



FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM

TROLLEY REPORT

Summer 2008

Number 93

Dinner Train to Depart August 16th

Back by popular demand, the Fort Smith Trolley Museum, with the cooperation of the Arkansas & Missouri Rail Road, will host a dinner excursion train that will depart the Van Buren train depot at 5:00 PM on Saturday August 16, 2008, and travel to Winslow, Arkansas, where we will have a one hour layover. In Winslow, you will be able to witness true Western justice at work.

This year, we will have three classes for passengers to enjoy. First class service will be Judicial Class @ \$200.00 per person. Seating will be in the A&M parlor car, and will feature a full dinner and wine. The next class of service will be Barrister Class @ \$150.00 per person. You will enjoy a really rustic dining experience as you will be riding in the A&M railroad's red caboose known as "Little Toot". You will enjoy a hearty box dinner and beverages. **PLEASE**

NOTE: Seating will be limited to 10 passengers, and the only amenity is a restroom (WHAT – no lights or A/C? That's right). The last class will be Gallery Class @ \$50.00 per person. You will be riding in one of three A&M

antique coaches. You will enjoy a hearty box dinner and non-alcoholic beverages.

Our dinner this year will be prepared and served by Caveman Barbecue. Their cuisine is excellent, and they have promised to wear their formal bearskins this time. Our time line for this event will be the 1890's. Any one wanting to wear Western garb will be encouraged to do so.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a registration form that you may send back to us. Tickets go on sale immediately, and we request all forms be in by Wednesday, August 13, 2008. For more information, please call the museum at 479-783-0205, Bradley Martin at 479-650-5456, or Henry Moore at 479-650-0103. We hope to see you there.

Hot Springs Street Railway 50 Restoration Update

The airbrake plumbing is completed. We are starting on the wiring for the motors now. When that is completed the car will be operable even though it will not completely finished. If you would like to help with this or any other ongoing or upcoming projects at the museum, you are

welcome to join us. Call Bradley Martin at 479-650-5456 for information.

Stock and Taxes

Were you advised to sell appreciated stocks and had to pay taxes on the entire gain? Hurts doesn't it? If you donate stock to the Trolley Museum you can deduct the entire appreciated amount from your taxes.

Donated stock, unless otherwise designated by the giver, becomes part of the museum's endowment to insure the museum remains financially healthy and continues in the future. Contact Bradley Martin, 479-650-5456, for additional information and the account numbers to transfer the stock.

Auto License Plates

The museum has a collection of plates that are displayed in the car barn. Newer plates have not been added since the date stickers became popular. This was a mistake as there are many varieties of plates in each state now.

If you have plates from any state, any year and any variety we would like to add your plates to the collection. Check the garage and see what is hanging around.

Looking Back

by Becky Meyers
Continued...

“Another accident in 1911 occurred when wagonmaker Frazier walked across Garrison, stepping aside to avoid a moving automobile, he was struck by a Little Rock Avenue car manned by motorman Lemon and conductor Watt. On the evening of December 1st, an outbound South Fort Smith car collided with the Arkoma car near the junction of the two lines, injuring motorman Frank A. Schaffer and one more passenger.

In February of 1912, five-year-old Walter Caldwell was killed as he crossed the tracks on North 5th, when car 31, manned by motorman James Hughes and conductor Homer Webb ran over the youth. Jackscrews raised the car to permit removal of the body. Hughes was charged with murder, but later was exonerated of all blame. In March, Guy Tuskeson was hit by car 31, shattering his buggy at 5th and C Streets, but sustaining no injuries. That same month Negro Sanford Lewis was hanged from a trolley pole near the Main Hotel. Some participants in the lynch mob were brought to trial, and drew fines and sentences. Lewis' crime amounted to his having been victim to a pistol whipping while his assailant's pistol fired by accident, fatally wounding Andy Carr. The hanging, by a mob incited to violence, was contrived to draw attention away from the killer of Carr.

Businessman Frank Bollinger, Sr. passenger on an inbound Grand Avenue car, narrowly missed injury from a bullet fired near Grober's Grocery in June, 1912. Late one July evening in 1912, motorman Northup lost a leg. Electric Park had closed for the night and three heavily loaded cars

began movement toward the city. For some reason the headlight failed on the first car and the motorman stopped near the Frisco connection to determine the trouble. Number 19, the second car halted behind the lead car, but Northup in a small single truck car number 14 was unable to stop, running his car under the platform of car 19, severing Northup's leg.

The next month, at the conclusion of a League Stadium baseball game, two heavily loaded open cars departed for the city. Motorman, V.T. Buel, responded instantly when a passenger ringing the bell shouted, “Stop! I lost my hat.” Car 53, piloted by motorman Davis and following closely, could not stop, and struck the leading car, knocking it some twenty-five feet. Both cars were still operable and proceeded toward the car barn. Car 53 halted at the barns, where passengers transferred to an undamaged car for conclusion of the trip.”

*For more about Fort Smith's trolley history, check back for next month's **Looking Back**.*

Open House Success

The 23rd annual open house and 17th year of operation celebration was very successful with perfect weather. Mayor Baker presented the museum a proclamation commemorating another year of operation.

All trolley rides were free. A&M Railroad offered excursion rides from the museum 10 miles to the center of the Arkansas River Bridge. The train had a vintage passenger car and a vintage caboose. The caboose allowed some of us who remembered them to fulfill a lifetime desire to ride in a caboose.

The Fort Smith Area Amateur Radio Club set up short wave transmitters in the Dining Car again this year to operate “Fort Smith Trolley Museum Special Event 2008”. Contacts were made all over the nation. A QSL card was developed with a picture of the 224 streetcar and a message about the museum. “THE FORT SMITH STREETCAR RESTORATION ASSOCIATION IS DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND APPRECIATION OF ELECTRIC POWERED STREETCARS, RAILROAD EQUIPMENT, AND PROVIDING A UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO THE VISITING PUBLIC”. This card was sent to confirm radio contact. Thank you for this nationwide publicity.

We appreciate the support the citizens of Fort Smith have given this portion of Fort Smith and municipal transportation history. The city is very proud of its extensive history as shown by the four history museums including the future Marshall's Museum...

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.

Party Time?

The museum allows the use of the MKT dining car for parties or other events for \$25 plus the trolley fares to ride the trolley. For information call 479-650-5456.

Securing the Museum's Future

Hard work by volunteers and the generous support of our donors for the past 29 years have built the Fort Smith Trolley Museum into what it is today. To protect and insure the financial stability of the museum the "Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association Endowment Fund" was established with the Arkansas Community Foundation and the local Fort Smith Community Foundation.

Please consider a gift to the endowment when making your philanthropic plans or reviewing

your estate plans. Even a small gift will be a gift for forever.

Hail Damage

May 9, 2008, the Fort Smith area was hit by a devastating hail storm. 1,000s of roofs and many automobiles were damaged, and the museum did not escape damage.

51 of the 96 windows in the Frisco round house doors were broken as well as all the office and machine shop windows. The Frisco and Missouri Pacific tool houses were destroyed. The two 12 X 24 roll up doors on the 3rd street buildings were severely beaten up and will be replaced. Fortunately the outside equipment received little damage, mostly broken windows.

In all, the museum had a little over \$16,000 in damage. Fortunately all but the \$1,000 deductible was covered by insurance.

Trolley Report

Is a quarterly publication of the Fort Smith Trolley Museum

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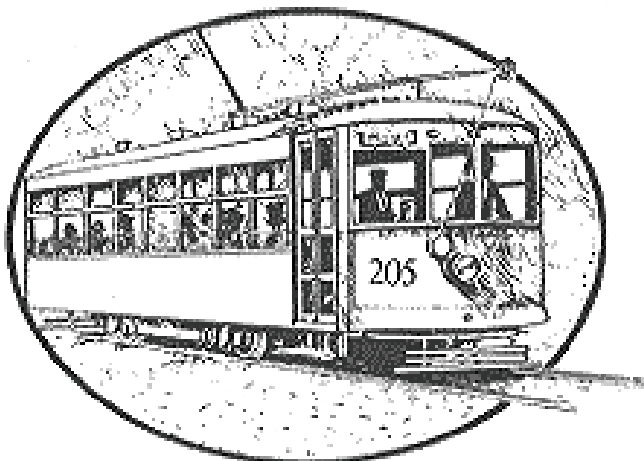
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