

ETSU' Carter Railroad Museum Is Going to the Midwest on August 26.

Lines that crisscrossed the industrial heartland will be showcased in monthly Heritage Day.

The Midwestern section of the United States was one that featured railroads in literally every direction. With industry, agriculture, passenger service, and transshipment in literally every state, the George L. Carter Railroad Museum hosts its upcoming Heritage Day celebration called "Midwestern Movers: North, South, East and West across the Heartland" on Saturday, August 26. Located in the Campus Center Building of East Tennessee State University, the free attraction is sure to have something for every railroad buff as it highlights the area where east met west.

Playing a role in rail traffic in the area were three important factors – water movement on the Great Lakes, and on rivers like the Mississippi and Ohio that required land-based transfer, an abundance of level ground that made large industrial operations possible, and an expanding public that left the crowded New England and Northeastern states in search of better opportunities. As a direct result, virtually every town and hamlet of consequence had at least one railroad passing through; some had several, as the companies expanded and crossed each other going from city to city. Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Milwaukee and others were hubs for much of this traf

There is so much to cover when we look at this important part of the nation's rail heritage that we may actually have bitten off a little much on this one," laughs Geoff Stunkard, the coordinator of the museum Heritage Days program. The number of rail lines was staggering, and the competition for traffic was intense. Once the highway system became viable, there were many redundant rail corridors that have since disappeared, but we will showcase some spectacular variety over the Labor Day holiday on what was, and is, Midwestern railroading.

The George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and members of the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders club are coordinating the program. A special display of original Chicago Rail Fair material will be in the museum's showcases.

In addition to mixed operations on the museum-based 24x44 HO scale layout, there will trains running on the museum's interactive logging railroad in G scale, and on the ET&WNC narrow gauge line in HOn3 scale. The latter is an exacting replication of this railroad that has been featured in national magazine publications.

The Carter Railroad Museum is open on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and includes model railroad layouts, a special child's activity room, and ongoing programs. There is no admission fee but donations are welcome for its upkeep. The museum is also seeking artifacts for the newest addition dedicated to the long-defunct, but well-remembered narrow gauge 'Tweetsie' line, the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad; this room, still under construction, again will be open for guided tours during this event day.

In addition to the displays, there is also a growing research library, and an oral history archive being established as part of the museum's programs. Info can be found online at '<http://etsu.edu/railroad/>' or '<http://johnsonsdepot.com/>' or '<http://www.stateoffranklin.net/johnsons/glcarter/cartermuseum.htm>'

Members of the George L. Carter Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and the Mountain Empire Model Railroaders (MEMRR) club will coordinate the exhibits. Visit 'www.memrr.org' to learn more about MEMRR, or visit '<http://glcarternrhs.com/>' to learn more about Carter Chapter, which helps demonstrate and maintain the model layouts, museum exhibits and other projects.

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Membership opportunities are available to adults, and include special benefits and model railroading enjoyment.

The museum can be identified by a flashing railroad crossing signal at the back entrance to the Campus Center Building. Visitors should enter ETSU's campus from State of Franklin Road (at green light) onto Jack Vest Drive and continue east to North Dossett Drive(then left) to John Roberts Bell Drive at end, then right then left on Ross Drive(176) to end, adjacent to the flashing RR crossing sign.

For more information about Heritage Day, contact Alsop at 423-439-6838 or alsopf@mail.etsu.edu. For disability accommodations, call the ETSU Office of Disability Services at 423-439-8346.

CARTER MUSEUM HERITAGE DAYS 2017 – final Saturday each month

January 28: Northeast

February 25: Short Line – Industrial lines

March 25: Steam UP! All Steam

April 29: Diesel – All diesels 1925-1960

May 27: Modern – 21st Century

June 24: Tri-Cities

July 29: Western

August 26: Midwestern

September 30: Heritage paint schemes

October 28: Roanoke Rails

November 25: Clinchfield

December 30: Fallen Flags