



FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM

TROLLEY REPORT

Summer 2009

Number 97

Trolley Museum Open House July 12th, 2009

A special summer Open House will be Sunday, July 12, 2009, from 10 am to 5 pm. The Museum is celebrating 18 years of operation of the restored Fort Smith Light and Traction Co 224. The museum is located at 100 South 4th street. Come take a free ride on the trolley and enjoy some refreshments.

The **Fort Smith Area Amateur Radio Club** will have a special event radio station set up in the dining 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. Rides for children and adults will be available for \$1 and all proceeds will be donated to the Trolley Museum.

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

A demonstration of O gauge model trolleys will be on display by Mitch Marmel of Springdale, Arkansas. Visitors will be allowed to operate the cars.

The **Arkansas & Missouri railroad** will offer rides from the

Trolley Museum to the Arkansas River Bridge and back. The passengers will take a leisurely ride through Fort Smith. Departure times from the Museum will be 11:00 am, 1:30 pm, and 3:00 pm. Cost for a coach ride will be \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children. Advance reservations may be made by calling the trolley museum at 479-783-0205.

Silent Auction

A silent auction will be part of the Sunday celebrations. Proceeds from this auction will help secure a \$3,000.00 matching grant from the 20th Century Electric Railway Foundation. The grant will benefit the museum's library and archives.

For additional information feel free to contact Bradley at 479-650-5456.

Hot Springs Street Railway 50 Restoration

The 1904 Hot Springs Street Railway 50 has been restored from a poorly preserved body purchased in 1991 from the Late Edward Crain of Bonerdale, Arkansas. We not only received the body of the 50 but parts from 2 additional Hot Springs cars. Restored to its 1904 glory, the car is now almost ready to begin operation.

This restoration involved the acquisition of parts from many different locations. Examples are the trucks and motors that came from Canada by way of Branford Trolley Museum. Much of the hardware and seats came from the St Louis Waterworks 12. The parts were found in a basement in St Louis in 1983. Some of the seats are original from Hot Springs. Patterns were made from original hardware and reproductions were cast. Many other parts were obtained by trades or purchases from other museum and individuals. Thousands of hours of labor and over \$200,000 have gone into the restoration.

What is needed to complete the car and operate it? The completion of the electrical system is the most important item remaining for the car to move under its own power. The Grid system in the motor control circuit is the major remaining item in the electrical system. The track out of the carbarn must have the guard rail completed to be able to use the rail. The overhead trolley wire must also be installed before we can begin operation of the car.

Volunteers are always welcome at the museum. If you would like to help with any of the museum's projects please call Bradley Martin at 479-650-5456 or stop by the museum.

Looking Back

by
Becky Meyers

“In July of 1914 Iron Mountain machinist Jim Rushing resisted efforts of officer Miller Wells in attempts to unload the inebriated Rushing from a Van Buren car. Wells’ pistol fell from its holster to the street, discharging and fatally wounding Rushing. The two men were friends, and the accident was considered to be most unfortunate. In August, an inbound Fifth Street car collided with a fire wagon, overturning the wagon, injuring firemen Charles Wheeler, Will Mckinley, and Carl Bollinger. Motorman Brown had seen Chief M.J. Brun proceeding along A Street in his automobile, but failing to stop at the blind intersection. The accident pointed to needs for an alarm bell to protect movement of fire department vehicles.

“One of the most bizarre Light & Traction accidents involves the collision of speeding southbound owl car 22 with an eastbound Union Taxi, at the intersection of North 5th and C Streets on August 24, 1915. The taxi passenger, a young man from one of the city’s leading families, had been a guest at a resort situated on North 1st Street. Although the taxi driver, Jim Crowe recovered, his passenger died from internal injuries. Light & Traction attorneys acquiesced to wishes of the victim’s mother in final settlement for the accident, agreeing never to operate car 22 again. In a trip through the paint shop, car 22 emerged as car 80.

“On the evening of February 8, 1917, Wesley Blocker operated an outbound Grand Avenue car at Garrison and 13th

Street, striking a buggy driven by Dr. Epler, throwing Dr. Epler from the vehicle. Both the streetcar and buggy were making left turns as an inbound Little Rock Avenue car waited at the intersection. Epler blamed bright streetcar headlights for the accident. Only five days later at stop 7 in Midland Heights, Elijah Phillips ran headlong into a streetcar bound for the carbarn about midnight. On conclusion of the final trip out Eleventh it was regular practice to reverse the car a Waldron Road and proceed on the outbound track back to the barn. Phillips, apparently unaware of the practice, assumed the car was on the usual inbound track bound for the city as he ran to board the vehicle, not realizing he was running directly into its path.”

to be continued

Little Rock Birney Car Donated to the Museum

The Hillcrest Merchants Association of Little Rock has donated Capital Transportation Company 310 to the Museum. The car is a single ended 1926 American Car Company Birney that operated in Little Rock from 1926 to 1947.

Extensive work will be required to restore this car. It is our desire to obtain a second Little Rock car and do a first class restoration by combining the best parts of both cars as we did with the Hot Springs Street Railway 50. We are seeking dedicated funds to support this restoration.

We thank the Merchants Association for donating this car to

the Museum’s Arkansas Trolley Collection. Three trolley systems are now represented.

Trolley Track Extension

The Fort Smith Engineering Department has begun work on the design of a track extension that will extend from just east of the South 6th Street truck route, north on 7th street, east on the north side of Rogers Avenue and north to Garrison Avenue next to the Town Club.

This will be funded by an appropriation in the 2009 Omnibus Appropriation Bill and funds reserved by the city from the city’s share of the county sales tax.

This extension will benefit downtown because we will be able to transport people from the hotels and convention center to the restaurants and museums on the east end of the avenue and back.

In Kind Donations

Iris Breed Jones- Video Security System, Antique display cases.

Therma Tru Corporation- Doors for the Library building.

Sid Donaldson- Computer monitor and keyboard shelf.

Mont Sagely- Computer.

Thank you for your support!

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.

Memberships and Contributions

Sally Baum Frick
 Jim Echols
 Bancorpsouth
 Harry Keifer Sr
 Arthur Robb
 Steven Morgan
 Mitch Manuel
 David Fulgham
 David Kerr
 Charles Hearn
 Frank Hug
 Robert Miller
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 Clarence & Darlene Durham
 Deborah Gaston
 Jeanne Johnson
 Stan Kujawa
 Ione Ney
 Perry Kratchmer
 Fran & Sam Bateman
 Kenneth Jones
 Fred Kirkpatrick
 Hillcrest Merchants Assoc.

By Ann Winters
In Memory of Paul Schaefer
 By Betty & Irvin Sternberg
In Memory of Kelly Joe Johnston
 By Deborah Gaston
In Memory of Claude Groves
 By Betty & Irvin Sternberg

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>

Memorials & Honorariums

In Memory of Amelia Martin
 By Marilyn & David Fulgham
 Nancy & George Heflin
 Bradley & Janice Martin
 Tommy & Cathy Martin
 Art Martin
In Memory of Charles Winters

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 \$ _____
 Endowment Fund \$ _____ Special _____ \$ _____

Memorials and Honorariums

In ___ Memory ___ Honor of _____

Please Notify _____

Address _____
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Donor Name _____

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 97

\$1 donation worth \$4 for the Museum

The 20th Century Electric Railway Foundation has pledged a matching grant of \$3,000 to support our library and archives. We must receive donations of \$3,000 from sources other than our normal donations to receive this grant.

To help meet this obligation the Godfrey-Thomas Charitable Foundation has pledged a \$500 matching grant. We must receive \$500 in donations to receive this donation.

Each \$1 donated will be doubled by the Godfrey-Thomas Charitable Foundation and that will be doubled by the 20th Century Electric Railway Foundation.

This is a great opportunity to support the museum's library and

make your donation count for four times the dollar amount.

200,000th Passenger Approaching

The 200,000th passenger to ride the Trolley will be treated to a special weekend. The passenger will receive 2 first class round trip tickets from Van Buren to Fayetteville on the Arkansas & Missouri RR Excursion Train.

The couple will leave Van Buren Friday evening and spend the night at the Inn Carnell Hall on the University of Arkansas Campus. They will return to Van Buren Saturday Morning.

The 200,000th passenger will ride this season, so hop on board and you could be the lucky rider to receive this memorable weekend for two.

Trolley Report

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Trolley Museum

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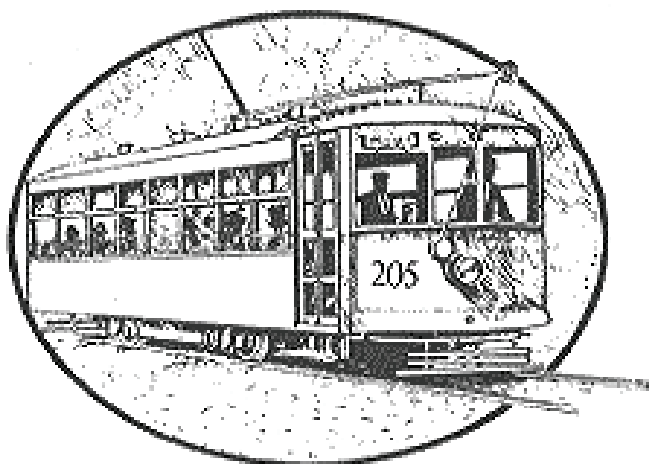
Association of Railway Museums, Inc.
Founded 1961

Promoting The Railway Museum Movement!

FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM

100 S. 4th Street
Fort Smith, AR 72901

Return Service Requested



Special Open House July 12th

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