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SAINT LOUIS

# THE FRISCO EMPLOYEES' MAGAZINE

827 FRISCO BUILDING :: ST. LOUIS

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### THE FRISCO EMPLOYEES' MAGAZINE

The Frisco Employees' Magazine is a monthly publication devoted primarily to the interests of the more than 30,000 active and retired employees of the Frisco Lines. It contains stories, items of current news, personal notes about employees and their families, articles dealing with various phases of railroad work, poems, cartoons and notices regarding the service. Good clear photographs suitable for reproduction are especially desired, and will be returned only when requested. All cartoons and drawings must be in black India drawing ink.

Employees are invited to write articles for the magazine. Contributions should be typewritten, on one side of the sheet only, and should be addressed to the Editor, Frisco Building, St. Louis, Mo.

Distributed free among Frisco employees. To others, price 15 cents a copy; subscription rate \$1.50 a year. Advertising rates will be made known upon application.

# Fifteen Hundred Veteran Employes Attend Fourth Annual Reunion at Springfield, Mo., June 28-29

## *Twenty-Year Service Men With Wives and Children Frolic at All-Day Picnic in Sequiota Park and Join With Fellow Veterans in Business Meetings*

CITIZENS of the capital city of Frisco Lines, Springfield, Mo., awoke on the morning of June 28th to find that the grand old men of the Frisco service—members of the Frisco Veteran Employes' Association—had taken over the city for their own.

With light hearts and soaring spirits 1,500 veterans from twenty states came to attend the fourth annual reunion of employes having twenty or more years service with the company, and their entrance was neither subdued nor was it neglected.

As each train pulled into Springfield carrying extra coaches and pullmans to accommodate the veterans, as the business cars of officials were shunted to sidings, and as the hubbub of the veterans rose as they renewed old friendships and wrung hands of fellow-workers they had not seen for years, Springfield knew, indeed, that the annual veterans' reunion of its greatest industry, Frisco Lines, was under way.

From the time the first eager veteran alighted from his train until the final strains of "God Be With Us 'Till We Meet Again" died in the vastness of the Shrine Mosque forty-eight hours later, Springfield belonged to the Frisco veterans as surely as the Frisco belongs to Springfield, and nothing was spared to make the reunion the year's brightest spot for those in attendance.

### *Registration of Veterans*

At 8 a. m. on June 28th, the registration booth for attending veterans opened in the lobby of the Colonial Hotel, official headquarters, under the direction of John L. McCormack, Miss Charlene Willard, J. K. Gibson and Henry Johnson, managers of registration.

Although the registration was handled with the usual Frisco speed and dispatch, the line of veterans waiting to place their names on the roll grew in numbers until it wove a line through the lobby of the hotel and almost to the entrance facade.

At ten o'clock 1,248 veterans had registered. Many more names were added during the day, and many vets who arrived on later trains were not registered until the second day.

But by 10:15 the largest portion of attending reunioners had been cared for and the crowd surged out into St. Louis Street bound for the Mill Street Station where the special train for Sequiota Park and the all-day picnic, barbecue and field day, awaited them.

Engineer H. W. Alexander and Fireman H. V. Dyche were in the cab of engine No. 724, attached to the eight-coach special train for the run to Sequiota Park, and waved their greetings to the hundreds of

veterans who climbed aboard. A blast of the whistle and the reunion was off to a blaze of glorious good times.

Many members of the "welcoming" family were already on hand at the park, busy with arrangements for the athletic events, barbecue and other activities when the special pulled in, and the laughing, shouting veterans dismounted.

Within thirty minutes the beautiful grounds of the state fish hatchery were swarming with men and women who spotted old friends among the crowd and greeted them warmly and affectionately.

### *Welcomed by Mayor Freeman*

At 11 o'clock Hon. W. E. Freeman, Mayor of Springfield, mounted the platform at the pavilion and delivered the address of welcome to the veterans on behalf of the host city.

"We are proud to have you with us again this year and hope that this great event will always be held within the city limits of Springfield, the real home of your railroad. We are proud of the Frisco here, and we are proud too, of the veteran employes who worked loyally and faithfully to aid in making Frisco Lines the leading road of the country," Mayor Freeman said.

C. C. Mills, accident prevention agent, responded to the Mayor's welcome, and assured him the veterans were glad to have Springfield for their reunion city.

Meanwhile Charley Gray of the Central Boarding and Supply Company, Springfield, and his helpers, assisted in turn by several "boys" from the cars of various Frisco officials, were busily engaged at the barbecue pits, cutting the many pounds of tasty barbecued pork and beef, they had worked most of the night to cook, slicing hundreds of loaves of bread into sandwich size, preparing pot after pot of steaming hot coffee, opening dozens of bottles of catsup, pickles, olives and other good things.

And a few minutes after midday, the lusty shout went over the park:

### *"Come and Get It"*

"It's ready—come and get it."

It was a history making meal.

There was a concerted yet dignified rush for positions in the "chow line" which stretched back from the long tables and wound around in a semi-circle back of the fish ponds. Almost an hour and a half was consumed in generously and efficiently serving the fifteen hundred veterans and their wives and children who were in line for the splendid meal. A barrel of ice-cool lemonade disappeared with lightning-



The Frisco veterans assembled in the above picture with President James M. Kurn have a total of nearly three hundred years of Frisco service. They are, left to right: Lewis Bangert, Salem, Mo., engineer, 52 years; W. H. Van Horn, St. Louis, engineer, 43 years; George Salsman, Springfield, engineer, 40 years; President Kurn; Charles Stybes, Olathe, Kans., engineer, 30 years (oldest living Frisco veteran); J. S. Carson, Hugo, Okla., engineer, 40 years; George Daniel, Fort Smith, 47 years; George Wise, 45 years. The picture was taken at the Veterans' Picnic in Sequiota Park, June 28.

like rapidity only to be replaced with another barrel of the cooling beverage, and at 1:30 the dishes were gathered in great piles at the tables waiting to be washed, while the Vets lit their pipes, cigars and cigarettes and settled in the shade of the abundant trees for a brief rest before the activities of the afternoon.

It was 2:00 o'clock before the photographer got many of the veterans in the circle by the huge rock for the panoramic picture which is a feature of the event. Only a few moments were consumed in taking the picture, however, and almost to the second as the crowd disbanded the strains of dance music from the famous shops orchestra in the nearby pavilion announced another important event of the day—the old and new fashioned dancing contests in the auditorium. E. M. Hasler, of the west shops at Springfield, led the orchestra.

The "Major Domo" of the occasion, Charley Mills, famed far and wide on Frisco rails for his ability in matters terpsichore marshaled three or four dozen willing contestants to the center of the pavilion while hundreds more jammed the place to the sidewalls and pulled up every available box for standing room on the outside.

### The Dancing Contest

How those veterans and their wives did dance!

To the lively melodies of "Turkey in the Straw," "Virginia Reel," the "Schottische" and many others, the veterans and their wives danced gracefully and well. During the square dance Mills called the numbers and collars wilted while smiles increased as the joyous afternoon passed swiftly on.

The waltzing prizes went to J. S. Meidroth, road foreman of equipment at Chaffee, and Mrs. Meidroth. Meidroth proudly claimed a box of fine cigars, and Mrs. Meidroth won a beautiful leather bag.

But the oldsters weren't satisfied to quit with just the old-time dances demonstrated.

The Charleston was called for—and then the sons and daughters had their fling!

While the shop orchestra proved its ability by "diggin' in" with "Charleston," "Yes Sir, She's My Baby," and others, little Miss Virginia Lee Conley, daughter of John Conley, mechanical inspector, Springfield; Katheryn and Ruth Ellett, daughters of Agent Allett of Marshfield, Mo.; and Frances L. Walsh, daughter of chief timekeeper F. J. Walsh of Memphis, walked away with the honors. They were given the heartiest applause of the day for their graceful efforts.

### Seventeen Races in Field Events

But the dancing could not remain the principal attraction for all afternoon, and although many of the vets and their wives stayed with the tireless orchestra in the pavilion until the train left for Springfield at five o'clock, a large crowd assembled at the roped off track for the racing events of the afternoon.

John C. Conley, traveling inspector, called the events, with the help of J. K. Gibson, assistant to superintendent of motive power; C. J. Stephenson, assistant to general manager; W. H. Bevans, superintendent; and Charles Baltzell, superintendent, who started or judged the fleet contestants.

Seventeen racing events were run and while they were under way the horse-shoe pitching contest attracted a hundred or more other spectators at a court on the far side of the park. The table of results in the athletic events will be found on another page.

The orchestra was still playing for a hundred dancing couples and the last race of the day had just been won and lost, when Fireman Dyche blew a warning blast on Seven-Forty-Two's whistle, and the exodus

from the park and back to Springfield began.

Shortly after five o'clock the veterans dismounted from the train at Springfield again and went to supper—but the day was not yet over.

### The Musical Revue and Minstrel

The shades of a typical Ozark evening had cooled the city when the veterans assembled at Pipkin High School for another feature event of the reunion, "The Musical Revue and Minstrel Show."

From beginning to end the Frisco employes who composed the cast lulled the veterans with old time songs and lullaby's or rocked them in their seats with laughter at their jokes on well-known employes and officials.

Beginning with a skit, "The Fiddle and the Bow" by the Arion entertainers and a selection by the Harmonica Band, the program ran through to a successful close promptly at ten o'clock. Miss Mary E. Hinkley and Miss Jewel Prater delighted with their accompaniments of solos by LeRoy Prater and a duet by Elmer Jarratt and Loren Lawless.

One event which pleased the oldsters more than any other was "The Music of Yesteryear." George Wheatley and George Hasler played a musical saw duet, Mrs. H. H. Webb sang several songs of other days, and Fitzhugh Crane, Springfield tenor, made a hit with his rendition of "My Old Kentucky Home," and with "Sweet Genevieve," which Crane sang with Miss Marjorie Risser, a Frisco daughter.

Miss Risser starred on her own, however, with "Love's Old Sweet Song," which dampened many eye lashes in the audience, and Jimmy Cook brought the audience back to the present with "Roaming in the Gloaming" and "I Love a Lassie," both sung in Scotch costume.

The "Miniature Minstrels DeLuxe" was a riotous take-off on prominent officials from start to finish. Frank Colvin as "Jim Curran," (Pres. Kurn); Joe Weddell as "Fred Shaver" (Shaffer); Slim Mathews as "Harry War-Man" (Worman); Cecil Waits as "Eddie Bun-dell" (Bunnell); Ira Smith as "Jim Hutch and Son" (Hutchison); George Dwyer as "Doctor Sizen" (Sisson); Pierce Eaton as "Empty Fuller Tune" (Fullington); Francis Morton as "Jim Coons" (Koontz); and Ted Whitehead as "B. Red-Wood" (Ben T. Wood); kept the audience of 800 almost hysterical with laughter.

The Frisco Paramount Four quartet featured the minstrel with solos by George Dwyer, Joe Weddell, Frank Colvin, Paul Carver and Slim Matthews. The Frisco orchestra which had done such valiant duty in the afternoon again led the show and was composed of Kenneth Lee, Hubert Mason, Ralph Reed, George

Hasler, George Wheatley, George Springer, John Bell, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Hasler and Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Gibbs.

Encore after encore was demanded and received by the veterans on many of the numbers.

But the evening ended at 10, and the vets retired to their hotels for a much needed rest before the more serious business of the second day.

### The Business Sessions

Greatly refreshed by a long night of sleep—the veterans and their wives met and greeted each other at the Shrine Mosque on the morning of June 29 at 9:00 a. m.

J. L. McCormack, acting secretary of the association opened the meeting by reading a number of letters which had been received from those unable to attend the reunion.

Those who sent regrets were: J. E. Lockwood, former general passenger agent, of the old Ft. Scott & Memphis R. R.; W. D. Drake, former general manager Texas Lines; Henry

Miller, president St. Louis Terminal Railroad Association; A. J. Davidson of Portland, Oregon; Eugene McAuliff, former fuel agent; J. Will Johnson, former locomotive engineer; B. A. Dunn, of the locomotive department of inspection, I. C. C., Washington; J. A. Frates, former general manager; C. F. Richardson of Sturgis, Kentucky; Sam Hughes, of Albuquerque, N. M.; E. D. Levy, president of the Pierce Oil Corporation; J. R. Groves, former superintendent motive power; B. L. Winchell, president Remington Typewriter Company, and Carl R. Gray, of Omaha, Nebraska, president of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Secretary McCormack read the minutes of



The Veterans roundly cheered the three Frisco entertainers above for their offerings at the Shrine Mosque the second afternoon. They are, left to right: Miss Willa "Chubb" Meador, Mrs. J. D. Killough, and Miss Helen Meador. The Misses Meador offered musical selections and Mrs. Killough gave two readings.

### ON THE NEXT PAGE

A group of photographs taken at the Veterans' Reunion Picnic appears on the opposite page. D. Forsythe, as "officer of the day", didn't like the looks of three "suspects", and arrested them early in the morning hours. The "suspects" are, from left to right: J. H. Doggrell, J. K. Gibson and L. E. Martin. At the right, top, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Meidroth, winners of the dancing contest, exhibit their prizes. In the center, a typical scene around the noon hour at the barbecue tables. Note the long line of waiting vets. Below center, at left, a portion of the crowd dismounting from the special train to Sequiota Park, and at the bottom, a typical "barbecue" group, composed of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Thorn and Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Kiburz. At the lower right, Charles Mills "majordomo" of the dancing contest, stands between Misses Ruth and Kathryn Ellett, winners of the waltzing contest, with Misses Frances Lee Walsh and Virginia Conley, Charleston champions, in front.