



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

NARCOA Affiliate Member



## Last month's mystery picture is a "hobo" quilt symbol legend

by Gary Githens

This mystery picture is the legend for hobo symbol quilt made by my sister Marilyn Reich. She made it for my birthday gift and I treasure it. The hobo symbol patterns are from designs in a book titled "Hobo Quilts - The Secrete Language of Riding the Rails" written by Debra Henninger.

Quilt picture and symbol legend is on page 7.



## Rock Island & Frisco Historical herald efforts

by Gary Githens

Plans to save sections of the Robinson Street bridge began months prior to the removals on August 26th and 27th last year. The process concluded April 1st when the concrete bridge sections were placed on display bases at the Oklahoma Railway Museum.

Participants in the effort included the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Oklahoma Historical Society, Retro Metro Oklahoma City, Manhattan Road and Bridge, Gary's Concrete Cutting, Bob Hussey Construction and the Oklahoma Railway Museum.

A special thanks to Harry Currie for his efforts constructing the concrete bases and brick pavers.

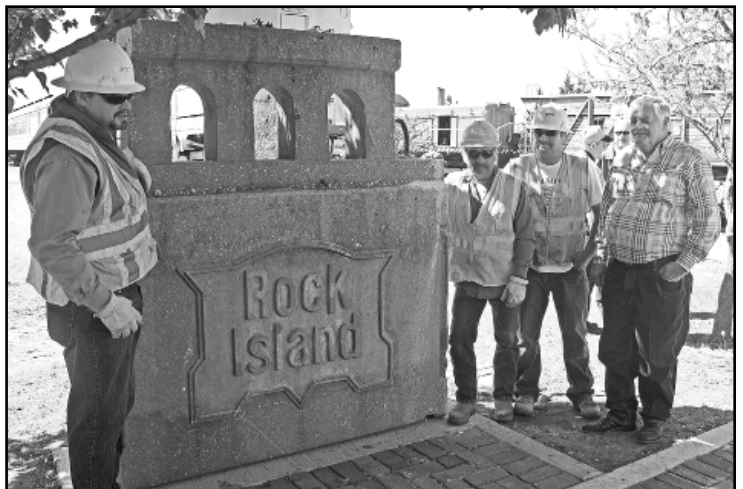
It is an honor for the Oklahoma Railway Museum to have been chosen as the home for the heralds. The castings made of them are also in storage at the ORM.

## Rock Island & Frisco Historical herald placement ceremony



Raymond Woods

Dean Schirf with Retro Metro OKC and Joe Kyle, manager ODOT Rail Programs Division



Raymond Woods

Manhattan Road and Bridge Company crew Rob Ronald, Steve Keenan, Jesus Numez and Stewart Ronald.

# The President's Column



Our new baggage car was delivered yesterday. Jim Pasby, Terry Burchett and Greg Hall picked it up at Ekroat and delivered it to the museum. It is a former Southern Pacific lightweight baggage. It has been used in work train service and was donated to us by the Union Pacific. With some refurbishing it will join our other lightweight cars to form a more complete passenger train.

Just a reminder that the Railroad Station Historical society will be in Oklahoma City June 8 to 11 for their national Convention. They have invited our members to join them for one of their daily trips. Cost is \$ 75 for a one day registration. This will allow you to take one of their trips around the state. There is a social on Tuesday, June 7 that is free and a banquet on Friday evening. Cost for the Banquet is \$ 30. One of our members, Ted Xakellis is our contact on all of the events, I can get you his contact information if you are interested.

Stan Hall

**Oklahoma Railway  
Museum, Ltd.**

## **Board of Directors**

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Museum Displays*

Ed Birch Jr., *Train Show Chair*  
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Chair*  
 Gary Githens, *Dispatcher  
Editor*

The Oklahoma Railway Museum, Ltd. is a 501-[C] 3 organization. Donations are tax deductible.

If a donation is made for a specified project, every dollar of that donation goes toward that project.

## Rail crane boom movement preparations



Jim Murray



Jim Murray

**Please continue support of your Oklahoma Railway Museum by renewing your membership**

## Museum Update by Drake Rice

Train activities have resumed with April and the museum continues to see a lot of visitors. Chuck Shinn has done a great job with the Birthday Parties through the winter months and continues on during the operations times. The birthday party activities really help with the finances each month and we appreciate Chuck for his leadership.

The shop folks are staying busy with work on the museums rolling stock and engines. OKRX 2 is in bay one with final items being addressed before the engine enters the operations fleet. It should see service some this summer. The test operations have been fun to watch; seeing an Alco operate.

Beginning last October and talking with a UP employee at Orange Empire Railway Museum, the efforts to get a baggage car have finally ended with the arrival of SPMW 6029. The car's original number was SP 6701. We certainly appreciate the Union Pacific for this nice addition to our fleet of cars. Jim Pasby, Terry Birchett and Greg Hall took Engine 301 to the interchange April 15th about 1:00 pm and picked the car up after the UP delivered it. We will look forward to getting it cleaned up and painted.

Work on the GN Chair car in the bay two shop track continues with the window work under way. The HVAC equipment has arrived and was being moved under the car for installation. The sound system is being upgraded since it will be part of the Thomas train this year. Lots of volunteers have been spending time on the car under the leadership of Jim Murray. Greg Hall has led a group of volunteers on the window clean up and taken good panes from one window and put with other windows to help reduce the cost of the repairs. We have a good number that will need new glass.

Terry Birchett led the work on the OKRX 2, but also led the work on the car mover. The engine is start-

ing to go back together with the installation of the new cylinder liner and new rings in one of the cylinders, with the piston now in place, the rebuilt head is being placed back on the engine and the torquing scheduled. With each weekend more work is completed. The goals to have the unit back in operation during May.

The painting and touch up of the CNW 7721 is done and now the car is nearing the lettering stage. The car will become the handicap car during the DOWT Event.

On April 18th, Hodges Crane and Lone Star trailers will be at the OG&E Mustang Power Plant to load up and deliver the 25 ton American Crane to the museum. This will go into our MW department for use. The boom was taken off and has been delivered but will be attached when the unit is delivered. Again we appreciate the efforts of all on these projects.

We also appreciate all who donate to the museum with time and money. With money we have the rare opportunity to receive a \$1 for \$1 match donation up to \$5,000. We hope each of you will respond to the mailing Stan has put together for the members that talks about donations through the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. So, again you have the opportunity to help us reach the goal of \$5,000 as soon as possible. The museum appreciates all who give. As always, your museum looks forward to hearing from each of you to not only volunteer, but to give extra for the dollar to dollar match. Please give when you receive information from Stan so we can reach the first \$1000.00 before July 1, which will get the interest amounts started early.



## Motor Car Trip Planned

ORM's Drake Rice has announced that the A-OK Railroad is allowing us the privilege to make a run out of Harrah on the line between Midwest City and Shawnee. This a good 65 plus mile run and we will be able to see all the work done on stabilization of the banks of the North Canadian River. Ride information notice on the NARCOA website and can be received from Excursion Coordinator Drake Rice.

## Rock Island & Frisco Historical herald placement ceremony



Raymond Woods

Manhattan Road and Bridge Company crew Rob Ronald and Steve Keenan make final adjustments to the placement of the Rock Island herald.



Raymond Woods

ORM president Stan Hall, Steve Lackmeyer Retro Metro OKC president and "the Dispatcher" editor Gary Githens discuss the Rock Island herald



These Rock Island and Frisco Railroad heralds were proudly displayed on Oklahoma City's South Robinson Street Bridge for almost 80 years (1931-2010). Prior to removal of the bridge the Manhattan Bridge and Road Company in conjunction with Gary's Sawing and Drilling removed these heralds on August 26, 2010 to make way for a newly constructed Robinson Bridge to span the rerouting of the 1-40 Crosstown Expressway. The Rock Island's Memphis-Californian and Choctaw Rocket and the Frisco's Firefly

and Meteor were among the elite passenger trains that faithfully served Oklahoma City's Union Station from 1931 to 1967. The Robinson Street Railroad Bridge was located approximately a half mile east of Union Station and allowed both railroads to pass above Robinson to gain access to the station's loading platform and passenger tunnels to accommodate their respective passenger operations.

Each concrete herald measures 5 feet - 8 inches long and 4 feet - 8 inches high: the bridge railing is 2 feet high and the bottom portions are 22 inches thick..... each herald weighs in excess of 9000 pounds.

Many thanks are extended to the Oklahoma History Center, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the Greater Oklahoma city Chamber of Commerce, RetroMetroOKC, Dean Schirf and Gary Githens in the saving of these magnificent railroad heralds and giving them over to the Oklahoma Railway Museum for preservation and permanent display.



# Rock Island & Frisco Historical herald placement ceremony



*Manhattan Road & Bridge was responsible for the castings and removal of the herald sections. All involved appreciated their dedication to make the removal process successful*



*Unloading the Frisco herald*



*Unloading the Rock Island herald*



*Preparing to set the Rock Island herald on its display base*

*Photos this page by Raymond Woods*

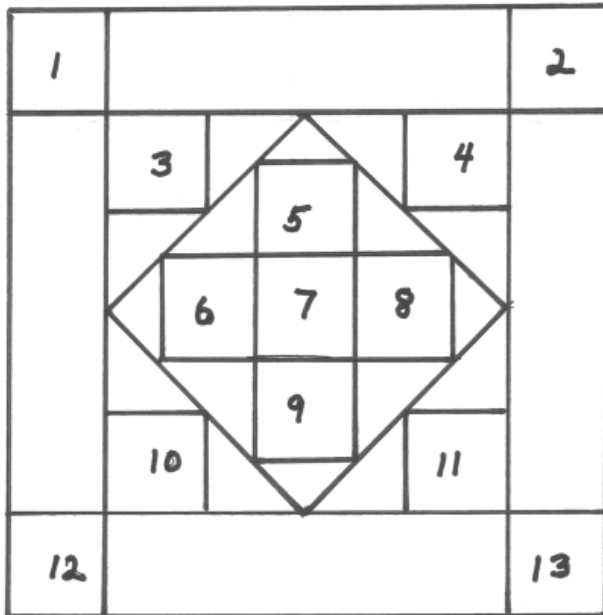


*Anne Murray looking through one of the railing openings. We don't know why she was back there.*



*Manhattan Road and Bridge truck delivering the fork lift to set the heralds.*

Last month's mystery picture is a "hobo" quilt



Hobo quilt symbol legend

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Catch out here       | 8 Good water          |
| 2 Work available       | 9 Sit down feed       |
| 3 Woman                | 10 Hold your tongue   |
| 4 Kind hearted lady    | 11 I ate              |
| 5 Officer lives here   | 12 Gentleman          |
| 6 Sleep in the hayloft | 13 Catch trolley here |
| 7 OK                   |                       |



hobo quilt by Marilyn Reich  
Perryville, MD

## Curtis Hill Rendezvous Railfan event May 13, 14 and 15

The Curtis Hill Rendezvous will be May 13, 14 and 15. This is a change to the 2nd week end from the normal 3rd week end in May.

On Friday most of the attendees rail fan between Woodward and Shattack. They meet up for dinner on Friday evening.

On Saturday the rail fans spend time on Curtis Hill by 9:00 at the bridge west of Quinlan and work their way to visit the Waynoka Museum in the ex Harvey House. This is an excellent museum. Saturday noon meal is usually at the Mexican restaurant which was at one time the Harvey House restaurant.

Some of us will be going up on Friday for a meeting at the Plains Indians and Pioneers Museum in Woodward. I will be spending the night and will rail fan on Saturday.

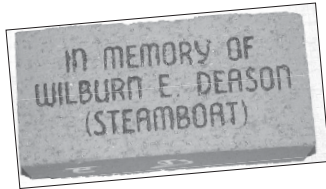
This is a fun event and is not on a run day. Please try to join up with some friends and come up, at least for Saturday. You will enjoy.

Visit the Curtis Hill web site at: [www.curtishill.com](http://www.curtishill.com) for maps of the area. Please don't hesitate to contact me at [ormnews@cox.net](mailto:ormnews@cox.net) if you would like a contact phone number or additional information.

**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 September. 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***

**2011 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 National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) Membership (add \$5.00 for spouse) (Student Memberships: \$16 per year) NRHS can change dues without notice

***SEND NRHS DUES TO ORM ADDRESS BELOW, NOT DIRECTLY TO NRHS***

\$500.00 - Oklahoma Railway Museum Lifetime Membership

Send your application and dues to: **Oklahoma Railway Museum , Ltd.  
3400 NE Grand Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111-4417**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Membership Picnic June 11**

Bring your family and enjoy a train ride, food and visiting with other members. Take a chance to see all the improvements at the museum.



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Oklahoma Railway Museum, Ltd.  
3400 NE Grand Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111-4417

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NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit No. 1323  
Oklahoma City, OK

Membership picnic June 11th

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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*the Dispatcher*

## A tremendous opportunity to support your Oklahoma Railway Museum

ORM is a member of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation which is an endowment fund to provide a sustainable source of income annually to support the museum in the future. The museum fund balance was \$35,478.03 on December 31, 2010. We received \$1350.00 interest income in 2010. Over the years the Foundation has had fund drive promotions to help the museum. This year they are again issuing a challenge to organizations in the Foundation that have less than \$50,000 in the fund.

Beginning April 1, they will match donations dollar for dollar up to a matching grant of \$5,000.00. This means if members and others donate \$5,000 to the ORM Fund, they will provide a \$5,000 match and the museum increases its fund by \$10,000.00. This is a wonderful opportunity for the museum

The expectations are as follows; 1. Funds must be received between April 1, 2011 and December 31,

2011. Contributions may be in cash, marketable securities or other assets which may be converted to cash. 2. Contribution can come from individuals, foundations or corporations or from the organization itself. The annual distribution made in October is eligible to count toward the match if it is reinvested. 3. A minimum of \$1000 must be raised before a match will be made. 4. Matches that are completed by June 30, 2011 will be matched by that date with the total being included in the year-end fund balances. Matches completed after June 30 will be matched in January 2012 following the Challenge deadline.

This is a wonderful way to help the museum in the long term to sustain itself many years into the future. I hope you will give consideration and get to this important program. Remember, all donations are tax deductible. If you have any questions, please visit with Stan Hall, Drake Rice, Harry Currie or Bob Hussey.