

The TAMU-Commerce Department of Educational Leadership, the James G. Gee Library, and the Commerce Public Library present

# THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COTTON BELT SYMPOSIUM



**September 23-24, 2011**

Sam Rayburn Student Center | Conference Rooms (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

Texas A&M University-Commerce | Commerce, Texas

Parking in Lot E, SE corner Stonewall & Bryan Streets.

**Pre-symposium Show & Tell Mixer - Friday, 5:00pm-8:00pm**

**Symposium - Saturday, 8:45am-4:30pm | 8:19am registration**

This is a **free\***, public event to share, document, preserve, and celebrate the legacy and experiences of the employees and families connected to the St. Louis Southwestern Railway in northeast Texas and system-wide.

All former and current railroad employees, family members, and any interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

Program consists of a show & tell mixer and book/art signings on Friday evening and formal activities and luncheon\* on Saturday. Featured presentations include: The Interurban Railway System, Robert L. Haynes; The Texas Midland Railway, Cheryl Westhafer; the Top Seniority SSW/UP Engineer, Billy R. Null; The SSW Long Caboose #2305, Gary Powell; The SSW Business Car Fleet, Tony Wilson; World Premiere Viewing of the Documentary on saving the Cotton Belt "C" branch, Dr. Richard Schroeder & Dave Walvoord; a NETEX/Blacklands Railroad update by Wayne Defebaugh and Cletis Millsap, and a Panel Discussion featuring members of the railroad "family." The Symposium program culminates with the ceremony to officially dedicate "Dyer Junction" on the NETEX/Blacklands Railroad in downtown Commerce. Many Cotton Belt and railroad artifacts and photos will be on display Fri. and Sat. Everyone is invited to bring and display railroad photos and other artifacts.

The proceedings will be videotaped for historic preservation and entry into the Libraries' Collections and Digital Archives.

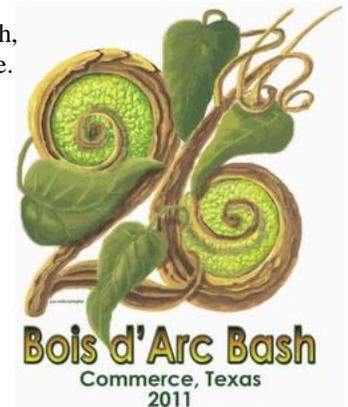
*The 2011 Symposium is dedicated to the memory of Winford Blake Dyer, Jr., July 12, 1927 – August 6, 2010.*

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Held in conjunction with Commerce's signature annual event: The Bois d'Arc Bash, featuring a weekend full of activities for the whole family in Downtown Commerce.

Gold Spike Sponsor: Blacklands Railroad, Wayne Defebaugh, Pres.

Bronze Spike Sponsor: Cletis Millsap, Chairman of the Board,  
Northeast Texas Rural Rail Transportation District.



[HTTP://WWW.COTTONBELTRoute.com/](http://www.COTTONBELTRoute.com/)



\*All presentations are free. Luncheon meal is \$12.00 per person and dining RSVP is REQUIRED by Sept. 19. Info, directions, & RSVPs on-line or contact: Jason\_Davis@TAMU-Commerce.edu, 903-886-8066, or 903-886-5598

Join the Cotton Belt Railroad Symposium group on Facebook.



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