



June Meeting

The June meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on June 14, 2023 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 12 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Jack Evans, Paul Morgan, Larry & Kathy Spahn, Rob McKnight, Darrell Cave, Ivan & Denzil Voorhees, Brian Carlson, Ed Brinkmeyer, and Dora Firmin.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be July 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Webb Center in Carona.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

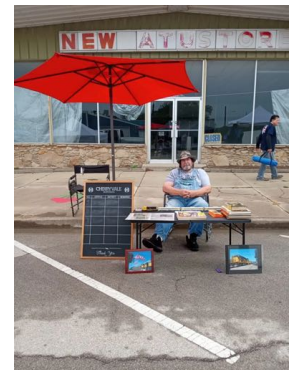
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxftDlf_ezgw3UyQ

Cherry Blossom Festival

Heartlands member Don Richardson had a booth at Cherry Blossom Festival in Cherryvale on Saturday, May 13, 2023. He volunteered his time to man the booth on behalf of the Heart of the Heartlands. Here is his report:

"Excellent response at the Cherry Blossom Festival today! I shared info about our Museum with a BUNCH of people who did not know about us. Answered a lot of questions, gave away lots of books, (my personal stuff) and magazines too. Handed out flyers and promoted Big Brutus as well. The people were very receptive. A great day and well worth the effort."

We thank Don for his time and effort in not only this endeavor but for all of his support for the Heart of the Heartlands!



Dying Trees at the Museum

We have about seven trees that have died in the last year or so on the grounds of the museum complex. One of them is the large pecan tree at the front of the Webb Center building. The other trees are scattered throughout the grounds with a pecan tree near the picnic shelter, a couple of oak trees near the Mackie engine and Ron's Caboose (SEK 1716). There are a couple of maples around the 1023 that also appear to have lost their ability to function. Butt's Tree Service was planning on coming by and taking a look at our situation and will be sending us a cost estimate to have the trees removed as necessary.

From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.

These photos were taken in 2014. They are photos of the old and falling down "Ferraro's Grocery Store" that was in Carona. Joe Ferraro was one of the first from Carona to join the Heartlands. It is from this building that the Heartlands acquired the USPS boxes that were used by the Postal service while this store was the official post office for Carona. The Heartlands donated the post office boxes to John Parsons at the last meeting to be used in the restoration of the Gay Parita in Carona. Photo is from the Larry Spahn collection.



Announcements

- Museum hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Wednesday through Sunday.

Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

bcarlson@ckt.net

620-820-9665 (leave message)

Extended Museum Hours

Starting on March 1st, the museum has been opened five days a week, Wednesday through Sunday. John Chambers has contracted with the Heartlands to be at the museum during our extended hours. His job is to welcome visitors, conduct tours, and handle the souvenir counter. When there are no visitors, John works on cataloging the donations and artifacts that we have on hand. It has been a slow process but we hope to be able to continue offering this opportunity to people in the area. We are ramping up our advertising efforts to let people know that we are open more than our two weekends in June, July and August as we were previously. We are not charging admission at this time so the donations of visitors are hugely appreciated.

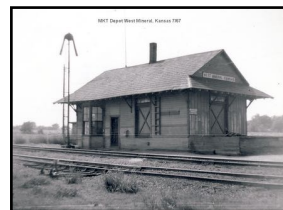
As we progress in this endeavor, there are some small goals that we hope to accomplish in the immediate future. Work is in progress on getting new brochures made and distributed to motels, chamber of commerces and other tourist locations in the area. Also, we are looking into having the ability to accept debit-credit cards at the museum to increase souvenir sales. As more and more people come to the museum, it gets harder and harder for one person, John, to handle all the guests. Please consider coming out and volunteering to help on a Saturday or Sunday for how ever long you can. Any and all help would be greatly appreciated.

Depots of the Past

Below are a few of the MKT (Katy) depots in the collection originally from Leon Sapp.



Columbus, KS



West Mineral, KS (July 67)



Galena, KS (Aug 66)



Joplin Union Station (April 67)



Parsons, KS

June 14, 2023 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The June 14, 2023 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Old Business:

Replacement steps on the Carona Depot:

Member Rob McKnight recently replaced the wooden steps that lead to the baggage dock on the Carona depot. The newly constructed set of steps is a huge improvement over the previous steps that had become somewhat of a safety hazard due to time and the elements. Thanks to Rob for his excellent work and time volunteered.

Slide Show:

John Chambers briefly talked about the slide show slated for June 24, 2023 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Vital Signs:

John Chambers has been in contact with Vital Signs out of Columbus in regards to signs for the complex. They came out to get an idea for a sign that would display our hours. Vital Signs are to be getting back with us. Also, discussion was held about getting some signs put up around the grounds to address safety concerns.

Train Rides:

There is no new news to report in regards to train rides. We are still working with the railroad in trying to secure some additional rides during the fall.

New Business:

Dead Trees:

At least seen trees have recently died on the museum grounds. It has been reported that the severe drought and cold temperatures may have been the cause as other trees in the area have also died. Unfortunately, the huge pecan tree at the front of the museum is one as well as another pecan tree near the picnic shelter. The others include two large oak trees in front of the Mackie engine and Ron's caboose (SEK 1716), several maple trees around the 1023 locomotive have also died. John Chambers contacted Watco to see who they use for tree removal. After that discussion, he reached out to Butt's

Tree Service. They were planning on coming out to Carona on June 16 to check things out and to work on a cost estimate.

Dr. Nick Muff Collection:

President Larry Spahn reported that Dr. Muff has sent the last part of his collection to us. His previous donations have been exemplary and we await what will come in this donation. The Heartlands is very appreciative of all the items that Dr. Muff has donated. John Chambers moved to grant a Life Membership to Dr. Nick Muff. Jack Evans seconded the motion and it was passed by the membership present.

Carona Mailboxes:

Several years ago, Larry Spahn was asked he the Heartlands would be interested in the original United States Postal Service mailboxes that were last used in the little store in Carona. This store was the post office for Carona before it was closed in the late 1970's. Sometime later, the owner of the building asked Larry if the Heartlands would like to have the mailboxes. After a brief discussion it was agreed upon by all present that the mailboxes should be donated to John Parsons to place in the Gay Parita that he is currently restoring just north of the museum grounds.

Museum Report:

John Chambers gave his monthly museum report. In the report, the following items were mentioned:

- John mentioned that the first week of June was a slow week in regards to visitors coming into the building.
- He has begun work on a docent guide for volunteers to use in the event they come out to help open up and close the museum.
- Brochures are needed to be sent out to places in the area advertising what we have here at Carona. Brian is going to get brochures created.
- Suggestions from John for activities at Carona included having presenters give presentations at the museum as well as having movie days to watch some of the hundreds of videos we have collected.
- John also presented the need to inventory what we have left for souvenirs. He also requested more whistles. Kathy Spahn said she will order some more.
- Discussion was also held in regards to taking credit-debit cards for souvenir sales. Brian Carlson is working on a possible solution.

Communications, Announcement, Additional Items:

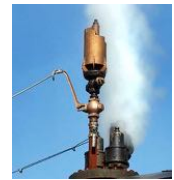
- Discussion was held in regards to mailing of newsletters. No action was taken but the rising cost of postage, and printing costs were discussed.

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

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!



Western Maryland Scenic Railroad

- Article and photos by Heart of the Heartlands member, Brian Carlson



Cumberland Station

This past March of 2023, for spring break, my wife and I took a trip to the eastern part of the United States. The week was a very relaxing and enjoyable time spent seeing various sites. Besides visiting Ocracoke Island in North Carolina's outer banks, Kitty Hawk and Assateague Island, we stopped at a couple of railroad related stops as well. Our first stop of our trip was for a ride on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad. The WMSR runs excursion trains in western Maryland from Cumberland, MD to Frostburg, MD. The Western Maryland Railway operated this section of track from 1852 to 1983. According to the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad's website, the Allegheny Central Railroad began running steam and diesel excursions in 1981. By the end of 1991, the operation of the railway began under the name of the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad.



Awaiting Boarding



Inside of Cumberland Station

There are several different ride options as the route takes one through the Allegheny Mountains in western Maryland. The Frostburg Flyer departs Cumberland for a 4.5 hour round trip ride to Frostburg. There is a 90 minute layover in the small mountain town know as Frostburg. This layover allows time to explore the shops and restaurants on Main Street. The train is sometimes led by the Western Maryland 1309, a steam locomotive, or by some of their historic diesel locomotives.



View of our dome car

There are Open Air Cars and Coach cars in the consist for the Flyer. In addition, there is a dome and lounge car as well. For us, when we rode on the Frostburg Flyer, there was a lunch offered on the train that was a delightful meal. In addition to the Flyer, the WMSR offers some other special trips. The Ice Cream Trains run on the second and fourth Fridays of the months of June, July and August. On each date, there are three schedule departures, 5 pm, 6 pm, and 7 pm, where passengers select an ice cream flavor when boarding the train in Cumberland and enjoy a 35 minute round trip ride through The Narrows and back. The Allegheny Mountain Dinner Train runs on Saturdays. This 3 hour trip includes a 3-course meal consisting of salad, choice of entree, and a dessert. Departure is at 7:00 pm with advance reservations required.



Dining Car - Lunch

For us, we arrived at Cumberland on a Sunday morning, the second Sunday in March. It was cold, but not bitterly cold and there was a light snowfall at the time of our arrival to the Cumberland Station. The steam engine was not running on this day it was diesel to lead the way. Our purchased tickets did not include the dome car, but upon picking up our tickets at the station, they were upgraded to the dome car which included lunch. The ride was very relaxing with nice views around. Even though it was still winter and the leaves had not begun to come out, the scenery was great. One can only imagine what the view would be in the fall! Once we reached Frostburg, we exited the train and enjoyed the short walk to Main Street and the local shops. Having had lunch on the way to Frostburg, the trip back to Cumberland was full of the same scenery, but views missed on the way up were enjoyed on the return trip. For us, it was a great afternoon and would be a wonderful stop for anyone to enjoy on their travels.



Turntable at Frostburg