



FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM TROLLEY REPORT

Spring 2009

Number 96

30th Anniversary Celebration

The Fort Smith Trolley Museum is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association was incorporated 30 years ago. This led to the formation of the Fort Smith Trolley Museum in 1985. In 1991 we began operation of the restored Fort Smith Light and Traction Co 224. This special open house marks the beginning of our 18th year of operation. Celebration of this momentous occasion will take place the weekend of May 2-3, 2009, with a several exciting events, and we hope you'll join us. Thank you to everyone who has supported the museum for the past 30 years. With your continued support, the next 30 years will be even better.

Saturday Evening Dinner Train

Festivities begin Saturday, May 2, with a dinner train departing at 5:00 pm. The train will travel from the Frisco Station, located at 813 Main Street in Van Buren, to Winslow, Arkansas, and back. First class dinner in the A&M railroad parlor car will consist of smoked and grilled rib eye steak and all the trimmings. Cost for this venue will be \$150.00 per person. Travel in the A&M coach cars will consist of a box dinner of smoked and seasoned chicken leg quarters and all the trimmings. Cost for this venue will be \$40.00 for adults and \$25.00 for children. Caboose accommodations are already sold out (but you can still catch a ride on Sunday). For tickets, please contact the Fort Smith Trolley Museum at 479-783-0205, Bradley Martin at 479-650-5456, or Henry Moore at 479-650-0103.

An application for reservations is available from the museum's web site at <http://www.fstm.org> or the file section of the fortsmithtrolley yahoo group web page.

Annual Sunday Open House

The celebration will continue on Sunday, May 3, from 10 am to 5 pm with the annual open house. There will be free trolley rides and refreshments.

The **Fort Smith Area Amateur Radio Club** will have a special event radio station set up in the dinning car. You can see how amateur radio works and talk with the amateurs. There will be a special QSL card for this event.

Heartland Choo Choo, an amusement train provided by Wayne Porter of Ozark, Arkansas will be operating during the open house, providing rides for both children and adults. The fare will be \$1 and all proceeds will be donated to the Trolley Museum.

The **Fort Smith Antique Car Club** will have antique automobiles on display.

A **Silent Auction** will be part of the Sunday celebrations. Proceeds from this auction will help in securing a \$3,000.00 matching grant

from the 20th Century Electric Railway Foundation. This grant will benefit the Trolley Museum Library and Archives. Any items you would like to donate to the silent auction will be greatly appreciated.

Sunday Train Rides

Have you ever dreamed of riding in a caboose? Well, your dream can come true during the open house on Sunday, May 3. The Arkansas & Missouri Railroad will offer rides from the Trolley Museum to the Arkansas River Bridge and back. The railroad will have their full complement of passenger cars as well as the caboose available for passengers to take a leisurely ride through Fort Smith. Departure times from the Trolley Museum will be 11:00am, 1:00pm, and 3:00pm. Cost for a coach ride will be \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children. Cost for the caboose will be \$20.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children. Seating in the caboose will be limited to 10 people. Advance reservations may be made by calling the Trolley Museum at 479-783-0205.

Looking Back

by Becky Meyers

“Violence continued on outbound Saturday night north Eleventh streetcars, and twenty-two men were arrested on January 23, 1914 following a brawl. Mail carrier Charles F. Bain brought suit in February for injuries he sustained on Garrison Avenue, alleging the streetcar, which struck his wagon, moved at excessive speed and was operated by an inexperienced motorman. Late in the evening of February 1, 1914, Midland Heights merchant T. L. Johnson was robbed and beaten by two Negro bandits who boarded the lat car out Eleventh Street. Motorman Davis and conductor Dempsey alerted special agent Oxford at the carbarn but his passengers protested innocence. In June a streetcar struck a motor car driven by Mrs. E.O. Simpson at North 18th and E Streets, the impact throwing Mr. and Mrs. Simpson and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Hawkins from the machine. The Simpsons accused the motorman of not looking the direction he was moving. In November George Tilles sued the Light & Traction for injuries he had sustained in stumbling over a suitcase sitting in the aisle of a crowded Eleventh Street car, asking \$2,500 damages and charging the carmen with negligence. That some month an inbound car split the switch approaching Electric park, slightly injuring passenger Alvin Goldstein. Eddie Jones brought suit against the company for death of his son, who was thrown from the crowded vestibule of an Eleventh Street car as it entered a sharp curve near the suburban crossing. Bicycle rider W.G.

Laster was struck by a car at South 18th and H Streets, and his parents brought suit for \$10,000.

“Masked bandits held up motorman Muthershed and conductor Clint Skaggs at the waiting room neat the sought end of the Van Buren Bridge in January of 1915. Besides fare money and personal funds from both Carmen and passengers, the robbers also took watches. Fred Honea and Gus Young of Van Buren were arrested, but released when two robbers fitting descriptions of Honea and Young held up motorman P.I. Davis on Division Street one week later.

“With Light & Traction service across the Van Buren Bridge withdrawn during 1915, there were jitney accidents. On March 11th, R.L. Shinn’s jitney overturned and burned near the south end of the bridge. Shinn leaped from the jitney, and there were no passengers. The Dennis White jitney struck six-year-old Marie Hill near stop 4 on Eleventh Street in April.

“A broken axle on a Park Hill streetcar created problems July 14, 1916. With the car body supported by emergency blocking, workmen placed skids under the disabled portion of the running gear and towed the crippled car to the shops. There was a thirty minute disruption of streetcars at Texas Corner, while the car moved very slowly over switches and crossings.”

to be continued

A River Front View

The Environmental Protection Agency has recently completed the clean up of the US Forgecraft Property. All buildings were removed and the contaminated soil was removed

and replaced. The Trolley Museum now has an excellent view of the Arkansas and Poteau Rivers. We can see across the river to Oklahoma along with the barges and tugboats traveling on the river.

In 1984 when we first leased the property, which we now own, from the Missouri Pacific Railroad, it was overgrown and hidden from view. Today we are highly visible from Garland and 6th street, and we’re out in the open with a river view. What a change.

Library Donations

Russell Potter donated a large collection of rail related VHS tapes, books, maps and magazines to the museum’s growing Library.

Donations are always appreciated whether one item or a large collection. Thank you Russell.

Hot Springs Street Railway 50 Progress

We have almost completed the motor circuit wiring on the car. It is a slow process. After the two harnesses were fabricated, they had to be installed under the car which required fabricating hanger brackets. The air pipes had to be permanently attached to the under side of the body and all the wires attached to the controllers and motors. Next is assembly of the cast iron grids that control the speed of the motors.

Thanks to two new volunteers James Rankin and Wayne Porter for their help and dedication.

Memberships & Contributions

M/M R.R.Cohoon
 Floyd Barger
 Dennis Smith
 Ron Powell
 Leah Shaeffer
 Robert Gregg
 Eugene Rapley
 Mary Nell Euper
 Franklin Lockwood
 Bud & Paula Jackson
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 Cindy & Howard Bagby
 Jack Frazee
 Denna Roberts
 Jay Jones
 Jake Commer
 Sams Club

World Wide Web Page

Visit our website for current news
 or to view past newsletters.
<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.

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 forsmithtrolley in the search block and follow the directions.

Memorials & Honoraiums

In Memory of Lollie Feldmam Leding
 By J Harry Feldman
In Memory of Amelia Martin
 By Rudy Garza
In Honor of Rod Naucke birthday
 By Mrs Rodney Naucke
In Honor of Art Martin
 By Carl Corley

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	___ Sustainer	\$100
___ Family	\$15.00	___ 224 Club	\$224 (Receive Plaque & Lifetime Pass)
___ Sponsor	\$25.00	___ Benefactor	\$500 (receive 224 plaque & Lifetime pass)
___ Conductor	\$50.00	___ Life	\$1,000 (Receive Certificate and Lifetime Pass)

Special Gifts

General Fund \$ _____ Restoration fund \$ _____
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Memorials and Honorariums

In ___ Memory ___ Honor of _____

Please Notify _____

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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 96

Trolley Track Extension Coming

The long dreamed about extension of the Trolley track has finally been funded.

The FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriation Act recently signed into law provides \$237,500 to the city of Fort Smith for an extension of the downtown tracks. The city also has approximately \$215,000 of funds from the city's portion of the County 1 cent sales tax that is dedicated to track construction.

The extension will begin at the end of the track across from the Convention Center, and it will then go north along the west edge of South 7th past the Convention Center and Holiday Inn. Depending

on construction cost it is hoped to cross Rogers Avenue turn east on the north side of Rogers to the corner of the parking garage then turn north and end at the sidewalk by the Town Club on Garrison Avenue.

This extension will allow the Trolley to carry passengers from the Hotel and Convention Center area to the museum, restaurant and entertainment area of West Garrison. It will benefit all.

These funds are not part of the stimulus package. There are several factors that will determine when the city can start construction. A few of these factors are when the funds will be released to the city, requirements that must be met, engineering design time, and what happens with the vacant baking company building.

Trolley Report

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Association of Railway Museums, Inc.
Founded 1961

Promoting The Railway Museum Movement!

FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM

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Fort Smith, AR 72901

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30th Anniversary Celebration May 2-3