



October Meeting

The October meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on October 11, 2023 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: John Chambers, John & Brenda Randall, Jack Evans, Rob McKnight, Mike & Connie Payton, Denzil & Ivan Voorhees, Brian Carlson, Paul Morgan, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Darrell Cave and Ed Brinkmeyer.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be November 11, 2023 at 1:00 pm at the Webb Center in Carona. This will be the Annual Meeting.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxfDlf_ezgw3UyQ

Chanute Artist Alley Train Rides

This year, there were two train rides for the annual Artist Alley Days were held on September 30th. The first ride left at 9:30 am with 215 passengers heading north on the former Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe line towards Humboldt.

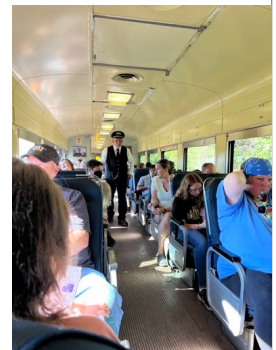
Although we did not make it to Humboldt, we did go out our customary 30 minutes and then returned to our starting point. In Chanute, we depart from the Osa and Johnson Safari Museum and the Chanute Public Library. Both are housed in the former Chanute Santa Fe Depot. After lunch, the 1:00 pm ride again headed north with 261 passengers aboard. For many

riders it was their first train ride. The weather was clear and warm. Heartland members working as car attendants were Mike and Connie Payton, Rob McKnight, Dave Wallace, Jack Evans, Ivan and Denzil Voorhees, Jim McKeel, Brian Carlson, Bryson Spahn and Kathy and Larry Spahn.

- Photos by Brian Carlson

Watco Christmas Express

We received word after our October meeting that the date for the Watco Christmas Express had been set. The ride for the 1st grade students in Pittsburg will be on December 7th. There will be two rides with the first ride departing at 9:30 am and the second ride departing at 11:00 am. Boarding will be at Monroe and Elm Streets in Pittsburg which is the normal location for train rides out of Pittsburg.



From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.

These two photos are of Joe Ferraro's General Store. It was located about three blocks west of the museum grounds. This is the store that housed the post office boxes referred to in the article in this edition of the newsletter. Photos are from the Larry Spahn collection.



Photo taken circa 2001



Photo taken July 2009

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)

Museum Director Report for September

We had 146 visitors for the month of September from the four state region and the states of Illinois, Ohio, Florida, Oregon, Texas and Wisconsin. Even had some foreign guests from Great Britain. Member Dick Rauniker had several of his relatives visit when they came for the McCune Fall Festival. Labor Day weekend was busy with the Little Balkans Train Rides and with tours of the museum grounds. Several people who rode the train came out to Carona. We had a group of young railfans from Arkansas and Oklahoma come up to take pictures of the train and to ride. They later came out to Carona for a tour and were here when the SKOL showed up with the passenger cars to put them back in the siding. They seemed to really enjoy themselves and it was good to see some young people interested in railroads. The SKOL then parked the two locomotives used on the train rides in front of the motorcar sheds for the rest of the weekend. They made good backdrops for pictures and attracted visitors.

On Sunday Jake Kerr with the Watco locomotive department came out to Carona to do some general maintenance on the two locomotives and we were able to help as he did not bring an independent brake valve handle with him which needed to be replaced on one of the engine control stands. We have several in our collection so I was able to provide a replacement for the bad one. Andy Taylor, editor of the Montgomery County KS Chronicle newspaper came by and toured the museum. Andy used to be on the Heartlands board when we were based in Cherryvale and has been our Secretary. He was amazed at how much we've grown and plans on writing an article in the paper on us. Also had a visit from member Jay Hastings from Bartlesville. He brought his mother up and they met his uncle from the Cassville, Missouri area for a visit and tour. Michael Fairman from Ohio came by looking for information on the Santa Fe in Fredonia as his relatives worked as Mexican/American track laborers in the 1940's for the Santa Fe. They lived in some boxcars the railroad had converted into homes for them in Fredonia. One incident he was looking into was a collision between a freight train powered by a steam locomotive and the track gang on their motorcar near Buxton, KS in 1943. I was able to help and gave him Ed Brinkmeyer's contact information as Ed retired from the Santa Fe in Chanute. Between the two of us we provided a lot of information to Mike. He has said he will be depositing with us the results of his research for our library and archives. I also spent time painting our entry gate and several of the cast iron railroad signs we have on display around the grounds as well as working on our library books and other research material.

Announcements

- The KCS Holiday Express will not be taking place this year. After the merger with the Canadian Pacific it has been replaced with the holiday train from the Canadian Pacific.
- MEMBERSHIP DUES - It is that time of year again. The time may have come for you to renew your membership to the Heart of the Heartlands for 2024.
- IMPORTANT NOTE - Not everyone will need to renew this year. Many members have sent memberships in for multiple years.
- The beginning of November, you should receive an email or a letter in the mail (depending on how you have your newsletter delivered) that will inform you when your membership expires or if you need to renew this year.
- Be looking for your membership note coming soon.

Heartlands Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands will be held Saturday, November 11, at 1:00 pm at the Webb Center. The club decided at the October meeting to have smoked pulled pork prepared by Heartland's member, Tom Johnston. Tom has prepared the meat for several of our annual dinners in the past and they have always been wonderful. Each attendee is asked to bring a side dish. One of the main items of business at the annual meeting is the elections for positions on the board of directors. Larry Spahn, Darrell Cave and Jack Evans terms are expiring at the end of this year. If there is anyone interested in being on the board, please let one of the officers know. The current list of board members are below along with their term expirations.

December 2023

Darrell Cave, Jack Evans, Larry Spahn (President)

December 2024

Brian Carlson (Secretary-Treasurer), Connie Payton (Vice President), Ed Brinkmeyer

December 2025

John Randall, Kathy Spahn, Paul Morgan

A huge Heartlands Thank You to all of our board members. Your willingness to help the organization can not be put into words!

Carona Post Office Boxes

After the October meeting, John Parsons and his crew arrived at Carona to pick up the old post office boxes and post office window that used to be in the general store in Carona. The Heartlands had acquired the boxes from a



donation many years ago. The group agreed to donate to Mr. Parsons to place in the Gay Parita dance hall that he has been restoring this year. The Gay Parita was a focal point of the area from the time it was built in the 1930's through the 1960's. The building is located just north of the museum complex at the intersection of NW 20th St and K-102 highway. Mr. Parson's work in restoring the building is nearing completion. The post office boxes should make an interesting addition to this historical building in the Carona community.



October 11, 2023 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The October 11, 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. Jack Evans seconded the motion, the motion passed.

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

Old Business:

Chanute Artist Alley Train Rides :

Two train rides for the annual Artist Alley Days were held on September 30th. The first ride left at 9:30 am with 215 passengers and the 1:00 pm ride had 261 passengers. For many riders it was their first train ride. The weather was clear and warm. Heartland members working as car attendants were Mike and Connie Payton, Rob McKnight, Dave Wallace, Jack Evans, Ivan and Denzil Voorhees, Jim McKeel, Brian Carlson, Bryson Spahn and Kathy and Larry Spahn.

Watco Christmas Express:

The annual Christmas rides for the Pittsburg Schools will be held at a date yet to be decided. The train will board and depart from the intersection of Monroe and Elm Streets. This ride is not open to the public and has always been well received by everyone on the train.

New Business:

Heartland Annual Meeting:

The Heart of the Heartlands Annual Meeting will be held on the second Saturday of November; November 11th at 1:00 pm. The election of officers will be held at this meeting. It was discussed and Tom Johnston agreed to bring some smoked pulled pork for the main course. Everyone attending was asked to bring a dish of some sort to go with the meal. Larry Spahn, Darrell Cave and Jack Evans' terms are expiring at the end of 2023.

Museum Report:

John Chambers gave his monthly museum report. In summarizing the report, he said that attendance had slowed after the Labor Day weekend. A more detailed report is in the October newsletter.

Communications, Announcement, Additional Items:

- Brian mentioned to the group that he will be completing the necessary things for the SEK Museum Alliance. This includes renewing the \$25 annual membership for the Heartlands. Also, Brian will be submitting the photos requested for for the Alliance's video project as well finishing the \$25 fee and associated information to be included in their next version of the Alliance's passport project.
- Discussion was held about talking to John Parsons about possibly using the Gay Parita for our annual dinner meeting in November. At this time, for this year, it was agreed to have our annual meeting at the Webb Center
- Rob McKnight mentioned the possibility of increasing the signage to the museum complex. Discussion followed in regards to KDOT's requirements for signs. Also, it was discussed if we might be eligible to have signage through Kansas Tourism. Darrell Cave was going to check into whether or not we might be eligible to have a brown sign for our museum.
- John Chambers came across a sign for Marion, KS that was on the former Rock Island line. He suggested that we donate it to the Smokey Valley Railroad in Abilene, KS. The group agreed to donate the sign.
- John Chambers also mentioned that Rob McKnight was working on replacing some window trim on the Carona and Boston Depots.

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