



Newsletter

**Volume 5 Number 1
February 2017**

Construction Update

The museum closed December 30 for the conversion of Central Station to a hotel.



However we are very busy while our doors are closed (and fenced off). Since our space availability has changed, we are having to redesign our exhibits to be able to tell the Memphis railroad history story in the space we have available. Board members and volunteers are busy developing new exhibits that will tell a more complete account of the history. Some of the plans include:

- Installing a mural that will depict the story of the Illinois Central RR from its inception to its eventual coalescence into the Canadian National RR.
- Construct a miniature replication of the Memphis waterfront as it existed in the early 1900's, to

include the west side of Front Street as an onlooker would view it from the river. Specific views to be included will be the placement of the railroad stations, such as the long-gone Poplar Street and Calhoun Street stations, and models of the original Cossitt Library, the Customs House and Memphis' first skyscraper, the D.T. Porter Building.

- Upgrade our current exhibits, add video technology to some of our static displays, populate the exhibit area with more interactive exhibits, and mannequins in railroad dress.
- Replace the storage and workshop space that is being displaced by hotel construction with new facilities to include much needed exhibit storage, support shop, and office space.

This will take money and we are working to secure grants to help pay for this. We estimate that it will cost \$200,000 to make the upgrades as well as construct new office, workshop, and storage space. This will also cover the expenses of promoting our reopening and expanding our day of operation to 6 or 7 days a week.

While we hope to get grants to cover at least part of this, donations from you are essential to help us get there, every dollar you give helps us fulfill our mission to share this history with you, the community, and visitors to Memphis. Your gift of \$10, \$100, \$1000 or more will help us become a better attraction for the community. Information on making a donation are at the end of the Newsletter.

The Start of Construction

On February 18 Mike Fleming visited the site to photograph the initial construction preparation:

This is the bus transfer facility on the west side that is being removed for the Malco theater parking lot



Hudson Hall with everything removed including the wonderful period photos of Central Station under construction. The museum will try to acquire the train board if they decide to remove it.



The vacated board room.



This is the platform area where they will be excavating to put in the Main St. to Front St. concourse. This underground concourse will be an alternative to going to G.E. Patterson or Carolina to from one side of the property to the other side.



OUT WITH THE OLD

THE museum will be moving the narrow gauge railroad out to make room for our new Memphis Riverfront Exhibit and we are looking for someone who may be interest in purchasing it. It was built as a modular railroad and with a little work, can be

disassembled so it can be moved and reassembled.



The railroad is approximately 16 ft. x 16 ft. L-shaped dog bone and the locomotives Cars and most of the

structures will be included. If you are interested please contact Museum President Mike Fleming at 901-461-7138 or at mrffleming@netzero.net

Surplus Items moved to a Good Home

Because of our lack of expansion space, some railroad cars that went with IC 2499, our steam locomotive in the front window were transferred to a hobbyist in east Tennessee. He was a friend of the original owner of the locomotive and was honored to add the cars to his collection. He has promised photos of the cars after construction is completed. They will be shared in a future newsletter. A monetary donation was made to the museum in exchange for the cars to help us with our upgrades.



This is 3 of the cars which are partially built and some of the parts.

The Trolleys will be running soon!

Recent news reports stated that MATA will start testing trolleys out on the lines in a few weeks and hope to be open for passengers by the end of the year.



Here is a photo of one of the Melbourne trolleys from our mural in the Museum.

Donation Information

Visit the website at:

<http://mrtm.org/donations/>

or via mail:

Memphis Railroad & Trolley Museum
David Johnston, Treasurer
11325 Ole Bob Dr.
Collierville, Tn. 38017