

FRISCO VETERANS MEET JUNE 2-3

One Thousand "Old Timers" of Frisco Lines Attend Eighth Annual Reunion at Springfield

FOR the eighth time in as many years Springfield, Mo., "Capital City of Frisco Lines," again played host to 1,000 veteran employes of Frisco Lines and their wives and children, on June 2 and 3, when the annual reunion of the Frisco System Veteran Employes' Association was held.

As usual Springfield was a good host, and as usual, the veterans were good visitors. Springfield seemed to say to the boys of twenty years and more service, "If you don't see what you want, ask for it," and the old-timers made themselves at home from the time the morning trains unloaded them the morning of June 2, until the midnight trains of the next day picked them up for the return journey south, north, east and west.

Colonial hotel was registration quarters as usual, and with the efficient help from the general office girls who sat at long tables in the lobby with typewriters and pencils, the vets and their families got through the registration ceremonies in record time, and were ready to embark to the picnic grounds at Doling Park promptly. General Secretary John McCormack cried "all aboard" at 10 o'clock and special street cars and many automobiles were on hand to take the visitors to the park.

The day was made for an out-of-door affair, and in the warm sunshine of the park, dozens of "sand-house" committees formed immediately. Old timers from the various divisions were soon busily reminiscing of the by-gone days, while wives of veterans who had not seen each other since last year's reunion sat down for homey chats.

There was an address of welcome scheduled on the program, to be presented when the veterans and their wives reached the park, but Mayor T. H. Gideon of Springfield was unable to be present. However, the veterans there did not need to be welcomed. It was just a big family reunion, a reunion of buddies and pals whose friendship was of long standing.

There was no set program for the morning, but along about 12 o'clock the guests began to drift toward the huge tables where the barbecued meats, bread and ice cream and cake were laid out in tempting array. There wasn't any dinner horn, it was just 12:00 o'clock and the "bread line" formed.

The barbecue was put on in the

usual well organized way by the Central Boarding & Supply Company under the direction of Mr. Chas. E. Gray. The veterans were of the opinion that they had never tasted such delicious meat. Directly at the end of the bread line was a table re-

To All Frisco Veterans:

It was a matter of very great regret to me that pressing business forced me to be absent from the eighth annual reunion of the Frisco Veteran Employes' Association in Springfield last month. Of all the meetings on our railroad during the year, there is none I would rather attend, not only for the pleasure of meeting and greeting the long-time service men who have done so much to build up this railroad of ours, but for the inspiration I receive from every veteran present that he is doing all in his power to further the interests of Frisco Lines, even though he is retired from active duty.

Permit me to extend my congratulations to those thirty-two veteran employes who became charter members of the "Old-Timers Club," an organization which requires forty years of Frisco service for membership, and to the men and women of twenty years service and more who gather each year to honor their railroad in this annual reunion of veteran employes.

Yours sincerely,

J. M. KURN.

served especially for the older of the veterans. There a number of them were seated and waited upon by employes of the Central Boarding & Supply Company. This was a new feature of the barbecue.

The photographer was fortunate in lining up so many for the group picture, taken just in front of the cave and after the picture they scattered—some to the dancefloor, a great number to the athletic contests, a picked few to the horseshoe pitching games and the rest sat under the shade trees and talked over old times.

"Uncle" Charley Baltzell was master of ceremonies at the athletic contests, and he called first for volunteers for the fifty-yard dash for men weighing over 180 pounds. Mr. L. A. Hein-

rich won the prize; Mr. W. G. Wolf was second and P. J. Heyburn, third.

The same race for men under 180 pounds was won by Mr. Frank A. Beyer, Jr., with Mr. C. L. Pender, second and Mr. C. H. Hobart, third.

There were four veterans entered in the 50-yard dash for men over 70 years. This race was won by Mr. W. E. Helton, with Mr. Robert Holland, second, Mr. Tom Hasler, third, and Mr. A. Bringleston, fourth.

Then came the race for girls over 12 years, which was won by Miss Freda Fraker, with Miss Naomi Pearson, second.

Miss Virginia Donaldson won the race for girls under 12, with Miss Virginia Conley, second, and Miss Dorothy Lewis, third.

Mr. Ed. Dwyer won the race for boys under 12, with Mr. James Acton, second.

The egg race, always an interesting event on the program, was of unusual interest this year. Real eggs were used, instead of china ones, and small teaspoons instead of tablespoons helped to hold the egg firm. Miss Martha Moore of the Magazine staff won first prize, with Mrs. Martin Kehrt, second, Mrs. J. T. Pearson, third, and Mrs. T. F. Wright, fourth.

The gentlemen and ladies' race, in which the participants held hands, was won by Miss Helen Lipe and Mr. R. H. Francis, with second prize going to Mrs. J. Sheridan and Mr. M. B. Craig.

The prizes, donated by merchants of Springfield, varied from a ham to a \$1.00 gift bond and included shirts, hose, mirrors, mesh bags, fountain pens, flash lights, and several \$2.50 merchandise orders on various stores.

While the games were taking place, the dance floor was the scene of much activity and the seats on the side were filled with spectators and the floor with veterans and their wives, engaging in prize dances. Mr. Bobbie Hudgen and his orchestra played during the entire afternoon. Mr. Hudgen is the son of Mr. H. W. Hudgen, director of accident prevention, Springfield.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Johnston of Monett, were awarded first prize for oldest couple in the grand march, second prize going to Mr. W. L. Lane of Eldorado, and Mrs. Tom Burns of Springfield, as oldest couple (man in active service). Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Kengle of Enid, Okla., took the third

prize as the third oldest couple, man in active service.

Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Smith of Kansas City, took the prize as being the best looking couple on the floor and Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Kengle again took a prize as being the fattest couple.

The Charleston free-for-all was won by little Virginia Donaldson, with Harold Johnson second. Both these participants reside in Springfield.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Breshears of Ft. Scott, Kans., won first prize for the waltz, and Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Wolfe of Pittsburg, Kans., second.

Then there was a good old-fashioned square dance, and Mr. and Mrs. Dan McCarthy took the first prize; Mrs. F. L. DeGroat and Mr. A. Bringelson took second, and Mrs. Eva Diehl and Mr. C. C. Mills, third.

"Mother" Clark gave a very short exhibition of her famous jig. A recent fall kept her from dancing as she has in years previous, but she was awarded first prize because of her past very excellent performances. Mrs. R. B. Hollingsworth of Tulsa, was second prize winner.

Mr. C. D. Howard of Ft. Worth, was first prize winner in the men's jig dance. Mr. W. L. Lane of Eldorado, Kans., second, and Mr. D. R. Beeler of Sapulpa, third.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Hanes of Ft. Scott, won the prize for the one step dance, and Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Hollingsworth of Tulsa, were second.

Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Howard, of Ft. Worth, also won the prize fox trot.

When the dancing events and the athletic contests were over, the crowd drifted to the horseshoe pitching games. The scores were not announced until about 5:00 o'clock, when Mr. H. W. Johnson, car accountant, of Springfield, was acclaimed the winner, with Mr. Frank Ellis, road foreman of equipment of Houett, second. Third, fourth and fifth, went to the following in the order named: Messrs. Geo. Taaffe, agent, Cherryvale, Kans.; J. A. Moran, superintendent, Eastern division, Springfield; W. E. Bernthal, assistant general freight agent, St. Louis.

With the sun sinking in the west the veterans and their wives made their way to street cars and automobiles where they were conveyed back to the hotels for a breathing spell until the evening's program.

They were tired but happy. It had been a great day, filled to the brim with interesting events.

After entertaining themselves for an entire day—participating in races, prize dances, horseshoe pitching contests and other events, the veterans and their wives were ready to have someone else furnish the amusement for the evening.

Promptly at 7:30 o'clock they began to file into the auditorium of the Pipkin Junior High School, where members of the Frisco Men and Girls' Club of Springfield furnish them with an evening's fun each year. Long

Lines, as one of their number. Mr. Hutchison expressed the regret of Mr. J. M. Kurn, president of Frisco Lines, on his inability to attend the meeting.

"I know you did not come to hear speeches," he said, "and mine will be short. I was just thinking though, that during the whole day I had heard you veterans speak of the 'good old days.' I wonder if you realize that the good old days are today? We are living in one of the most remarkable ages we have ever known and I think the present year has been the best year of that age. I know something about the 'good old days,' and I say to you that the age of today is so much better.

"Let us take a few of the developments. When I first began railroading there were no typewriters, no telephones, our trains had no airbrakes, no automatic couplers, no electric lights in our passenger cars, no automatic signals, no interlocking plants for making our crossings safe, no steam heat in our cars! All those things have been developed during the period of your life and mine. Would any of you want to go back to the days before we had these conveniences? Would any of you trade your electric light for a candle?

"Then there are the picture shows, the automobile, the airplane. That's a wonderful collection of improvements, vital in the life of every man. And it is in this wonderful age that these things have been developed.

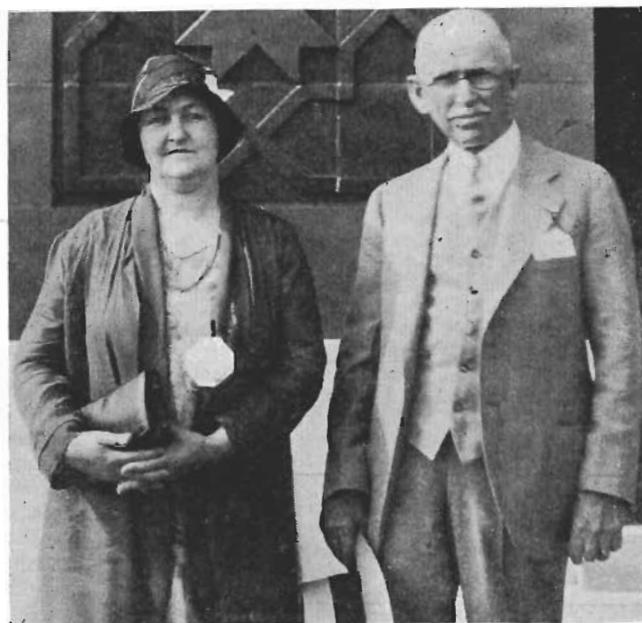
"You may ask what the development will be in fifty years. Some people say that we have reached the

height of civilization, that we must either stand still or go backward. We will not stand still, and I predict that we will go forward, and that the next fifty years will produce even greater developments than the last fifty.

"These are the 'good old days'—not the ones before, and I do not believe there is a man in the audience who would trade his radio for a phonograph—his automobile for a horse and buggy."

Following Mr. Hutchison's address, the curtain rose on a scene in a modern home, with the mother, father and colored maid attempting to get the flapper daughter's belongings packed, that she might catch a train for boarding school. Miss Amy Cummings took the part of the mother,

The Veterans' Two Presidents for 1930



Mrs. Dave Beeler, of Sapulpa, Okla., wife of veteran engineer, was elected president of the Veterans' Auxiliary. W. L. Heath, of St. Louis, conductor, was chosen head of the Veterans' Association for the coming year.

before the curtain rose, there was not an empty seat to be found in the entire place. It was a "homey" audience. Grey haired veterans sat beside their wives, who had aided them through their long years of railroad service. The orchestra, furnished by Mr. Jesse E. Smith, County Collector of Springfield, played such familiar strains as "Home Sweet Home," "When You and I Were Young, Maggie" and others.

Just before the curtain rose, Mr. J. L. McCormack introduced Mr. J. E. Hutchison who made an address which struck the keynote of the meeting. Mr. Hutchison is a Frisco veteran with twenty years' service, and as he expressed it, it is a privilege each year to meet with the veterans of Frisco

Miss Loree Acton the colored maid, Mr. E. A. DuBois was well suited to the part of the father, and Miss Shirley Williamson ideal in the role of the flapper daughter.

During the packing, friends came to bid Marjorie, the daughter, a fond farewell. During the farewell there were cleverly introduced tap dances, readings, and a costume parade. When the last guest left Marjorie was finally hustled to the train, leaving the parents alone with memories of their youth.

The lights darkened on the stage and Memory, played by Miss Eva Warren, calls in familiar figures of the past; mother as a belle; father in his old-fashioned costume and three old-time delightful vocal selections are presented. "Alice Blue Gown" was sung by Miss Eleanor Bridwell and a trio of picked voices sang "Love's Old Sweet Song." Miss Edith Middleton sang "In An Old Fashioned Garden." Dances and readings were cleverly interwoven into the scene with a delightful finale of a minuet, danced by six boys and six girls in Colonial costumes.

The evening's entertainment ended at 9:30 o'clock, when street cars and automobiles conveyed the veterans to their respective hotels, where they retired early that they might fully recuperate from their first strenuous day.

Approximately 100 women, members of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Frisco Veterans' Association, met at the Kentwood Arms hotel at 9:30 a. m. the morning of June 3, for their annual meeting and election of officers. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. James L. McCarter, president.

The program preceding the election of officers consisted of the invocation by Mrs. John C. DuBuque; address of welcome by Mrs. O. S. Hull, and vocal solos by Miss Frances Rhodes and Mary Shurerer.

Reports were read from the following units: Springfield, Monett, Kansas City, Sapulpa and Enid, the remaining two, Oklahoma City and Ft. Scott, not being represented with reports of their units, but members of the units from the latter two cities reported that there had not been a great deal of activity but hoped to have a better report for next year.

A great deal of time was taken up in a discussion of ways and means to interest members in the different units and many excellent suggestions were made.

Miss Martha Moore, of the Magazine staff, made a talk on solicitation, urging the members to solicit friends as well as business acquaintances in using Frisco Lines, claiming the

ON OPPOSITE PAGE

No. 1. For many years these men have assisted in keeping Frisco track in excellent order. They are, from left to right standing, Pat Herd, roadmaster, Carl Junction; F. W. Rieck, roadmaster, Chaffee; G. E. Gelwix, division engineer, Springfield; J. M. Plank, brakeman, Salem; Bob Holland, roadmaster, Neodesha; J. Daugherty, roadmaster, Lebanon; John Sheehan, roadmaster, Wichita; Robert Aaron, roadmaster, Enid.

No. 2. Runnersup in the horseshoe pitching contest. Standing, left to right, W. E. Bernthal, E. R. O. Mueller, J. A. Moran, Geo. Taaffe. Kneeling, Carl Smith and J. A. Murray. Mr. Taaffe was winner of third prize, Mr. Moran fourth, and Mr. Bernthal fifth.

No. 3. A group of veterans from Kansas City, Mo.

No. 4. Another congenial group of River division veterans and their families.

No. 5. The secretary-treasurer of the Veterans' Reunion, Mr. J. L. McCormack, and the secretary-treasurer's "general manager," Mrs. McCormack.

No. 6. Two old-timers still in service; Mr. J. H. Livingston, milk traffic agent, 46 years' service, and Wm. Marsh, dispatcher, Memphis, Tenn., 42 years.

No. 7. The "youngest-oldest" veteran at the reunion and his wife. J. C. Harris, yardmaster at Kansas City, is 56 years of age and has had 41 years' service.

No. 8. Three officials with long time service records, left to right, M. M. Sisson, assistant general manager, L. E. Martin, assistant to president, and C. J. Stephenson, assistant general manager.

No. 9. Frank Ellis, road foreman of equipment, who won second prize in the horseshoe pitching contest and H. W. Johnson, car accountant, who won first prize.

No. 10. A view of the booth in which the prizes for various events at the picnic were exhibited on the grounds.

No. 11. Master horseshoe pitchers, Johnson and Ellis, call in a referee to decide a close one just before the contest was over.

credit for the Veterans' Association and its auxiliary. Several of the members present advised that the calling cards, recently sent to the pensioners, had been widely distributed in their towns with good results.

Mrs. McCarter urged that the members of the auxiliary put their shoulders to the wheel and aid in the solicitation work. "There is not a better railroad in the world than the Frisco," she said, "and I know something about some of the rest. They treat their employes fair, and in return, the

least we can do is to solicit passenger and freight business for the company that gives us our bread and butter." The discussion ended with a pledge from each member present to put forth renewed efforts to make next year a banner one in solicitation work by the veterans and their wives.

The election of officers consumed the remainder of the morning, with the following results: Mrs. Dave Beeler of Sapulpa, elected president; Mrs. Eva Diehl of Sapulpa, secretary; Mrs. Walter Boyd of Springfield, first vice-president; Mrs. C. C. Mills of Oklahoma City, second vice-president, and Mrs. George Wilhoit of Monett, third vice-president.

The men's meeting on Tuesday morning at the Shrine Mosque was taken up with the election of officers. Outside of that important matter, very little other business was transacted.

The report of the nominating committee placed the names of Mr. W. L. Heath for president; Mr. John Forster of Kansas City, for vice-president, and Mr. J. L. McCormack, secretary-treasurer. These names were voted upon and approved.

The following were elected to serve as members of the board of directors: Mr. Jim Harris, yardmaster, Kansas City, Kans., for the Northern division; Mr. E. W. Creagh, conductor, Memphis, for the Southern division; Mr. Benjamin J. Spruill, pensioned carpen-ter, Sapulpa, for the Southwestern division, and Mr. Howard Bayliss, retired section foreman, Westfork, Ark., for the Central division.

Announcements were made as to the meeting of the "Old Timers' Club," and also of the informal luncheon at the Kentwood Arms on Tuesday noon. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a. m., to be convened again at 2:00 p. m.

Following the two morning meetings, the veterans and their wives met in the Kentwood Arms dining room for an informal luncheon before the meeting at the Shrine Mosque.

The afternoon session was called promptly at 2:00 p. m. and following a few informal talks by veteran members of the association, Mr. J. L. McCormack introduced Mrs. James L. McCarter, 1930 president of the Woman's Auxiliary, who in turn introduced the newly elected officers: Mrs. Dave Beeler of Sapulpa, president; Mrs. Walter Boyd of Springfield, first vice-president; Mrs. C. C. Mills of Oklahoma City, second vice-president, and Mrs. George Wilhoit of Monett, third vice-president. Mrs. Eva Diehl of Sapulpa, was elected secretary-treasurer.

All the forty-year men in the audience were asked to withdraw to a



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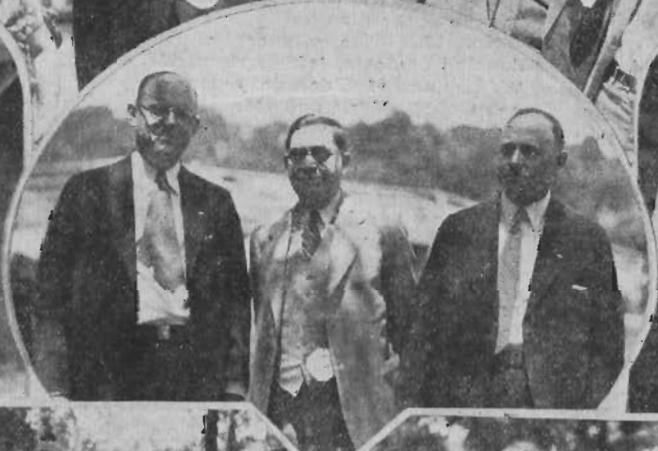
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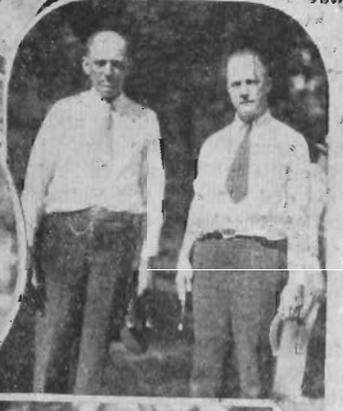
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separate room, where the "Old Timers' Club" was to be formed. The meeting in the big auditorium continued with informal talks by the veterans.

Thirty-three initial members, a constitution, by-laws and a name was a pretty good start for one of the newest and most interesting of special features at the Frisco Veterans' Reunion. The feature was the inauguration of an "Old Timers' Club," with membership restricted to veterans with forty years' and over service.

Prior to the reunion the forty-year men had been advised of the plan. The club was sponsored by Mr. W. H. Van Horn, pensioned engineer of St. Louis, who was one of the original sponsors of the Veterans' Association. He presided as chairman of the meeting, and Mr. W. D. Bassett, secretary, Board of Pensions, as secretary.

The object of the club is to promote a closer bond of friendship among its members; to provide a medium for the exchange of personal reminiscences; and in all proper ways to advance the interests of the railway company.

Its membership is limited to pensioned white employes and only those who at the time of retirement on pension allowance have 40 years or more consecutive service, shall be eligible. When an employe is retired and pensioned in the future with the requisite number of years of service, he will automatically be added to the membership roll of this club.

After stating the object, membership and name, there was an election of officers. Mr. W. H. Van Horn was made president; Mr. George Daniels of Ft. Smith, retired engineer, vice-president, and Mr. W. D. Bassett, secretary.

It was unanimously agreed that there would be no dues, and also that the annual meeting of the "Old Timers' Club" would be held at the time and place of the Veterans' Association meeting, and it was also agreed that other meetings would be held at any time or place at the call of the president.

Mr. Van Horn suggested that the club have its first meeting in October, and October 7 was the date set, and St. Louis the place. This date was selected that the members might see the Veiled Prophet's Parade. The meeting will be in the form of a smoker, followed by an evening banquet. Miss Martha Moore, of the Magazine staff, was elected as ex-officio member and director of publicity of the "Old Timers' Club."

The afternoon general meeting is always taken up principally with a memorial service to those veterans who have passed on since the last meeting. This part of the program

ON OPPOSITE PAGE

The pictures appearing on the opposite page were taken at the Doling Park picnic of the Veterans' Reunion, June 2.

Photographs Nos. 1 and 2 show the picnic tables heaped high with food shortly before the veterans were called for the dinner line, and the veterans marching past the tables to secure their generous helpings.

No. 3. General Manager F. H. Shaffer and Mrs. Shaffer and John Forster, retired mechanical inspector of Kansas City.

No. 4. The two Texas Lines representatives who attended the reunion. Left, C. G. Beckley, general claim agent, and O. H. McCarty, vice-president and general superintendent of the Texas Lines.

No. 5. Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Howard of Ft. Worth, Texas, winners of the fox trot dance.

No. 6. Harry Hansen, 24 years a cook for the Central Boarding and Supply Company sliced many pounds of barbecued meat to feed the veterans and their families.

No. 7. Three old-timers of the traffic department, left to right, M. J. Conley, retired division passenger agent, 42 years' service; J. C. Lovrien, assistant general passenger agent, 41 years' service, and Mr. O. M. Conley, general agent at Pittsburgh, Pa., 46 years' service.

No. 8. Mrs. Jeanette D. Tanquary who came all the way from San Diego, Calif., to attend the reunion. She was agent at Lindenwood Mo., for 21 years.

No. 9. Vice-president J. E. Hutchison of St. Louis, who greeted old friends at the picnic.

No. 10. Prize winners of the dancing contests, left to right, Mr. W. L. Lane of Eldorado, second in prize jig; Mrs. and Mr. H. V. Kenge of Enid, winners of prize for oldest couple on dance floor; Mrs. R. B. Hollingsworth of Tulsa, winner of second prize in ladies' jig dance, and Mr. D. R. Beeler of Sapulpa, who won third prize for men's jig dance.

No. 11. Four of the old-timers past 70 who participated in the race for men over 70 years of age. Left to right, W. E. Helton; Thomas Hasler, Springfield; Bob Holland, Neodesha, and A. Bringelson, Talihina.

was most ably presented by Mrs. J. E. Dwyer, wife of locomotive engineer, of Springfield, Mo.

She paid beautiful tribute to those who had given the best years of their life to railroad service. The list of pensioned employes and veterans who had passed on during the past year was an unusually long one, and is as follows:

Pensioned employes deceased since last reunion: Joseph M. Miller, agent,

Columbus, Kans.; James W. Paul, engineer, Odessa, Mo.; Charles L. Stanley, night roundhouse foreman, Tulsa; Walter A. Noleman, engineer, Springfield; Francis G. Steingrandt, gardener, Springfield; Thomas J. Jones, air brake foreman, Kansas City, Mo.; George J. Griffin, engineer, Oklahoma City; Charles D. McCoy, engineer, Neodesha, Kans.; William K. Hedges, engineer, Rolla, Mo.; Louis C. Cavallo, agent, Springfield; Alvin B. Trenary, engineer, Springfield; William T. Dameron, section foreman, Harjo, Okla.; Rich Jones (Col.), supplyman, Memphis, Tenn.; George W. Langdon, painter, Springfield; Thomas A. Ridley, engineer, Aurora, Mo.; Wm. T. Harlan, engineer, Ft. Smith, Ark.; William Hutton, roundhouse foreman, Beaumont, Kans.; William H. Hughes, engineer, Sapulpa, Okla.; John C. Lynch, engineer, St. Louis; Patrick Larkin, switchman, Kansas City, Mo.; James H. Murray, section foreman, Mt. View, Mo.; Esop Downer, crossing watchman, Greenfield, Mo.; John G. Taylor, special engineer, Springfield; William H. Kennedy, engineer, Enid, Okla.; Nils A. Anderson, blacksmith, Kansas City, Kans.; Charles W. McKinnon, engineer, Uniontown, Ark.; Jake J. Schmidt, engineer, Memphis, Tenn.; Willis S. Epley, section foreman, Beulah, Kans.; Martin Heiser, coach cleaner, St. Mary's, Mo.; James A. Barnard, agent, Tulsa, Okla.; Noah Pierpont, crossing watchman, Springfield; Henry Stevenson, Sr., engineer, Los Angeles, Calif.; Charley W. Ragan, crossing watchman, St. James, Mo.; James S. McIlvin, engineer, Springfield; John F. Winn, engineering inspector, Springfield; Elnathan W. Allen, operator, Mulvane, Kans.

Veteran employes deceased since last reunion follow:

EASTERN DIVISION, B. W. Gaffga, brakeman, Springfield; Willis Holler, brakeman, Springfield; C. A. Leonard, agent, Sligo, Mo.; W. E. McKenna, conductor, Springfield; H. J. Nelson, agent, Republic, Mo.; W. Snyder, agent, Nichols, Mo.; E. C. Wilson, telegrapher, Monett, Mo.; L. O. Willis, conductor, St. Louis; W. W. Moore, switchman, Springfield; J. A. McKean, yardmaster, Springfield.

CENTRAL DIVISION, H. G. Evans, dispatcher, Hugo, Okla.; Herman Poe, B&B foreman, Fayetteville, Ark.; W. H. Phipps, engineer, Ft. Smith, Ark.; D. L. Chappell, conductor, Pierce City, Mo.

SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION, John J. Spicer, B&B carpenter; J. W. Binkley, engineer; C. M. Campbell, engineer; L. O. Biddle, conductor; William H. Hughes, engineer.

RIVER DIVISION, A. W. Fay, chief

(Now turn to page 36, please)