

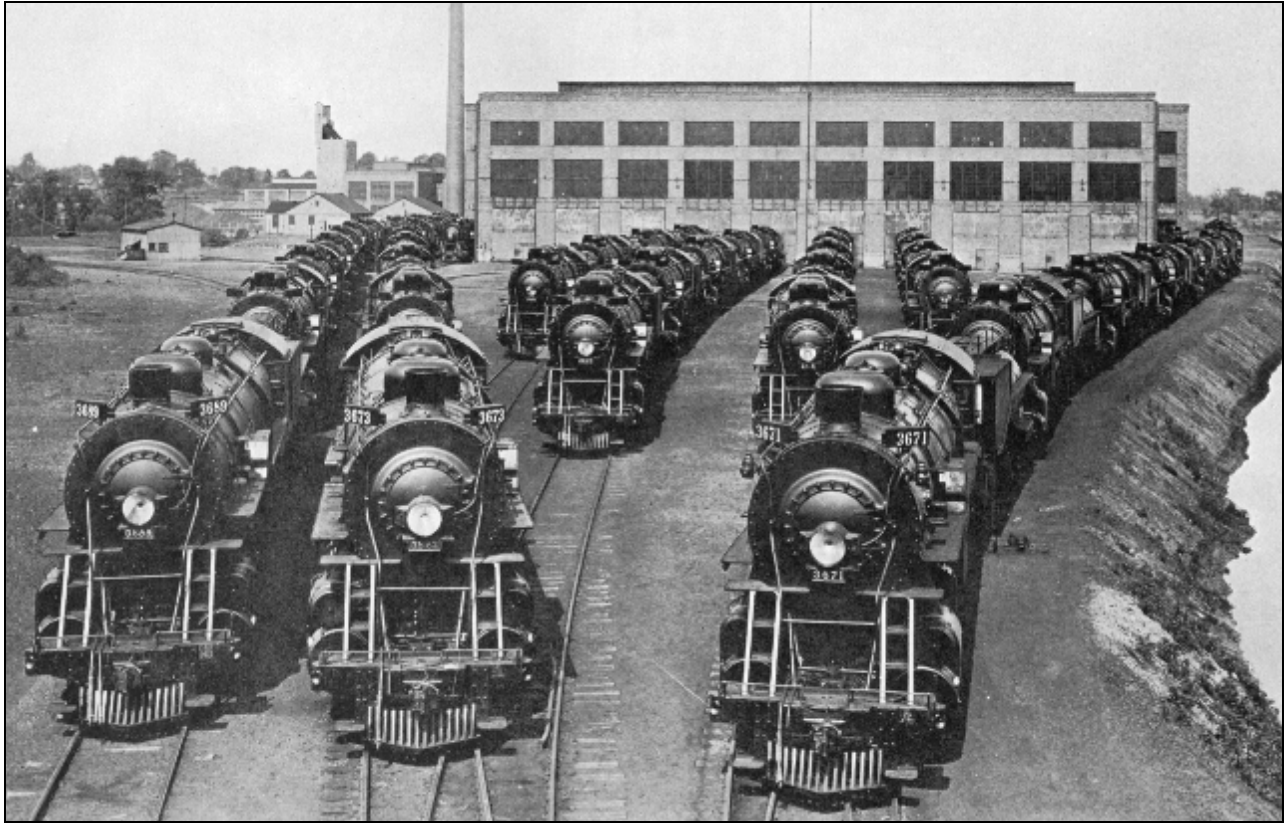
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

October, 2011

SHREVEPORT, LA

Our 30th Year

Fifty 2-10-2 Type Steam Locomotives Ready for Shipment



Between 1919 and 1923 the Southern Pacific received 150 locomotives of the 2-10-2 type from The Baldwin Locomotive Works. Shown above is a group of 50 locomotives ready for shipment from their Eddystone Plant in Pennsylvania. Mr. S. M. Vauclain, then President of The Baldwin Locomotive Works, realized that the stimulating effect of such a large purchase of new equipment by one railroad would bolster up the spirit of the country, so he arranged to ship 20 of these locomotives across the continent in one solid train. The train was called the *Prosperity Special* and had a length of nearly 2,000 feet without the propelling engines. Before the trip began, civic officials and public press in the towns along the route were notified and it was said the no other train ever received so much publicity in a short period of time.

The *Prosperity Special* left the Eddystone Plant on May 26, 1921 with a scheduled arrival in Los Angeles on June 30th. The train of 20 new locomotives was moved intact over the entire route. From El Paso to Yuma it was accompanied by the Division Superintendent in his private car. While ascending Beaumont Hill out of Yuma, the train was handled by seven locomotives: two Mikado type on the head end, one Mikado and one Consolidation behind the 10th dead engine, two Consolidations behind the 15th dead engine and one Mallet behind the rear dead engine. The trip covered 3743 miles. Throughout the entire run, the bearings kept cool and there were no mechanical troubles; a testimony to the excellence of the material and workmanship put into the locomotives.



The tiny *C. P. Huntington* locomotive alongside one of the *Prosperity Special* locomotives. It could almost fit into the 2-10-2 firebox without choking the draft.

(Editors note: The DeGolyer Library at SMU in Dallas has an extensive collection of Baldwin Locomotive Works drawings and records. Their website (www.smu.edu/cul/degolyer/) contains a photo of Mr. Vauclain standing in front of the locomotives contained in the *Prosperity Special*.)

Pioneer Day at LSUS on Saturday October 8



Our Society once again set up some displays at the annual LSUS Pioneer Day. Kids and adults enjoyed the train videos, artifacts, photographs and Charley. Thanks to the hard working group above!

RRVRHS Meeting & Fish Fry on Saturday Oct. 29 at the McNeill Street Pumping Station

Instead of having our regular meeting on Friday October 21, we will have a short business meeting and a Fish Fry at the McNeill Street Pumping Station on Saturday, October 29. The address is 142 N. Common St. in Shreveport. You will be able to tour the Shreveport Water Works Museum and see the progress on our museum building. We will have fish, shrimp, hush puppies, cold slaw, etc. The time is from 3 to 7 p.m., and we will eat about 5 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per attendee, and you can pay when you get there. If you would like to bring a dessert or other dish, please call Kelly Jo at (318) 524-2832. **Bring a friend!**

Donation of HO Model Train Layout by the Family of Carl Little



Long-time modeler Carl Little passed away on August 29, 2011. Since Mr. Little had expressed his desire to donate his layout to a museum, his son Jeff Little contacted society member Conway Link. Conway referred him to the RRVRHS. Russell Pedro and your Editor looked at the very detailed 4x8 layout and decided it would be great for our museum, so several society members came together and moved the layout to the McNeill Street Pumping Station on September 15. We really appreciate the generosity of Mr. Little's widow and son (shown in the photo above with the layout). A memorial plaque will be placed on the layout after it is installed in our museum.

“Art of the Road” Motorcycle Exhibit in Downtown Shreveport

A great exhibition of more than 47 antique motorcycles is ongoing at Artspace, 710 Texas Street. The collection includes rare, vintage and collectible models that are seldom seen by the public and include their original paint and bodies. The exhibition will be open through October 22 and is free to the public during normal business hours Tuesday thru Sunday. Call (318) 673-6535 for hours and directions.

Upcoming Events

October 11 Cancelled: “A Brief History of the Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific Railway” by Larry Davis at the T&P Depot Museum, Marshall

- October 28-29 “Central Louisiana During World War II”- A Symposium hosted by the Southern Forest Heritage Museum and the National Forest Service
 Friday October 28 6:00-9:00 Southern Forest Heritage Museum
 Sat. Oct.29 10:00-3:00 Camp Claiborne & Southern Forest Heritage Museum
- October 29 RRVRHS Fish Fry at the McNeill Street Pumping Station – 3 to 7 pm
- Nov. 5-6 T&P Model Train Show, Marshall Civic Center

The President’s Message – October 2011

Hello Railfans!

Why do we need museums? I have been talking to people all my life who say they don’t care anything about history. What has happened in the past is past, what is old and worn out throw it away or tear it down. It has been said that we need to study history so we can learn about our mistakes and not repeat them. But the tangible things that ran were built not necessarily by mistake but were necessary or the best that we could do at the time with the technology and material that we had. The reason we want to preserve the past tangible things is because of the beauty and the craftsmanship that went into them. Even with our advanced technology many people look at things made in the past and wonder how we were able to make them. Museums give us the opportunity to see things that are no longer commonplace or in existence for the most part. I have traveled over much of the United States and there are thousands of museums preserving any number of different things we can no longer see in our everyday lives. Believe me, there are many people who visit these places or they would not exist. So as you visit different regions of our country seek out the museums, look around for preserved buildings and other places to see the beauty and craftsmanship of our past.

We will not have a regular business meeting this month, but I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the McNeill Street museum for our semi-annual fish fry and get-together. Please plan to attend. Hope to see all of you there.

Happy Railroading!
 Russell

**RED RIVER VALLEY
 RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
 Shreveport, LA**

Russell Pedro – President Kelly Jo Brunettin – Vice President
 Gary Fox – Secretary Bill Hasheider – Treasurer
 Dave Bland – Newsletter Editor – 797-8008 – DDBland@aol.com www.rvrhs.org

Have you paid your Annual Dues ?

Please send a check or money order for \$16.50 with this membership form to Bill Hasheider at 6813 Despot Road, Shreveport, LA 71108

Name _____

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