



The Wheel

The Transportation Club of Houston Newsletter



September 2004

Communications: Richard Stubblefield

Executive Secretary: Russell Powell

September Luncheon - Tuesday Sept 14, 2004

Get ready for a great meeting at our September 14, luncheon. You will find our speaker Jim Manzollilo very enjoyable. Jim is the Chairman / CEO – Houston Maritime Museum.

On June 8, 2004 the annual installation of officers dinner was held at the museum and the variety and quality of the displays was awe-inspiring. You can find a write-up on Jim and the museum at the following link:

http://www.transclubhou.org/Sep04_lunch.htm

The website for the museum is found at:

<http://www.houstonmaritimemuseum.org>

The topic is: **Ship Building - Mexican Style**

Thank you to our luncheon sponsors:

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Coming at our October Tuesday, October 5th luncheon is Grady Hopper UPS Vice President – Strategic Accounts.

His topic is; “Synchronizing the Global Supply Chain: the 21st Century Imperative”. Don’t miss it.

Members, please remember that The Transportation Club of Houston website is pleased to offer an area of our site to post job openings for its' member companies. If you have a listing for this area, please contact the TCH Executive Secretary. This page can be found at:

<http://www.transclubhou.org/Employment.htm>

Places to visit on our website:

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Some Transportation History

Dale W. Crawford, President 1990-'91

Transportation and its history are fascinating to me. The history of transportation, in Texas and the Houston area in particular is quiet interesting.



When most people hear the word “stagecoach”, they automatically think of the old west. After all how many times in “Gun Smoke” and western movies did you see the stagecoach pull up in Houston? Well, here is a piece of history. One of the first stage lines in Texas was not from El Paso or Ft. Stockton to some point; but from Houston to Harrisburg, TX (now part of Houston). This was in 1837. By May of 1839 a stage line was operating between Houston and Washington-on-the-Brazos. Later that year, a line was operating from Houston to Egypt via Richmond, TX and later another stage line began operation between Houston and Austin.

The railroads have always been the backbone of the American transportation system. The rails were the major factor in opening the west. So, when where the first railroads established in Texas? And where were they established? In February of 1850, the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado began operation. It was not only the first railroad to operate in Texas; it was also the second railroad west of the Mississippi River. It later became the oldest component of the Southern Pacific.

The tank truck industry did not experience any significant growth until World War II. The refineries along the Houston Ship Channel produced millions of gallons of gasoline, aviation fuel, oil and other refinery products for the war effort. The chemical industry began to grow. These industries required transportation other than the railroads. This need gave birth to the two tank truck carriers that became the benchmark for future tank truck carriers in Texas. York Petroleum Transport, which later became Ryder Tank Lines and later part of Chemical Leaman, and Robertson Tank Lines were the major carriers. York was primarily a petroleum products carrier, while Robertson provided service to the chemical industry as well as the refineries.

Neither of these carriers operates today under their original names. ■