



March Meeting

The March meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on March 12, 2022 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 16 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: Jack Evans, Jim McKeel, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Bryson Spahn, Don Richardson, W.D. Carter, John Chambers, Brian Carlson, Ed Brinkmeyer, Paul Morgan, Mike & Connie Payton, Bob Capps, Dick Rauniker, and Tom Johnston.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxftDlf_ezgw3UyQ

Watco - SEK RR

Recently we received an etched glass from the former Watco short line, the Southeast Kansas Railroad. It is an etched glass piece that was purchased for the office in Coffeyville. Recently, members Michael Payton and Larry Spahn mounted the glass in the Webb collection portion of the museum. More information about this unique addition to the complex in our next newsletter. Our thanks to all involved in this most special project.



Larry Spahn & Mike Payton with the SEK RR glass panel. Kathy Spahn photo

Empire Engine Steps

The steps leading to the Empire Engine were in need a repair. A couple of the steps had broken and were becoming a safety issue for people accessing the engine. A couple of weeks ago, during one of the warmer days in February, Larry Spahn came out and replaced three of the steps. Despite the rising cost of lumber and supplies, this was a much needed repair. A big thanks to Larry for his work in completing this project.



Larry Spahn photo

March Meeting Date

The March meeting was the first monthly meeting to be held on a Saturday on a regular basis. We hope that having the meeting on a Saturday will encourage more members to join us. The next meeting will be April 9, 2022 at 1:00 pm.

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

Last month's item was the entry sitting area of the Tallgrass car that is currently located on the siding at Carona. The Tallgrass was built by the Pullman Company in 1930 as office car #5 for the New York Central railroad. An office car is used by various company officials to tour the railroad for inspections and for entertaining business clients. It contains a lounge room, three bedrooms, bathroom with a shower, dining room, kitchen and a crew bedroom. The railroad usually assigned a cook and a porter to staff the car.

Announcements

- The April meeting of the Heartlands will be Saturday, April 9 at 1:00 pm at the Webb Center
- According to the visitor register, about 600 people visited the museum last year (2021). This doesn't include those that came when we were not open.

Dave Calwell Collection

Final plans are almost complete. If everything continues as planned, the David Calwell Collection will arrive next month. Dave plans on being at the next meeting April 9th to answer questions anyone might have in regards to the collection. If you are available that day, come to the meeting to meet Mr. David Calwell.

Big Kansas Road Trip

The Kansas Sampler Foundation promotes regional trips throughout the state of Kansas on an annual basis. This year, Bourbon, Crawford and Cherokee counties are the featured destinations. Not only are museums promoted by the Foundation, but restaurants, local sites and other locations are featured as well. This year's trip through the area will be May 5th through May 8th. We are planning on having the museum open from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm each of the four days. If you will be available and would be willing to come help, we can use the help at the museum.

For more information: www.bigkansasroadtrip.com

Museum Visitors

Despite the pandemic's limitations as well as our actual hours being in June, July and August, visitors still come to Carona to see our complex. Many people contact John Chambers or Larry Spahn to arrange a meeting. It seems that whenever someone is out at Carona to work on things, a guest or two arrives. This happens often to John when he is working cataloging donations, working on exhibits, etc. Recently, Lew Ableidinger from North Dakota and Joel Jenson from Ely, Nevada were visiting Carona. The two are working on a Kansas article that they are co-writing for the NRHS National publication. Lew is an engineer on the Canadian Pacific and Joel works with the Nevada Northern Railroad and museum. The publication is slated for 2023.

2022 Train Rides

Plans are being worked on after we contacted the railroad about having two rides out of Carona on Saturday, June 11. The first ride will leave at 10:30 am with the second ride departing at 2:30 pm. This Saturday coincides with the Big Iron Overland Rally that is being held at Big Brutus on June 10-12. If the rides are approved by the railroad, we hope for a good size turnout. With current and scheduled track work this year, it will depend on how that progresses.

March 12, 2022 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The March 12, 2022 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 1:00 p.m.

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

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

Old Business:

Dave Calwell Collection: Larry Spahn, reported that Dave had called him recently after his meeting with the manager of Two Men and a Truck and that they would be at his home on Wednesday, April 6th to load his railroad collection into their moving van. They plan to leave Topeka the next morning and arrive at Carona before noon. The moving company crew will be unloading the truck and place all of the collection inside the Morgan Addition. The four new display cases will have to be mounted on the walls and the other three large floor cases put into place prior to filling them with memorabilia. The depot façade will also need to be assembled. We will probably work later into the evening. Dave and Kent will spend Thursday and Friday nights at the La Quinta in Pittsburg. Work will continue early Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings. Dave plans on staying for the meeting on Saturday and will answer any of our member's questions about his collection. We should also take the opportunity to vacuum the carpet again before they arrive. Discussion was held concerning lunch on the 7th of April. Connie Payton and Kathy Spahn are coordinating lunch on the 7th.

Museum Visitors: John Chambers briefly mentioned museum visitors that have been coming to the museum. Just about any time he is here for any length of time, someone stops by to see our facilities. Two of the more recent visitors were from the National Railway Historical Society.

Empire Engine Steps: Larry Spahn reported that it was brought to our attention that the deteriorating condition of the wooden steps had now become dangerous. Larry came out and removed three rotted steps and then went to Home Depot and bought a sixteen foot, treated 2x6. There was quite a bit of repair needed on the risers prior to installing the new steps. Larry commented on how the cost of wood was ridiculous! Over thirty dollars! He also mentioned that deck screws had also tripled in price.

Big Kansas Road Trip:

John Chambers informed the group of the upcoming Big Kansas Road Trip, May 5-8. This event, sponsored by the Kansas Sampler Foundation, will showcase the counties of Bourbon, Crawford and Cherokee Counties. The Heart of the Heartlands is one of the stops on the tour. For more information about the tour please visit their website address: www.bigkansasroadtrip.com. It was discussed to get together sometime before the event to vacuum and clean the display cases in the museum Webb Center.

Train Rides:

Cameron Lundy has been in contact with the general manager of the SKOL and at this time is in favor of having two rides out of Carona in June. The main area of concern is about where exactly the SKOL will be doing track repair work on the Gorilla Branch at that time and they will know more about it soon. Larry explained that we could go either way out of Carona but preferred going toward Sherwin if possible. The track crew is now working on replacing the bents, timbers and ties on a trestle west of Pittsburg. We are hoping that we will be able to have a couple of train rides in conjunction with the **Big Iron Overland Rally** being held at Big Brutus on June 10-12, 2022. If possible, two rides will be held on Saturday, June 11, 2022. The first one hour ride would depart at 10:30 am and the second ride at 2:00 pm. These two rides would be the first revenue rides that we have had in two years.

New Business:

SEK Museum Alliance Membership: John Chambers brought to the club a membership application to the SEK museum Alliance. The Alliance was a group that formed in the last 3-4 years to promote all of the museums in the Southeast Kansas (21 county) region of Kansas. The group has formed a governing group consisting of members from various museums across the region. The group is now accepting membership applications to the organization. Jim McKeel moved for the Heartlands to join the group for an annual cost of \$25. Don Richardson seconded the motion and the motion passed by those present.

Correspondence:

- Secretary-Treasurer Brian Carlson reported that we may be taking out an add in the upcoming NARF state convention publication. NARF is a group consisting of retired federal employees. The cost of the ad would be a donation from one the members of the Heartlands.

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