

So. California Railway Plaza Assn. &
So. California Scenic Railway Assn.

present the

Hot Rail!

newsletter



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

Volume XIII, Number 1

Spring 2015

RAILROAD DAYS 2015 STEAMS INTO TOWN

By Donna Johnson
Media & Community Relations Chair

Under a new sponsorship agreement, **Railroad Days 2015** is being presented by **Amtrak** on May 2 & 3 at the Fullerton train station, 120 E. Santa Fe Avenue.

The City Council has proclaimed this as "Fullerton Railroad Days" weekend, noting the city's historic connection to railroads. Continuing its tradition for the 15th year, the FREE community event will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, hosted by the Southern California Railway Plaza Association.

Train exhibitors will again be open for tours -- and for the first time since 2008, that includes the huge, black, 1920s Santa Fe #3751 steam locomotive. Also offering tours will be the Disneyland Railroad's Ernest S. Marsh Locomotive #4 and a BNSF locomotive, along with private rail cars.

Displays will include 13,000 square feet of covered space packed with extensive model-train layouts in all scales, plus an outdoor Scenic Garden Railroad. Vintage train photos and detailed depot models will be on view in our Welcome Center. Exciting options for young fans will be a trackless train ride, free for ages 12 and younger; and a small-scale riding train.

Vendors selling rail-related collectibles and souvenirs,

Southern California Railway Plaza Association
RAILROAD DAYS 2015
IN FULLERTON - MAY 2 & 3
PRESENTED BY
AMTRAK

9am-5pm Saturday & Sunday
FULLERTON TRAIN STATION
120 E. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832
For further information: (714) 278-0048 • WEBSITE: WWW.SCRPA.NET

SPONSORS: Milepost 38, McCoy Mills, Amtrak, BNSF, Coast Rail Services, Fullerton College Foundation, Heroes, Milepost 38 Toy Trains, The Old Spaghetti Factory, Santa Fe Cafe.

FEATURED PARTICIPANTS: Disneyland

FREE Admission

nonprofit information booths and a food court on Santa Fe Avenue, complete with a large "dining car" tent, will round out Railroad Days 2015's more than 40 participants. Fullerton Boy Scout Troop 229 will serve a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon both Saturday and Sunday.

In addition to Amtrak, helping to make it all possible are these other important sponsors: Bridge-Masters; Coast Rail Services; Fullerton College Foundation; Heroes; McCoy Mills Ford, Fullerton; Milepost 38 Toy Trains; The Old Spaghetti Factory and Santa Fe Cafe.

The Fullerton Train Station is just north of the 91 Freeway, in the 100 block of Santa Fe Avenue, east of Harbor Boulevard. Free parking is available throughout the Downtown area, including the new 800-space parking structure, west of Harbor Boulevard.

As the presenting sponsor, Amtrak makes it easy for families to visit Railroad Days from up and down the coast with the Kids Ride Free rail fare promotion. For travel to Fullerton on the Pacific Surfliner[®], up to two children ages 2 through 12 may ride free for each adult rail fare purchased. Starting April 7, visit www.SCRPA.net and click the Kids Ride Free banner for details and reservations.

See more information and photos on Pages 4-7

President's Message

Railroad Days 2015 is fast approaching; the headlight on the locomotive is getting bigger, so get ready to participate.

Sign-up sheets for the big weekend – May 1 to 3 – will be available at the Members Quarterly Dinner on April 15 at Sizzler in Fullerton. Options to get involved will include Friday setup, as well as assignments on Saturday and Sunday.

Our spring dinner starts at 6 p.m., with program and meeting at 7 p.m. See the program info in article on this page.

There will be exciting announcements about Railroad Days equipment and full-scale displays, so please come and join us for dinner & the event. Everyone's participation is needed and greatly appreciated.

We'll also have a special invitation to a thank you celebration for all volunteers on May 9!

In the winter Hot Rail we had some mystery guests in the fall outings pictures: at RailGiants, they are George & Cynthia Goebel (with Locomotive #3450); at Knott's Berry Farm with the "robber" are Chris McCarthy, Marty Kluck and Marty's mom, Carol Sue. Please accept the late press acknowledgement.

Please note too that the History & Modeling Committee (H&MC) is meeting Tuesday nights from 7 to 9 at the Benash house to work on various projects up until Railroad Days.

-- Harold Benash

Spring dinner meeting will present a double-bill program

Our April Members Dinner Program on will present Tom Zoellner, an author and associate professor of English at Chapman University. He will speak about his newest book, "Train: Riding the Rails that Created the Modern World, from the Trans-Siberian to the Southwest Chief."

He also wrote the cover story in our winter Hot Rail, "Why Hollywood Adores Trains." You can have an entertaining preview by watching a book trailer at vimeo.com/80854270.

In addition, our spring meeting will offer members a chance to become involved in Railroad Days 2015, the free community event from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 2 & 3 at the Fullerton Train Station.

Event Chairman Jeff Schulze will present the latest de-



Tom Zoellner

Southern California Railway Plaza Assn.

Our Vision Is

Promotion of educational programs, activities, and venues for people of all ages, dedicated to the preservation of the rail heritage of Southern California.

Our Mission Is

Education of the public, providing an historical insight into the numerous contributions that railroads have made to the development and growth of Southern California from the 19th century forward.

Our Goals Are

- Successful development of the Southern California Railroad Experience
- Production of the annual Railroad Days and Children's Rail Safety Poster Contest community events
- Sponsorship of historical research and modeling of significant sites and structures, publication of the Hot Rail! newsletter, and presentation of quarterly dinners and speakers on topics of member interest

The SCRX Vision Is

To be the premier destination for presenting the spirit of Southern California through its railroad heritage.

The SCRX Mission Is

To provide, through our ideas, exhibitions, and programs, engaging educational and entertaining experiences to Southern California residents and visitors.

The SCRX Goals Are

To fulfill the Vision and Mission by developing and presenting programs that capture the spirit of Southern California through its railroad heritage and by partnering with governmental and private entities to create an experiential destination.

tails on our sponsors, rail-car tours and the lineup of exhibitors and featured participants in our 15th Railroad Days.

And Volunteer Coordinator Lauri Schulze will provide all the information on where we need help to make this another fabulous event for the more than 25,000 people who turn out over the two days.

So join us for a great evening, beginning with dinner at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 15 at the Sizzler restaurant, 1401 N. Harbor Boulevard in Fullerton.

Members and guests will again order and pay independently for their meals. No RSVPs are required.

See you there!

Major additions to SCRPA rail collection

By Dennis White, Vice President
Photos by Pacific Railroad Society
and Dennis White

Southern California Railway Plaza Association more than doubled its historic railcar collection recently with the addition of three significant pieces of Union Pacific rolling stock. The cars, two former Union Pacific passenger lounge cars and a steel CA-3 Union Pacific caboose -- with its distinctive tall, centered cupola -- come to us from Pacific Railroad Society Inc., of San Dimas, California.

PRS chose Fullerton as the new home for these artifacts because of SCRPA's demonstrated conservation and preservation of Santa Fe Ce-1 waycar 999110 and Southern Pacific C-40-4 caboose 4049



UP 5001 (above) was built by American Car and Foundry (ACF), Milton, Penn., as one of seven elegant, full-service, streamlined Diner-Lounge cars and delivered to the Union Pacific in 1949 and assigned to general passenger pool service where they served system wide.

By the mid to late 1950s, the type of food service requested by the traveling public on inter-city passenger trains was changing and passengers began demanding a lower-cost food alternative to the dining car.

The Union Pacific decided to rebuild the 5000 series diner-lounge cars into lunch counter cars. The lounge area was reduced, the kitchen stretched and a lunch counter with eight stools added. Table seating was still available, but on a smaller scale. 5001 was rebuilt into a Lunch Counter Café Lounge by UP's Omaha car shops in 1959.

Union Pacific retired 5001 in 1968 and sold it to Pacific Railroad Society in 1970.

In its twilight years 5001 was assigned to UP trains 17 & 18, the *Portland Rose*, operating between Chicago, Ill., and Portland, Ore. The previously unnamed UP 5001 was named *Starlight Café* by PRS.

UP 6101 (right) was also built by American Car and Foundry (ACF), as one of six streamlined Dormitory/Club cars, delivered to the Union Pacific in 1949 to re-



place pre-war, heavy-weight dormitory lounge cars on most UP passenger trains systemwide.

6101 ran in the City of St. Louis streamlined pool until it was supplanted by a dome lounge in 1955. It then ran in Union Pacific general pool service out of Chicago, until retired in 1971 on the eve of Amtrak's inauguration. It was not conveyed over to Amtrak and was stored until Union Pacific sold the surplus car in 1972 to Pacific Railroad Society, which named it *Cajon Pass*.

UP 6101 is largely unchanged from its "as delivered" layout and décor making it an important study in modern passenger car design in mid-20th century America.

Union Pacific 25052 (below) rolled out of the Mt.

Vernon car shops in June 1942, just six months after the U.S. entrance into World War II. Carrying its original number 3752, the car remained "as-built" until 1952, when its wood beam trucks -



- often referred to as "Q trucks" -- were replaced with new outside swing-hanger trucks, with friction bearings and the addition of the new yellow paint scheme.

During its August 1959 shopping, 3752 gained a new electrical system to power its radio, electric marker lights and a reading lamp over the conductor's desk. The car was renumbered 25052 during this rebuilding.

UP 25052 was retired by the railroad in May 1973, and stricken from the roster. Sometime later the car was sold to MJB Realty Co. of Brea, Calif., along with five other CA-3 cabooses. MJB eventually sold UP 25052 to Barbara L. Sibert of Los Angeles. Ms. Sibert then leased the caboose to Pacific Railroad Society in December 1991 and the Sibert family later donated the car to PRS.

The car was stored for many years at PRS's East Los Angeles yard, where it received some preservation and conservation work,

The caboose will soon move to SCRPA's Fullerton Depot house tracks where it will join the organization's ATSF Ce-1 way car 999110 and SP C-40-4 caboose 4049. Restoration, preservation and conservation efforts will continue under the guidance of SCRPA's Railroad Operation Committee (ROC).

With luck, the three Union Pacific cars will arrive in time for display at Railroad Days 2015 in Fullerton!

RAILROAD DAYS 2015 IN FULLERTON

FREE ADMISSION * FREE EXHIBITS
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 2 & 3

For the 15th year, **Southern California Railway Plaza Association** is producing our FREE community event, honoring the region's historic connections to railroads. Our volunteers, participants and sponsors are coming together to create another fantastic weekend for rail fans and families of all ages.

On Pages 4-7 are the featured participants' information and photos, plus lists of exhibitors, vendors and other activities to enjoy at the Fullerton Train Station, 120 E. Santa Fe Ave.

So leave traffic and traffic jams behind -- ride the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner[®] or a Metrolink train to the **Fullerton Depot for Railroad Days 2015 presented by Amtrak.**

For more information, see www.SCRPA.net, or leave a message at 714-278-0648.



Backyard Railroad Co. riding train for kids

SPONSORS

Sponsors for Railroad Days 2015 have contributed financial support to help cover the costs of this free community event. Thanks to the following -- and please show them your appreciation by mentioning how much you enjoy Railroad Days in Fullerton when you visit their sites or "like" their Facebook pages.

- Amtrak, presenting sponsor – www.amtrak.com
- BridgeMasters -- www.bridge-masters.com
- Coast Rail Services -- crsghe@aol.com
- Fullerton College Foundation – www.fullcollfoundation.org
- Heroes Bar & Grill -- <http://heroesfullerton.net/>
- McCoy Mills Ford, Fullerton -- www.mccoymillsford.com
- Milepost 38 Toy Trains – www.milepost38modeltrains.com
- The Old Spaghetti Factory -- www.osf.com
- Santa Fe Express Café – www.santafecafefullerton.com

MODEL TRAIN LAYOUTS as of March 30

- **John Bowman** - O-gauge
- **N-Trak Express** - N-gauge
- **Orange County Modular Railroaders** - HO-gauge
- **Orange County 'N' Gineers** - N-gauge
- **Southern California 'S' Gaugers** - S-gauge
- **Brian Stairs** - O-gauge
- **Toy Train Operating Society—Southern Pacific Division** - O-gauge
- **Toy Train Operating Society—Southwest Division**- O-gauge
- **Train Collectors Association, Western Division** - O-gauge
- **ZoCal Z Scale** – Z-gauge
- **and Outdoor Garden Railroad / Door Hollow Shortline Railroad** -- G-gauge

A 330-foot by 40-foot tent will provide more than 13,000 square feet of shaded display space for the layouts, in addition to the extensive Outdoor Garden area.

PRESENTED BY AMTRAK®

Historic steam locomotive returns to Fullerton

By Dennis White, Vice President

After a hiatus of seven years, former Santa Fe steam locomotive 3751 will be back for Railroad Days 2015 in Fullerton presented by Amtrak on May 2 & 3.

According to the Southern California Railway Plaza Association, producer of the annual rail-themed fair at the Fullerton Transportation Center, you can expect the locomotive to arrive “sometime Friday morning, May 1.”

The coal-black locomotive will be under steam all weekend and

will occasionally sound her deep-throated steam whistle in salute to trains rolling along the adjacent BNSF main line. Non-ADA stairs will allow visitors a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to climb into a steam engine cab while the loco is under steam.

3751 is a “Northern” type 4-8-4 locomotive, a wheel arrangement known for its speed combined with great tractive effort, both of which were needed for high speed passenger and expedited fast freight service. The first 4-8-4 delivered to Santa Fe, 3751 arrived from Baldwin Locomotive Works Philadelphia plant in 1927. After positive testing, Santa Fe immediately ordered 13 sisters, near duplicates of 3751.

The success of the Santa Fe Northern notwithstanding, the 3751 class was rebuilt several times over the years. Conversion of all 14 engines from coal-fired to oil and the addition of a new and larger oil tender completed the first rebuild. A second rebuild beginning in the late 1930s saw



3751 arrives in Fullerton under steam for Railroad Days 2008. Visit for 2015 event offers a rare chance to get up-close to a working steam locomotive and talk to her crew.

replacement of the chassis with a new, longer frame, swapping the 73-inch drivers with bigger, 80-inch units and roller bearings on all wheels and valve gear.

Santa Fe’s 4-8-4s ran primarily between Kansas City and Los Angeles without servicing other than fuel, water and some Alemite; an astounding feat not equaled by any other railroad in the steam era.

ATSF used these locomotives on the Chief, Scout, Grand Canyon and fast mail

trains until diesels began replacing them in the late 1940’s. Santa Fe’s 4-8-4s operated extensively on troop trains and expedited military fast freights during WWII. In the end, steam served secondary and short haul passengers and stood in for diesels in freight service. 3751 made her last revenue trip in 1953, going into storage in Los Angeles.

The city of San Bernardino accepted the gift of ATSF 3751 from Santa Fe in 1957 and installed the engine in that city’s Viaduct Park in 1958. She slept in the park alongside ATSF’s San Bernardino yards for 28 years while local rail fans secretly maintained her all those years, most importantly; filling her many oil cups from time to time.

San Bernardino Railroad Historical Society (SBRHS) purchased 3751 from the city of San Bernardino in 1986 and removed her from Viaduct Park. She underwent a five-year, million dollar restoration in nearby Fontana, and operated her first fan trip in 1991.



With the announcement of Amtrak’s generous sponsorship and the return of the 3751 steam locomotive, Railroad Days 2015 is going to be our biggest and best event yet! Our Facebook page will be right in the middle of it, sharing information on exhibitor displays, vendors, photos, and more! Don’t miss any of the exciting plans we have in store by following our page at www.facebook.com/RailroadDaysinFullerton. If you’re already a fan, be sure to share it with your Facebook friends and family so they don’t miss out either!

— Karen Sibrel

RAILROAD DAYS 2015 IN FULLERTON

BOOTHS: Exhibitors, Vendors, Nonprofit/Information

Listings as of March 31

EXHIBITORS

- BNSF Railway
- Carolwood Foundation
- Disneyland Resort
- Fullerton Police Department
- Locomotive Air Horn Collectors
- McCoy Mills Ford, Fullerton
- Metrolink
- Trains, Planes & Automobiles --
Transportation Celebration in Fullerton

VENDORS

- Backyard Railroad Co.
- Big Train Show
- Bizlink Wellness Program
- Choose-a-Choo-Choo Trackless
Train Ride
- Daylight Sales
- Imagination Dept

- Leanne Howe Photography
- Milepost 38 Toy Trains
- Niles Gift Shops
- On My T-Shirt
- Orange County Register
- Walt's Toy Trains
- Women in Railroading

NONPROFIT / INFORMATION

- American Legion Post 142
- American Passenger Rail Heritage
Foundation
- California Operation Lifesaver
- Fullerton/Yorba Linda Rainbow Girls
- Izaak Walton League of America
- Orange Empire Railway Museum
- Railway & Locomotive Historical Society,
Southern California Chapter
- 3751 — San Bernardino Railroad
Historical Society

Trains, Planes, and Automobiles

www.transportationcelebration.com



Railroad Days at the Fullerton Train Station
May 2 & 3 | 9 am-5 pm | Free

Airport Day at the Fullerton Airport
May 9 | 10 am-4 pm | Free

**21st Annual Muckenthaler
Motor Car Festival** at 'The Muck'
May 16 | 8 am-2 pm | \$5 . Kids under 12 Free
May 17 | 10 am-4 pm | \$10 . Kids under 12 Free



Pick up a "passport" at Railroad Days, get it stamped at **all 3 events**, & qualify for the **Grand Prize drawing** that will be held at 1 p.m. May 17 at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center!

Climb aboard for great rides

For the second year, Railroad Days is part of a **Transportation Celebration in Fullerton**, spotlighting "Trains, Planes and Automobiles 2015" on three successive weekends in May.

The first weekend is Railroad Days on May 2 & 3. Then Airport Day on May 9 at the Fullerton Municipal Airport. Finally, the Muckenthaler Motor Car Festival on May 16 & 17 at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center, 1201 W. Malvern Ave.,

This year, the three organizations are also joining to create an informative display in the entry area cabinet, adjacent to the Fullerton Main Library's Community Room. Stop by after April 6 and check it out.

PRESENTED BY AMTRAK®

FEATURED PARTICIPANTS

Free tours will be offered by the following:



- **BNSF Railway** – modern diesel locomotive – http://www.bnsf.com/about-bnsf/pdf/fact_sheet.pdf
- **Carolwood Foundation / Walt's Barn** -- large-scale rail cars www.carolwood.org
- **Coast Rail Services** – Modern, extended-vision caboose
- **Disneyland Resort** – Locomotive #4 Ernest S. Marsh and Kalamazoo handcar – www.disneyland.disney.go.com
- **Southern California Scenic Railway Association** – Vintage Cabooses: Santa Fe and Southern Pacific — www.scrpa.net

Disneyland Resort will display its bright red Marsh #4 Locomotive, which originated from the Baldwin Locomotive Works of Philadelphia in 1925. After 25 years of service in New Jersey, it was replaced by a fleet of trucks and moved to an Amusement Park called Cowboy City, then later put up for sale. Meanwhile, Walt Disney was searching for another Baldwin locomotive for the Disneyland Railroad, and the locomotive arrived in Southern California in June 1958. Following an extensive rebuild and reconfiguration, it was named for the then-president of the Santa Fe Railway, Ernest S. Marsh. The proud locomotive entered service at Disneyland on July 25, 1959.

— Courtesy of Disneyland Resort

FOOD COURT

- **Barrett's Lemonade & Burgers**
- **Boy Scouts of America Troop 292**
- **Cruisin' Juice**
- **Dickey's BBQ Pit**
- **Fullerton 4H Club**
- **Kettle Masters**
- **Pacific Catering**

Have a seat in our 'dining car'

One of the most appreciated ideas we've ever had for the enjoyment of the thousands of people who come to Railroad Days has been our "DINING CAR" tent.

Once again for 2015, we'll provide shaded seating in the giant tent on Santa Fe Avenue, in the midst of our Food Court.

So when you're ready to take a break from the festivities and grab a bite, make yourself comfortable. We even provide paper towels and cleaning spray bottles and disinfectant wipes for cleaning up in case of spills.

And please think about others who will follow your family, by being sure all your paper goods are deposited in the big trash cans. There also will be cans for your items to recycle.

SCRPA 2015 CALENDAR

April 4	ROC Work Party and Free Caboose tours, 9 a.m. to noon, Fullerton Train Station	June 6	ROC Work Party & free Caboose Tours , 9 a.m. to noon, Fullerton Train Station
April 13	SCRPA Board Meeting , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton	June 8	SCRPA Board Meeting , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton
April 15	SCRPA Quarterly Dinner & Members Meeting , 6 p.m., Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton	June 20	ROC Work Party & free Caboose Tours , 9 a.m. to noon, Fullerton Train Station
April 18	ROC Work Party and free Caboose Tours, 9 a.m. to noon, Fullerton Train Station	June 23	H&MC / ROC Meeting , 7 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton
April 18	Movie Night * "The Smallest Show on Earth" (1957 digital) (1938) , 6 p.m., Wine Tasting, Fullerton Museum Center, 301 N. Pomona Ave.	July 4	Holiday – no ROC Work Party or Caboose Tours
April 28	H&MC / ROC Meeting , 7 p.m., location to be announced	July 13	SCRPA Board Meeting , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton
May 2 & 3	Railroad Days 2015 in Fullerton , 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, Train Station, 120 Santa Fe Ave.	July 15	SCRPA Quarterly Dinner & Members Meeting , 6 p.m., Sizzler, 1401 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton
May 9	Thank You Party for Railroad Days Volunteers , Costa Mesa	July 18	ROC Work Party & free Caboose Tours , 9 a.m., Fullerton Train Station
May 11	SCRPA Board Meeting , 7 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton	July 18	Movie Night * 6 p.m. Wine Tasting, Fullerton Museum Center, 301 N. Pomona Ave.
May 16	ROC Work Party & free Caboose Tours , 9 a.m. to noon, Fullerton Train Station	July 28	H&MC / ROC Meeting , 7 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton
May 26	H&MC / ROC Meeting , 7 p.m., St. Paul Lutheran Church, 111 W. Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton		

** Dates and movie titles subject to change*

Read the Hot Rail! in a color PDF and check out SCRPA announcements at www.scrpa.net.

WWW.TRAINWEB.COM



Most extensive and visited railroad website in the world
including live rail video at www.RailCams.com !

SCRPA acquires vast rail reference library

By Dennis White, Vice President

The family of James Edwin "Jim" Vicars, a founding member of Southern California Scenic Railway Association, bequeathed Jim's extensive collection of railroad reference books, recordings, glass telegraph insulators, blue prints, maps, plats, employee timetables, HO scale rolling stock, including several mint condition brass locomotives, freight car and structure kits to the Southern California Railway Plaza Association.

Accepting Jim's collection on behalf of SCRPA, President Harold Benash stated, "The Vicars' library will become the backbone of a large reference archive maintained by the organization and available for research by rail historians."

The collection includes 596 texts; dozens of VHS, CD, DVD and cassette recordings, ATSF blueprints, maps, plats, and timetables; and 42 antique railroad telegraph, telephone and electrical glass insulators of various styles, no two are alike. The books fill 37 corrugated cartons and weigh in excess of 2,016 pounds.

If anyone truly was a "renaissance man," it was Jim Vicars.

Jim was an electrical engineer working in Southern California's aerospace industry on such projects as the X-15 rocket plane, the XB70 "Valkyrie" supersonic bomber, B-1 "Lancer," and B-2 "Spirit" stealth bombers.

Jim loved aviation and was a private pilot. He was a musicologist interested in all forms of music; from classical to hard rock and everything in between, Jim liked it all. Jim's collection of Jazz, blue-grass, country, and folk music was extensive. (How

many people do you know who have several albums of hobo and tramp music? Jim had 12 of them!)

He was a fan of the Santa Fe (ATSF) and spent countless hours interviewing and recording oral histories of retired ATSF employees in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. His collection of Santa Fe Employee Operation Manuals covers everything from steam in the 1930s through the latest diesel electric locomotives.

Not content to be an "armchair" railroader, Jim spent countless hours with his friends and fellow members of SCSRA working to restore ATSF "doodlebug" M177 at Griffith Park's Travel Town. Using his knowledge of electrical systems, Jim was an invaluable member of the team working on the M177 project.

SCSRA honored Jim with the 2001 Clarence Ridenour Award for leadership inspiration and dedication to the association.

SCSRA Director Ted Mc Conville reminisces: "What impressed me about (Jim) was that he was such a smart and gentle person, with a wry and wicked sense of humor. I had hours of fun discussing the Darwin Awards with him."

Jim's wife, Sarah, said he was the most complex person she had ever known and noted his mind was always "going a mile a minute."

SCRPA is investigating a suitable location for the Vicars' collection, as well as other donated personal libraries. The site of these collections will be named *The James Edwin Vicars Memorial Research Library* in honor of Jim and be available by appointment to all who seek information on the Santa Fe and railroading in general.

It's 'British Comedy Night' at the Movies in April

By Dennis White and Gordon Bachlund
Movie Night hosts

We experienced a technical problem with the DVD of the British thriller "The Lady Vanishes" in January, which deprived us from enjoying the last reel of the movie.

That last reel will be shown before our feature (in lieu of a short subject) so that our viewers may enjoy the thrilling railroad action they were denied in January.

Our feature will be the 1957 British comedy "The Smallest Show on Earth," the story of the Bijou, the little old movie theater for which the moniker "fleapit" is a kind of compliment.

The Bijou is a beloved but scabrous local cinema so close to the tracks that passing trains offer its patrons the first foreshadowings of surround sound.

Matt and Jean Spenser are a young couple with a longing to visit exotic places such as Samarkand. One day, Matt inherits the cinema from his great-uncle Simon.

When they look over their new property, they first mistake the modern "Grand Cinema" for it. They are soon dis-

illusioned to learn that the movie theatre they actually own is the old decrepit "Bijou Kinema," which is uncomfortably located beneath a railway viaduct.

Along with the theatre, come three equally decrepit longtime employees: Mrs. Fazackalee, the cashier and bookkeeper, Mr. Quill, the projectionist, and Old Tom, the janitor, doorkeeper and usher.

Will Matt and Jean make a go of great-uncle Simon's legacy? Join us on April 18 and find out.

The producers, Sidney Gilliat and Frank Launder, are also responsible for "The Belles of St. Trinian's" and "The Great St. Trinian's Train Robbery," which we have previously screened.

The cast includes: Virginia McKenna, Bill Travers, Margaret Rutherford and Peter Sellers.

Join us for our members Retrospective Screening Series on Saturday, April 18 at the Fullerton Museum Center, 301 N. Pomona Ave.

Wine tasting, courtesy of Lauri and Jeff Schulze, will begin at 6 p.m. on the patio. Then we will move into the auditorium for our program at 7.

Railroad terms explained: ‘Gandy Dancer’

A “Gandy Dancer,” more often referred to today as a member of a track gang or track crew, are those whose job it is to maintain railroad track.

Most sources refer to gandy dancers as the men who did the difficult physical work of track maintenance under the direction of a track foreman. The term is dying out because most track repair is now done by machines.

On the old Los Angeles interurban Pacific Electric, track workers were generally called “traqueros,” because Henry Huntington hired Mexican or Mexican American laborers almost exclusively to build and maintain the PE. “Traquero” derives from “traque”, Spanglish for “track” and is not considered derogatory.

The term gandy dancer was probably coined to describe the movement of the workers themselves, i.e., their constant “dancing” motion as they lunged against their tools (gandy bars) in unison to nudge the rails, often timed by a chant. Speculatively, it describes their movement as they waddled like ganders while running on the railroad ties.

— Dennis White



Gandy Dancers: Courtesy of Southern Pacific Railroad

ROC PREPARING CABOOSES FOR RAILROAD DAYS

The Railroad Operations Committee is hard at work getting our cabooses cleaned up and prepared for the 25,000 or so visitors that we expect to attend this year’s Railroad Days. We have all four Saturdays in April to meet at the station and work on them.

On March 21, we removed all 12 windows of SP 4049 to have new glass put into each frame. The old windows were either glass or plastic. All the windows had evidence of on-the-road wind-driven sandblasting. UV rays from the sun also damaged the plastic windows.

The new glass will be FRA CFR 49 safety glass, with the requisite FRA Part 223 “bug” on each pane. The window seals will also be replaced, as required. The FRA approved glazier who is replacing them has assured us that they will be ready to reinstall before Railroad Days.

New window shades have also been ordered and we hope they will arrive in time for installation before Railroad Days.

The ATSF 999110 is pretty much ready for the big event and all the tours. Some touch up painting was done in the cupola. Shades for the cupola have been ordered. Hopefully, they too will arrive before Railroad Days.

Both cabooses still require exterior painting, which is scheduled for right after Railroad Days.

Since the implementation of tours on the first and third Saturdays of each month, we’ve had 20 or more visitors on each of those Saturdays, including a wedding party that used the cabooses as backgrounds for their wedding pictures.

It is always rewarding to see parents bring their kids to tour our cabooses. But in the end, it’s always the parents (usually the father) who are the most wide-eyed and curious about the units.

A big thanks goes out to those who have taken the time out of their busy lives to come out to the cabooses on Saturday mornings and help us preserve these wonderful pieces of railroad history. And we’re not through yet.

We have acquired some more pieces of rail history. They will require some of the same dedication and workmanship that all of our members have displayed in the past.

If you don’t already come out to work with us, plan to do so, soon. You will quickly become as proud of the work being done as we are.

— **Stu Proctor, Chairman**
Railroad Operations Committee

Looking good but need more members

We are looking good for 2015 memberships, but we'd love to have more members!

If you have not already done so, please remember to fill out the membership renewal form included with your Hot Rail and send it in, along with a donation.

If you have friends and family who would be interested, please pass the membership form along to them, as well!

Your membership includes the quarterly newsletter, Hot Rail!; free movie nights featuring rail-related films and wine tastings; quarterly membership dinners; and seasonal excursions to train rides and rail displays.

We also provide our annual Railroad Safety Poster Contest – now in its 17th year -- that focuses on the awareness of area students about safe behaviors around trains and the tracks that cross near schools.

This year, please consider giving at a higher level, as all donations allow the SCRPA to continue preserving the regional rail history in North Orange County.

— Karen Sibrel, Membership Chairman

2015 Railroad Safety Poster Contest

This is the 17th year for the contest. We sent out information to Fullerton School District students in March, so the kids could have time over spring break to get their ideas down on paper.

The schools' top posters for their upper and lower grades will be arriving from the various schools at the district office over the next two weeks.

An SCRPA judging committee will meet to select the six citywide prize winners.

First-, second- and third-place winners for the upper- and lower-grade students will each receive four Amtrak[®] tickets to a Southern California destination and a savings bond. Those top six posters will be displayed at Railroad Days. After that, all winning posters will be displayed in the Fullerton Library's Children's Room during May.

-- Kathy Norris, Poster Chairman

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RAILWAY PLAZA ASSN., INC.



Membership Levels

Please check appropriate level

BRAKEMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25
CONDUCTOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50
ENGINEER	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100
YARDMASTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250
TRAINMASTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500
BENEFACTOR	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$600+

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Please send this application with the appropriate check or money order payable to:

SCRPA, P.O. Box 5195, Fullerton, CA 92838-5195

Dues are based upon a calendar year

Southern California Railway Plaza Association, Inc.
1661 E. Chapman Ave., #1G
Fullerton, CA 92831

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- o All about Railroad Days 2015 —including the return of 3751 steam locomotive and Amtrak stepping up as presenting sponsor, on the **Cover and Pages 4-7**
- o SCRPA adds to its collection with three Union Pacific railcars, **Page 3**
- o Movie Night April 18 presents a British comedy with a railway theme. **Page 9**

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o HOT RAIL! o

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Editor: Donna Johnson

Send your letters to the editor to the address above or e-mail info@scrpa.net

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