



# ***FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM TROLLEY REPORT***

**Winter 2006**

**Number 84**

## **Dinner Train to Depart June 10th**

Back by popular demand (well, the museum volunteers wanted to do it) the Fort Smith Trolley Museum, with the cooperation of the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad, will host a dinner excursion train that will depart the Van Buren train depot at 5:00 PM on Saturday, June 10, 2006 and travel to Winslow, Arkansas, where we will have a one hour layover. The evening will be filled with fun, excitement, and good music.

This trip, we will have three classes for passengers to enjoy. The first class service will be Railroad Baron @ \$200.00 per person. The meal will include a full dinner and wine provided by Post Winery of Altus, Arkansas. The next class of service will be Engineer Class @ \$75.00 per person and will include appetizers and a box dinner as well as wine from Post Winery. The last class will be Section Hand @ \$50.00 per person and will include a box dinner and non-alcoholic beverages.

Dinner will be served by the Southside High School Drama Department, who will also provide entertainment on the train. Our musical entertainment in Winslow will be provided by the Don Bailey

Jazz Quartet. Don Bailey is director of the jazz band at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. Dinner will once again be provided by Mickey Sellard, Executive Chef for Beverly Catering and Events.

Tickets will go on sale in April, 2006. For further information, please call the museum @ 479-783-0205, Bradley Martin @ 479-650-5456. or Henry Moore @ 479-646-3498. We hope to see you there.

## **Railroad Historian Charles Winter Dies**

Charles E. Winters III, 78, editor of "Streetcars of Fort Smith" died February 24 in Kansas City. He was a native of Fort Smith, a rail historian, and a steam-locomotive photographer with a collection of 50,000 negatives. He was employed as a switchman and as a brakemen for the Wabash, Norfolk and Western and Norfolk Southern railroads.

The publication of his college manuscript by the newly formed Fort Smith Historical Society on Fort Smith street-railways led to the finding of car #224 in Bossier City, Louisiana. This car was part of the collection of Louis Hennick who wrote the history of New Orleans in a publication, "Streetcars of New

Orleans."

The Fort Smith Trolley Museum was formed in 1979, and Car #224 was restored and began operating in 1991. Over 175,000 people have since ridden the trolley and heard a part of history of Fort Smith.

Without Charles' history this may have never been possible.

## **#224 Receives a Face Lift**

Recently, a Saturday trolley operator was stopped by a man and his two sons who asked the operator how long the "new" trolley had been in operation. He responded by asking which trolley they were talking about. Then he grinned and said, "This is not the new trolley, but the old one".

For the first time in 18 years, #224 has been totally painted from the ground up, or I should say, from the roof down. One of the volunteers noticed the roof had some bare spots on it, so he painted it. The roof made the dull orange body look so bad, he solicited the help of Daniel Moore and David Kerr, and they repainted the body color back to safety orange. Of course, if the body was painted, then the trim needed to be painted. Be sure to come by and see the "new look" for #224.

# Looking Back

By Becky Meyers

There are many instances of robberies on the street cars. The first documented robbery was in December 1913. Two armed robbers held up the Arkoma car near the Frisco crossing taking approximately \$25 from the crewmen and 36 cents from a passenger. Motorman Muthershed and conductor Clint Skaggs were held up by masked bandits at the waiting room near the south end of the Van Buren Bridge in January of 1915. Fare money, personal funds and watches were taken. Armed guards were placed on one-man cars after two incidences on New Year's Eve of 1922. Manager Green's Hudson was stolen and used to halt the South Fort Smith car near the end of the line. They ordered motorman, Plant, into the car, robbed him and released him. That same night, three masked men held up the Van Buren stub car, taking cash at gunpoint from motorman Hargrove.

At 4a.m. on July 23, 1923, three bandits robbed motorman F.J. Golden on the Fort Smith line near an area known as '*Society Curve*' near the Suburban Junction, taking \$50 belonging to the Light and Traction, ignoring the five passengers, and throwing the controller handle into the weeds. Again in 1923, on November 21, two masked robbers took approximately \$30 and a watch from motorman C.O. Humphrey. Boarding the South Fort Smith car at Mill Creek Crossing and riding to a stop near Advance Military Academy, the bandits ignored the passengers.

1923 was a bad year for robberies. Two masked bandits took an estimated \$600 from checker C.J. Jordan at the carbarn

on December 1, 1923. Arriving at the carbarn on conclusion of operations shortly after midnight, each motorman dumped the contents of his fare box into a sack, placing it on a rack in Jordan's office. Jordan, proceeding with sorting and counting the day's receipts, failed to note activities in a hallway leading to his room. A number of carmen observed two masked men calmly enter the carbarn. Motorman E.S. Parker assumed the two masked men might be some sort of joke until one of them fired a pistol into the air. While one bandit covered Jordan and the carmen, the other one picked up the loaded rack filled with money bags. Both proceeded to a large black touring car, where an accomplice waited with the motor running. The three bandits sped eastward on Kelley Highway toward Waldron Road and made their escape.

## Trolley Operators Wanted

Are you bored sitting around the house watching Oprah? Is "As the World Turns" starting to make your stomach turn? Are the four walls closing in on you?

Then it is time for you to break free from the shackles of boredom, step outside into the sunlight and fresh air and become a trolley operator. It's fun and easy to learn the operation of an authentic Fort Smith electric trolley.

Trolley operators work a half day shift per week. The benefits are excellent; you meet interesting people from interesting places and tell trolley riders the history of the Fort Smith Light & Traction Company.

Dazzle the riders with your mastery of operating an electric trolley, let the children and

grownups ring the trolley bell and drop tokens into the token box.

This is guaranteed to make your and the visitor's day a pleasant one. Become a part of the exciting things happening in Downtown Fort Smith and the Fort Smith Trolley Museum.

For further information or to arrange for an introductory ride, call:

Dr. Art Martin at 783-1237 or  
David Kerr at 783- 6384 / 353-3020 or leave message at 783-0205

## Hot Springs 50 Restoration

In the early days of Street Railways, the equipment was decorated to attract riders. The cars were beautiful. Stop by the museum to see the Hot Springs Street Railway 50 originally built in 1904 and you will see a beautiful example of an early car.

The last bonnet is rebuilt and installed on the rear platform of the car. We are in the process of completing the reproduction corner posts to support them. All the seats are bolted in, and the controllers are mounted on the platforms.

The step brackets are being fabricated and by the next letter the steps should be installed on the car.

We are now ready to begin the motor circuit wiring and brake system. This will involve fabrication of brake system parts. And building and installing the wiring harness.

We welcome volunteers to help with the restoration. Work is performed from 6:30 pm to 10pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Saturdays we work from 8am to 4pm. Volunteers are not expected to be here each day we work but hopefully our schedule will match yours. For information call Bradley Martin at 479-650-5456.

# Memberships & Contributions

Raymond Toler  
 David & Marilyn Fulgham  
 John Brown  
 Joe & Mildred Irwin  
 Pauline Beckman  
 Paul & Jeanene Overholt  
 Dennis Smith  
 Ann Louise England  
 Floyd & Carole Barger  
 John & Linda Fike  
 Wayne & Cynthia Galloway  
 Jane Allen & Robert Snyder  
 Edythe Jakium  
 Charles Deviibiss  
 Jack & Betty Jo Wheaton  
 Paula Linder  
 Wesley & Sandra Bender  
 M/M Fred Fillers  
 M/M Walter Stouffer Jr  
 Bradley & Mary Ellen Jesson  
 Robert & Nadine Miller  
 Julian Dyrhood  
 Harry Shipley

Sally Vick  
 Bob & Margaret Ann Hawkins  
 Joe Barron  
 Terry & Audra Hayden  
 Walter & Gwendolyn Carter  
 Charles Reutzel  
 M/M Donald Peer  
 Mike & Vonnie Murray  
 Walmart Foundation  
 Ben & Polly Anna Core  
 Leon Taylor  
 W.D. Calvert  
 Jim & Glennis Nokes  
 Phillip L. Moseley  
 Jake B. Commer  
 Marie Haunert  
 Gordon P. Jorden  
 Royce A. Parkhurst  
 John G. Ayers  
 Ronald & June Hastie  
 Vera Butler  
 Joann & Gary Campbell  
 M/M Hugh Hammersly Jtr.  
 Sherry Grimm  
 Ray & Lavern Schaap  
 Perry & Kerry Kratchmer  
 Frank Lockwood

## Reminder

The date on your mailing label is the date of your last monetary contribution to the trolley restoration and serves to keep your membership up to date. A current membership card is your pass to ride the trolley.

## Discussion Group

The museum has a Yahoo group to facilitate distribution of information and encourage discussion of equipment, events, and work at the museum. You are invited to join. Log on to <http://groups.yahoo.com> to join. Just type fortsmithtrolley in the search block and follow directions.

## World Wide Web Page

Visit our website for current news or to view past newsletters.  
<http://www.fstm.org>  
 E-mail [info@fstm.org](mailto:info@fstm.org)

## Membership application

Check appropriate type of membership and send this form with check or money order to:  
**FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM**  
 c/o Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association, Inc.  
 2121 Wolfe Lane  
 Fort Smith, AR 72901

\_\_\_ Annual Individual     \$10.00     \_\_\_ Annual Benefactor     \$500.00     (Receive 224 Plaque and Lifetime Pass.)  
 \_\_\_ Annual Family         \$15.00     \_\_\_ Life                         \$1000.00     (Receive Certificate and Lifetime Pass.)  
 \_\_\_ Annual Sponsor        \$25.00     \_\_\_ 224 Club                     \$224.00     (Receive Plaque and Lifetime Pass.)

### MEMBERSHIP CARD SERVES AS AN ANNUAL PASS

The Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization under Sec. 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. GIFTS AND LEGACIES ARE DEDUCTIBLE.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State

ZIP

Additional Information on the Fort Smith Streetcar System is printed in "The Streetcars of Fort Smith, Arkansas" by Charles E. Winters. Available from the Association for a donation of \$7.50 plus \$1.00 mailing cost.

## Annual Open House Sunday May 7th

The museum open house is Sunday, May 7, 2006, 1-4:30 PM at 100 South 4th. Free trolley rides and refreshments will be available.

On display this year will be the 1904 Hot Springs streetcar #50 that is undergoing restoration and nearing completion. This car operated in Hot Springs until 1939. It is identical to the larger Fort Smith streetcars that ran to Van Buren. An assortment of antique radios, cars, tractors and Trolley Museum rail equipment will also be displayed.

The Antique Radio Club will have on display a variety of antique radios.

The Arkansas & Missouri railroad will have their excursion train at the museum starting around 1:00 PM. Car #107, the new parlor car called "the Explorer", will be on display at the museum from 1:00 PM until around 4:15 PM. This will give everyone a chance to see how versatile it is for different functions. Two other coach cars will be available for excursion rides from the museum to the Arkansas River bridge. The cost for the excursion rides will be \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12. Departure times will be announced at the open house. Tickets will be on sale at the museum.

For additional information call Bradley Martin at 479-650-5456.

## Trolley Report

Is a quarterly publication of the Fort Smith  
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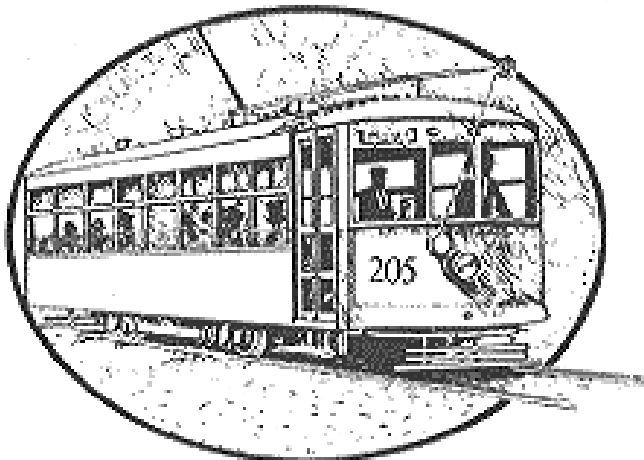
Association of Railway Museums, Inc.  
Founded 1961

*Promoting The Railway Museum Movement!*

## FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM

2121 Wolfe Lane  
Fort Smith, AR 72901

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**Open House May 7**  
**Excursion Train June 10**