

Fullerton Railway Plaza Assn. &
So. Calif. Scenic Railway Assn.
present the

Hot Rail!

newsletter



*The latest on efforts to build and maintain
a permanent railroad attraction in Fullerton, California*

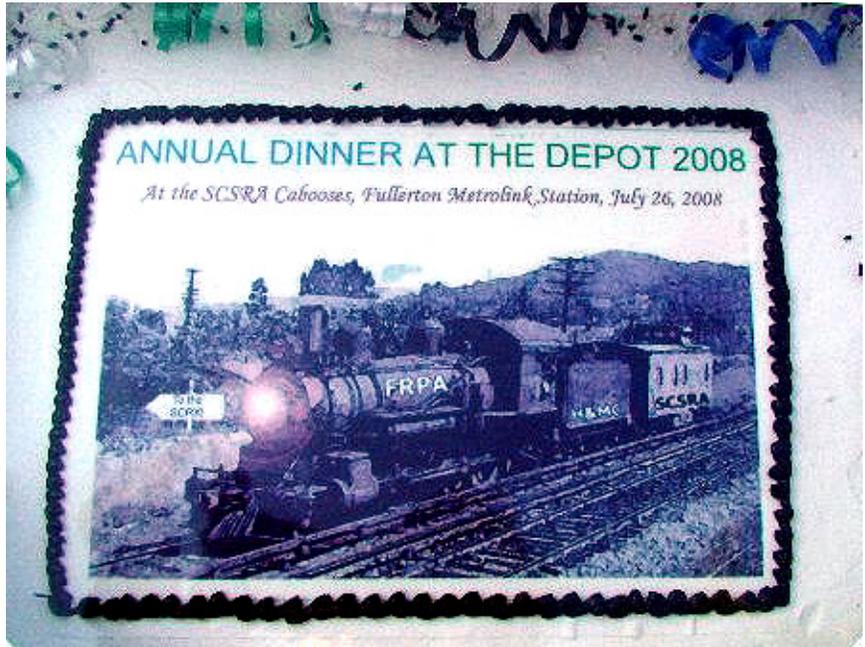
Issue VI, Number 2

Fall 2008

H&MC/SCSRA ANNUAL DINNER AT DEPOT OFFERS PRIZES GALORE, HONORS FORSHER

Forty-eight H&MC and SCSRA faithful again gathered to eat and foam at the Annual Dinner at the Depot on Saturday, July 26, held beside the two SCSRA cabooses and the Coast Rail Services caboose, trackside at Fullerton Metrolink Station. Sandwiches, chips, and soda were catered by the Santa Fe Cafe, supplemented with salads and a cake brought by H&MC and SCSRA members.

After dinner, H&MC President Harold Benash welcomed the crowd and showed off Doug Archer's latest accomplishment, the PE Depot Station model (photo on page 7 and article on pages 4-5). SCSRA president Gordon Bachlund then presented the 2008 Ridenour Award to SCSRA's resident humorist and artist **Charles Forsher**. Over the years Charles has shared with his SCSRA fellows his unique gifts for artistic talent, humor, and a deep love of trains. Joining SCSRA in the mid '90s, Charles soon became a fixture of caboose operations weekends



The edible cake-top photo on the Annual Dinner at the Depot cake. Photo by Elliot Alper

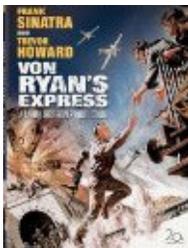
Movie Event: Nov 15

Frank Sinatra in *Von Ryan's Express* (1965)

And the final chapter of the John Wayne serial *Hurricane Express*, when the Wrecker will be revealed!

Wine Tasting: 6 p.m.;
Movie: 6:30 p.m.

Fullerton Museum
Center Auditorium
301 N. Pomona Ave., Fullerton



Wine Tasting sponsored by Bob Root
Free for FRPA/SCSRA members and guests
FREE PARKING ACROSS THE STREET
See the 2008-09 Calendar on page 11

and at social events. Many have been entertained by his playful "Caboose History" that he has regaled visitors with while docenting Operations, and all admire his wonderful sketches of trains and people (see pages 10-11) that were frequently published in SCSRA's *Headlight*.

In recent years, Charles has turned to writing, and had a number of interesting pieces run in the *Headlight* and *Hot Rail!* His travelogues have an edge of sentiment that is both odd and charming, and always interwoven into a narrative of going from here to there on his beloved trains. With this award SCSRA thanks him for his dedication, and for sharing his special gifts with us which have so often made us smile. Congratulations, Charles!



Charles Forsher holding his Ridenour. Photo by E. Alper

Continued on page 2

After Charles' award, it was time for the door prizes, moderated by Sue Kientz. Thanks go to the many people who generously donated prizes for what turned out to be a mammoth drawing, with so many prizes that, again this year, we went through the tickets nearly a full second time.

If all that weren't enough, the evening ended with a showing of 8mm railfan home movies from the 1960s, shot by Jack Barich and narrated by Dennis White. The movies chronicled the hijinx adventures of Dennis and crew via airplane, flying around looking for trains both moving and abandoned. A memorable story Dennis related detailed their "deaccessing" of an abandoned cast brass locomotive bell that happened to clang while pilot Dennis was talking to Los Angeles Center (FAA) as he was approaching So. Calif. "What was that?" the startled ground controller asked. Dennis sighed: "You wouldn't believe it if I told you."

More photos and the list of our generous donors, the happy winners, and the wonderful and interesting rail-themed prizes are found on pages 6-7.

CALIFORNIA MUSEUMS ARE DISAPPEARING, BUT WE CAN SAVE THEM, SAYS OCT 9 SPEAKER

By Stan Swanson, FRPA Dinner Meeting Chair

Roger Freely has been interested in historical museums since he was a young boy. The first museum he visited was the Air Museum which was located at the Orange County Airport, now John Wayne Airport. The museum closed in 1980 when the airport expanded. Freely was so interested in museums he made special trips to investigate all that he could locate. History has always been a focal point of his life.

In 2000, Freely received his BS degree in History and looked to museums for employment, including the Los Angeles Maritime Museum, the LA City Fire Dept. Historical Museum, the Queen Mary, the Costa Mesa Historical Society, and the CA Historical Commission. In 2003 he began writing a guide for travelers visiting local museums and historical buildings. During his research for the book, he found that in 2002 there were over 1,400 museums in California. By 2008, more than 200 of those have closed. The theme for this presentation is "We Can Save Our Museums."

Plan now to attend and bring along friends and acquaintances. You will hear about Fullerton Railroad Days and news of the various activities of our association. That's Wednesday, October 8, at the China Buffet, 104 West Orangethorpe Avenue, Fullerton. Mixer starts at 6 p.m. Dinner is \$15 per person which includes all-you-can-eat, soft drink, and gratuity. See you there!

FRPA MEMBERSHIP AT 271

By Norma R. Goble, Membership Chair

As of this publication, there are 271 members. This includes 65 new members, 12 from 2006, and one from 2005. This is again another record membership! However, there are some who have still not yet renewed. Please do so quickly so I can make an even better report at the Quarterly Dinner Meeting in October.

Thank you for continuing to hand out member applications.

Fullerton Railway Plaza Association

Our Vision Is

To create a large community-supported premier interactive railroad attraction that would include a Santa Fe heritage railroad museum for the purpose of bringing together businesses, government and the community to preserve our national rail heritage and provide an educational experience for our youth in a meaningful, exciting, and fulfilling manner.

Our Mission Is

To educate our youth and provide all people an historical insight into the numerous contributions the railroads have made to the creation and economic development of the City of Fullerton, the County of Orange, and Southern California from the 19th century to the present and into the future.

HISTORICAL & MODELING COMMITTEE FALL REPORT

By Dennis White, H&MC Secretary and Editor

The summer months have been a time to build and prepare for winter's railroad shows.

Modeling Activities

Committee members have been meeting most every Tuesday at the home of Harold Benash to work on two additional HO scale historical dioramas depicting Fullerton's rail heritage. Both modules are 8 feet long and feature models of historic Fullerton buildings constructed by Doug Archer. The main theme of each module is one of Doug's beautiful renditions of the Union Pacific's Fullerton Station (pre - Spaghetti Factory) and The Pacific Electric Depot (pre - Spadra Italian Restaurant). Both modules are built to standards compatible with the Orange County Modular Railroaders (OCMR) club layout.

The Union Pacific diorama presents a south view of the Union Pacific tracks that used to parallel Truslow Avenue between Spadra (Harbor) and Highland. Left to right, the historically accurate models depict the Cone Chevrolet OK Used Car Lot that once inhabited the northwest corner of Truslow and Spadra; the Union Pacific station and its wooden loading dock; and Elephant Packing House. A house track (siding) serves both Elephant Packing and the UP station, though modeler's license was required to maintain track position for OCMR's track requirements. Between the mainline tracks and the edge of the module is another packing house cutaway, this time representing the Fullerton Packing House that once stood about midway between Spadra and Highland, between Walnut and the UP tracks. The intricate modeling of this module is amazing and includes stacks of used automobile tires, a gardener mowing a lawn, and many other tiny details. The Union Pacific Depot module is complete and will join the ATSF depot module in this fall and winter series of railroad shows.

Work on the Pacific Electric depot module is just underway with some track already laid. Two interesting features of this diorama will be the old Santa Fe Depot prior to the beginning of construction on the current station and overhead trolley wire over the PE track terminating at Commonwealth. Work nights will continue as time allows with hopes that this display

will be ready for the January 2009 Great Train Expo at Anaheim Convention Center.

H&MC/SCSRA Dinner at the Cabooses

The Second Annual H&MC/SCSRA Dinner at the Cabooses on July 26 was a great success. An evening of food, wine (in the caboose), train watching, door prizes old 8 mm railfan movies and good fellowship rewarded the 48 "foamers" present for the fun and frivolity.

Upcoming events

Oct 10-12: Cajon Division, PSR/NMRA fall meet at Barstow (features tours of the Cemex Quarry and plant and the BNSF Barstow shops. www.cajondiv.org)

Oct 24-26: L.A. Div. NMRA meet – South Coast Botanical Gardens

November 8,9,11, 16 & 17: Thomas the Tank Engine, OERM, Perris, CA

Dec 13-14: Great Train Expo, San Diego Co. Fairgrounds, Del Mar

Jan 3-4, 2009: Great Train Expo, Anaheim Convention Center

Jan 17-18: San Bernardino Co. Museum, Redlands, CA

Mar 21-22: Great Train Expo, Orange Co. Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa

Committee Members Needed

The Historical & Modeling Committee is always looking for members. If local history, rail history, railfanning or model railroading (any scale), interest you and you would enjoy fellowship with others who share these interests, we invite you to become a part of our growing committee. It is a great way to become an active member of the FRPA. Meetings are held 7 p.m., the fourth Tuesday of each month (except July and December) at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (corner of Las Palmas and Harbor Boulevard), Fullerton. Please contact Dennis White (714-871-4341) or Harold Benash (714-525-6266) for directions or any questions regarding H&MC.

HISTORY

HOW THE SANTA FE GOT TO CALIFORNIA

By Dennis White, Historical & Modeling Committee

From the driving of the Golden Spike at Promontory, Utah, May 1869, until July 15, 1898, California railroads were mostly controlled by the Central Pacific and Southern Pacific railroads, which were owned by the Big Four: Colis P. Huntington, Leland Stanford, Mark Hopkins and Charles Crocker. There were other small and independent railroads in the Golden State before 1898, but Huntington and his partners constantly fought to keep other transcontinental railroads out.

The Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company, connecting the UP via the Oregon Short Line, brought Union Pacific track to the west coast, arriving in Portland, Oregon in 1884. The UP announced plans to build south toward California a short time later. The threat of Union Pacific invading from the north made it incumbent upon the Big Four to hold California against all comers.

In Southern California there were only two probable routes across the Colorado River—The Needles and Fort Yuma. Huntington and his cronies felt reasonably sure they could hold off the invaders from the east if

they could control these crossings. SP built east from Los Angeles to Yuma, crossing the Colorado River in 1877 and continued building east, even though their charter ended at the California state line. SP reached El Paso, TX, in 1881 and felt they had one of the gateways blocked.

But the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad was quietly purchasing bits and pieces of bankrupt railroads here and there, and building new track when necessary to connect its purchases. Santa Fe was steadily but quietly creeping west from Kansas.

Railroads had their own private armies to help them "tussle" when necessary. A particularly ugly fight between the Santa Fe "army" and track gangs of the Denver and Rio Grande went Santa Fe's way, gaining the important Raton Pass over the Sangre de Cristo Mountains near Santa Fe, NM.

In 1880, Santa Fe reached Albuquerque and Deming and built a branch down to El Paso, TX, connecting with the Southern Pacific at Deming, NM.

Meanwhile, the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad had been issued land grants, as had the Southern Pacific, with government approval for the two railroads to meet at The Needles, on the California/Arizona border. Through several failures, bankruptcies and acquisitions, the A&P fought its way west. The panic of 1873 was too much and the bankrupt A&P was purchased by the Santa Fe (50%), Southern Pacific (25%) and Union Pacific (25%). While the A&P, now controlled by Santa Fe, continued west, the Southern Pacific was building east from Mojave, CA, to Needles. The two railroads met at the Colorado River on August 9, 1883. SP held their ground on the California side with Santa Fe staring at them from the other bank. Nobody budged.

By late summer 1884, both sides were tired of just looking at each other. The SP and the A&P, now known as the Saint Louis & San Francisco (Frisco), struck a deal whereas Frisco would lease the SP line between Needles and Mojave. With the agreement in hand, Santa Fe could operate from Albuquerque to Mojave using the leased SP tracks. For all intents and purposes, the Santa Fe had finally reached California.

Continued on page 4

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While saber rattling and negotiating at Needles, Santa Fe was quietly building a railroad from Guaymas, Mexico, to a U.S. connection near Nogales, Arizona. Guaymas, a natural harbor, gave ATSF a Pacific port at last. With the Mexican connection at San Diego, Santa Fe also reached California while Huntington was occupied elsewhere.

The Santa Fe, operating as the California Southern, completed its line from San Bernardino through Cajon Pass and connected with the Southern Pacific track at Barstow, CA. With the completion of track over Cajon Pass, Santa Fe finally had access to the Pacific Coast in Southern California.

Santa Fe gained full control of the SL&SF in 1890, but the overextended ATSF and the SL&SF both found themselves in receivership after the panic of 1893. The western end of the SL&SF was sold to newly formed Santa Fe Pacific Railroad in 1897; in 1899 Santa Fe Pacific, (owned by a revitalized ATSF) negotiated trackage rights with the Southern Pacific over Tehachapi Pass into the San Joaquin Valley and ultimately, Oakland, CA. Santa Fe finally had the bay area as well.

The two railroads entered into talks—Southern Pacific would swap its Mojave/Needles line for Santa Fe's Mexican lines. It seemed to be a good trade for both, with SP getting lots of Mexican railroad and lots of Mexican land in trade for a Santa Fe gateway to Southern California. Huntington signed the deal, but later regretted it, telling friends he had "blinked" when offered the deal. The date was July 15, 1898.

There are other tales as complex and exciting as you've just read, such as when SP's army was held at gunpoint on the California side of the Colorado by the Cavalry from Fort Yuma, Arizona Territory. SP's men

got the soldiers drunk and as soon as the last soldier fell to his knees in an alcoholic stupor, the SP track gangs went into action and built a bridge across the river. The Arizona Territorial governor demanded SP pull up the rails and go back to California, but Washington, D.C., had other ideas. But that's a story for another time.

MODELING HISTORIC STRUCTURES

PACIFIC ELECTRIC DEPOT RECREATED IN HO SCALE

***By Dennis White, with photos by Doug Archer,
Historical & Modeling Committee***

Doug Archer, a member of the Historical and Modeling Committee and expert modeler, has just completed a model of the Pacific Electric Depot at 128 East Commonwealth Avenue in Fullerton, which will be incorporated into a new diorama/Module for display at future Railroad Days and other railfan-based shows around Southern California. The model is built to HO scale (3.5 mm:1 foot) and depicts the station as it looked at the time of abandonment of the P.E. tracks to Fullerton, January 1, 1963.

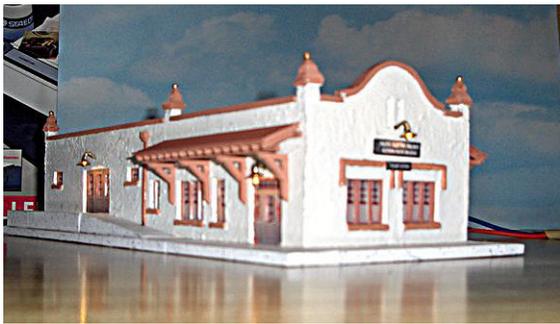
The P.E. station, built in the Mission Revival style, was opened in December 1918 at a cost to the Pacific Electric of \$10,000 and served the city of Fullerton as the terminus of the PE and later a terminal for the Greyhound Bus Lines. The structure exists today in its original location as the Spadra Restaurant.



Doug Archer's model of the Pacific Electric Depot at 128 East Commonwealth Avenue in Fullerton. Photo by Doug Archer.



Various views of Doug Archer's model of the Pacific Electric Depot. Photos by Doug Archer.



ANNUAL DINNER AT DEPOT 2008 DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

Thanks to all who donated these fantastic prizes!

Door Prize	Donated by	Winner(s)
Choo Choo Barn DVD from Traintown USA	Sue Kientz	Greg (Al Swerdfeger's friend)
1992 AMTRAK Telephone Directory	SCSRA	Greg (Al S.'s friend)
Rail Expo '88 Rwy Supply Assoc. Exhibition Catalog	SCSRA	Jack Barich
Old Fairmont Service Instructions and Parts List	SCSRA	Harold Benash
Entrlec Short form Rail Catalog 1999	SCSRA	Harold Benash
Test and Measurement Catalog '94 Hewlett Packard	SCSRA	Laurie Schultz
The Great Steam Trek by C.P. Lewis	SCSRA	Leann (Al S.'s friend)
SCSRA Crew Shirts	SCSRA	Elliot Alper; Sue Kientz
ATSF System Timetable #1 1989	SCSRA	Sue Kientz
ATSF Coast Lines Timetable #3 1987	SCSRA	Dave Norris
ATSF Timetable #21 1971	SCSRA	Carol Bennett
Print and Cert.: Western Pacific #26 by Daniel Phipps	SCSRA	Diane Johnson
Print and Cert.: Stockton Terminal and Eastern No. 1 by Daniel Phipps	SCSRA	Scott McKinney
Print and Cert.: So. Pacific #3025 by Daniel Phipps	SCSRA	Charles Forsher
"I rode the Skunk Train" framed sign	SCSRA	Gordon Bachlund
Book: Car Builders Dictionary 1879	SCSRA	Pat Hopping
Book: Locomotive Dictionary	SCSRA	Mike DiCerbo
33 1/3 LP of Super Skunk	Norma Goble	Carl Pfetzing
Santa Fe Loco, framed	Dennis White	Carl Pfetzing
San Bernardino at Sunset, framed	Dennis White	Doug Archer
Brotherhood of MOW Computer Bag	BMW Employees	Tommy Reminisky
Ren Rate Book 1953	Dennis White	Gary Covington III
Where Travel Means the Trolley (Orange Empire Museum)	Dennis White	John Nestegard
C.P. Huntington Tie Tack	Dennis White	Gary Covington III

Door Prize	Donated by	Winner(s)
UP Map of U.S.	Dennis White	Dick Hopping
ATSF Public Timetable	Dennis White	Pat Hopping
Special Notices LA Division	Dennis White	Mrs. Dave Norris
UP Freight Map	Dennis White	Scott McKinney
Excursion Poster CB&D	Dennis White	Curtiss Raymond
Santa Claus Special Poster	Dennis White	Don Laver
P.E. Tie Bar	Dennis White	Chris (Marty's girlfriend)
P.E. Watch Fob	Norma Goble	Marty Kluck
P.E. Tie Pin	Dennis White	Laurie Schultz
Railfan RR Skunk Train	Dennis White	Jim Hoffmann
Western Frontier RRs of Old West '74	Dennis White	Doug Archer
Scene Master Passenger Bridge	Harold Benash	Fred Canfield
TYCO Operating Crane Car w/Boom Tender Set	Harold Benash	Dennis White
TYCO Arlee Station and Operating Crossing Gate	Harold Benash	Don Lawver
TYCO Operating Floodlight Car and 33 pc. Bridge and Trestle Set	Harold Benash	Carol/Bob Bennett
HO Cars	Harold Benash	Carol Bennett; Charles Forsher; Dave Norris; Marty Kluck
5 VHS set "Great RRs"	Doug Archer	Greg (Al S.'s friend)
VHS Tapes: Great American Train Rides and "All Aboard"	Jeff Schulze	Tommy Reminisky
2 rolls "Evolution of Locomotives"	Gordon Bachlund	Ted Johnson
RR Crossing Sign	Gordon Bachlund	Diane Johnson
Canadian Train Paperwork	Bob Bennett and family	Carl Pfetzing
Petticoat Junction DVD (TV episodes)	Bob Bennett and family	Scott McKinney
UP RR Timetable #4 1986	Dave Norris	Elliot Alper
UP System Timetable #7	Dave Norris	Jim Hoffmann
Western Region CA Timetable #2 1988	Dave Norris	Harold Benash
LA Division Timetable #7 1977	Dave Norris	Curtiss Raymond
Book: The Great Trains	Scott McKinney	Harold Benash
Book: Railways of the World	Scott McKinney	Sue Kientz
Book: North American Steam	Scott McKinney	John Nestegard

ANNUAL DINNER AT DEPOT 2008

Photos by Elliot Alper



ANOTHER GREAT DINNER!



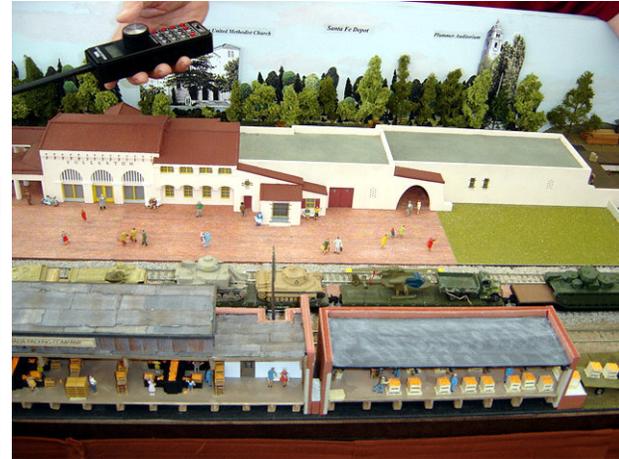
MORE RAILROAD DAYS 2008

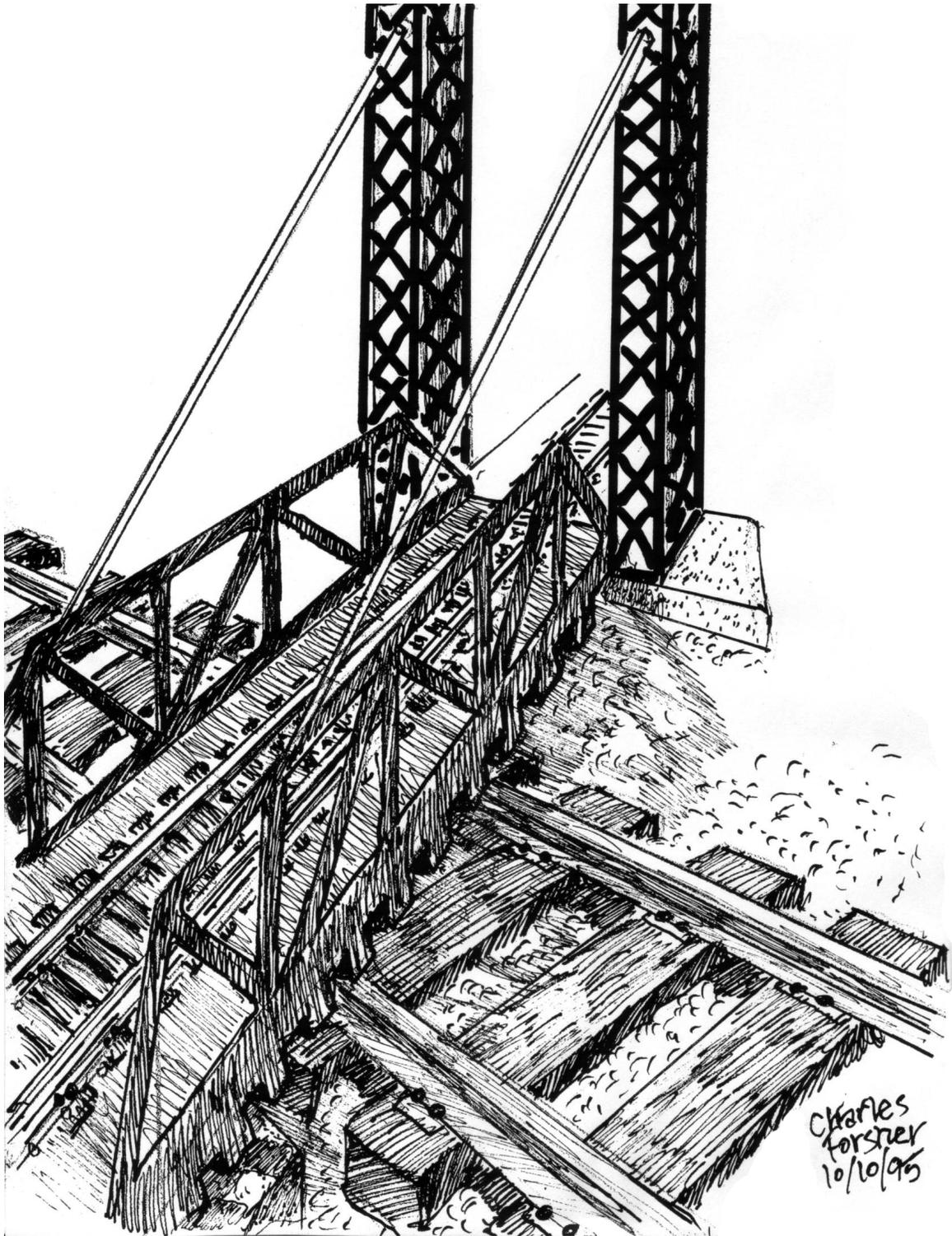
Photos by Elliot Alper



THE FUN RETURNS MAY 2-3, 2009
That's the next *Fullerton Railroad Days*







The Original Bridge To Nowhere. Sketch of proposed bridge that would have allowed Travel Town's 16-inch gauge miniature train ride to cross the standard-gauge SCSRA-operated "Zoo Railroad," which was to carry passengers riding on SCSRA cabooses using EMD switcher Charley Atkins from Travel Town to the Los Angeles Zoo (plans now abandoned). Artwork by Charles Forsher.

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2008-09 Calendar

- | | | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Oct 8 | FRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting , 6 p.m., China Buffet, 104 W. Orangethorpe Ave. | May 2-3 | Fullerton Railroad Days , 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fullerton Metrolink Station |
| Oct 28 | H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m. | May 26 | H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m. |
| Nov 15* | Movie Night: Von Ryan's Express (1965)* 6:30 p.m. with Wine Tasting at 6 p.m. Fullerton Museum Center Auditorium | June 23 | H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m. |
| Nov 25 | H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m. | July 15 | FRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting , 6 p.m., China Buffet, 104 W. Orangethorpe Ave. |
| Dec 6* | SCSRA Christmas Train-Watching Party , Cabooses, Fullerton Metrolink Station, 2-5 p.m. | July 18* | Movie Night: Go West (1940)* 6:30 p.m. with Wine Tasting at 6 p.m. Fullerton Museum Center Auditorium |
| Jan 14 | FRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting , 6 p.m., China Buffet, 104 W. Orangethorpe Ave. | July 25 | H&MC/SCSRA Annual Dinner at the Depot , 7 p.m. |
| Jan 17* | Movie Night: Great Locomotive Chase (1956)* 6:30 p.m. with Wine Tasting at 6 p.m. Fullerton Museum Center Auditorium | Aug 25 | H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m. |
| Jan 27 | H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m. | Sept 19* | SCSRA Caboose Open House/Pot Luck , Cabooses, Fullerton Metrolink Station, 1-4 p.m. |
| Feb 24 | H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m. | Sept 22 | H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m. |
| Mar 24 | H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m. | Oct 14 | FRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting , 6 p.m., China Buffet, 104 W. Orangethorpe Ave. |
| April 15 | FRPA Quarterly Dinner Meeting , 6 p.m., China Buffet, 104 W. Orangethorpe Ave. | Oct 17* | Movie Night: Some Like It Hot (1959)* 6:30 p.m. with Wine Tasting at 6 p.m. Fullerton Museum Center Auditorium |
| April 18* | Movie Night: Chattanooga Choo Choo (1984)* 6:30 p.m. with Wine Tasting at 6 p.m. Granada Theater, Bakersfield. Roundtrip transportation from Fullerton to be arranged. | Oct 27 | H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m. |
| Apr 25* | Caboose Prep/Maintenance Day , Cabooses, Fullerton Metrolink Station, 2-5 p.m. | Nov 24 | H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m. |
| April 28 | H&MC Meeting , St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Dr., Fullerton, 7 p.m. | Dec 5* | SCSRA Christmas Train-Watching Party , Cabooses, Fullerton Metrolink Station, 2-5 p.m. |

* Dates and movie titles subject to change, especially those in 2009. Check www.scrmf.org for updates



The old Travel Town miniature train ride station. Artwork by Charles Forsher.

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IN THIS ISSUE

- **Annual Dinner at the Depot 2008 was a Train-Themed Hit!** See cover; photos, prize winners on pages 6-7.
- **Upcoming Movie Event:** Saturday, Nov 15, *Von Ryan's Express*, see cover and calendar, page 11.
- **We Can Save Our Museums**, says speaker at Oct 9 dinner, see page 2.
- **P.E. Depot Model photos**, pages 4-5.
- **How the Santa Fe got to California**, historical article on page 3.
- **More Fullerton Railroad Days 2008** photos, pages 8-9.

Postmaster: Please Deliver between Oct 6-10, 2008

○ HOT RAIL! ○

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Visit us on the web at <http://www.scrmf.org/> & <http://www.scsra.org/>



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Editor: Sue Kientz

Send your letters to the editor to the address above or e-mail sue@scsra.org

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