



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



## ORM Tracks Have Ties to “Gangster” Era Event

by Gary Githens

The most publicized kidnapping of the so called “gangster” era occurred in Oklahoma City. In 1933 George “Machine Gun” Kelly and his gang kidnapped millionaire oilman Charles F. Urschel. Kelly and an accompish kidnapped Mr. Urschel while he played cards with his wife and another couple.

Our Oklahoma Railway Museum tracks played a minor role in the series of kidnapping events. Mr. E.E. Kirkpatrick was instructed to take MKT train #28, The Sooner, from Oklahoma City to Kansas City departing at 1010 P.M. the evening of Saturday July 29th, 1933. This train traveled over “our” tracks.

Mr. Kirkpatrick was carrying \$200,000.00 in used \$20.00 bills as ransom. Mr. Kirkpatrick was instructed to ride on the observations platform so he could be observed from a station. He would at some point pass a fire on the right hand side of the train. Immediately after passing a second fire, he was to throw the case containing the money from the train.

There was an alternate plan which was the one ultimately used by which Mr. Kirkpatrick turned the money over to Machine Gun Kelly in Kansas City. Mr. Urschel was released unharmed in Norman, OK.

Picture is George “Machine Gun” Kelly

Source: Oklahoma Historical Society Video Archives

## Tragic Accident

Our Dispatcher printers, Jeff and Kelly Gunter’s son Jeffrey was seriously injured in an accident. A car turned left in front of his motorcycle. Jeffrey received two broken legs, broken ribs and a collapsed lung. The accident ultimately led to Jeffrey loosing one of his legs.

Please keep Jeffrey and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

## 2010 Membership Banquet

by Gary Githens



ORM President Stan Hall address to the membership covered what he considered the top 4 major events for 2009. They were (1) purchase of the SW-8 locomotive; (2) school train operations; (3) property purchase and (4) Day Out with Thomas.



ORM vice-president Larry Dodd discussed the 2010 event calendar. Refer to page 4 for calendar.

# The President's Column



It is that time again. 15th of February and not a lot to tell you. Weather has been pretty cold and messy for the last month. Seems like a new snow each weekend. This has caused some problems with being open for visitors as well as getting the repairs and maintenance done for the next train running season.

We have been sending information to about two hundred schools in close proximity to the museum. The hope is that they will plan and attend some of the special train rides planned for school children. These rides will be in addition to the regular runs. We

hope this will grow to an annual event for some of the schools. Lots of exposure for us and an opportunity to have the Operation Lifesaver presented to a large number of people.

We completed our budget and five year plan during the last month. It is going to be a tight year for money so we will not be starting a bunch of new projects. We will be completing those we have started as well as maintenance on our buildings and grounds

Stan Hall

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**Not Receiving Your Dispatcher?** In the future if your membership dues are current and you are not receiving a Dispatcher let us know. There are layers of folks memberships go through before information gets to the mailer. There can be a glitch in the "system" with regard to mailing. Also let us know if your address changes.

e-mail [ormnews@cox.net](mailto:ormnews@cox.net) or call the museum at 424-8222.

## ORM Special Event - March 20

The Waynoka Station is worth the trip to see. Sandie will roll out the red carpet for us.

This should be a fun day out for ORM members and a much needed break for members who spend Saturdays at the museum.

For questions, event flyer and a map of the route from the ORM to Waynoka and a map of the Curtis Hill rail fan meet up locations e-mail: [ormnews@cox.net](mailto:ormnews@cox.net)

Cell phone contacts the day of the event are listed on the map. In the event you need to find the group on "the Hill" the map shows location identifications for reference.

Please try to make it to the event as part of the convoy leaving the museum but feel free to join up with us along the way.

For pictures of the area visit the Curtis Hill Rendezvous web site at: [curtishill.com](http://curtishill.com)

E-MAIL [ormnews@cox.net](mailto:ormnews@cox.net) for FLYER AND MAPS

**Oklahoma Railway  
Museum, Ltd.**

### **Board of Directors**

Stan Hall, *President*  
Larry Dodd, *Vice President  
and Program Chair*  
Drake Rice, *Secretary*  
Charles Price, *Treasurer*  
John Ansell, *NRHS Director*  
Bob Cossairt, *Director of  
Buildings & Static Displays*  
Bob Hussey, *Director of  
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Harry Currie, *Director at Large*  
Greg Hall, *Director of  
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Kenneth Kozak, *Director of  
Museum Displays*  
  
Ed Birch Jr., *Train Show Chair*  
Gary Moore, *Membership  
Chair*  
Gary Githens, *Dispatcher  
Editor*

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

### **Surf the Web...**

The ORM Website address  
[oklahomarailwaymuseum.org](http://oklahomarailwaymuseum.org)

ORM telephone number:  
405/424-8222  
ORM FAX number  
405/424-0504

## Needed

We need the use of a **Beta  
tape player** to transfer  
some railroad videos.

If you have one please con-  
tact me at [ormnews@cox.net](mailto:ormnews@cox.net).  
Someone could pick it  
up and return it.

Editor

## Museum Update by Drake Rice

The cold weather and moisture have slowed down the outdoor activities at the museum this month, however, with the shop building, work is continuing on the CNW 7721 passenger car with the repair of the side and preparation for sealing the roof and repainting when the weather will allow.

The museum now has two flat cars, with one that was damaged needing some work. It will be moved into the shop to make the necessary repairs to the brake system and grab irons. This will require some welding, grinding and other mechanical skills. Other projects inside the shop are also available for volunteers.

Outside the shop is the continual work on the RS3 and the Santa Fe Caboose. These projects are getting closer to completion and will make nice additions to the rolling stock at the museum. In addition we are working on a grant to help paint one of the box cars back to the original Santa Fe colors with a route map. Another project that will be addressed this year is the Rock Island Caboose. It is a wood structure and will need a lot of attention to make the many repairs needed on the car.

In addition to the maintenance work there, ORM now has an N-Scale and HO-Scale layouts that have been donated and will need to be set up with some restoration work on the layouts. These have been placed in the RI Baggage

Car, and will be an out of the weather place for volunteers who enjoy model work to donate some time. Then there will need to be operators during the run season. This is another opportunity for members to enjoy making ORM a better railroad museum for the public to enjoy.

This year when the weather allows, we will need to address the repainting of some of the building and canopy on the grounds. This will help improve and preserve the structures. Another area that will be addressed is the cosmetic restoration of the Porter Steam Engine. This would make this display a lot more interesting and better for photographs. Again, we need someone to help work on these projects.

So you can see your museum has a lot of opportunities for all volunteers. We have displays that need to be cleaned and prepared for the 2010 season and new items set up. A signal display would be great to have in an operational method to allow the public to see how signals have changed over the years.

If you can volunteer some time, please stop by the museum Thursday, Friday or Saturday from 9AM to 5PM and get involved. If you have questions, call President Stan Hall or Jim Murray, they would be glad to visit with you about projects at your museum.

## Frisco/Rock Island Yard



photo by Gary Githens

Photo taken on February 17th shows there is not much remaining at the Frisco/Rock Island track and platform area. Two canopy columns and the pedestrian tunnels remain.

## ORM Carpentry Shop

### Donations Needed

The refrigerator car is being used as our carpenter shop. Yes, we have considerable fabrication work to do restoring and maintaining the wood on equipment, access to displays and building repairs.

We are in need of carpentry tools. Needs include a radial arm saw, band saw, router, planer, lathe, drill press and hand tools. Accessories such as drill bits, saw blades, sand paper etc. are also needed.

Contact Bob Cossairt by e-mail: [cossairt9@cox.net](mailto:cossairt9@cox.net) or editor at: [ormnews@cox.net](mailto:ormnews@cox.net)

## 2010 Membership Banquet



ORM President Stan Hall presents Jim Pasby an award for "volunteer of the year."



ORM President Stan Hall presents Harry Currie a "master brick layer" award. Harry has laid most of the brick at the museum and Adventure District station



photo by Harry Currie

ORM President Stan Hall presents Gary Githens an award for "Master Newsletter Editor."

Gary Moore received an award for his assistance with the property purchase. The "blizzard" disrupted the Moore family Christmas gathering and a make up time could only be coordinated for the banquet week end.

### John Ansell Recipient of Honor

Oklahoma Operation Lifesaver awarded ORM board member John Ansell "Presenter of the Year" honors. John did 130 Operation Lifesaver presentations in 2009.

John was in South Carolina representing the ORM chapter of the NRHS at it's annual meeting and could not attend the membership meeting.

### 2010 Calendar of Events

#### Train Ride Days

- April 3 and 17
- May 1 and 15
- June 5 and 19
- July 3 and 17
- Aug 7 and 21
- Sept 4

#### Membership Picnic

June 12

#### Day Out with Thomas

Sept 24, 25 & 26  
Oct 1, 2 & 3

#### Halloween Train

October 30

#### School Trains

April 15 thru May 7  
Thursdays & Fridays

#### OKC Train Show

Dec 4 & 5

#### Special Events as opportunities arise

#### Christmas Train

Dec 18

### Board of Director Election

The only nominations received for Board of Director positions were for those currently holding the positions.

**President:** Stan Hall

**Treasurer:** Charles Price

#### Director of Museum Grounds & Facilities

Bob Cossairt

#### Director at Large

Harry Currie

#### Director of Museum Activities:

Greg Hall

Jim Pasby resigned his position as vice-president. Larry Dodd was appointed to vice president to fill the remainder of Jim's term.

# Oklahoma Railway Museum

## One & Five Year Plan

### January 14, 2010

#### 1. Short Term Projects-(one year goals)

- a. Finish ATSF caboose restoration
- b. Finish blue car restoration
- c. Paint and clean up property and structures
- d. Paint 1 box car-ATSF colors
- e. Crossing lights at NE 36st street
- f. Track work for 2010, 900 tons ballast
- g. RS3 operational status
- h. Rock Island caboose ,start work on
- i. 16 th street crossing signals
- j. Design a better WEB page
- k. Set and follow color paint standards at museum on buildings and equipment

#### 2. Additional Short Term Goals if Funds Allow

- a. Move turntable from North Yard
- b. Move OG&E Crane
- c. Improve purchased property remove dead trees, general cleanup, doors on barn,
- d. Doors on R I baggage used for displays

#### 3. Long Term Goals-(two to five year goals)

- a. Professional planning in development of property
- b. Track work & switches , ditch work, tamp/level to 50th Street
- c. Right of way needs for Bricktown track and station
- d. Replacement of Yard Office with Museum display area, store and restrooms
- e. Staffing needs to allow extended hours of operation
- f. Grant applications
- g. Additional equipment for display and/or operation
- h. Cosmetic restoration of Porter locomotive
- i. Restore GN chair car (Mistletoe II)
- j. Restore RS-1

## Docent Appreciation

Good evening. I just wanted to let someone know about the exceptional job that Mr. John Ancel did yesterday when we visited your museum. We were met immediately with a smile and a kind greeting by John. This was our first time to visit the museum and it was a great first impression. He is an excellent representative of not only the railway museum, but of the entire railroad industry. He was very knowledgeable and very informative about every train, car, and item within the entire yard. We actually quizzed him a few times and he passed with flying colors. We were very impressed with his overall knowledge, charming personality, and willingness to help anyone he encountered in the yard.

We both had relatives in the railway industry and John was able to take us back to the good olé' days with his stories and history lessons. We took a walk down memory lane and it was quite refreshing. We would've stayed all day listening to John.

Please make sure he is recognized and rewarded for his efforts. I realize he is a volunteer, but his dedication to his passion of the railway surpasses all others. If you need any additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,  
Melody

*The e-mail above was received from a visitor at the museum on February 6th. It is so important to have someone to greet folks and show them around. We are in need of additional volunteers to be docents. Editor*

## Important Notice

All members who have not paid their 2010 Museum dues by now, are past due. If your dues are not paid by 4/15/2010, you will be dropped from the membership rolls. And we really don't want to do that! The museum needs you and your dues. We appreciate and welcome your involvement in the Museum. In case you have forgotten, the dues schedule is on page 7 of this Dispatcher. Please feel free to contact Membership Chairman, Gary Moore at 405-341-3768, if you have any membership/dues questions.

## Railroad Industry News

# Lethbridge Viaduct CP & the Olympic Games

Source: Canadian Pacific press release

Photos by Virginia Booth

Sunday, January 17, 2010 marked the historic journey of the Olympic flame across the 5,327 ft. long Lethbridge High level bridge which soars 314 ft. high above the valley floor. A vintage rail hand car powered by the strength of four CP employees moved the Olympic cauldron from the west to the east side of the bridge. This alternative



mode of transportation is a first in Olympic history.

Outfitted in 1910 traditional rail worker attire, CP locomotive engineers Brian Lagace and Gord Balderston, rail car mechanic Roger Brown, and track maintenance-foreman Don Burla (who have a combined 116 years of railway experience) operated the hand car - pulling the Olympic cauldron behind them - for the 20-minute trip across the bridge.

The Lethbridge Viaduct, also known as the Lethbridge High Level Bridge, is one of the highest and longest trestle steel railway bridge of its type in the world and the largest railway structure in Canada.

The Lethbridge viaduct is a 1,624 m (5,327 ft.) long steel bridge on 33 towers and soars 95.7 m (314 ft.) high above the Oldman River valley floor. Construction of the structure began in 1907 and was completed in 1909 under the watchful eye of CP assistant chief engineer J.E Schwitzer.

Six hundred and forty-five rail cars brought in more than 12,000 tons of steel to the site where a work gang of approximately 100 men assembled the structure. The cost of construction totaled \$1,334,525.00 (1909 dollars). The Lethbridge Viaduct opened for revenue traffic in November, 1909.

A community based centennial project lit the bridge in September 2009, enhancing its iconic presence in southern Alberta.

CP has been a proud member of the Lethbridge community since 1905. With shipments of grain, fertilizer and industrial products, the Lethbridge viaduct continues to be an important rail link in Southern Alberta and can have as many as 14 trains a day travel across it.

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Thanks to Guy Lynn for the heads up about the CP Olympic Torch story.

There are numerous pictures of this awesome bridge on the internet. Also video of it on YouTube including a ride across it.

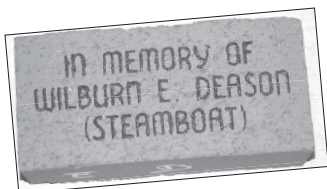
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Please visit **Youtube.com**. Do a search for **Oklahoma Railway Museum**. There are several ORM presentations. Would like for the number of visits to be substantial. When you have the time visit the sites frequently during the next several months. Additionally, please rate the videos.

### 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

#### 2010 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
  - \$36.00 per year – To add Railway Historical Society (NRHS) Membership (add \$5.00 for spouse) (Student Memberships: \$16 per year)
- SEND NRHS DUES TO ORM ADDRESS BELOW, NOT DIRECTLY TO NRHS**
- \$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](mailto: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

### In Next Issue of the Dispatcher

The Tale of Two Flatcars

A big piece of concrete is coming



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the Dispatcher

## *ORM Special Event March 20, 2010*

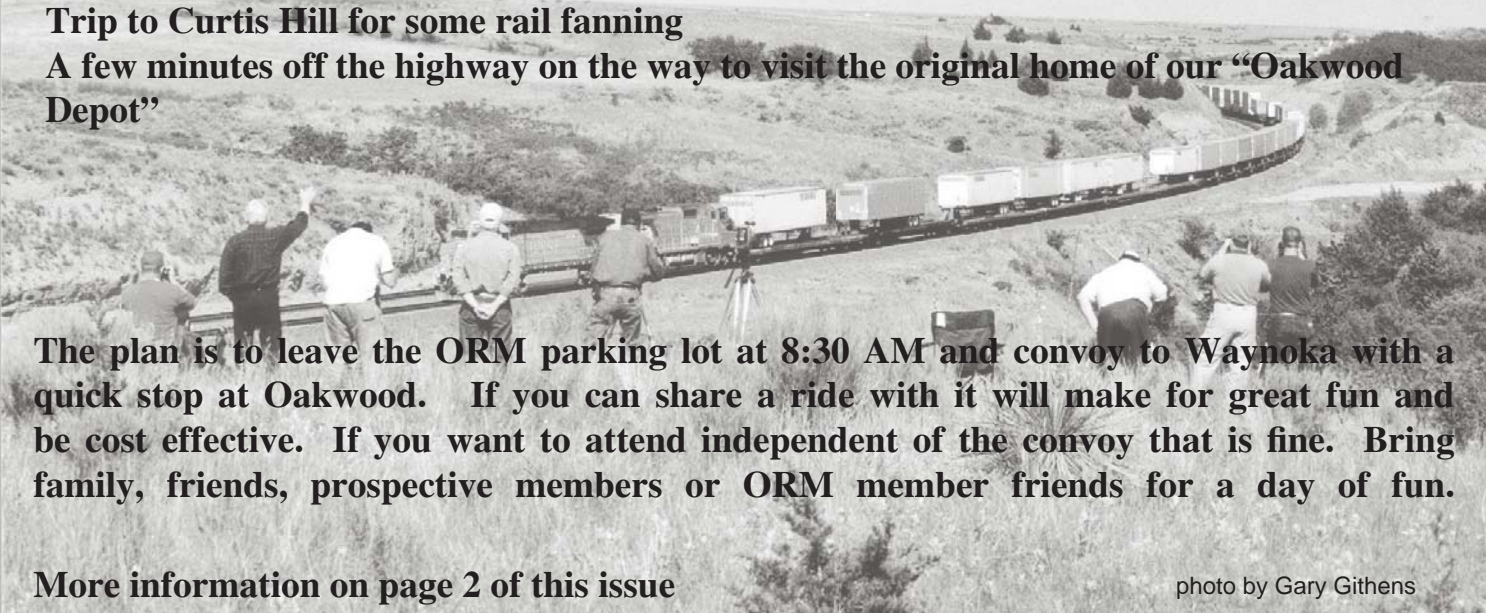
### **A trip to the Waynoka Station and Harvey House Museum**

This is a fabulous facility to visit.

Lunch at the Mexican restaurant in the original Harvey House Restaurant location.

### **Trip to Curtis Hill for some rail fanning**

A few minutes off the highway on the way to visit the original home of our "Oakwood Depot"



The plan is to leave the ORM parking lot at 8:30 AM and convoy to Waynoka with a quick stop at Oakwood. If you can share a ride with it will make for great fun and be cost effective. If you want to attend independent of the convoy that is fine. Bring family, friends, prospective members or ORM member friends for a day of fun.

More information on page 2 of this issue

photo by Gary Githens