

HUNDREDS OF ENID RESIDENTS BRAVE NEAR-ZERO COLD TO SEE FREEDOM TRAIN



It was not many degrees above zero Tuesday morning when the first group of Enid residents started through the Freedom Train, located between Broadway and Maple on the Rock Island tracks, and persons huddled together to keep warm as they waited their turn to enter the train. This picture shows Mayor Frank Carter and Mrs. Frank Hamilton Marshall, who served as general chairman of the Freedom Train committee, as they led the group into the train when the official ceremonies were over. A fire was built later to help waiting persons keep warm. The line was blocks long a short time after the train was officially opened to the public. (Staff photo.)

Long Lines Formed For Freedom Train

Hundreds See Exhibits; Fire Built on Street to Help Keep Folk Warm; Interior of Display Cars Kept Heated

Freedom is a precious thing, something the people will do most anything for, it was clearly illustrated in Enid Tuesday when the Freedom Train, with its 127 priceless documents and other exhibits, visited Enid.

Despite the biting cold—with the mercury standing from eight to 12 degrees above and a sharp north wind prevailing—hundreds stood in line throughout the day to go through the three armored cars to see the exhibits.

A bonfire was started on a pile of dirt on the street near the line late in the forenoon, and hundreds who stood in line to enter the train

line thinned to permit entrance.

The train was parked on the railroad right-of-way between Broadway and Maple, with the entrance to the train on Broadway and the exit on Randolph.

A steam engine was attached to the rear of the train and this, coupled with the large Diesel engine which pulls the train, kept the three coaches containing the exhibits fairly warm, despite the fact that the entrance and exit of the

LONG LINES FORMED FOR FREEDOM TRAIN DESPITE COLD WIND

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train were open at all times.

Mayor Opens Train

The train was opened for exhibition at 10 a. m. when Frank Carter, mayor, cut the ribbons on the entrance door.

From that hour on until early afternoon, the train was accommodating as many visitors as could be run through. It was slated to remain open until 10 p. m. Tuesday night.

The most striking feature of the exhibits—documents, historical records, flags, government bonds and other items, all encased in glass, was the simplicity of them all.

Documents dating back to the time Columbus discovered America and on down to the big event of World War II and the formation of the United Nations, were systematically arranged.

Were Economical Folk

Illustrative that many of the writers did not know their documents would become history, was found in the simple way many were prepared. Even some of the most precious historical documents had writing along the edge, illustrative

of the economy that the early day settlers of this nation practiced.

Those in charge of the train, including the marines who guard it, were most polite and accommodating.

Walter H. F. O'Brien, train officer, and Nelson G. Wetling, area director, and all the staff of officers and men working on the train appreciated the fact that the weather was cold and they did all they could to ease the situation.

Expresses Appreciation

At a noon luncheon at the George E. Felling Supply company cafeteria, with Mr. Felling as host to O'Brien, Wetling, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hamilton Marshall, and

EXPRESSES THANKS

"The city of Enid has captured the spirit of the Freedom Train better than any other city in which the train has appeared," stated Nelson G. Wetling, area director for the American Heritage Foundation, Tuesday afternoon. "The fact is," continued Mr. Wetling, "if every community had the kind of people you have here in Enid there would not be much need for the Freedom Train."

Mr. Wetling also was profuse in his praise of Mrs. Frank Hamilton Marshall, chairman of the general committee in charge of arranging for the visit of the train to Enid.

"Mrs. Marshall did a wonderful job, by far the most outstanding of any committee chairman in any of the cities we have visited," said Mr. Wetling. "Enid should be very proud of Mrs. Marshall."

Mayor and Mrs. Frank Carter and a few others, the Freedom Train officials expressed deep appreciation for the fine manner in which the Enid program was arranged.

Mrs. Marshall was general chairman of arrangements, and she was named by Mayor Carter.

The train officials also expressed satisfaction on the fine publicity given the appearance of the train in Enid.

Schools Dismissed

The Enid schools dismissed for the day and most school children were among those who passed through the train. School children from many other towns throughout northwest Oklahoma also visited the train.

Patriotic music was played over a loud speaker system by KCRD during the day.

The train will leave Enid Tuesday night over the Santa Fe for Ada for another stop in Oklahoma before going into Texas for important engagements.