



FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM TROLLEY REPORT

Fall 2009

Number 98

Veracruz Open Car 9 Coming to Fort Smith

The Fort Smith Trolley Museum was the successful bidder for the Cooperativa de Transportes Urbanos y Suburbanos (Veracruz, Mexico) open car 9 in the Lake Shore Electric auction. Held on October 2, 2009, in Cleveland, Ohio, the auction was a once in a lifetime opportunity. Fifteen members of the Association of Railway Museums participated in a consortium to buy a collection of 29 cars and parts. In addition to the car, we will also receive 1/14th of a large collection of trolley parts. This will benefit many projects at the museum.

We already owned a sister car, the Veracruz open car 6. It was received incomplete and in very poor condition. Many parts restored for the 6 will now be used to restore car 9. The long range plan is to also restore car 6 using the remaining parts.

When restored and operating in Fort Smith, Open Car 9 will be the only vintage open car operating in an in-town location in the United States.

Approximately \$10,000 will be required to move the car to the Museum. We are accepting donations for the move and restoration.

Grant Received to Purchase Museum Software

Harold MacDowell delivered a \$1,000 grant check to Art Martin, the Trolley Museum's President on October 18, 2009. MacDowell is Chairman of the Fort Smith Area Community Foundation, an affiliate office of the Arkansas Community Foundation. The grant was used by the Museum to purchase PastPerfect software.

PastPerfect, used in over 7,000 museums worldwide, is the leading software for museum management.

The Trolley Museum's collections and library have grown with 30 years of acquisitions and donations. Several important collections include the Charles Winters collection. Cataloging the collection is a monumental task, and this software will allow the museum to catalog and organize the collection. The software will also aid in managing other museum business. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the archiving task.

This support comes from the Arkansas Community Foundation through the "Giving Tree" Grant Program. Thank you for helping the Museum make this important step in its development.



Looking Back

by Becky Meyers

“On the evening of February 23, 1917, as two streetcars approached Garrison and 13th Street, bright lights blinded motorist Fagan Bourland, causing him to strike a steel pole, extensively damaging his Marmon automobile. Late in October, a speeding northbound Eleventh Street car struck an eastbound automobile occupied by T.H. Miller and family at the intersection of H Street, derailing the streetcar which careened toward the curb. Striking a post, it came to rest across the double tracks. Shortly past midnight on March 2, 1917, thieves removed copper wires between Waldron Road and the carbarn. Walter Grier and Will Earp were arrested as they attempted to sell stolen scrap copper wire to salvage dealer Max Feenberg.

“On February 17, 1918, a streetcar crushed Win Harper’s automobile against a trolley pole at 9th and Garrison. The automobile was driven by Harper’s fourteen-year-old nephew and occupied by a party from Mulberry. Elva Chastain died from injuries sustained in the accident. Motorman J.M. Woodward and conductor J.M. Pew were exonerated from all charges.

“The creosote treated timber support and wood block pavement on the draw span of Van Buren Bridge burned June, 10, 1918, consequence of a short circuit in an iron conduit pipe incasing electric power transmission cables. Attorney Ed Matlock noticed smoke as he drove across the bridge to his home in Van Buren, alerting bridge watchman Tom Arnold by telephone at the ice plant. Arnold shut off the gas main and turned off the high

voltage lines in time to avert a catastrophe, but firemen were unable to extinguish the blaze. Streetcar patrons walked the length of the draw span for a short time until Light & Traction workmen could place temporary timbers for support of the tracks. Several weeks passed before new flooring and tracks were in place, but the loss was fully insured.

“Van Buren car 16 split a switch at Texas Corner August 18, 1918, creating a traffic jam and short delay. One week later, motorman J. Harrison stopped his streetcar in front of a grocery store near Little Rock Avenue and 18th, to pick up a basket lunch from his wife, a grocery clerk. Miss Ruth Seaman, not expecting the streetcar to stop, nor its motorman to alight, stuck Harrison with her automobile inflicting only slight injury.”

to be continued

Reminder

The date on your mailing label is the date of your last monetary contribution to the trolley restoration and serves to keep your membership up to date. A current membership card is your pass to ride.

Capital Transportation Company 305 and 310 Donated to the Museum

The Hillcrest Merchants Association of Little Rock, Arkansas, has donated Capital Transportation Company 305 and 310 to the museum. Both cars are single ended Birney cars built by the American car Company in 1926. Our goal is the restore the 305 using the best parts from both cars.

We are currently removing the wooden parts from the car. The body will then be pressure washed to remove a vast collection of dirt dauber nests. The metal will be treated with a rust converter, and the car will be moved indoors for restoration.

Volunteers Wayne Porter, Tim Welch and Bradley Martin moved the car from Little Rock to the Museum. The Merchants Association helped fund the move.

The Trolley Museum’s collection now includes cars from 3 Arkansas Systems: Fort Smith, Hot Springs, and Little Rock.



Memberships & Contributions

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Memorials & Honorariums

Charles Winters
 By William White II
 Will Tuck
 By James Tuck

World Wide Web Page

Visit our website for current news or to view past newsletters.

<http://www.fstm.org>
 E-mail info@fstm.org

Discussion Group

The museum has a Yahoo group to facilitate distribution of information and encourage discussion of equipment, events, and work at the museum. You are invited to join. Log on to <http://groups.yahoo.com> to join. Just type *fortsmithtrolley* in the search block and follow the directions.

Support Your Trolley Museum

Your continuing support of the *Fort Smith Trolley Museum* is appreciated. Your tax deductible contribution insures the continued operation and development of the museum.

MEMBERSHIP CARD SERVES AS AN ANNUAL PASS

Individual	\$10.00	Sustainer	\$100
Family	\$15.00	224 Club	\$224 (Receive Plaque & Lifetime Pass)
Sponsor	\$25.00	Benefactor	\$500 (receive 224 plaque & Lifetime pass)
Conductor	\$50.00	Life	\$1,000 (Receive Certificate and Lifetime Pass)

Special Gifts

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The museum is a 501c(3) Non- profit organization.

Fort Smith Trolley Museum

100 South 4th Street

Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901 98

FORT SMITH TROLLEY MUSEUM

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Trolley Milestone 200,000th Paid Passenger

2009 is the 30th Anniversary of the Trolley Museum. On September 12th, three year old Benjamin Bryan became the 200,000th paid passenger to ride the trolley. This occurred about a month sooner than expected due to an unusually heavy August ridership. Benjamin is the son of Stewart and Jessie Bryan of Greenwood. Ivy Owen was the operator of the trolley for this occasion.

Benjamin and his parents will receive round trip tickets to Fayetteville on the Arkansas and Missouri train, spend a Friday night at Carnell Hall on the University of Arkansas Campus, and receive \$100 from the Trolley Museum to dine at a restaurant of their choice. They will return to Van Buren on Saturday morning.

Benjamin and his father are both avid railroad fans. Benjamin has his own operating train set and was excited to ride the trolley and train.

On May 19, 1991, the Museum's first trolley car, #224, began carrying passengers. The trolley runs daily May 1st to November 1st, Monday- Saturday from 10-5 and Sunday 1-5. November 1st to May 1st the trolley runs weekends, Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 1-5.

The Fort Smith Streetcar Restoration Association was organized in 1979 to restore car #224 that is now operating. This was a Fort Smith Streetcar built in 1926 that operated until 1933 when the whole system was replaced by busses. Car #224 had become a diner in Ashdown, Arkansas, before being returned to Fort Smith. Restoration was done using wheels, motors, and controllers from Kansas City car #1545 that was purchased from the Ohio Railroad Museum. All restoration and operation has been done by volunteer labor. The Trolley Museum is located at 100 South 4th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Trolley Report

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Trolley Museum

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The logo for the Association of Railway Museums, Inc., consisting of the lowercase letters "arm" in a stylized, bold, serif font.

Association of Railway Museums, Inc.
Founded 1961

Promoting The Railway Museum Movement!