



VALLI HOSKI, NORTH TEXAS NEWS EDITOR

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**Chapter Meeting**

**January 6, 2015 – Chapter Elections**

*When* 7 pm meet'n'greet, 7:30 pm meeting.  
*Where* Founders Building, 701 South Main St. Grapevine TX.  
*Program* Annual Chapter Elections and Members Show'n'Tell.

*Who's running?* "Nominations chair Jerry Nunn has polled all the existing officers and they are willing to serve again if re-elected. Anyone who wishes to run for chapter office should contact Jerry as soon as possible. Elections will be held during the January meeting." (from mtg minutes)

Map at <http://go.dallasnews.com/places/founders-building/>

*Directions:* TX 114 west past DFW airport. Exit Main St. north to Grapevine. Continue past Dallas Road. Just past RR tracks, turn right into parking lot.



**North Texas Rail Events**

**See you @ 2015 Dallas Area Train Show & Famous Media-Slide Show**

**The Dallas Area Train Show (Plano, TX) , Jan. 17 & 18, 2015.**

Plano Centre. 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway. Go East from Central Expressway (Exit 31).  
 Hours 10am-5pm Saturday, 10am-4pm Sunday. More info at: <http://www.dfwtrainshows.com>

**THEN on Saturday Night, January 17th, 2015 –**

**10th Annual Dallas Area Media-Slide Show and NRHS Open House**

- Location, Southfork Hotel, Chinaberry Room, 1600 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75074. <http://southforkhotel.com>
- Hosted by the North Texas Chapter, National Railway Historical Society
- Show Time: 6:00pm until 10:00pm (maybe longer) (the Train Show closes at 5:00pm).
- Show Admission is free! (Please eat before you arrive. (NO outside food allowed; house rules).
- History: This is the show formerly hosted by Jimmy Barlow at Plano's Interurban Museum, and for two years at the Best Western motel, and the last 8 years hosted by the North Texas Chapter, NRHS. We thank Jimmy again (and again) for the opportunity to continue his tradition of fellowship among railfans.

**Happy Holidays and New Year to all! Please pass this on to anyone that might be interested in this show.**

Best regards, Skip Waters, Vice President, Trips & Events, North Texas Chapter, NRHS. Call Skip at 214-987-2888.

**REMINDER ~ ~ ~ If YOU would like to be a presenter, please see below:**

- By Sun. Jan.4, 2015 noon, email Skip Waters <[wqcrush@swbell.net](mailto:wqcrush@swbell.net)>, NOT to any email group.
  - If you know the subject (not mandatory) of your presentation, please indicate so.
  - List type of media you plan to show: 1) Slides, 2) Digital photos, 3) Video tape or 4) DVD. After all presenters have identified themselves,
  - Skip will notify you how much time each will have at the show. You can go ahead and start putting your material together now. Skip will announce final times after Jan. 8, so keep it adjustable so you can make it fit the time allotted. You'll still have about two weeks to finalize it for the show.
  - Please limit Videos or DVD's to 15 minutes. Slides will only be limited by the available time and by the number of presenters.
- Remember, the DEADLINE for getting your name on the PRESENTATION LIST is 12:00 noon CST on Sunday, January 4th, 2015. Don't let holiday gift returning, etc. make you miss the train. Thanks for your interest! Skip.



## Leonard's Department Store Museum

by Jon Shea, Chapter VP Programs

This year we had our Chapter Christmas Dinner at the M&O Grill in Fort Worth. The grill commemorates the former Leonard's Department store and the store's private subway, the M&O Subway which took customers from the parking lot to the store complex. After Leonard's closed, the Tandy Corporation (Radio Shack) ran the subway with different cars finally closing it in 2002. At the restaurant is a museum honoring Leonard's and the M&O Subway. This brochure on the M&O Subway and the restoration of one of its cars came from the Leonard's Museum.



### Leonard's Department Store

"Leonard's was a "one-stop shopping center" years before there were shopping centers. You could buy vegetable seeds to plant in your garden or purchase Emily Post's Etiquette. It was a department store with the latest in affordable fashions as well as a complete farm store, a grocery store, a hardware store, a beauty salon and an automotive supply. It was a furniture store, a sporting goods store and at Christmas there was Toyland, the most spectacular toy store in town."

### M&O Subway

"When the crowds at Leonard's became so large that it created a parking problem downtown; **LEONARD'S Department Store** built and operated the world's only privately owned subway, the "M&O". Leonard's was a cross between a modern day super store and a shopping mall. A place to purchase merchandise and to meet up with friends. Going to Leonard's on Saturday was an 'event' that the whole family looked forward to doing together whether they traveled to the store from across town or from halfway across Texas.

Museum visitors can view displays featuring hundreds of items from the store as well as learn about the unique history of a Fort Worth icon. The **LEONARD'S Department Store Museum** is located in the Fort Worth Screen Printing building on the corner of Carroll and Whitmore, one block south of White Settlement Road."

Source: 12/13/2014, Museum and M&O information at [http://www.fwculture.com/leonards\\_museum.htm](http://www.fwculture.com/leonards_museum.htm) .

### 2014 Chapter Holiday Dinner

by Dave Gramm (photo credit) and Valli Hoski (text)

This year's holiday dinner was enjoyed by all – local history, some railroading and subway intrigue, and good company. Enjoy these views of the museum and gathering.

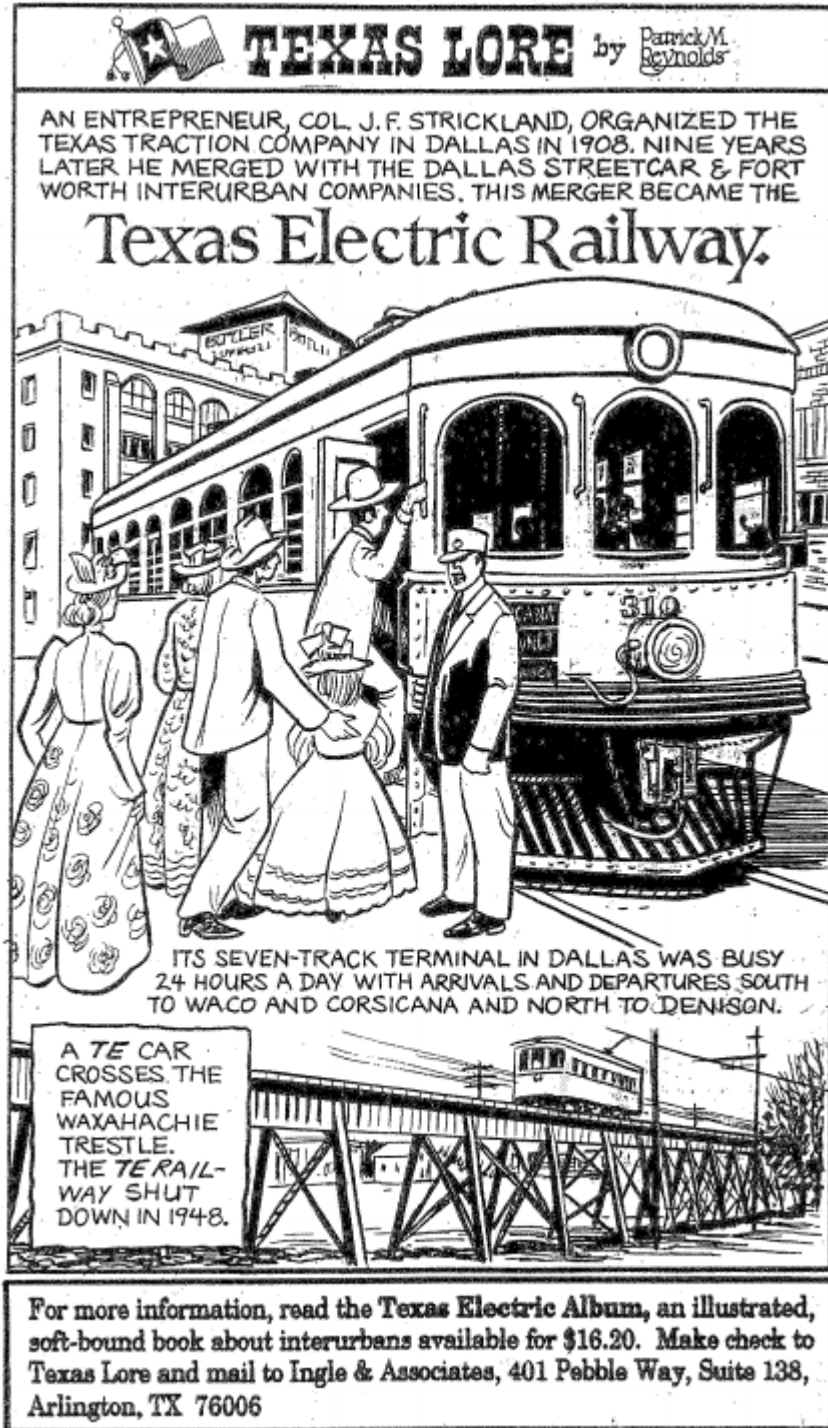
The Toyland Express was designed by Ned Covitt, who served as Leonard's Interior Display designer for years, and was built by department store staff. Each year the monorail train took more than 100,000 people on a trip over the heads of customers in the toy department. In 1949 the train even surpassed records set by East Coast department stores.



## Texas Electric Railway, Illustrated

contributed by Jon Shea

I have been cleaning out my shed and came upon a box of old newspapers. This item came from the late lamented Texas and Southwest Section of the March 17, 1991 issue of *The Dallas Morning News*.



**TEXAS LORE** by Patrick M. Reynolds

AN ENTREPRENEUR, COL. J. F. STRICKLAND, ORGANIZED THE TEXAS TRACTION COMPANY IN DALLAS IN 1908. NINE YEARS LATER HE MERGED WITH THE DALLAS STREETCAR & FORT WORTH INTERURBAN COMPANIES. THIS MERGER BECAME THE

### Texas Electric Railway.

ITS SEVEN-TRACK TERMINAL IN DALLAS WAS BUSY 24 HOURS A DAY WITH ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SOUTH TO WACO AND CORSICANA AND NORTH TO DENISON.

A TE CAR CROSSES THE FAMOUS WAXAHACHIE TRESTLE. THE TE RAILWAY SHUT DOWN IN 1948.

For more information, read the *Texas Electric Album*, an illustrated, soft-bound book about interurbans available for \$16.20. Make check to Texas Lore and mail to Ingle & Associates, 401 Pebble Way, Suite 138, Arlington, TX 76006

Graphic Source: (March 17, 1991). *The Dallas Morning News*, Texas and Southwest section.



## Fort Worth Rail Action – Then and Now, in 2 Days

by Jerry Nunn

My Fellow Ferroequinologists, I recently posted to flickr photos taken in or Ft. Worth on Dec. 11 and 12. All were taken in downtown Fort Worth. Most interesting was that I was able to catch multiple BNSF engines in heavily faded warbonnet colors, even with the "Santa Fe" still emblazoned on the sides.

Left below: BNSF 635



Right below: Coal Train (DPU.)



Left below: CSXT 651



Right below: Citirail 1312 (DPU)



Source: Jerry Nunn email, December 14, 2014. Photos located at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/113556114@N07/sets/72157649348032809/>

## NRHS Update

### NRHS Dues Collection & Reporting for 2015

submitted by Valli Hoski, NTZ Editor

In the December 2014 issue of the *Telegraph*, the NRHS updates members on dues collection, processing and reporting for 2015. Below is a summary of the original articles. This is intended as a convenience to inform members who read the print edition. For the full, authoritative article, please see the December *Telegraph* available through the NRHS.

“By now, NRHS members in good standing have received their notices that their dues for 2015 are payable to NRHS. Unlike recent years, for 2015, NRHS is collecting the National dues directly from our membership. We are encouraging everyone to renew as soon as possible, and to use the online option with a credit card instead of sending paper checks to Fernley & Fernley. When the member uses the credit card option, we avoid paying Fernley & Fernley a processing charge for each paper check that they have to manually handle and deposit. The online option leaves more of the dues revenue available to NRHS and its programs rather than paying for additional outside administrative support... NRHS Vice President Joe Maloney will periodically pull dues receipt data down from the chapters' records in the NRHS membership database, and provide the individual chapters with Excel spreadsheets showing which of their members have paid their NRHS dues, and remain in good standing through December 31, 2015. This process will be unique to the 2015 dues campaign, and will not be repeated next year.”

Source: NRHS *Telegraph*, December 2014 issue, available at [https://admin.nrhs.com/telegraph/Telegraph\\_December\\_2014.pdf](https://admin.nrhs.com/telegraph/Telegraph_December_2014.pdf)



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## North Texas Chapter News & Views

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### **Chapter Annual Auction Results**

*by Wayne Smith, Chapter President*

We held our annual auction in November 2014 and raised \$233.00 with items that consisted mainly of books, posters/prints and a few maps and timetables. Thanks to Bob Kennedy for bringing a large quantity of new items to the auction. Some of the items were leftover from 24 Hours at Saginaw. Bill Frantz was also a big and on-going contributor. Several members brought something for the auction. We had old friends such as Jim Hollis in attendance and new friends such as Don Novak. Thanks to Jerry for scribing our minutes in the absence of Dave. Thanks to Skip and his excellent auctioneering skills. Thanks to everybody that attended, brought items or bid on items.

### **President's Roundhouse**

*by Wayne Smith, Chapter President*

#### **Railroad Lore and Trivia**

The Railroad Safety Appliance Act of 1893 required a uniform system for couplers and brakes on trains. The law did reduce the number of employee accidents, but did little for passenger service. Many railroads continued to use the old brake and coupler systems well into the twentieth century.

The then-new Interstate Commerce Commission embarked on a major series of valuations in order to establish the real worth of the nation's railroads. Contrary to public belief, railroad stocks turned out not to be "watered," or artificially inflated.

Steam engines produced an enormous amount of heat in the normal course of operation. In order to protect the crew, railroads extensively employed the miracle fibers, asbestos. It would be decades before the implications of that decision became clear.

"Screaming Jenny" is a famous ghost of Harpers Ferry. She was living in a small house by the tracks when a spark from the stove lit her dress on fire. She burst from her home in flames, screaming for help. She stumbled into the path of a B&O train and was killed. For decades, trains have slammed on their brakes to avoid hitting a flaming, screaming woman who vanishes as quickly as she appears.

Air Brakes were an important safety innovation, allowing a train to stop much more quickly and smoothly. Even then, using the airbrakes was known as "shaking the train."

The four railroads found on a standard Monopoly board are: the Pennsylvania, the Reading, the Short Line, and the B&O.

The Denver & Rio Grande No. 107 is remembered as a cursed engine. It first lost two crew in a bridge washout. After another two crew and some passengers were killed in an accident, she was known as "Dread 107." Another accident claimed four more crewmen, and someone carved the names of the dead into her cab. Years later, two brothers went insane and killed themselves in the engine. Then the engine went runaway, killing its five-man crew. After that, crews refused to work on it and it was scrapped.

Originally, the lights on either side of the headlight were called Blizzard Lights that served in an emergency when the oil-burning headlight blew out. Now they indicate the train is non-scheduled or extra.

Telescoping is a colloquial term used to describe the act of one railroad coach violently plunging itself into another coach during a train wreck. It was more common and dangerous when coaches were constructed of wooden materials.

### **Friendly Reminder: North Texas Chapter NRHS 2015 Dues Notice**

*by Jim King, Chapter Treasurer*

From Jim's recent postcard on how to pay 2015 Chapter dues:

- For 2015, dues for membership in chapters of the National Railway Historical Society are being solicited directly by each chapter. You will receive a separate mailing for national dues directly from NRHS.
- Please return this postcard with your payment of 2015 dues for the North Texas Chapter NRHS. Thank you! Jim King, Treasurer, North Texas Chapter .
- **INDIVIDUAL: \$16 FAMILY \$16 + \$2 per added member.** Your account is identified by the mailing address on this postcard. If you have any changes to your address or other personal information, please correct it on the other side.
- Make checks payable and return this postcard to: **North Texas Chapter NRHS, P O Box 600304, Dallas TX 75360**
- **Our new chapter email address** is: [northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com](mailto:northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com)

### **Chapter Business Meeting Minutes, December 2, 2014**

**NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER, NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MINUTES, DATE: December 2, 2014, M&O Station Grill, Fort Worth..**

The December meeting and annual Christmas party was held at the M & O Station Grill in Ft. Worth.. The M & O Station Grill was named after the M & O Subway built by Marvin and Obie Leonard, two Ft. Worth brothers who owned & operated Leonard's Department Store in Ft. Worth. In 1963, when parking in the downtown area around their store became problematic, the brothers came up with the idea of building a private



subway system from the store basement to a remote parking lot on the north side of town. The subway was over a quarter mile long and ran up to 41 ft. below street level. It continued to operate until 2005 when downtown renovation work closed to subway down. The tunnel and parking lot still exist and a renovated subway car is on display at One City Place, 300 Throckmorton Street in downtown Ft. Worth, Texas.

President Wayne Smith called the meeting to order after the 20 or so attending members and guests had eaten dinner.

VP Trips & Events and National Director Skip Waters reported that the National dues statements had been mailed and would be arriving later this week. Treasurer Jim King has already sent chapter renewal notices to members, so only National dues should be sent to National.

Members may pay online at [NRHS.COM](http://NRHS.COM). Please pay your Chapter & National dues promptly, especially if running for chapter office or planning on voting for the candidates.

Treasurer Jim King reported that the chapter book sales had reached 82 books sold so far. Members in attendance were given the opportunity to purchase a copy tonight for \$5 off and several took advantage to purchase their copy now. The book is due for release in late December.

Skip showed a picture he found of the named train, The Sunbeam, from the tail end showing the drumhead in backlit mode vs. the later neon version. The picture validates his contention that the representative drumhead on display at Dallas Union Station is incorrect.

Skip also announced that chapter member and newsletter editor Valli Hoski has accepted the additional duties as editor of the 'Telegraph'. Be ready for deadlines.

Nominations chair Jerry Nunn reported he had polled all the existing officers and they are willing to serve again next year if re-elected. Wayne reminded all attendees that anyone who wished to run for chapter office should contact Jerry as soon as possible. Elections will be held during the January meeting.

VP Programs Jon Shea reported the next meeting would be held on January 6, 2015 at the Grapevine Founder's Building in Grapevine, TX with the program to be the annual officer elections.

Wayne then introduced the M & O Station Grill owner/chef Rose Badillo, who gave us a personal guided tour of the adjoining Leonard's Store Museum including interesting anecdotes. While inspecting the numerous photos in the museum, it was discovered that recently deceased member Russ Covitt's father, Ned Covitt was Leonard's Interior Display designer responsible for designing the Toyland Express monorail train that carried over 100,000 passengers yearly over the heads of customers in the toy department.

## Chapter Directory

### *North Texas Chapter Officers, 2014.*

- **President, Wayne Smith**, 940-300-4407.
- **Vice President/Programs, Jon Shea**, 972-948-2413.
- **Vice President/Trips and Events, Skip Waters**,  
[wgcrush@swbell.net](mailto:wgcrush@swbell.net).
- **Vice President/Communications, and NTZ editor, Valli Hoski**, [ntx.news@yahoo.com](mailto:ntx.news@yahoo.com)
- **Secretary, Dave Gramm**, [dgramm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgramm@sbcglobal.net)
- **Treasurer, Jim King**, [jgking@swbell.net](mailto:jgking@swbell.net)

### *Chapter Business Address*

North Texas Chapter, NRHS,  
 P.O. Box 600304  
 Dallas, Texas 75360

*Chapter Email:* [northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com](mailto:northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com)

### *North Texas Zephyr, chapter newsletter Archive*

<http://www.gogeocaching.com/gorailfanning/Home/northtexaszephyr.html>

### *North Texas Chapter @ Facebook*

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/409467244127/>

Press time 12/17/14. Filename: NTx Newsletter 2015-01 v7

## North Texas Chapter History

Founded and chartered in 1996, the North Texas Chapter is one of the newest chapters of the National Railway Historical Society\*. The chapter is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) educational organization incorporated under the laws of the state of Texas. Emphasis of the chapter is activity, history, and enjoyment of railroading past and present. Meetings are held 7:30-10:00 PM, first Tuesday of each month, usually (but not always) at the Grapevine Tourist & Visitor Information Center at Main St. and the FWWR railroad tracks. Visitors and newcomers are welcome. **As of October 2014, chapter dues (\$16, plus \$2 per additional family member) should be sent to the Chapter PO Box.** Chapter membership includes our monthly chapter newsletter, the North Texas Zephyr. **National organization 2015 dues are paid to the NRHS directly.** Chapter mailing address: North Texas Chapter NRHS, P.O. Box 600304, Dallas, Texas 75360. Reach the NRHS at National Railway Historical Society, 100 N 20th Street, 4th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1443.



## North Texas Calendar

<b>Tues. Jan. 6, 2015.</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: Founders Building, 701 South Main St. Grapevine TX. Program: Chapter annual election, members “show and tell”.
<b>Sat. Jan. 17, Sun. Jan. 18, 2015</b>	<b>Dallas Area Train Show –</b> Location: Plano Centre, 2000 East Spring Creek Parkway. Go East from Central Expressway (Exit 31). Admission: \$8. Hours Saturday 10 a.m.-5p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Details at <a href="http://dfwtrainshows.com/">http://dfwtrainshows.com/</a>
<b>Sat. Jan. 17, 2015. 6-10 p.m.</b>	<b>Annual Dallas Area Slide/Media Show and North Texas Chapter Open House – 6:00 p.m. to 10 p.m.</b> (Train Show closes 5 p.m.)
<b>Tues. Feb. 3, 2015.</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: Sokol Hall, 7448 Greenville Ave, Dallas, Texas 75231. Program: KATY RR depots.
<b>Tues. March 3, 2015.</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: to be confirmed. Program: to be confirmed.
<b>Tues. April 7, 2015.</b>	<b>North Texas Chapter meeting – 7:30 p.m.</b> Location: to be confirmed. Program: to be confirmed.

## New Southern Pacific Book – Sponsored by North Texas Chapter!

The North Texas Chapter is proud to sponsor David Bernstein's new work on the Southern Pacific's Eastern Lines!

**NEW SOUTHERN LINES BOOK**

Announcing a new book published by the North Texas Chapter, NRHS written by David M. Bernstein!

**Southern Pacific's Eastern Lines 1946 - 1996**

Written by David M. Bernstein, former Southern Pacific train dispatcher and officer, this 400-page book is illustrated with color and black & white photographs and numerous maps. It is the definitive guide to the operation and history of S.P. Lines in Texas and Louisiana from the end of World War II until the Union Pacific merger. Available December, 2014.

### Shipping Address

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to North TX Chapter NRHS,  
 PO Box 600304, Dallas TX 75360  
 Orders and info: northtexaschapternrhs@gmail.com

Price \$69.95 ea. **\$69.95**  
 TX residents add 8.25% Sales Tax (\$5.77) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Add Shipping (\$5 US / \$10 International) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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 for additional quantities, multiply the Total amount

