



# **FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM TROLLEY REPORT**

**Winter 2006**

**Number 87**

## **Volunteer Trolley Operators Appreciation**

By David Kerr

When you visit most museums there is little opportunity to touch or closely examine any of the artifacts, and rightly so, because many are fragile and priceless.

But, visitors to the Fort Smith Trolley Museum have the opportunity to actually touch and closely examine many our items. In fact, visitors can climb on, walk on, sit on and take a ride on our largest artifacts: The Birney Safety Car #224 and soon the Hot Springs Car #50.

Our trolleys are not just static displays; they are fully operational so they may provide visitors the experience of days gone by when trolleys were the mass transportation of many communities years ago.

With appreciation, listed below are the volunteer trolley operators who make it possible for visitors to ride and enjoy our vintage trolleys:

Ervin Glenn	Adam Weisenfels
Floyd Barger	Haskell Jeffries
Irvin Sternberg	Luke Gramlich
Joe Irwin	Mervin McMillion
Leon Taylor	Zack Hilton

Vernon Stewart	Daniel Moore
Jim Edwards	Henry Moore
Gene Rapley	Guy Overman
Ralph Kramer	Mitch Marmel
Ed Offenbacher	John Shomin
and me	

Thanks to all for helping to make the Fort Smith Trolley Museum a success.

If you wish to join the list, please contact the trolley museum at 783-0205

## **Hot Spring Street Railway 50 Restoration**

If you haven't been to the Trolley museum recently you have missed the progress of a beautiful car. The photo at the top of this page is the HSSRR50. You may see it in color on our website <http://www.fstm.org>.

The brake system is about 50% complete. The brake valves mount on the dash and the decision was made to finish the dash first. We are making the wooden frame work and metal brackets that hold the front metal to the bonnet supports. It is an interesting metal fabrication and woodworking project. Routing the surface of the large wooden dash was

accomplished using the large metal planer converted to a mill provided by Jay Wiechert. We now have the capability of milling metal or wood up to 3 feet X 10 feet.

## **Plan Ahead for the Coming Summer**

The FSTM board of directors has agreed to host another summer fund raising dinner to be held on August 25, 2007. However, this year, our venue will change. Those who attended last year's trip remember we were entertained on the train by students from the Southside High School Drama department. During the trip, they mentioned they would like to do a dinner theatre for someone in the near future. Well, we decided to give them their wish. In addition to the dinner theatre, we will also have a silent auction going on during the evening. Some of the featured items in this auction will be John Bell street car scenes on canvas and a handmade quilt. We will announce the location and times for the dinner theatre in our Spring and Summer newsletters. Anyone with items they would like to donate to the silent auction, please feel free to contact the museum at 479-783-0205, or Henry Moore at 479-646-3498 or E-mail [hmoore@tankersleyfoods.com](mailto:hmoore@tankersleyfoods.com).

# Looking Back

by  
Becky Meyers

On August 17, 1883 the Editor of the Fort Smith Elevator wrote the following:

## The Cars Commenced Humming on Monday

On Monday morning last we were notified by the directors of the street car company to meet them at the end of the track at 10:30 o'clock and sample the cars on their first run in the Border City. We were there on time, of course, and enjoyed a ride from the depot to the end of the line, a distance of one mile. The track from the depot is on Mulberry Street up to Wayne, thence up Wayne to Garrison Avenue, running on a straight line to Jackson Street, going on the latter as far as Sycamore, three blocks from the Avenue.\* There are three cars now running regularly over the line, and they are neat, comfortable, and substantial ones too. The stockholders in the enterprise are McCloud and Johnston, Theo Moore, B. Baer and Geo. T. Sparks.

The Mayor, city recorder and city council received the same notification that the editors did, and were all on hand when the train pulled out.

The only drawback to the success of the opening was the actions of a multitude of urchins, who crowded the cars in spite of the driver and made it disagreeable for those who were trying to ride.

And right here is a good place to remark that Fort Smith has a larger number of rude and unruly urchins, from the age of six to fifteen, than any city of its size that we were ever in, and we honestly believe that if the parents of these children could see their actions on public occasions they would be so shocked at their conduct they would never allow them to get outside their own door yards.

In the last two "Looking Back" articles there have been stories about robberies on the street cars. Do you think it might be

possible that the street urchins mentioned in this piece grew up to be some of the bandits who actually robbed the streetcars? The ages would be about right. The first documented streetcar robbery was in 1913 which is twenty years after this article appeared in the Fort Smith Elevator. Twenty plus the ages mentioned above would put the potential bandits between 26 and 35. Food for thought.

The power for these first streetcars was provided by mules which continued to pull street cars until 1893. The streetcars seated between 14 and 16 passengers but newspaper stories say that as many as forty persons sometimes climbed inside and on top of the cars on special occasions. No wonder the editor said that because of the urchins it was a disagreeable ride.

\*The trolley route taken started on North B St. (Mulberry) going east to North 3<sup>rd</sup> St.(Wayne). It turned south for two blocks until reaching Garrison Avenue. On Garrison Avenue the tracks ran east 8 blocks to North 11<sup>th</sup> St. (Jackson). Here it ran north 3 blocks ending at North C St. (Sycamore). Once at 11<sup>th</sup> & C Sts. (Jackson & Sycamore) the trolley turned around and retraced its route. The Frisco Depot was on North C Street close to where the first street cars departed. It is likely that the mules were kept at Scheutzen Park at North M and 11<sup>th</sup>.

## New Neighbor

December 19<sup>th</sup> the city board voted to purchase the county parking lot adjacent to the Trolley Museum property. The city-owned bus transfer station and the Jefferson bus lines will occupy the site. The city has been using the lot for a transfer point for several

months. A new bus station will face Garland with the parked buses hidden from view of the street by the station. The building is to be adorned by a clock tower. Security will be provided by a police substation in the bus station and the only food service provided will be vending machines.

The trolley track runs between the bus stop and the National Cemetery. A trolley stop is planned to provide tour buses with a loading dock for the trolley.

The [RSVP](#) furnishes free bus passes to volunteers to ride to their volunteer work. The transfer point is already being used by some of the trolley museum volunteers for transportation to and from the museum.

## 2006 Year End Fund Drive

Response to our first year-end fundraising letter has been very good. As of December 27, there have been 51 responses.

Thank You to all who have responded. The donations are greatly appreciated and needed.

## 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)

## Memberships & Contributions

R R Cohoon  
 Marlin Hoge  
 Carter Hunt  
 Julian Dyrhood  
 Mary Haunert  
 Jim Foster  
 J P Chancey  
 Robert Genack  
 Bob & Jackie Laser  
 D/M Charles Floyd  
 Caryl Linton  
 Earl Martin  
 Jacquelyne Haynie  
 Capt & Mrs David Rains  
 M/M Jake Commer  
 Sally Frick  
 Rev Kenneth Jones  
 Saundra Lockhart  
 Bancorpsouth  
 Diane & Mike Shaw  
 Dan Plesko  
 Terry Mitchell  
 Happ Schultz  
 Margaret Zobel  
 Mary Beasley

Ed Offenbacker  
 Eugene Inman  
 Gean Kukar  
 James Starbird  
 B G Hendrix  
 Leon Taylor  
 T A Field  
 Sam's Club  
 Art Martin  
 Robert Chester  
 Gene Rapley  
 Harvey Lewis  
 W E Kimmons  
 NRHS Grant  
 Cindy Gilmore  
 Gimo Berry  
 Total Rehabilitation  
 Henry Moore  
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Mrs Rodney Naucke  
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 D/M A S Koenig  
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 Dennis Smith  
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 Irvin Sternberg  
 Frank Lockwood  
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 Wesley & Sandra Bender  
 Ara Mesroban  
 Joseph Irvin  
 Floyd Barger  
 Pauline Beckman  
 David Harris  
 Leah Shaeffer  
 Lorina Lawrence  
 Robert Barker  
 Jake Commer  
 John Mott  
 Bruce Bente

## Memorials

In Memory of Tom Ross  
 by Happ Schultz

In Honor of Gene Rapley  
 by M/M Richard Udoug

In Recognition of Birthdays for  
 Rodney Naucke  
 Jackman Corley  
 by Mrs. Rodney Naucke

## 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.

## 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.  
 100 S. 4th Street  
 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.

## Frisco 4003 Decked Out for Christmas



Each year Henry Moore, the museum's Vice President, decorates the Frisco 4003 steam locomotive with thousands of lights. This year Philip Moore and John Brown

helped install the lights. We need to thank them for making the locomotive one of the major Downtown Fort Smith Christmas attractions.

## Trolley Report

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**arm**

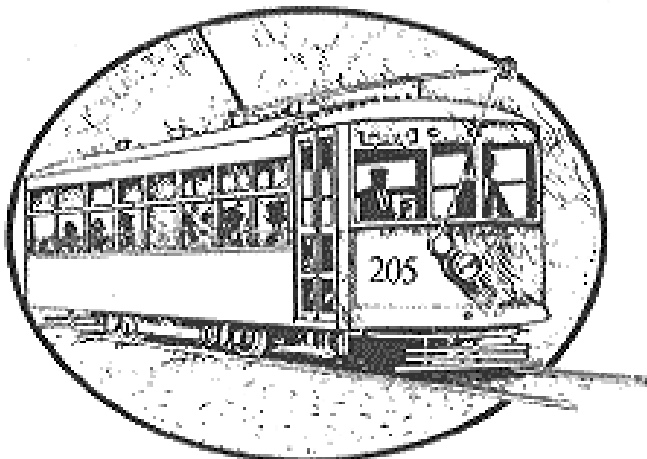
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*Promoting The Railway Museum Movement!*

## FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM

100 S. 4th Street  
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