups that have toured at Carona.

- SEK Old Time Gas Engine & Tractor Club

Saturday, August 14, 2021, brought the Southeast Kansas Old Time Gas Engine & Tractor Club to Carona. Twenty one tractors arrived at the museum around 10:00 a.m. Along with the tractor drivers, there were about a dozen



additional family and friends that met the group at our complex. The tractors were on a cruise around the West Mineral to Roseland area.

They toured the grounds for a little over an hour before they mounted

their tractors and headed out for their next stop, Big Brutus. Once the group arrived at Big Brutus, they enjoyed lunch before finishing up their ride.



- photos courtesy of Brian Carlson

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

The three passenger cars are used to offer public train rides in communities along the tracks owned by the various railroads making up Watco Companies. The cars were built in 1956 by the Budd Company of Philadelphia as model RDC-9 (rail diesel car) coaches and saw service on the Boston & Maine Railroad for commuter service out of Boston, MA. The service was later taken over by the Massachusetts Bay Area Transportation Authority who used the cars into the 1980's and then retired them. Watco Companies acquired the cars in April of 1992 and refurbished them to be used in excursion service. The cars are both numbered and named, the names being the three oldest Webb grandchildren (Kaleigh Ann, Afton Leigh and Fallyne Marie).

Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands will be October 13, 2021 at the Webb Center starting at 7:00 pm.

- Preferred Family Healthcare Day Program

September 1, 2021 saw the arrival of the preferred Family Healthcare Day Program from Joplin, MO, to the Webb Center. Over fifty people were a part of this group that spent the morning touring the Webb Center, the KCS



1023 and the rest of the outdoor exhibits. Before departing back to Joplin, the group enjoyed a picnic lunch under the shelter on the grounds.

- photos courtesy of Larry Spahn

Little Balkan Days Train Rides

The Little Balkans Days rides were sold out with a total of 295 persons riding the trains. The number of riders was reduced to 150 persons per ride due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Face masks were required and no souvenirs were sold in an effort to reduce personal contact. Masks were courtesy of Watco, an made available to passengers that needed one. This was the first rides we have been able to have in two years. Heartland members working on the rides were Denzil and Ivan Voorhees, Tony Cook, Brian Carlson, John Chambers and Kathy and Larry Spahn. The rides were well received and many favorable comments were heard.

David Calwell Collection

The David Calwell Collection that is coming to the museum at Carona continues to remain on course. Dave and his friend Kent Nelson are continuing with the creation of display cases to house part of David's magnificent collection. As of now, the middle of November is the tentative target date for bringing his collection here. There are several logistical things to complete but it will be well worth the wait. Once everything is in place in the Morgan Addition, visitors will be in for a real treat in seeing the pieces of history that will be a part of this exhibit collection. Volunteers will be needed when delivery day arrives. As always, stay tuned to this ongoing project.

Donations

- Paul Morgan donated some more items to the museum
- The SEK Old Time Gas Engine and Tractor Club made a \$100 donation during their recent visit.

Announcements

- Larry has reached out to Jim Page in regards to the covered entrance of the Morgan Addition. Jim is hopeful that work on that can begin soon.
- The KCS Holiday Express will not be taking place this year. It was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic and it was recently announced that it would not be running in 2021.
- As of now, it is very possible that the Pittsburg Schools Christmas ride will be held this December. More information as it becomes available.
- Kevin Anselmi, a longtime Watco employee made and offer to help us in cutting the grass at the museum grounds. They have begun keeping the grass in check.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for the Heart of the Heartlands will be held on Saturday, November 13 at 1:00 pm at the Webb Center. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there will not be a dinner this year. During this meeting, the election of new board members will be held. The current board members and officers and expiration dates are as follows:

December 2021

Brian Carlson (Secretary-Treasurer), Connie Payton, VACANT

December 2022

Guy Ferguson, John Chambers (Vice-President), Ivan Vorhees

December 2023

Darrell Cave, Jack Evans, Larry Spahn (President).

The VACANT position is a result of the passing of Alan Chilton earlier this year. We will need someone to fill that vacancy.

Membership Proposal

At the September meeting, it was passed to adopt the membership proposal #2 beginning with memberships for 2022 and beyond. Previously, a single membership was \$25 and a family membership was \$35 for one year. With the new proposal, a single adult membership will be \$35 for a year. Single adult memberships for senior adults (60+) will be \$25 for the year. Family memberships will be \$50 each year. There is a 10% discount for memberships that are purchased for a three year period. For complete information on the proposal, refer to the July 2021 newsletter. A more detailed summary of the membership pricing will be in next month's newsletter.

September 8, 2021 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The September 8, 2021 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes of previous meeting: Jack Evans moved to accept the minutes as mailed. W.D. Carter seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the treasurer's report by treasurer Brian Carlson, W.D. Carter moved, Darryl Cave seconded a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Little Balkan Days Train Rides: The Little Balkans Days rides were sold out with a total of 295 persons riding the trains. The number of riders was reduced to 150 persons per ride due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Face masks were required and no souvenirs were sold in an effort to reduce personal contact. Masks were courtesy of Watco, an made available to passengers that needed one. This was the first rides we have been able to have in two years. Heartland members working on the rides were Denzil and Ivan Voorhees, Tony Cook, Brian Carlson, John Chambers and Kathy and Larry Spahn. The rides were well received and many favorable comments were heard.

Grass Cutting: A conversation with Kevin Anselmi, a long time Watco employee, yielded an offer that Larry could not refuse. Ken said that he would put a couple of his employees that take care of the grass on Watco properties on the mowers and mow the grass out here every two or three weeks. They have been out and mowed the grass, twice! It had gotten away from us due to the frequent rain that we have had. Larry told Ken that this would be a great help to us and we would gratefully except his offer. As we continue to have fewer and fewer members that are able to come out and mow this will really help us considerably.

Museum Visitors: Our summer visiting weekends have ended, but we continue to have more and more groups calling to make reservations to visit the museum. On August 14 we were visited by the Southeast Kansas Old Time Gas Engine and Tractor Club from Pittsburg, Kansas. Twenty-one tractors and drivers stopped by on their tractor cruise. After touring our museum and displays, the group headed to Big Brutus where they enjoyed pulled pork sandwiches with all the trimmings. The Columbus News Report had a very nice article in the paper with several pictures of the group visiting our museum and Big Brutus. September 1st we had a group of over 50 visitors from the Preferred Family Healthcare Day Program from Joplin, Missouri. The group toured the museum and outdoor displays and enjoyed the picnic lunch under our shelter. Labor Day say three or four groups stop by while John Chambers was at the museum. The KCS 1023 locomotive continues to be a very popular exhibit.

David Calwell Collection: Larry has received two letters from Dave recently and the transfer of his large railroad collection is still on schedule. The work on the display cases are well underway with progress being made on a regular basis. Dave and his good friend, Kent Nelson, have been formulating more novel ways to enhance the displays. The plan to move the collection and display cases is now tentatively set for the middle of October. Dave and Kent will stay a day or two to assemble and set up the cases and displays. We will need volunteers to assist in the setting up of the display cases and unpacking and placement of the display items. The more volunteers we have will enable Dave and Kent to return home sooner.

New Business:

Morgan Addition: Larry spoke with Jim Page about when the covered entrance might be started. He said that he hoped it would be soon. He will come out and reconfirm all the necessary measurements.

Donations:

- Paul Morgan, brought in some more donations from his collection of railroad artifacts. We extend our thanks to Paul for his contributions.
- Brian Carlson reported that a \$100 donation was made by the Southeast Kansas Old Time Gas Engine and Tractor Club when they made their visit on August 14.

Train Rides: There is a good possibility that the Pittsburg Schools Christmas ride will be held. The rides are on schedule but everything depends on the continuing spread of COVID-19. This is a very good ride and has been greatly enjoyed by all who attend.

Membership Proposal: Discussion on the proposed membership price change was held again. John Chambers moved and Connie Payton seconded the motion to accept Proposal 2. The motion was passed by the membership present.

Annual Meeting: The date and time for the annual meeting was set. It will be held on November 13 at 1:00 pm at the Webb Center. With the current Covid situation, there will not be a dinner associated with the meeting this year. Board members and Officers will be elected at this time.

NARCOA Dues and Insurance: A brief discussion about motor car rides was held. John Chambers suggested that due to the decrease number of members with motor cars and the difficulty in finding an event coordinator for rides, that we do not pay NARCOA dues or insurance for 2022. No decision was made at the meeting. It will be discussed again at the annual meeting.

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