

# Photo of the Month

## The Frisco Railroad



A Frisco train by the Rogers Planing Mill, circa 1895. (Neg. #N001860)

The power of the railroad was enormous during the 19th century. Long-established communities often withered when bypassed, while new towns were born. On May 10, 1881, an enthusiastic crowd greeted the first St. Louis and San Francisco (or "Frisco") passenger train in the new town of Rogers. The Frisco line was known by three different names during its run. Originally in 1876, it was called the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway Company. In 1896, the railway changed hands and became known as the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Company. Ultimately it became known as the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company in 1916.

In the early 1900s the Frisco helped Rogers become an important fruit-shipping center. In the following decades the Frisco brought tourists to the Apple Blossom Festivals, carried local boys away to two world wars, and linked Rogers to the world through regular passenger service

The era of rail travel came to an end on September 18, 1965, when the last passenger train pulled out of the Rogers depot. In 1977, the passenger depot was torn down. The Frisco vanished into history in November 1980, when the rail line was merged into the Burlington Northern.