

VETERAN EMPLOYEES MEET JUNE 17-18

RESIDENTS of Springfield, Mo., "Capital City of Frisco Lines," might well have arisen Monday morning, June 17, with the call "The Veterans Are Com'ng."

Converging on Springfield from the north, south, east and west, on incoming Frisco trains, 1,500 veteran employes of Frisco Lines, many of them accompanied by their wives and children, were arriving for the seventh annual reunion of the Frisco Veteran Employes' Association.

During the winter months the vets' "stove-league" in many cities and towns along the Frisco had lived again the pleasant two days reunion of 1928. Now the 1929 affair was here, and the veterans were coming again.

Of the many meetings each year on Frisco Lines, the Veterans' Reunion is the prime, all-important affair to those men who have served their company for twenty years or more.

During those forty-eight hours each June in Springfield, they see many friends with whom they have railroaded in days gone by. With those friends they talk of many events, of comrades who have passed on, of youngsters coming up the railroad ladder to take their places as they step down to a well earned retirement.

And so, as the veterans left their Pullmans at the Springfield station they glowed with the knowledge that for two days they were guests of Springfield and the Frisco at an event all their own.

At the Colonial Hotel, headquarters of the convention, the veterans registered and secured tickets for the various events scheduled for the busy two days ahead.

After preliminary greetings had taken place, the veterans boarded street cars at the hotel entrance for Doling Park. There they gathered for a few moments while Mayor T. H. Gideon welcomed them to the city and to Doling Park, recently made one of the City's finest parks. The response was made by William Marsh, president of the Association. He spoke of Springfield as the "first" home of the Veteran Association and of the love of the Veterans for the Queen City.

It seemed the veterans would never tire of greeting one another. "I'm not as grey as you are," one of them said to his buddie. "Well—I've got ten more years' service than you have Jim," and—so on until the barbecue dinner was announced. After each

1500 "Old Timers" Gather in Springfield for 7th Reunion of Vets' Association—W. L. Lane Elected President

veteran had eaten his fill of the delicious repast, the group picture was made, and afterwards the different divisions got their forces together for separate photos.

Then the crowd separated, each to his favorite sport. The horseshoe pitching games attracted many, the dance floor claimed its share, while the remainder packed the side lines where the athletic events were being staged, under the direction of "Uncle" Charley Baltzell.

In practically all the events, four prizes were awarded. W. O. Adans, engineer of Cherryvale, Kans., carried off first honors in the fifty yard dash for men, over 180 lbs., while E. B. Shepard, telegrapher, Springfield, E. J. Ward, union foreman, Barnhart, Mo., and Sam Kelsey, conductor of Oklahoma City, won second, third and fourth place respectively.

In the fifty-yard dash for men under 180 pounds, F. A. Beyer, Jr., son of pensioned superintendent of West Shops, Springfield, won first; Joe Ray, traveling fireman, Springfield, second; M. B. Craig, brakeman, Cape Girardeau, third, and L. M. Westershouse, general roundhouse foreman, Birmingham, fourth.

The fifty yard race for girls was won by Mary F. Rodwig, daughter of fuel inspector, Tulsa, with Joan Heyburn, daughter of engineer, Springfield, second; Mary Smith, daughter of traveling claim adjuster, Springfield third, and Dorothy Lewis, daughter of R. J. Lewis of Springfield, fourth.

The egg race, possibly the most interesting women's event on the athletic program was won by Mrs. E. Kingdon, wife of a St. Louis engineer, with Mrs. John Godhas, whose brother is employed in the Frisco's North Springfield shops, a close second. Miss Rose Linet won third prize and Mrs. W. H. Hilterbrand, wife of a St. Louis engineer, won fourth.

A big ham was the trophy presented to Pat J. Moore, general foreman of the Frisco's Ft. Scott shops, in a hotly contested race of fifty yards, with only officials participating.

There was the usual spill in the

ladies' and gentlemen's two yard race, but no serious bruises were reported. Helen Lipe and Joe Ray were acclaimed the winners with the following awards: second, third and fourth prizes in the order named: Wm. Craig and Mrs. Raymond Peterson; Mr. and Mrs. E. Kingdon and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kelsey.

J. A. Counts proved that he could not only efficiently handle the throttle of a locomotive but that he could also excel in the standing broad jump and was awarded first prize for a jump of 8½ feet. Joe Ray, traveling fireman, Springfield, was second and C. W. Boshe, telegraph operator, Seligman, third.

A tug of war between the men was one of the thrilling events, with friends on the sidelines rooting for their respective sides. The tug of war between the women, was an equally hard fought battle, and a bunch of bananas and a box of candy were distributed to the winning team in these two events.

The younger railroaders kept the little gasoline train going at top speed the entire day, and the soda pop and ice cream stands did a record business.

C. C. Mills, conductor southwestern division, and wife led the veterans around the dance pavilion in the grand march, followed by fifteen couples. The spirit of hilarity prevailed, and there were plain, fancy and mixed steps as the vets and their wives paraded before the spectators.

The grand march was followed by a square dance, restricted to couples averaging fifty years of age. It was a lively affair, and lasted for full ten minutes.

Then came the waltz contest which was hotly contested and it was necessary to choose the winning couple from three.

To the tune of "Carolina Moon," Mr. G. F. Linster, of the telegraph department, Springfield, and wife were chosen as the most graceful dancers and carried away the prize of \$2.50 in gold for the woman and \$2.50 in merchandise for her partner.

C. J. Beshears of Memphis and Mrs. W. F. Platt of Springfield were acclaimed winners in the fox trot contest, and the prize for the best dancers over sixty went to one of the best known veterans and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Mills, Oklahoma City.

J. W. Surles, superintendent

West Shops and wife were awarded the prize for being the best dancers (any age).

"Mother" Clark was awarded the \$50 gold piece for the best jig although she did not perform at this contest. She had recently suffered two broken ribs and was afraid to enter, but her reputation of former years won for her.

The men's jig was perhaps the closest contest dance of the day. The jiggers were eliminated one by one until only four remained, J. H. Livingston of St. Louis, W. L. Lane of Eldorado, Okla., and two others whose names were not obtainable. The audience became enthusiastic and cheered each one as he jigged up and down the dance floor despite the intense summer heat. The prize was finally awarded to W. L. Lane. The best vet dancer in train service proved to be A. T. Exstron, engineer from Okmulgee, Okla., who danced with Mrs. Exstron. The prize was a shaving set.

The prize for the best boy and girl dancer was changed to the two best girl dancers, because the boy dancers failed to enter the contest. Prizes were awarded to Dorothy Lewis, daughter of chief clerk, accounting department, Springfield, and Betty Jane Clark, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Clark of Kansas City, Mo.

The judges for the above dances consisted of O. H. McCarty, vice-president and general manager, Texas Lines; C. J. Stephenson, assistant to general manager, Springfield, and S. J. Frazier, superintendent of Southern division, Memphis.

For the first time a silver engraved loving cup was offered by McClernon Jewelry Company of Springfield (Frisco watch inspector) in addition to the first prize, for the winner of the horseshoe pitching contest and the recipient of both the cup and the first prize of \$5.00 was George Taaffee, agent of Cherryvale, Kans., H. W. Johnson, car accountant, second prize, \$2.50; L. Baner, motor car engineer on the Salem branch, third prize (a pair of pants), and fourth prize, a live rooster, went to George B. Willis, conductor, of Arretta, Okla.

The last veteran left the park about 4:30 p. m. to prepare for the evening's performance at the Pipkin Junior High School, given under the auspices of the Frisco Girls' Club.

The curtain was rung up at 8:15 p. m. on one of the most pleasing sketches ever presented to the veterans, entitled "Dream Train," and

personally directed by Larry Blanchette of Springfield.

The performance was centered around a palatial home in the Ozark country, and Mrs. Bob Franklin, wealthy fruit and berry grower, (admirably portrayed by Cora Pitts of the Frisco general office), was seated on her front porch reading a paper, which discredited the greatness of the Ozark strawberry. With the help of her daughter's fiancée and



W. L. Lane, section foreman for Frisco Lines at El Dorado, Okla.; was elected president of the Frisco Veteran Employees' Association at the seventh annual reunion in Springfield last month. He is a veteran of 26 years service. Mr. Lane succeeds Wm. Marsh of Memphis to the presidency of the Veterans' Association.

his pal, she decides to charter a train load of strawberries for the New York market and in one she places a slug. The person who draws the lucky strawberry containing the slug will be presented with a check for \$10,000.

The second scene finds the entire party in a Greenwich Village night club of New York City. The train load of strawberries has been disposed of, but so far no one has reported finding the slug.

The hostess, played by Helen Murray of the general offices, announces a vocal solo by a young woman whom she says she is trying out. The girl becomes discouraged following her appearance and makes known the fact that her family is in dire distress. Unconsciously she picks up a strawberry from the table, only to find it contains the slug. She is pre-

sented with the check for \$10,000 and the scene ends with the entire cast singing "Dream Train."

Other members of the cast include, Mary Lou, Mrs. Franklin's daughter, Eleanor Bridwell; Betty, Mary's chum, Alice Mae Mills; Mirandy and Henry, colored servants, Loree Acton and Joe Weddel; Tim, the country neighbor, June Sand; Jane, his sweetheart, Kathryn Risser; the Professor, Della Stevenson; Ted, Mary Lou's fiancée, Howard Pickens; Jimmy, Ted's pal, Ray Soper, and the railroad representative who arranges for the special train of strawberries to New York and accommodations via Frisco Lines for the entire party, C. J. Stephenson of Springfield.

The dancing chorus of twelve girls, schooled for the Springfield Centennial exhibition by Larry Blanchette, worked together splendidly and received encores on each appearance. Henry and Mirandy furnished the black-faced comedy throughout the presentation.

The hit of the evening was the Anderson Brothers' presentation, the only professional number on the program. They gave a musical interpretation on numerous instruments, and their "Arkansas Traveler" delighted the old veterans, who kept time with their feet. Le Roy Prater, of the general offices, presented a delightful tenor solo, and a dance by the strawberry sisters, Klondyke and Aroma, portrayed by Margaret Jones and Jane Bell, was a feature number on the program. Miss Dorothy Thoms took the part of the amateur night club blues singer.

During intermission, J. E. Hutchison, vice-president in charge of operation of the St. Louis offices, presented the veterans with a loving cup which was given them by Mr. E. N. Brown, chairman of the Frisco's board of directors, and which bears the inscription:

"Lovingly presented to the Frisco Veteran Employees' Association by Mr. E. N. Brown, Chairman of the Board.

"In appreciation of the faithful and loyal service of the veteran employes who have so materially contributed to the development and prosperity of the Frisco Railway Company."

The cup is engraved with the names, occupations, and years of service of each of the five presidents of the Association.

Mr. Hutchison told of a recent talk with Mr. Brown, in which he asked about this Frisco Veterans' Association. When Mr. Hutchison had explained it to him, he asked if

there was not some way that he could get in on the event, and the plan of presenting the cup was decided upon. Mr. Hutchison conveyed to the veterans Mr. Brown's complimentary comment on the splendid organization and the place it holds in the heart of the officers, and the inscription bears out his kind thoughts toward this great organization on Frisco Lines.

The cup will be presented to each president, to be kept in his office until the following year, when it will be presented to the newly elected president. Wm. Marsh, president of the 1928 Association, accepted the cup in the name of the Association, and promised to pass it on to the hands of the newly elected president on the second day of the meeting.

The ladies' auxiliary, under the leadership of Mrs. Walter E. Boyd, met at the Kentwood Arms Hotel for their morning session on June 18. There was a splendid attendance.

Miss Martha Moore of the *Frisco Magazine*, asked the ladies present to send in recipes and hints on homemaking to the *Magazine* to include on the Homemaker's page, and Miss Marie Arnold, president of the Springfield Girls' Club, also made a brief address and told of the activities of that club.

Miss Fish, secretary, then read the minutes which were approved. It was decided to amend the constitution and by-laws of the auxiliary so that it would state definitely just who could be members of the auxiliary and after some discussion it was decided that any member of the family of a veteran who is a member of the association was eligible and any widow of a veteran whose husband was eligible for membership in the association but who died before the association was formed, is eligible for membership.

The meeting did not convene until 10:30 a. m., and the only other business transacted was the election of officers. The following will serve during 1930: Mrs. James L. McCarter, president, wife of engineer, Kansas City; Mrs. David R. Beeler, first vice-president, wife of engineer, Sapulpa; Mrs. J. W. Ruggles, second vice-president, wife of engineer, Monett; Mrs. E. G. Butcher, wife of conductor, Kansas City, third vice-president and Mrs. W. E. Belter, wife of road foreman of equipment, St. Louis, will act as secretary-treasurer. The meeting convened at 1:00 p. m., and the ladies enjoyed an informal dinner at the Kentwood Arms Hotel.

PICTURES ON OPPOSITE PAGE

Top: A heated moment in the men's tug of war.

Next row, left to right: The women had their tug of war, too. Pat Moore, general foreman, Ft. Scott, who won a ham in the officials' race. J. A. Counts jumped 8½ feet to win the standing broad jump.

Center: A lively group from the Southwestern division.

Next to bottom, left to right: Pat Herd, Carl Junction; W. E. Churchill, Kansas City; John Forster, Kansas City, and a friend. The children of the vets had a big day swimming in Doling Park Lake. "Uncle" Charley Baitzell had his prize booth.

Bottom row: Finish of the men's and women's 50-yard dash. G. F. Linster, assistant superintendent of telegraph and wife who won the vets' waltz contest. A happy group on the reunion grounds just before the call to luncheon.

A delightful innovation in the morning's program on June 18 was a visit to the greenhouse and nursery of Don B. Fellows, Frisco florist. Mr. and Mrs. Fellows were guests to more than 1,000 of the veterans, their wives and families who were intensely interested in the home of the Frisco flower beds. There was on display at the greenhouse flowers from China, Portugal, Texas Bluebonnets from Texas, Royal Palms from Florida and over 150 varieties of well known flowers, trees and shrubs used to beautify the Frisco flower beds, so distinctive to the Frisco Lines. Each of the 1,000 visitors spent at least thirty minutes in a survey of the greenhouse and nursery and they called this special event, "Thirty Minutes in Flowerland."

The afternoon session at the Shrine Mosque for the veterans, was very short, compared with the meetings of previous years, due to the intense heat. The meeting was called to order by President William Marsh and the business proceeded without further delay.

The election of officers took but a short time, with the following result: W. L. Lane, Eldorado, Okla., president, formerly vice-president; Lafe Heath, conductor, St. Louis, vice-president, and J. L. McCormack, present secretary-treasurer, re-elected.

The members of the Ladies' Auxiliary were then introduced to the

veterans, and after the introducing the following members of the official family made brief addresses: O. M. J., and H. C. Conley; J. N. Coratzer, St. Louis; F. H. Hamilton, St. Louis. Mr. J. L. McCormack read letters and telegrams of regret from members of the association and friends who were unable to attend the reunion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p. m.

Eight hundred diners were served at the annual banquet at the Shrine Mosque, June 18. The meal was delightful and consisted of fruit cocktail, olives and pickles, chicken patties, new potatoes, string beans, buttered beets, hot rolls, spring salad, ice cream, cake and coffee.

The girls of the Frisco general office, who serve the dinner each year were warmly applauded as they filed down the aisle from the front of the room to the kitchen. Burch's nine-piece orchestra played during the dinner.

The veterans and their wives not only welcome the first number which they know will be on hand for them at each program on the last night after the dinner, but look forward to the Springfield High School Girls' Drum Corps and the concert by the Springfield Boy Scouts' Band, both under the direction of Professor R. Ritchey Robertson. Both the band and the exhibition by the drum corps was warmly received and lent color to the atmosphere.

Proceeding with the program, Wm. Marsh, former president of the association, introduced the new president, W. L. Lane. He did not continue in charge of the meeting but turned it over to Mr. Marsh, who introduced the toastmaster of the evening, D. L. Forsythe, general road foreman of equipment of Springfield, Mo.

Mr. Forsythe, in his opening remarks, read a poem on accident prevention written in honor of "Uncle" Billy Morrill by Harry Swingler, a blind veteran engineer, who has been confined to his bed for eight years.

A vocal solo by Roland Lewis, accompanied by Miss Lois Fleming, both from Springfield's State Teachers' College, was enthusiastically received and an encore presented.

Mr. J. L. McCormack was called upon to read the list of those veterans, both in service and pensioned who had passed on during the year. Following the reading of the names given below, two members of the Boy Scout Band sounded "Taps," while the audience stood for a moment with bowed heads.



The following died while in service: A. K. Smith, conductor, Hugo, Okla.; J. D. Newton, engineer, Ft. Smith, Ark.; Jno. Rossback, engineer, Hugo; J. Nelson, B&B foreman, Ft. Smith, Ark.; J. S. Doak, engineer, Texas Lines; F. W. Hall, conductor, J. L. Sawyer, conductor, and John Fitz, pilot, all southwestern division; Robert A. Riley, engine foreman; Joseph E. Hargen, switchman, Memphis Terminals; Wm. J. Crawford, clerk, Springfield Terminals; A. W. Ingram, and A. H. Herbert, conductors, A. C. Rief, engineer, J. W. Ellis, roadmaster and W. Baker, agent, all River division; J. J. Connally, trainmaster, and S. L. Smith, conductor, Birmingham Terminals; A. Vermillion, roadmaster, and W. R. Marsh, agent, Northern division; Louis H. Butts and John H. Holbrook, St. Louis offices; W. G. Oldham, dispatcher, Western division; J. W. Anderson, engineer, J. D. Stowers, engineer, T. A. Parr, conductor; F. E. White, agent, F. I. Dodge, car foreman; A. M. Struble, agent, O. D. Murff, section foreman, B. F. Holt, engineer, S. L. Smith, conductor, B. B. Ballard, conductor, all Southern division, and Mrs. W. L. Spangler, Thayer, Mo.

The following pensioned employes died during the last year: George V. Rogers, George Rosbach, John D. Stowers, El Paso engineers; Chas E. Sickles, Harry S. Feldott, Wm. V. Florian, Stephen L. Smith, Harry C. Shipp, conductors; Alexander H. Stevens, general agent; Joel H. Pollard, claim agent; Chas. E. Prettyman, Geo. Gardenhire, Firl E. White, Mrs. Susan Wood, agents; Zeal Turner, machinist; Robert E. Rice, Wm. M. Young, Chas. G. Bowen, brakemen; Sylvester E. Cambron, Mark J. Dunworth, Mark Waters, John F. Halsey, pumpers; Furm A. Denton, roadmaster; John W. Hickson, James B. Moorman, Peter Palm, John Allcock, crossing watchmen; Charles E. Whitlach, switchman; Wm. E. Birth, clerk; Elias S. Baker, carpenter; John Montgomery, fireman; Joseph Doran, machinist helper; James C. Swickard, Jess N. Nelson, B&B foremen; John J. Blue, laborer; Enis R. Woodward, pilot; Robert H. Kirkpatrick, checker; C. R. Hutchison and F. X. Adams, traveling claim adjusters; Henry J. Robinson, car inspector; James S. Bales, lampman; Anderson Douglas (Col.) mechanical laborer, and Jacob Land (Col.), laborer.

Mr. F. H. Shaffer, general manager at Springfield, called upon for a few remarks, said: "I am glad to be here with you at this seventh reunion. It is worth while to stop and renew o'd

PICTURES ON NEXT PAGE

Top row, right: E. R. O. Mueller, L. E. Martin, L. O. Humphrey, all of St. Louis, and R. L. McGlothlan of Springfield "taking it easy" in the shade. Center: Wm. Johnson who came from St. Petersburg, Fla., to attend the reunion. Camp cooks preparing coffee for the barbecue.

Second row: Filing past the barbecue tables. A section of the fifty ice cream barrels which were emptied at the reunion.

Center: A part of the delegation from Kansas City, Mo.

Next to bottom row: The lemonade barrel was busy all day. St. Louis traffic officers at the reunion—the tallest man is S. S. Butler, general traffic manager.

Bottom row: The miniature "Texas Special" furnished vets' children lots of amusement during the day. The Doggrell family, F. E. Doggrell, engineer 31 years, Southern division, J. H. Doggrell, superintendent transportation, Mary Jane Johnson and Miss Jane Doggrell. A group of Southern division vets with a total of 265 years service—Fuel Agent Robert Collett in background.

acquaintances. Conditions have improved on our railroad. Business has improved, compared with last year and we hope for a fine year in 1929, and it is due in a large measure to the efforts put forth by the employes." He thanked the veterans, the pensioners and each and every employe for his or her efforts toward securing more business for Frisco Lines. He then asked that Mr. L. Bangert, engineer on motor car on the Salem Branch, with 53 years service and still running his motor car, be brought to the platform.

With fitting remarks he presented him with a medal for being the oldest veteran in point of years' service at the reunion. Mr. Bangert made a forceful acceptance—bringing home the fact that he, along with other 50-year-old veterans, had built the line and now it was left to the younger men and women to preserve it. He stressed the fact that honesty was the greatest asset a man could possess and that if life was lived honestly, there would be a reward.

The next man to address the meeting was M. M. Sisson, assistant to general manager. His remarks were brief but full of complimentary com-

ment for the loyalty of Frisco veterans.

Mrs. Walter Boyd, past president the Auxiliary to the Frisco System Veterans' Association, made a splendid address, and told of her own career with Frisco Lines which covered a number of years; of her father, a former roadmaster, and her marriage to a Frisco man. She spoke of the accomplishments of the Auxiliary and said that she felt had justified the aims and ideals which the Veterans' Association had for it.

Mr. George Macgregor, executive agent for Frisco Lines at Kansas City, in a few fitting remarks presented Miss Charlene Willard with a basketful of flowers, artistically arranged by Don B. Fellows, Frisco florist, and a check for \$100 as a wedding remembrance from the Veterans' Association. She was recently married to Mr. Martin Jertberg of Springfield and has left Frisco Lines as secretary to Mr. McCormack.

Hon. Dan Nee, past commander Missouri American Legion, made the closing address of the evening. The thought which he left with the audience was that veteran and service were synonymous, and that when one thought of a veteran they thought of loyalty and service. He spoke of the beginning of the Frisco Railroad and of the early railroading in and around Springfield. He spoke eloquently of its veteran citizens and railroadmen.

Following Mr. Nee's address, the veterans and their wives were urged to dance on the big Shrine dance floor until train time. Many took advantage of the invitation, while others returned to hotels and hastily packed their bags.

There were cheery goodbyes. There were handclaps warm with sincerity, and there were eyes misty with tears. A whole year will elapse before these pioneers of service will meet again, and the uncertainties of life must always be reckoned.

That is what makes the first greeting so easy—so delightfully pleasant and that is what makes the parting so sad.

But so much took place in the ten day session that there will be many hours through the long fall and winter months when greetings with friends can be mentally recalled, as spring, with its sunshine and flowers brings the next meeting date just a little bit closer, and the ties that bind the veterans together will be laid again into that "Queen City," Springfield, and those pioneers of the rail will again be honored as in days gone by.