



FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM TROLLEY REPORT

Spring 2008

Number 92

Annual Open House—Sunday, May 4th

The Trolley Museum's annual open house is coming up on Sunday, May 4th, 2008, from 1-4:30 PM at 100 South 4th Street. Free trolley rides and refreshments will be available. This is the perfect opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors out to see everything we have to offer.

One article on display will be Car #50, a 1904 double truck Hot Springs streetcar that has been undergoing restoration. This car is starting to shape up and will be a real showpiece when completed. The plumbing and electrical wiring are the main unfinished projects. Many other items will also be on display, including a demonstration by the Fort Smith Amateur Radio Club.

Endowment Fund Established

Sustainability is a big concern of not-for-profit organizations, including this museum. In order to insure the future financial stability of the museum, the board voted on January 21, 2008, to establish an endowment account with the Arkansas Community Foundation and its local affiliate, the Fort Smith Community Foundation. As a result, on February 22, the "Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association Endowment Fund" was established.

The Arkansas Community Foundation was incorporated in 1976 as Arkansas' only statewide public community foundation. It is organized exclusively for charitable, benevolent, scientific, religious, and educational purposes for the benefit of the people in the state of Arkansas.

The Board has voted to add non-directed memorial donations and other donations as directed to this fund. We would appreciate you considering this fund and the

Fort Smith Trolley Museum's future in your estate planning.

Open House Train Rides A&M Railroad to Bring Caboose

The Fort Smith Trolley Museum and the Arkansas & Missouri Railroad will team up once again to offer excursion rides to Van Buren and back during the open house on Sunday, May 4th. This year's rides will include a vintage caboose as well as the usual vintage A&M passenger car. Departure times from the museum will be at 11:30 am and 1:30 pm.

Tickets for the coach car rides will cost \$20.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children. Caboose rides will be \$25.00 for adults and \$20.00 for children. A portion of each fare will go back to the Trolley Museum. Capacity for the coach is 66 passengers and the caboose can hold 10-12 passengers, so reserve your space early. For more information, please contact the museum at 479-783-0205.

Progress Report: Hot Springs Car #50

We are in a phase of restoration that does not make a big visible difference. Most of it is under the car, such as the air brake piping or brackets that bolt to the platform knees.

One of the most exciting events in this restoration process is a parts trade with the Museum of Transportation in St Louis. We would like to thank their board for approving the trade and Neil Norkaitis for coordinating and coming out to complete the transaction on a cold and icy day.

We exchanged a K35 controller and an assortment of overhead trolley line hardware in return for a set of brass brackets for a corner grab and two hand brake stands required for the 50 car. We also received a K10 controller that will be used on the open car when it is restored. Cooperation between museums is very important in trolley restorations, and we appreciate all the parts we obtain in this way.

Looking Back

by

Becky Meyers

“Just as in the present day accidents occur. So too did they occur during the time of the Fort Smith Streetcar. The following are accounts of accidents that happened along the streetcar lines.

An early streetcar accident during 1899 claimed the life of Confederate Army veteran Earnest Beck, when he was struck by a Little Rock Avenue car. The slightly deaf Beck, in the company of Mayor Garrett and Judge Spradling, appeared to be puzzled as his companions stepped back quickly on hearing the gong sounded by an approaching streetcar. Before Garrett and Spradling realized Beck had not heard the alarm, he was struck and fatally wounded.

An Eleventh Street car and a runaway horse collided in 1907, injuring passengers Breslin and Morris. Assistant superintendent Gaskill stated that the accident was unavoidable.

Motorman Amis died from injuries he sustained in a fall from a moving car in 1908. A Negro, a conductor, and Amis engaged in a playful scuffle, when Amis was thrown from the streetcar. Carmen made up a collection for his widow and family. That same year, bartender Frank Burns was shot as he rode to work early one morning on car 12. Motorman Lee Cannon and conductor J.P. Pierce identified his assailant as H.B. Lewis, alluding to an argument between the two men during the previous evening.

In 1911, a chain gang prisoner at work sweeping Garrison Avenue was struck by the streetcar manned by motorman E.J. Goff and conductor Art Junkin. Jessie Capps of Paw Paw, Oklahoma, leading a cow on Garrison was thrown into the path of a moving streetcar, but suffered only minor injury. Mrs. J. C. Boyd charged carmen had carried her past Dodson Avenue on the South Fort Smith car, letting her off unassisted as she carried an armload of parcels at stop 4, where

she fell to the ground. An expectant mother, Mrs. Boyd, alleged that carmen's negligence caused premature accouchement.”

to be continued

Trolley Museum Library and Archives

The Fort Smith Trolley Museum is planning to expand our library and archives. It will be an important research tool for all historical forms of transportation and other technology of the period such as radios and machinery. Our local libraries usually do not keep the types of books and files that we collect and use, and the Museum is looking forward to making these resources available to those who need them.

We are fortunate to have received many single article donations as well as several important collections from individuals and estates. Recently, we received vast collection of Charles Winters' black & white steam locomotive photographs. His widow, Ann Winters, also donated his collection of rail-related books and his files containing his research on the Fort Smith and Western RR and other lines.

One of our donors, Louis A. Marre, who grew up in Fort Smith and is a published rail historian, pointed out that all the libraries that are dedicated to our field already have most of the materials that serious collectors have in their collections. Donating these items to established facilities often creates duplicate items which are frequently sold or discarded. Supporting the Fort Smith Trolley Museum's library and archive with your donation will insure these lifelong collections will continue to

be highly appreciated and be kept together.

The museum purchased an adjacent property in 2004, containing the warehouse depicting the mural designed by John Bell JR. Bradley Martin, general manager, has set aside an area of the building to be adaptively reused and developed as a library and archives facility. When completed this area will provide a controlled climate for the storage, protection, and use of our collection along with a public meeting room for use by educational groups and others.

To outfit our new facility, the Trolley Museum is in need of the following items: conference tables, chairs, filing cabinets, card files, Pentium 4 2.8mhz or faster computers, shelving and any other items you might expect to see in a library. Please contact the Museum if you have any items to donate that could benefit the library and archive project.

Fund Raiser on the Horizon

Museum to Host Dinner Train

August 16th, 2008, will be a red letter day for train enthusiasts as the Trolley Museum hosts a dinner train to Winslow. This has been selected as the Museum's fund raising activity for the summer. We will again offer first class dining on the A&M parlor car, as well as coach class dinners. This year, we will also offer a truly rustic dining experience for those who would like to brave a ride in a caboose to Winslow. The train will depart from the Van Buren depot at 5:00pm with an approximate one hour layover in Winslow. Details and menu will follow in the summer newsletter. Be sure to reserve time in your busy summer schedule to join us in this event.

Memberships & Contributions

George & Carol Beattie
 M/M Earl Porter
 Charles Hearn
 David & Marilyn Rains
 M/M Brad Jesson
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 Charles Lane
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Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Pauline DeShazo Brahms
 By Jean Williams
In Memory of Amelia Martin & Tom Ross
 By Rudy & Emiliana Garza
In Memory of Tom Ross
 By Iris Breed
In Honor of Rod Naucke's 77th birthday
 By Sally Naucke
In Honor of Art Martin's 90th Birthday
 By Russ Williams
In Honor of Art Martin
 By M/M Eugene Staton
 M/M John Eddleman
 M/M Vernon Stewart
 Leah Shaefer
 Iris Breed

World Wide Web Page

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

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.

Support Your Trolley Museum

Your continuing support of the *Fort Smith Trolley Museum* is appreciated. Your tax deductible contribution insures the continued operation and development of the museum.

MEMBERSHIP CARD SERVES AS AN ANNUAL PASS

___ Individual	\$10.00	___ Benefactor	\$500 (receive 224 plaque & Lifetime pass)
___ Family	\$15.00	___ Life	\$1,000 (Receive Certificate and Lifetime Pass)
___ Sponsor	\$25.00	___ 224 Club	\$224 (Receive Plaque & Lifetime Pass)

Special Gifts

General Fund \$ _____ Restoration fund \$ _____
 Endowment Fund \$ _____ Special _____ \$ _____

Memorials and Honorariums

In ___ Memory ___ Honor of _____

Please Notify _____

Address _____

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Credit Card Type _____ Number _____ expiration _____

Mail Your Tax Deductible donation to:

The museum is a 501c(3) Non-profit organization.

Fort Smith Trolley Museum

100 South 4th Street

Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901

Run-a-Streetcar Day Become a Master of Car #224

How many times in your younger days did you look at a picture of a streetcar and say "I sure wish I could run one of those"? Well gentlemen and ESPECIALLY ladies, even if you didn't, that wish is about to be granted. On Saturday, April 12th, 2008, the Fort Smith Trolley Museum will host a "Run-a-Streetcar Day". Any person who would like to operate FSL&T #224 will be allowed to do so under the supervision of a trained trolley operator.

Operating times will begin at 9:00am and end at 5:00pm. Operating the car will be on a first come, first serve basis, unless a specified time is reserved in advance. The only requirement for participation is a current, valid driver's license from the state in which each participant resides. Drivers of all ages are encouraged to come out and take part in this unique

opportunity. For more information or to reserve your operating time, call the Fort Smith Trolley Museum at 479-783-0205.

Thank you Junior League of Fort Smith!

Last year the Fort Smith Trolley Museum received a large number of Charles Winters' contact prints from Louis A. Marre. Mr. Winters was a major photographer-collector of railroad pictures from both large and very small lines. Pictures of his locomotives are from places all over the United States. There are approximately 25,000 prints from Mr. Winters' collection. Thanks to the generosity of the Junior League of Fort Smith the Trolley Museum was awarded a "Done in a Day" grant of \$400 to help purchase some of the sleeves needed to preserve these prints. In January two volunteers from the Junior League helped members of the Trolley Museum begin "sleeving" these prints.

Trolley Report

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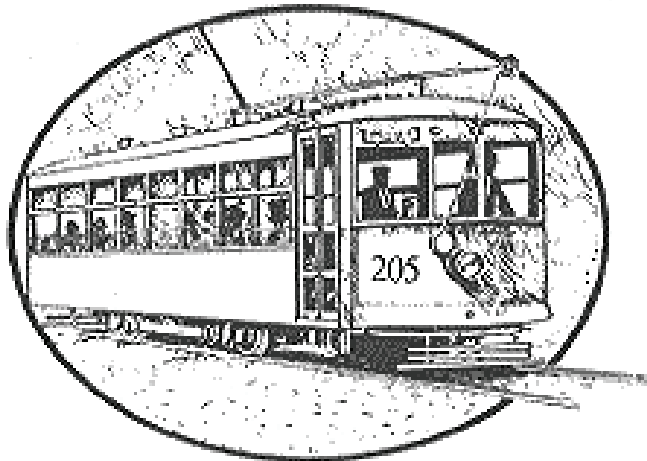
Association of Railway Museums, Inc.
Founded 1961

Promoting The Railway Museum Movement!

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100 S. 4th Street
Fort Smith, AR 72901

Return Service Requested



Annual Open House
Sunday, May 4, 2008

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