

NEWSLETTER NUMBER SIX - JUNE - 1961

San Diego, California 000000 00000 000000 00000 0000000 Page One.

SMOKE IN THE VALLEY.....SMOKE ON
THE PLAINS.....SMOKE IN THE FOOT
HILLS.....SMOKE ALONG THE SIERRA!!!

Recent weekends have placed the old steam locomotive into many joyfull eyes, on many exposed films and on hundreds of feet of movie film..... WHERE??? Where else- on the wonder of the west, THE SIERRA RAILROAD.

The Pacific Railroad Society, Inc. of Los Angeles, started the recent siege on the Sierra with Dave Todd's "Sierra Classic" on Sunday, May 7th. Engine 28 and 3 were used, coaches from the S.P. and the big open end observation car owned by the Central Coast Railway Club. The P.R.S. trip was an all rail deal from the Los Angeles area via Santa Fe special to Oakdale, a roundtrip on the Sierra met with difficulties from the dear old weather man....RAIN!! But rain never stops a steam trip on the good old Sierra Railroad, nor does it stop a railfan excursion.

Following the P.R.S. ramble, another excursion followed on Sunday, May 14, this was the Central Coast Railway Club, with FOUR STEAMERS!!! Old man weather was much more favorable for this trip, with beautiful blue sky and sunshine.

Sierra RR # 28 the smart looking little 2-8-0 type was still facing west from the return of the PRS trip, the wye has been removed at Oakdale so the trip started from the little valley city with the locomotive running in reverse, pulling the three S.P. coaches and the observation car.

This met with a bit of disfavor by some of the still photographers, for the movie taker it still was action, but for still shots, it didn't look to good.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

MEETING NOTICE - - - - -

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE Railway Historical Society of San Diego, Inc., WILL BE HELD ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF JUNE, 1961.

Monday Evening - June 5, 1961
7:30 P.M. @ Santa Fe Depot.

MEETING WILL START PROMPTLY AT 7:30 P.M., PROGRAM WILL START AT 8:15 P.M.

PROGRAM Phil Middlebrook will present a slide show. If you want to see black & white steam locomotive pictures..... R.P. "Phil" Middlebrook has the greatest collection in San Diego. IF you want to see some of them in color, on the screen.....COME TO THE JUNE MEETING, Monday night, June 5th. Phil was a Santa Fe engineer, retired in 1960 after 41 years of service. Last year, with his wife, Grace, he spent 4 months touring "Down Under". During his travels, he shuttered a grand collection of steam engines of all ages and breeds, motors, yards and other rail scenes in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, sections of Australia and the North and South Islands of New Zealand. In Sydney, N.S.W., Melbourne, Vic. and Wellington, N.Z., some electric "Trams" were still operating and were exposed to his camera.

Refreshments, prize raffle and time for visiting....bring a friend..... 7:30 P.M., Monday, June 5th, 1961- R.H.S. of S.D. meeting, upstairs in the Santa Fe Railway depot.

DON'T MISS THIS PROGRAM OF SLIDES!!

RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
SAN DIEGO, Incorporated.
P.O. Box 9351, San Diego 9, Calif.

NEWSLETTER
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(Corky & Barbara Thomson- Editors.)

1961 SOCIETY OFFICERS

President-

Richard E. Pennick, 8689 Lamar Street
Spring Valley, Calif. - HC-6-8206.

First Vice President-

Wendal Byers, 3068 Howard Avenue, San
Diego 4, Calif. - ATwater 4-5030.

Second Vice President-

Charles T. Mann, 4125 Ingraham Street
San Diego 9, Calif. - BRoadway 3-8824

Third Vice President-

Earle A. Swaine, 3756 Arizona Street,
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Recording Secretary-

Gladys Umbarger, 3084 Fairmount Ave.,
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Corresponding Secretary-

L.W. McCleary, 5805 Estelle Street,
San Diego 15, Calif. - JUniper 2-2764

Treasurer-

Fred R. Finko, 4255 Winona Avenue,
San Diego 15, Calif. - ATwater 1-2674

Excursion Director-

Wallace F. Duthie, 3380 Granada Ave.,
San Diego 4, Calif. - CYpress 5-3403
(Hillcrest Laundry, CY-5-6309 8-6pm)

If you have any problems, wish any
information, want to help on society
projects.....feel free to contact any
of the above officers.

EXCURSION REPORT

Due to the generous cooperation of
the Santa Fe Railway and the willing
and able help of "Cal" Galvert, the
San Bernardino Orange Show Special was
a success.....it took a lot of hard
work and nervous sweat.

I want to extend my personal thanks
to all the people who helped out, not
only on the train itself, but with the
work that had to be done well in advance
of the trip. I appreciate the job done
on printing, mailing, publicity, etc.
I failed to mention at the last meeting
that we would not have gotten the drum
head glass sign off the observation car
if member Gene Lindsay hadn't come up
with a screw-driver.

Future Trips?? Not this year, but
how about a trip on the California-
Western "Skunk" in October of 1962?
Many people already have plans for this
summer and fall and the trip would be
rather expensive because of chartering
an airplane. This would be the only way
to make the trip in one weekend. It
would be possible on such a trip to see
some of the rail facilities from the
air, giving us a decidedly different
angle on railroading, terminals, the
Tehachapi Loop, maybe the Sierra and
Pickering from the air.

We are presently negotiating for
space on a Sierra Railroad steam trip
over the weekend of Sept. 30th and Oct.
1st, 1961. The idea is to charter a
bus to get to Oakdale. It would require
leaving San Diego on Friday evening,
arriving at Oakdale on Saturday, ride
the Saturday run, stay over until the
next morning and return Sunday. The bus
could be routed over the Tehachapi Loop
highway and Mojave, lots of action on
that stretch of the S.P.-A.T.&S.F. line,
even on Sunday. Fares are being worked
out at present.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR)

WORK PARTY-Del Mar: Sat. June 3rd
Sat., June 10, 17, 24th if needed.

June RNSofSD meeting: Monday, June 5.
7:30 P.M. Good program...BE THERE.

STEAM ON THE SIERRA RR (Continued from page one.)

Little 2-6-0 number 28 rambled out across the plains towards Warnerville and Cooperstown...with a caravan of cars racing across the prairie on a dusty road, snapping pictures at each crossing and across the fields.

As the train approached the water tank at Warnerville, little 4-6-0 number 3 could be seen, the 28 stopped for water and the 3 spot rolled east running light to Cooperstown. After a drink for #28, the train and the road caravan continued to Cooperstown. The #28 was uncoupled and turned on the wye...and coupled back into the train with #3 moving in to double head the train up into the hills.

After coupling up, the double header backed westward for what proved to be one of the most effective moving photo runs ever witnessed by a lover of the iron horse. The #3 on the point and the #28 charging along right behind, came up with one of the most interesting and smoke filled action runs anyone could ever hope to see.

From there on, the two little steam engines proceeded eastward with the car caravan going wild snapping their pictures, the train group enjoying the clackety-clack of the rails, the beat of two steamers exhausting in off and on timing, and photo stops, planned to satisfy the crowd on the train, not for the auto followers.

The train locked and sounded just fine as she twisted and turned through many sharp reverse curves in the area around Sonora...pictures were being snapped all along the line.

Near Standard, the two steamers were out off.....for the prize of the trip, PICKERING LUMBER CO. # 11, a handsome big Shay lumber locomotive. Photo runs were made for the train riders and the highway followers caught pictures here and there as the slow moving, roaring Shay moved up the mountain.

(CONTINUED IN NEXT COLUMN)

WORK PARTY AT DEL MAR Bring your cleaning equipment, paint brushes.... the society equipment at the fair grounds needs attention before the county fair opens on June 30th.

Crews are presently painting the locomotive # 104, the engine still is in need of more painting and the tender has not been done as yet.

Streetcar 528 needs cleaning and a good washing down, coach 050 will be okay with a little dusting and clean up on the inside.

More painting will be done on the 104 on SATURDAY, JUNE 3rd and each of the following Saturdays in June, until work is completed. Contact 2nd V.P. Terry Mann for details.

STEAM ON THE SIERRA (Continued from column one, this page.)

The big Shay was uncoupled at the turnout at Ralph...then the two Sierra engines coupled on and whistled off for Tuolumne. The Shay, almost forgotten, eased out of the Pickering track and clanked back down the hill to await the next run for railfans.

On up the line, the #3 and the #28 arrived west of the Tuolumne yards and the Westside Lumber Co., for another uncoupling...and little narrow gauge Westside Lumber Co. # 3, a spunky old Heisler geared logging engine, mounted on standard gauge trucks, coupled on for the grand finale into Tuolumne.

The Westside Lumber # 3 made a good photo run for the railfans and then turned the train on the wye.

The crowd headed for a good big old fashioned chicken dinner. The highway runners from San Diego turned their vehicle towards home, happy and content with a wonderful steam trip.

BUT IT ISN'T OVER...for the folks on the train, there was still the return trip of 57 miles to Oakdale, behind a steamer.....and due to a sell out, the same trip was again planned for the following weekend, May 21st, 1961.

EXCURSION REPORT (Continued from page 2)

The trip would require at least 30 people, no half fares on the Sierra RR. This trip would be in the nature of an experiment. If enough of the members will let me know within the next two months if they are interested in an all expense trip of this type, I will go ahead with arrangements. This trip will be run on a Saturday and the next day, Sunday, it is being sponsored by one of the groups in the northern part of the state. It is their trip and our group would be allowed to purchase a block of tickets for the Saturday run of the two day duplicate trip.

There will be a 25% cash advance on this type trip, sign up and reservation 10 days before the trip. Let me know if you are interested in this trip on the Sierra Railroad, Sept. 30th, 1961.

"Onward and Upward"!!!!!!

Signed: Wally Ruthie,
Excursion Director.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE REPORT

No report, no meeting??

R.H.S. of S.D. PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP:

The second meeting of the camera and picture group is being planned, no meeting has been scheduled since the first experimental get together. The Mexico wandering members, Roy and Daisy Miller have been busy planning their latest trip and taking it, since the first get together. The Miller's have returned from another trip deep to the south of the country, their post cards tell of having wonderful luck with the picture taking....Steam and more steam, they will have much to show at some future society meeting as well as a full evening at one of the Camera Group extra evenings of picture showing.

The Miller movies of Mexico were a big hit at the first such meeting. The next such meeting will be after the SD County Fair, notices will be mailed.

WANDERING RHC/SD MEMBERS

No official report of his trip as yet, but Proxy Richard Pennick made an extended journey deep into Mexico steam engine country and on down as far as possible and still able to find steel rails. We will all be looking forward to an evening on his trip experiences and some slides....Earle Swaine better book him for a future society meeting.

Another wanderer is our Treasurer, Freddy Finkle....he really covered the railroads in this country on his trip to the east coast....something like 19 railroads, visits to terminals, through shops and roundhouses, just about anywhere a railfan might like to go, GO TO IT FINKIE was there, he is another with hours of entertaining tales to be told of his wonderful journey, sign him up too, Earle!

THEN....The steam lovers of the society, Roy and Daisy Miller, off for another trip into Mexico and points south. Every post card they sent from Mexico glowed with happiness and pleasure they had found in their quest for the still operating steam locomotive, plus more fine movies of historic ruins and the pyramids, okay, bring on the movies of your latest, Mr. & Mrs. Miller....the society gets at least one regular meeting with the latest films and narration, the camera group will follow up with an evening group meet for the real photo fans....hear that Swaine????!!

AND....Proxy Dick Pennick was off on a chase of the Central Coast Ry. Club Sierra run on Sunday, May 14th, Dick was right in there pitching with his camera, all the way.....and right in back of him....or in front, or beside, Corky and Barbara Thomson, blasting away with two movie cameras and getting some black & white shots too, with two L.A. area railfans along with them and snapping off plenty of 35mm color shots. AND....on the train, with his movie camera grinding off the footage, we found Fred Tiecknor not missing a bit of the steam power on the Sierra trip. ALSO- Chard Walker, of Summit fame, taking his first ride on the Sierra.

MINUTES OF THE MAY, 1961 MEETING

The meeting of the R.H.S. of S.D. of May 1, 1961 was called to order by our President Dick Pennick. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read. Gladys Umbarger extended her sincere thanks to each and everyone for their kindness and expressions of sympathy after the recent passing of a member in her family. Thanks were also given to Wally Duthie, Mr. & Mrs. Earle Swaine, Mr. & Mrs. Saeth Thomson, Clifford Skeen and Mr. & Mrs. McCleary for the kind way they took over the arrangements and decorations for the observation car on the San Bernardino trip. Gladys stated that friends are like a ray of sunshine and make life worth-while, therefore, heartfelt thanks was extended for all of their kindness.

The treasurer's report was read by Fred Pinke.

Eric Sanders reported his talk at the Voyagers Club meeting was well received. The society film, "Carrico Gorge" was also shown at the meeting.

Dick Pennick stated he needed some storage space for an incomplete model railroad layout- Gladys Umbarger offered to give him storage space. Pennick said he had been doing some steam train riding in his absence, down Mexico way.

It was stated the old streetcars off Rescorla St. were going to Mexico for use as houses.

Pennick offered space for driving to Oakdale and photographing the Sierra. He also stated some members (and former members) have started a new club, the San Diego County Railway Museum.

President Pennick then introduced the three officers of the newly formed S.D.C.Ry.M.- Mr. Lyle Judd, President, Eric Sanders, Secretary and Charles Gerdes, Treasurer. Present was Mr. Judd, he stated the new group was formed primarily to acquire land for equipment, and, to get 1 or 2 miles of rails down. At present date, there are no concrete results - leaseage has been favorable for storage & maintenance, and he stated the organization had not been planned for competition with our RHSeofSD, but to all work together in the one cause, saving historic railroad equipment. Mr. Gerdes stated to the group that land has been hard to come by, as the RHSeofSD well knows, he stated that the initiation fee in the new group is \$5.00 and \$1.00 per month dues. The publication will be called the "Report", issued quarterly. Those desiring to join can contact Mr. Gerdes. Eric Sanders has membership forms printed, their next meet was called for May 21st, 1961 at 7:30PM.

2nd V.P. Charles Mann called for more work parties at Del Mar, next such work party scheduled for Saturday, May 6th, 9:30 A.M.

Wally Duthie announced the SD&AE caboose #402 had been taken out of service. The drumhead from the last excursion is to be placed in the coach at Del Mar. Wally checked on the Cal-Western "Skunk" trip, by plane, capacity 44, about \$50 per person.

Mr. Thomson reported nothing new at Orange Empire Trolley Museum but lots of work going on, and as usual, there are plenty of needs for cash donations.

Alan Diamond announced there would not be an RHSeofSD Museum Committee meeting this month.

There being no further business, the meeting was turned over to the 3rd VP and Program Chairman, Earle Swaine, who introduced Mr. Ryan of the Copley Press. Mr. Ryan presented a very enjoyable film on San Diego County, refreshments were served. The raffle prize was a very neat locomotive tie bar, the special free door prize was a copy of Trolley Car Treasury, an excellent book on streetcars.

Respectfully submitted by, GLADYS UMBARGER

Recording Secretary.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

A big thank you to eastern member, and friend of the railroads, President John W. Barriger of the P.&L.E. RR., for his generous donation of two nice steam railroad pictures, all framed and ready to be placed on the wall.

The pictures arrived in A-1 shape, they will be placed on display in the observation car #050 at the fairground location in Del Mar.

One is a reproduction of the P&LE mail train, and one of an ore train crossing the Ohio River, both are in the days of steam. They are from the fine railroad painter Howard Fogg, for the P.&L.E.

Thanks again to Mr. Barriger for his friendly interest in our group as well as many other such organizations in the U.S.

"AIR SLIDE CARS"

The Santa Fe Ry. has recently ordered 60 "airslide" covered hopper cars from the General American Transportation Corp., Chicago. Twenty-Five of the 2600-cubic-foot capacity cars will be delivered immediately, the balance beginning in October of 1961. The cars are designed to transport dry granular or powdered commodities, the kind of loads that become tightly packed during transit. The "airslide" cars feature special silicone-treated fabric belts at the bottom of the car, these can be vibrated to agitate the load being carried, facilitating the unloading process. Air is used to operate the belts.

(Santa Fe Mag. 5/61)

SANTA FE....SURF LINE

During March, the Santa Fe hauled 2,313 youngsters on special rail trips via "San Diego" to the S.D. Zoo.

ITS FAIR TIME

The society will be in need of some help in staffing the exhibits at the fairgrounds. There will be passes for those that wish to help, sign up now for a shift in the engine, coach or at the streetcar. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.

It isn't all work....you will find it quite entertaining and of great interest talking to the people as they come through the railroad exhibit.

Contact let V.P. Wendal Byers or 2nd V.P. Tommy Mann if you can help. The fair starts on Friday, June 30th and ends on Sunday, July 9th.

NOTHING OFFICIAL AS YET-----BUT...

There usually is not a meeting of the society in July, due to members working the exhibits at the fair.

Santa Fe freight trains on the coast line to San Diego had gone back to a very neat and even appearance recently. The freight diesels were coming down as normal 4 unit A-B-B-A EMD-F7 blue and yellow units, or A-B-B-B-B-A six unit engines, then, after a week or two of this proper and routine system.....BAM, a freight rolled in one evening with SIX "A" units, not a "B" unit in sight, just 6 cab units, facing in all directions. The Oceanside flyer, an GP-7 or 9, still breezes by as usual, with a box car behind the caboose, or maybe in front of the engine! Shortly after the conversion to daylight time, and several small changes in train schedules, the C.T.C. must have confused the "San Diego" with a freight on several occasions, as the early northbound passenger was "holed" up in the Morena siding, for no meet at all, the freight behind it, after several mix ups, the schedule started operating on time. During the confusion, the passenger followed the freight on several mornings, riding yellow lights.

HELP AT THE FAIR....June 30-July 9