The wedding that might have been

“ Married between their rails, honeymoon night on their rails, goana live on their rails and when I die my ashes will be spread along their rails.” Story on page 5.

Softball world series
home run for ORM

Trimming tree limbs
Overgrowing right of way

ORM railroad employee appreciation day event

Membership picnic

Adventure District Station parking lot is full and a long line of cars still need parking.

Bob Hussey crew south of 16th St. trimming tree limbs and loading for disposal

Railroaders visit while they enjoy a lunch

Chef’s Polly and Stan Hall serving hot dogs for the annual membership picnic event
We had a good turnout for members day last weekend. It was good to see many of you enjoying the lunch and train ride. We were joined by some Cubs and Boy Scouts. They had camped out on the grounds Friday evening and were still around Saturday.

Our Parking project for the College Women’s World series was very successful. We raised about double what was budgeted which will be very helpful on many of our projects. I want to thank Harry Currie for heading this up and all who worked on the project. Marvin and Mary Holderbaum were there almost every day and put in more hours than anyone else.

We are hosting the Retired Railroaders meeting at the Museum this weekend. I expect to see a large group for that meeting. Birthday parties continue to fill our caboose every weekend.

Stan Hall

IMPORTANT REQUEST TO VOLUNTEERS: It is extremely important you record you volunteer hours. Please log in and log out on the time sheets. Volunteer hours worked are a major factor in grant applications evaluations.

Please continue support of your Oklahoma Railway Museum by renewing your membership.
This past month has seen another huge turnout in visitors to the museum. During June we had 778 passengers, which is the highest we have ever recorded for June. The old record was 729 in 2007, while last year was 482. The work that Anne has been doing with the internet and the pictures from the work Raymond Wood is doing and posting on Facebook has been a huge success. We just need to keep up the effort since our numbers for 2012 to date are 2024 compared to 1178 last year.

I know a lot of folks are seeing the pictures since I try and ask everyone I can at the museum. Also, some of my old high school friends have sent me emails saying they have seen me. And they live in the Tulsa area, so you never know who might pick up on what we are doing at ORM.

We have many projects that are underway and as always can use some help. No skill is necessary; we can find a place for everyone. I know Larry can use help in the display car, since he likes to have lunch and has to close the displays on Saturdays while he is getting his lunch, if someone could help him and keep it open, that would be an easy position to help in, plus it is air conditioned, which in Oklahoma is a plus in the summer time.

Shop crews are staying busy on AC leaks on the passenger cars along with trying to complete the AC on the Rock Island Combine car, which will make a larger space available for birthday parties. We also have tree trimming to do along the line, since the growth is now touching the rail cars in certain areas. We have a contractor hired to spray our right of way from Eckroat to Adventure Station at NE 50th Street. They will be spraying twice a year and will do it when they spray the UP right of way, so you will begin to see an improved right of way later this year.

The track work that was done has really helped the operation with trains running the 1.7 miles of track south toward the UP interconnect. The line north is also in service, but we still need the signals hooked up to power and sighted. Once this is accomplished it will be a lot easier to cross NE 36st Street.

It’s never too early to start thinking about DOWT, its coming in September and October as always. Pass the word, it’s our largest event at the museum and helps provide funds to support all the work that is being done. The event also brings around 12,000 to 16,000 people to the museum over the two weekends. Again, there is a place for everyone. If you want to help, please let the museum office know or drop in on a Saturday and let us know.

It’s great to see all the activity and work being done at ORM and it’s a real credit to those who give of their time and money to help make the museum what it is today. A place that is actively preserving Oklahoma’s railroad history and you can ride on train from a by-gone era. I hope to see you at the museum.

Plan early, mark your calendar now for:

Sept 28, 29, 30 - Day Out with Thomas
Oct 5, 6, 7 - Day Out with Thomas
Oct 27 - Halloween Trains
Dec 1 & 2 - Okla City Train Show
Dec 15 - Christmas Trains

Please continue support of your Oklahoma Railway Museum by renewing your membership.
Fund raising from parking for the Womens College World Series was a success this year. The lot was full numerous times. Parking was offered Thursday through Wednesday.

This event was the idea of Harry Currie. It has been an excellent fund raiser for the museum. Harry also schedules the volunteers and was there almost every minute of the event.

Thanks to the volunteers listed below for their efforts.

Harry Currie  Greg Hall
Larry Dodd  Geoff Hendrick
Gary Githens  Mary Holderbaum
Gannon Githens  Marvin Holderbaum
Michael Githens  Kenneth Kozak
Nancy Hall  Jim Murray
Polly Hall  Charles Price
Stan Hall  Gary Ryan

Approximately 50 people including a group of scouts that spent the night at the ORM attended the picnic and enjoyed a train ride.

The picnic and train ride is one of the benefits of ORM membership.
The wedding that might have been
by Gary Githens

Most ORM members know Anne Murray who works and volunteers at the museum. Anne and Mr. Jay Chilton plan to be married. I made several attempts to convince Anne to have the wedding at the ORM. She keeps refusing and Jay just stands there with a blank husband type look on his face. I decided to do a wedding story anyway; but this article is speculation, purely fiction you understand, about how their wedding might have been.

The Oklahoma Railway Museum hosted the only known event of this kind. The museum was host to a wedding held on the railroad tracks for Anne Murray to Mr. Jay Chilton. Anne loves the Oklahoma Railway Museum and so admires all the folks that volunteer, she wanted to have her wedding at the museum.

The wedding party boarded a train at Oakwood Station for transportation to NE 23rd St. where they disembarked; then assembled under the bridge for the wedding ceremony.

The bride and groom stood between the rails and were married by “my own Pastor Clarence” wearing a conductor uniform. The bride was stunning, dressed in ORM yellow color coveralls with an ORM logo embroidered on it, an ORM green color frilly blouse, engineer boots with custom high heels, suede engineer gloves and engineer cap with a veil attached with ORM lapel pins borrowed from the Museum store. The groom wore ORM green coveralls, an ORM yellow shirt, engineer boots and ORM cap.

When the groom kissed the bride the SW8 locomotive horn was blown 10 times. Coincidently and simultaneously a fender bender accident started occurring on the bridge above us.

Immediately after the horn blowing salute to the newlyweds, many of the guests climbed the embankment to view the wreck involving about 26 vehicles on the bridge and numerous directions through the intersection located at the end of the bridge. The scene appeared as though none the drivers had any idea which way they had intended to be going. We all agreed the accident probably was another example of what happens when a driver is texting.

Those not climbing up the embankment to see the traffic accident stayed behind and wrote graffiti on the bridge piers with cans of ORM green and ORM yellow spray paint that were handed out for the occasion. Of course this was an environmentally friendly special paint which will be gone the next Oklahoma horizontal rain storm.

After viewing the multi car accident and graffiti writing, all boarded the train and returned to Oakwood Depot. Jay invited the two guys that live under the bridge to come back with them for the reception. I won’t write in detail about the conversation held in private with his new bride about his last minute addition to the wedding reception list, which I just happened to accidentally overhear, suffice to say he received a substantial lesson on how being a husband works.

This first of a kind and probably last of the kind event was covered by two local TV station news crews and the fashion editor for Feral Hog Hunters Quarterly. To date though none of the media attending have chosen to run a story about the wedding.

The reception was held in the aisle of our old horse barn now converted to storage barn across the street from the main museum grounds. The two possible reasons floating around for this were 1; because no one could find the key to the yard switch engine so railcars could be moved out of the shop building, the floors cleaned, tables and chairs set up or 2; we just forgot about the darn wedding until Anne and Jay showed up that afternoon wearing those strange clothes accompanied by Pastor Clarence from my church wearing a conductor uniform. Pastor Clarence has been to the museum a few times and turns out he was the only one they could find that would fit the conductor uniform.

Guests were treated to steam locomotive shaped brownies and hot dogs served on buns baked to resemble cabooses.

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The wedding cake resembled a locomotive bell as best any of the guests could speculate. On one side of the wedding cake thingy was written “Congratulations OKRX-Anne” and on the other side was “Hang in there OKRX-Jay.” (OKRX is the government issued prefix used for all ORM rolling stock identification numbers) Music was provided by “Jumped the track Henry” and his compressed air powered train horn music making machine which consists of a dozen various sizes and pitch horns.

During the reception Jay expressed appreciation to the ORM for hosting the wedding then Anne shouted “married between their rails, honeymoon night on their rails, goanna live on their rails and when I die my ashes will be spread along their rails.”

The couple spent their honeymoon night in the CB&O caboose built in 1878. Until the wee hours of the morning they were serenaded by the ORM Board of Directors drum and bugle corps band. While the band was on break members of the car host choir stood on the platforms at each end of the caboose creating a “stereo” effect and sang railroad songs for them. Some ORM members just hung out on the roof of the caboose eventually going to sleep.

Their honeymoon trip was a ride on Amtrak the next day to Fort Worth and back. The couple’s future plans include the purchase of an old railroad business coach to fix up and live at Owanda siding located just down the main line track from the museum grounds.

As for me, my job was to take video of the wedding, create a DVD for the newlyweds and also upload it to be included with the other ORM videos on You Tube. Anne, you’re going to think this is funny since you know how forgetful I am. You guessed it; I forgot to put a tape in my video camera. I’m so sorry and feel really terrible about that. Then after previewing the video at a board meeting somehow all 8 minutes of it got erased.

None of us attended their real wedding because a new flat car arrived that afternoon and we needed to check it out. Anne, you should not be angry with your dad because as Director of Mechanical Operations he really did need to oversee all your ORM friends checking out the new flatcar. By sun down we concluded it is like the other flat cars we have, but by then it was too late to make the wedding.

I was thrilled with the idea of your wedding at the museum. I would have a story for the newsletter and it would not be as inconvenient for all of us to attend.

Now that I have made up a story about your “might have been wedding,” received a personal sermon from Pastor Clarence and had time to remember that often truth can be stranger and scarier than fiction, PLEASE, PLEASE my dear friend, don’t start changing your mind.

Jay, if she starts making any changing her mind noise, you need to take charge. Forget about that substantial lesson on how being a husband works thing I mentioned previously. That is pure fiction and wives don’t do that in real life, purchase tickets to some exotic and beautiful place, possibly somewhere on the other side of the planet, take her there, get married, be happy and send us a picture post card that I can scan and put in the Dispatcher.

Anne and Jay we wish for you great happiness where ever you have your wedding.

Pastor Clarence Johnson, I know how much you enjoy the museum so thanks for allowing me this opportunity to include you in a museum event. I hope this was the most interesting wedding you never performed and you enjoyed being as you stated “one of the cast.”

This issue is the 4th year [48 issues] I have been temporary editor. If the board gets rid of me after reading this story, I will use the time for a wedding planning business.
**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 August. The store is also open for special events.

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**2012 ORM/NRHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:**

- [ ] New Membership  [ ] Renewal Membership (begin Jan 1st)  Date __________________
- $36.00 per year – Individual Membership in the Oklahoma Railway Museum, Ltd. (spouse included) Pro-rated dues $3.00 per month
- $30.00 per year – Individual Senior (age 65 and up) (spouse included) and Individual Student (full-time student) Membership in ORM Pro-rated dues $2.50 per month
- $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 __________________________ State _______ Zip Code ___________________
Phone __________________________ Fax ___________________________ Cell Phone __________________________
E-Mail ____________________________________________________________

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**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

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**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.
OKC Train Show update

The 2012 OKC Train Show express is underway. We have a signed contract with the Fair Board for the weekend of December 1 and 2 in the Transportation Building at the State Fair Grounds. Unfortunately due to rising costs, we had to raise the price of admission to $10.00. One dollar of that increase in each admission is a surcharge by the Fair Board. We have been told this money is meant to help finance the new building that that is to begin construction “sometime soon.” This new building is to replace our Transportation Building. It is to be larger which would be nice. We definitely need a bit more space.

We have already begun mailing out invitations to the show. The manufacturer letters went out on June 1. We already have 5 who have responded requesting space. We expect several more in the coming days. We already have verbal commitments from several of the “big names” in the model railroad industry such as Digitrax, Athearn, Soundtrax, Inter Mountain, and Kato. We simply are awaiting their official contract.

Our invitations to our previous vendors will go out on June 18th. We expect a rapid response from them and the show should fill quite quickly. Our invitations for any new vendors will go out on August 1.

The Fair Board is also requiring us to “tighten” some of our policies. Many of these policies are minor, internal matters that we will deal with post haste. There are a few that will affect each of the supporting clubs. I will be updating the membership of each group as time permits and posting much of that information via e-mail to each sponsor’s website or publication.

Until next time,
Thank you,
Ed Birch, Jr.
OKC Train Show Chairman