



Central Oklahoma Chapter
of the National Railway Historical
Society
Oklahoma Railway Museum Ltd,



Oklahoma Railway Museum Celebrates 10th Anniversary, Page 4

Frontier Country Marketing Association Presents Awards

By Lauren Lorenzen, Frontier Country Public Relations Manager



Photograph by Lauren Lorenzen

Anne Murray representing the ORM
and Frontier Country Executive Director
Sherri Rogers

OKLAHOMA CITY – Frontier Country Marketing Association presented awards to 23 members and two media outlets during its 2009 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon at Frontier City June 25.

The annual awards, which were voted by Frontier Country members, recognize outstanding tourist attractions, exhibitions, events and businesses in central Oklahoma's promotion organization.

The event recognized the accomplishments of Frontier Country members and media support in 12 award categories. "There were so many strong nominees in each category this year and the voting response by our membership was fantastic," said Sherri Rogers, executive director of Frontier Country Marketing Association.

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Oklahoma Camera Club Provides July 18th Program

Photographs & story by Gary Githens

Ed Lamb conducted their Photography 101 class in Oakwood Depot. Ed is an accomplished photographer and photo contest judge, Ed showed photographs explained his scoring and comments for Talequah Camera Club photographs.

During the 11:00 P.M. train ride Ed and other camera club members answered questions about photography and cameras. Several informative and reference handouts were provided to ORM guests.



Ed Lamb makes a note for his scoring comments about a photo being judged.



Ed Lamb answers questions about photography during the 11:00 P.M. train ride.

The President's Column



Well, it is almost the middle of August and Thomas is almost here. We have been working on this event for some time but now we must really get ready.

For any of you who can volunteer some time during Thomas please contact me. We need as much help as we can get. With the economy as it seems to be currently, many people will be staying closer to

home and this is a great event for their children. I hope we have as large a turnout as last year. This is the main fundraiser for the Museum and allows us to make many of the improvements you see at the museum.

As always we can use volunteers for all kind of projects so come on out and we will find you a job.

Stan Hall

Consider volunteering soon to help with DOWT. If you can't help on operation days please **consider helping with preparations** which go on during the week as well as week ends for a several weeks prior to the event. Also there is considerable post DOWT packing of equipment.

Oklahoma Railway Museum, Ltd.

Board of Directors

Stan Hall, *President*

Jim Pasby, *Vice President
and Program Chair*

Drake Rice, *Secretary*

Charles Price, *Treasurer*

John Ansell, *NRHS Director*

Bob Cossairt, *Director of
Museum Grounds & Facilities*

Bob Hussey, *Director of
Track Maintenance*

Jim Murray, *Director of
Mechanical Operations*

Harry Currie, *Director at Large*

Greg Hall, *Director of
Museum Activities*

Kenneth Kozak, *Director of
Museum Displays*

Ed Birch Jr., *Train Show Chair*

Gary Moore, *Membership Chair*

Gary Githens, *Dispatcher Editor*

Ed Birch Sr., *Director Emeritis*

Articles and/or photos are due by the 15th of each month. Email to "Editor" at: ormnews@cox.net

Surf the Web...

The ORM Website address oklahomarailwaymuseum.org

ORM telephone number:

405/424-8222

ORM FAX number

405/424-0504

**September Train
Operation Date
5th**

**OKC TRAIN SHOW
DECEMBER 5 & 6**



New ORM Mail
Box

Photograph by Jim Pasby



Photograph by Gary Githens

July 28. DOWT Chairman Pat Riley conducts one of many planning meetings with program staff members

Museum Update by Drake Rice

This summer has been unusual to say the least. After getting hot and dry, cooler wet weather returned and now it's mid-August and we still have plenty of grass to cut at the museum and along the right of way. That's an area that can always use some volunteer help.

Work is continuing by Harry Currie to finish the platform extension to the north. Harry is down to the last 10 feet and the addition is really nice and will help when we have long passenger trains. Also with the nice fence, it keeps the kids in the play area from getting near the tracks and allows us to remove the orange barricade fencing that had been up for several years.

Work in the shop is continuing on the museum's rolling stock and engines. The RS3, OKRX 2 work is continuing under the leadership of Terry Birchett. He is working through some more electrical hook ups on the engine. We do know that it will start and run, so hopefully by Thomas time it will be in an operational condition. Jim Murray has been juggling projects from repairing the AC unit on passenger car OKRX 115 to the side metal panel replacement on the CNW 7721 chair car. Engine 301 is still able to operate and shuttle cars around the yard while the F-9, 814 is fueled, and ready to run with the upcoming Thomas event. With the addition of the SW-8, 2034, it has removed the stress off the mechanical department when there is a problem with one engine, others can be called on for service.

Volunteers are continuing work on the restoration of the Santa Fe Caboose which is now on the rip track. Primer painting work is being done and the interior is really looking good since it has already been repainted. When finished it will be a really nice addition to the museum's rolling stock. Special thanks to Greg Hall for heading up that team.

Thanks to John Dougherty at ODOT and the BNSF, ORM now has signals for NE 36th street crossing. Gary Githens is working with Ditch Witch to have a demonstration of their underground locating equipment and help locate the underground lines where the signals will be installed. As soon as the location can be determined, work will begin on the footings. These signals will be a big help in crossing NE 36th street. The signals were a set of cantilever

type that was removed from Western Avenue where the new highway is being built and were declared surplus.

ORM is working with the City of Oklahoma City on preparations to rebuild the NE 16th Street Crossing. The crossing once repaired will be the last crossing project for our original rail line and will allow better travel to NE 10th and M.L. King. ORM staff is continuing to work with the City of OKC on the Katy Trail and drainage issues between NE 20th Street and NE 30th Street. Meetings have been held and we are awaiting plans on what is proposed.

The ORM Board took action at the last board meeting and then President Hall got board members together on Saturday to review a contract proposal to purchase the 3 + acres on the north side of NE 34th Street which will double the land size of the museum. It will also provide additional parking for the museum, which is very handy during the Day Out With Thomas Events. We have appreciated that our neighbors who owned the property allowed the museum to use the land in the past. The purchase will ensure the museum will be able to have the property to use in the future. Next month the President Hall will have more to say about the recent purchase.

Remember that the Day Out With Thomas Event is coming September 25, 26, 27 and October 2, 3 and 4. There will be work to set the site up and all volunteers will be welcome in this effort. If you are planning on helping, please contact Truman Hefner or Stan Hall. This event is the museum's big fund raiser which has allowed the museum to continue to grow and become a must visit location for the many visitors to our state and from our state.

The Association of Railway Museums Quarterly Journal Summer 2009 has a nice article and two pictures taken at the museum on pages 12 & 13 by Editor Aaron Isaacs during his visit last April. The Railway Museum Quarterly is on line at www.railwaymuseums.org and the Summer issue should be posted soon.

Each weekend, we are picking up a member or two who want to be part of our busy group. All members are encouraged to stop by the museum and donate a few hours to help preserve Oklahoma's Railway Heritage.

Oklahoma Railway Museum Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By Drake Rice
edited by Gary Githens

On a very hot July 9, 1999, the CORC (Central Oklahoma Railfan Club) Board met in at Stewart Title Office in Nichols Hills, provided a check for \$43,500 and became the owners of approximately 3.1 acres of land at NE 34th Grand Blvd. A long term dream of the founding fathers of CORC had been realized, in that a site for a museum along railroad tracks that could be used for demonstrations was now a real deal.

The seed money for this had come from the raw courage of our president who knew money would be needed to purchase property and with the problems of getting volunteers to Watonga and the expensive cost of having a private railroad operate our equipment, it was better to find a site closer to a population center.

A plan was developed to lease the UP Streamliner train and sell tickets to raise the money that would be needed. CORC had done this with the UP steam trains in Eastern Oklahoma, but after all the cost were paid, little or no revenue was generated. But if we could bring the train to Oklahoma City, it would be easier to get a response.

In the spring of 1995, CORC was contacted by the UP that a train would be in the Oklahoma City area with the E-9's around the first of November, was CORC interested. Everyone agreed we were interested. Plans were put in place, work began and ticketing planned. CORC had a 30 day prior to the event cancelation clause in the agreement. Press work had been done, but tickets sales

continued to be slow and at the 30 day mark, CORC still needed \$20,000 in ticket sales to cover the cost of the train. The board stood firm, CORC was not going to back away from the trip. Press releases were re-issued and the rest is history, after all bills were paid, CORC had \$36,000 in the bank to purchase property and pay other CORC expenses.

Many sites were looked at property around the city area and surrounding towns at but the focus kept coming back to land along the former MKT tracks that were owned by the Central Oklahoma Parking and Transit Authority (COPTA).

In the fall of 1997, a planning meeting was held to help get CORC focused. What came from the meetings was a Five-Year Business Plan that everyone agreed to support, that of getting a site along the COPTA line and getting the COPTA tracks under lease.

The current property site owner was contacted in the spring of 1997, but the price was too high for the property. Work was started on a lease with COPTA for the track between Eckroat Seed and NE 36st Street. The lease was agreed to by both boards in November of 1997 and volunteers began removing trees, weeds and trash from the tracks along NE 30th Street.

Again after a number of property owners had been contacted and sites looked at, the focus kept coming back to NE 34th and Grand. The property to the north of the current museum was available for \$250,000, which was way more than what CORC could afford.

On a chance, the owner of our present grounds was contacted in February 1999 and their response was they were now interested in discussing further the possible sell of the property. After a number of proposals were sent back and forth the price was agreed to on the purchase in early June. Although the price was more than what CORC had in the bank, members agreed to loan CORC enough money to make the purchase. The members who made that commitment were Charles Price, Bob Hussey, Harry Currie, Jim Murray, Steamboat Deason, Bob Lynn, Chuck Shinn and Drake Rice.

Work was begun immediately to clean the property and evaluate how the property could be used and a layout sketched out on where things could be located. Work was also under taken to remove the property from the tax rolls since it was a museum and the owners were a non-profit corporation. This first need was to construct a rest room and get water to the site to allow volunteers to work to develop the property. Over the next year, many volunteers helped develop the site through purchase of the Oakwood Depot and moving it to the site, obtaining rail and switches, bringing them to the site and development of the small rail yard we now have, continuing to work on the track south to Eckroat Seed to allow a connection to live rail that would allow the movement of equipment to the museum grounds.

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Oklahoma Railway Museum Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Continued from page 4

A member arranged the purchase of the GE Engine 301 which allowed the museum to have an engine to move equipment and operate a train out of the restored Oakwood Depot. The equipment that was owned at Watonga was made ready over many weekends, but finally in December of 2002, the equipment was moved to the museum tracks and 301 pulled the hospital train of cars and engines to the museum, where restoration began to allow the museum to operate a train.

Many members gave of their time and money to make the museum a reality. The first train rolled on the last Saturday in August 2003. The Goals set forth in the Five Year Plan had been realized.

This was the beginning of ORM and the growth that has continued, with many people contributing to the success that has been enjoyed by all. The important point is, when a plan is developed, and one that has input from all and is agreed and supported by all, all things are possible. That has been the success of ORM.

We have now completed our second Five-Year Plan and soon work will begin on another. All members should be proud of the work that has been accomplished, but let us not rest on what we have done, let us continue to focus on what needs to be done.

Happenings at the ORM



Photograph by Gary Githens

1 August. Greg Hall sandblasting Santa Fe caboose

Railroad Industry News

(Pittsburg, KS) The Watco team received a double honor on Friday evening, June 5, at the Annual Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce banquet. Dick Webb, the late founder of Watco, posthumously received the Spirit of Pittsburg award and Watco Companies received the Pittsburg Employer of the Year award. The Spirit of Pittsburg award is bestowed annually to an individual who gives of their time and talent to make Pittsburg a better place to live.

“Dick touched thousands of lives,” said award presenter Stephen Wade, publisher of The Morning Sun. “His leadership, vision and generosity blessed so many. We were blessed to have Dick Webb in our community. He led a good life, and we were lucky to be touched by it.”

Kaye Lynne Webb accepted the award on behalf of her husband of over 50 years and said he would’ve been embarrassed by all the fuss. “I know Dick is shaking his head somewhere saying, ‘I don’t know what I did to deserve this,’” she said.

Farmrail Press Release

The 2009 excursion season began on Independence Day with “Proud To Be American” trips to honor current military personnel and veterans. Meanwhile, movie makers finished filming “The Killer Inside Me,” a western murder mystery shot entirely in Oklahoma, including 1950s period scenes in Enid and Cordell and on board FMRC’s passenger coaches.



Photograph by Gary Githens

13 August. Another major milestone achieved. Story next month

Frontier Country Marketing Association Presents Awards

Continued from page 1

“We could not have asked for a better day as we had the largest turn out in our organizations history! It makes it so special when the recipients are present to accept these much deserved awards.”

The following list includes the winners and honorable mentions:

- Outstanding Event: Okemah Chamber of Commerce for “Woody Guthrie Folk Festival”
- **Outstanding Event Honorable Mention: Oklahoma Railway Museum for “Christmas Train”**
- Outstanding Attraction: Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum
- Outstanding Attraction Honorable Mention: Riverwind Casino
- Outstanding Tourism Community: Oklahoma City Convention & Visitors Bureau for Oklahoma City
- Outstanding Tourism Community Honorable Mention: Stillwater Convention & Visitors Bureau for Stillwater
- Outstanding Web site: Oklahoma City’s Adventure District
- Outstanding Web site Honorable Mention: Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Garden
- Outstanding Cultural Tourism: Red Earth Inc., for “Red Earth Native American Cultural Festival”
- Outstanding Cultural Tourism Honorable Mention: Capitol Hill Main Street for “Fiestas de las Americas”
- Outstanding Media Support: KWTW News 9
- Outstanding Media Support Honorable Mention: Clear Channel Radio for Oklahoma Agrinet
- Outstanding Exhibition: Oklahoma History Center for “Another Hot Oklahoma Night! A Rock & Roll Exhibit”
- Outstanding Exhibition Honorable Mention: National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum for “Craft in America: Expanding Traditions”
- Outstanding Outdoor Activity: Festival of Light
- Outstanding Outdoor Activity Honorable Mention: Tatanka Ranch
- Outstanding Children’s Attraction/Event: Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Garden for “Dinosaurs Unearthed”
- Outstanding Children’s Attraction/Event Honorable Mention: Jasmine Moran Children’s Museum
- Outstanding Hospitality: Sooner Legends Inn & Suites
- Outstanding Hospitality Honorable Mention: Mickey Mantle’s Steakhouse
- Outstanding Food Festival: Harn Homestead & 1889ers Museum for “Fondue Fondango”
- Outstanding Food Festival Honorable Mention: El Reno Main Street for “Annual Onion Fried Burger Day Festival”
- Outstanding Sporting Event: ASA National Softball Hall of Fame for “NCAA Women’s College World Series”
- Outstanding Sporting Event Honorable Mention: Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum for “Annual Memorial Marathon”

This year Frontier Country honored board member Tom Collins with the first-ever George Nigh Award. This award was created and presented to someone who went out of their way to promote tourism and represent what the Lakes and Countries Association is all about. “Tom has been valuable to our organization from its beginning,” said Rogers. “He represents knowledge of the history of Frontier Country. He also continues to seek ways to grow membership and volunteers countless hours toward our success.”

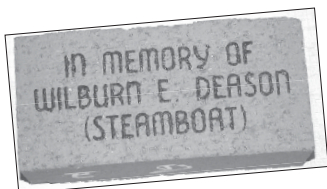
Also, Frontier Country added an Ambassador of the Year Award which was given to Robyn Healy of Campbell Company for her assistance and time donation. “Robyn has gone out into the community to seek members and spread the message of Frontier Country,” said Rogers.

Frontier Country Marketing Association, a 501 c-6 organization, promotes the economic growth of the tourism industry in the 12 central counties of Oklahoma. For more information about Frontier Country, visit www.oktourism.com or call 800-FUN-OKLA.

ORM Depot Store

The Oklahoma Railway Museum, Ltd. (ORM) has items available for both children and adults at the Depot Store. These include baseball caps, polo shirts, t-shirts, lapel pins, and coasters. Funds raised by donations for these items support the Museum projects.

The Depot Store, located inside the Oakwood Depot on the Museum grounds, is open during regular **Museum hours – 9 am to 4 pm on the first and third Saturday operation days** of each month April through October. The store is also open for special events.



Order Form – Engraved Platform Bricks

Cost is \$50.00 per brick.
Up to a maximum of 4 lines with 16 letters and spaces per line

Purchaser's Name _____ Phone No. (____) _____

Line 1															
Line 2															
Line 3															
Line 4															

Become an ORM Member

2009 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

- \$30.00 per year – Individual Membership in the Oklahoma Railway Museum, Ltd. (spouse included)
- \$25.00 per year – Individual Senior (age 65 and up) (spouse included) and Individual Student (full-time student) Membership in ORM
- \$33.00 per year – To add Railway Historical Society (NRHS) Membership (add \$5.00 for spouse) (Student Memberships: \$16 per year)
- \$500.00 - Lifetime Membership

Send your application and dues to: **Oklahoma Railway Museum , Ltd.
3400 NE Grand Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Cell Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Engraved Platform Bricks

More than one platform brick can be donated to the Museum and you can make copies of the attached form. Mail completed forms with checks or money orders to: Jim Murray, ORM, 3400 NE Grand Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111. If you have any questions, you can e-mail Murray at:

jtmurray@cox.net

Crosstie Donations

Friends and families of ORM continue to make donations for crossties, equipment and facilities on the Museum property and on the leased track.

If you want to make a donation to purchase a crosstie, a donation of \$42.50 will help purchase a new crosstie. You can donate a crosstie in recognition or in memory of someone. All donations should be made out to the Oklahoma Railway Museum Ltd.

Please note on the check what the donation is for, mail to: ORM Ltd., 3400 NE Grand Boulevard, Oklahoma City, 73111

VOLUNTEER WITH VIDEO EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Contact Gary Githens for details at 405/794-5946 or email ormnews@cox.com.



Oklahoma Railway Museum, Ltd.
 3400 NE Grand Boulevard
 Oklahoma City, OK 73111

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Please volunteer now to help with DOWT
 Prior to event, during event, after event or a combination

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIMETABLE

Any changes to the following information or articles for "the Dispatcher," should be directed to the Editor, Gary Githens, (e-mail: ORMnews@cox.net). For information on upcoming programs, contact Jim Pasby, email: jimpasby@att.net).



Oklahoma Railway Museum (ORM) – Open Thursday, Friday and Saturdays from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. except on major holidays

ORM Train Rides - First and third Saturdays April through October at 10:00 A.M., 11:00 A.M. Noon, 1:30 P.M. and 2:30 P.M.

ORM Board Meetings – Last Thursday each month at ORM, Oklahoma City – 7 pm.

Oklahoma "N" Rail – For information, call Rick Inselman, 405/412-1552.

Oklahoma Passenger Rail Association – Rail Consumer Advocate Organization. Meets bimonthly. For information, write or call Roger Carter, 1120 South 21st Street, Chickasha, Oklahoma 73018, 405/224-7423

Passenger Rail Oklahoma – A grassroots advocacy organization. Meets every Saturday and Sunday morning an hour prior to the arrival of the Heartland Flyer in Norman. The depot opens at 7:50 am. Contact Evan Stair at sfrr@aol.com, www.passengerrailok.org, 405/366-8957, or 517 Claremont, Norman, OK 73069-5020. Depot volunteer opportunities are available.

Oklahoma S.W. Division NMRA – 2nd Saturday each month, 1 pm, Goldman Room, Kirkpatrick Center, Jim Heidon, President

Yukon's Best Railroad Museum – Thursday/Saturday/Sunday and by appointment. Located 1 block north of Main and UP tracks in Yukon. Call John Knuppel, 405/354-5079, for times and information.

OUT OF TOWN

Railroad Museum of Oklahoma – Tuesday thru Friday afternoons 1 pm to 4 pm, Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm, Sunday 2 pm to 5 pm, or by appointment, HO, N and Lionel layouts, Meets 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm at Old Santa Fe Freight Depot, 702 North Washington, Enid

Waynoka Station/Waynoka Historical Society – 202 South Cleveland, Waynoka Call Sandie Olson, 580/824-1886.

Curtis Hill Rendezvous - Oct 16- 17-18, 2009 Major Oklahoma rail fan event. Contact Duane Koss at dak507@plateautel.net Website: curtishill.com

September Train Operation Date: 5th