

Hot



Scoop

HotScoop Shovel Logo by Larry Rose

A publication dedicated to San Diego Railroad Museum volunteers

November 2001

MUSEUM NEWS

VOL XIII NO XI

***** RECENT DONATIONS ***** *Dick Pennick*

The Museum receives donations of miscellaneous items or cash all the time, either through our downtown Administrative Office or at our Campo Living History site. Occasionally, we are solicited individually by people we know or meet who are seeking good homes for some item of rail history or useful tool, etc.

Each of us should be careful to document the giver's name, address and phone number, and a brief description of the item or items at the time of the donation, so that a Gift Deed can be prepared and the individual or company properly acknowledged with an official letter of thanks. I have received disturbing reports over the years from people or businesses who have generously donated cash or materials to the Museum and never received any kind of acknowledgement, formal or otherwise. This doesn't play well for the future of our charitable giving programs.

Over the past year and a half, I have been performing much of the official "thanking" and Gift Deed preparation function for the Museum, for donations I am aware of. For example, I prepared and mailed over 100 Thank You letters to date during the Steam Team's recent successful fundraising campaign, many for donations as small as \$5.00.

So if you receive donations of any kind, or offers of same, let me know and I will be happy to follow up with phone calls, paperwork, and arrangements for pickup. I file copies of all letters and other paperwork, including an inventory of the items, in our downtown administrative office. Since I don't yet have e-mail, you can call me at (619) 463-2276 or call the office downtown and they will drop a note in my mailbox.

Some recent donations: Westin Hotel - Horton Plaza donated a 3-year old 6600 s.f. Sprung Instant Structures stretch-skin building from the downtown hotel's 4th floor terrace. Due to the complexities of the site, a large Marco crane was required to lower the disassembled structure to the street. Westin paid for the crane work.

As part of the agreement, the Museum was required to provide the trucking for the structure and for three large almost-new cart-mounted heat exchangers used to heat the building. Paul Goldstein, of Goldstein Equipment, provided the tractor to pull the 48' flatbed trailer donated by Bill Cuddeback of Cuddeback Trucking. I rented a 20 ft. stakebed truck to transport the heat pumps and the building skin panels.

Although Ted Kornweibel and his Restoration Department tried desperately to find a way that the big building could be used for a restoration shop at Campo, there were too many problems and it was decided to sell the \$100,000 structure for whatever we could get out of it, and use the money to build a restoration facility that did work.

Within a week we had a buyer. Father Joe Carroll's St. Vincent de Paul Village was the high bidder, donating \$40,000 for the disassembled structure, which he plans to use at his proposed Promiseland Ranch in Campo. It was delivered to Campo on the morning of Sept. 29th, except for several barrels of fasteners and other small hardware.

The heat-exchangers were delivered to the Display Building temporarily on the 28th, and may be used to provide air-conditioning for that building in the future. The almost-new units were probably used no more than 2 or 3 times by Westin.

Mrs. Elsie McKeever, of Oceanside, donated her late husband's extensive collection of railroad books, magazines, timetables, tickets and other memorabilia, including the largest single collection of Railway Official Guides we have ever received, numbering 287 volumes! The late Mr. McKeever was a Travelling Passenger Agent for the Southern Pacific from 1943 to 1973, and a railfan. Also included are more than 500 books and approx. 2000 magazines. Although this very welcome donation came at a time when the Library must move to new and larger quarters, it is nonetheless much appreciated and will be put to good use by researchers, historians and the media in years to come.

Former SD & AE Claims Inspector Jack Hemphill donated the original wood station sign for "Calexico", an old SP "hayburner" kerosene brakeman's lantern, and other items. A warm "Thank You" to each of these fine folks for their generosity.

***** NEW MUSEUM BROCHURE ***** *Dick Pennick*

Other than the "card" brochure that's been floating around for several years, and the 8 1/2 x 11 "fact sheet" I prepared last year, we haven't had a truly complete illustrated Museum brochure that will also fit in the standard brochure slots around town and at Campo.

Our Office Manager, Denise Winslett and I have dusted off and completely re-designed the old yellow "Vintage Rail Adventures" brochure. We now have quantities of this single-color 4-fold brochure that tells who we are, what we are and where we are, and includes a membership application and illustrations of some of our activities and equipment.

Next time you're at the office, pick up a handful and pass them out or place them in a brochure rack near you. We need the exposure and we need to increase our member base. Trainmen should always carry a quantity of these to pass out to the passengers. No visitor should leave the property without one. We hope to maintain a quantity at the Campo Depot for the Gift Shop and the train crew.

***** ANOTHER FORMER SD & AE RAILWAY EMPLOYEE PASSES *****

The numbers of ex-SP era SD & AE employees continues to dwindle as the years go by. On June 30, 2001, former brakeman and conductor James F. "Jimmie" Rogers passed away in San Diego after a heart attack. He was 84.

I had talked with and interviewed Mr. Rogers several times over the years, and had ridden with him on SD & AE freights "over the hill" and on the El Cajon branch during the late '50's and 1960's. Always a very likeable person and a strong Union man, I have a photo of him taken at Campo in the 1940's demonstrating some hazardous footing conditions for trainmen near the depot (sound familiar?).

Former SD & A/SD & AE engineman Leonard Salisbury, a strong supporter of our 2353 rebuilding effort in the early 1990's and the trainer for our first steam engineers to run the engine, is 94 and suffering from asbestosis, which requires that he be on 24-hour oxygen support. Fortunately, he is still ambulatory and carries his oxygen supply in a portable body pack. He continues to drive, but may be forced to cut back on his trips to the coast in the future. The death of his long-time friend and fellow engineman Richard Dick last year also had a great effect on Leonard, as it did on all Museum volunteers who had the privilege of working with Dick over the years.

"Sally", the nickname given to him by his fellow enginemen, is the oldest living former SD & A/SD & AE engineman, and the last remaining SD & A employee. He started his railroad career in the 1920's in the shop as a Machinist's Helper, mixing the dry asbestos powder with water to make a paste, which was used to insulate locomotive boilers. Asbestos-related diseases generally have a long gestation period, often 30 years or more, but it has apparently finally caught up with this last link to the steam era in San Diego. His most recent visit to San Diego was on May 5 -6 this year with his wife, Fern, to attend our Spring Festival & Old-Time Days at Campo.

***** NEW PERMANENT EXEC. DIRECTOR COULD BE SELECTED EARLY NEXT YEAR ***** *Dick Pennick*

The Museum's Board of Trustees has been actively seeking a permanent Executive Director to replace Patricia Blackmore, who was forced to resign in 1998 due to health problems. Since then, the Museum has employed a succession of interim Directors to provide some continuity at the helm until a suitable permanent successor could be found, at a price we were able to pay. Our current interim Director is Mr. William Valverde, who has taken a temporary leave of absence from his duties as a Museum Trustee to serve in this capacity.

If you have suggestions for potential candidates you would like us to contact, please call Mr. Mike Santos, SDRM Vice President-Administration, at (619) 236-7117.

***** OCTOBER 22nd MARKED 21st BIRTHDAY OF SDRM-CAMPO ***** *Dick Pennick*

"All three pieces of land for our home in Campo are now firmly in hand" reports the March-April, 1981 issue of our newsletter. Thanks to the efforts of then-President Jim Lundquist, who had initially noted that the gym property was no longer in use by the school district, and his Board of Directors, the Museum had finally found a permanent home for its collection and raised the money to finance the purchase.

Some names of donors to our first property acquisition that more recent volunteers may recognize are Ray Lethbridge, Bill Niedrich and Jeff Shepherd. Others, like architect Larry Rose, Cass Witkowski and Ken Helm may not be as familiar to some but either donated or loaned money to secure these critical purchases, and they remain in our membership to this day.

The initial 3.59 acre parcel that included the gym building (now our Campo enginehouse) closed escrow on October 22, 1980 for \$6,400 per acre! Shortly after, an adjacent 4.35 acres (the "north forty") was purchased for \$10,000 per acre. In addition, an easement was obtained over the SD & AE right-of-way from MTDB, stretching from approx. MP 66 east to the Hiway 94 crossing for construction of a Museum operating track paralleling the main line. This easement, 75 ft. wide adjacent to the Museum's property, narrows to 25 ft. wide to the east due to a narrowing of the railroad right-of-way from 300 ft. wide to 150 ft. wide at our north property line. Few members today realize that we still have a 25-ft. wide easement along the southerly railroad right-of-way line, past the trestle, and ending at the hiway crossing. This was created in part to assure that the Museum would have at least some land on which to build its own operating track, should MTDB refuse to permit us to operate on the mainline.

Of course, we now know that those negotiations were successful and the 25-ft. strip has never been utilized, except for the northerly portion of the East Lead. At that time, the only approved physical connection with the SD & AE was at the north end of the existing Campo House Track, which is still in use today.

***** LIBRARY NEEDS ACID-FREE STORAGE BOXES FOR PENDING MOVE ***** *Dick Pennick*

The Museum's Southwest Railway Library research facility is faced with vacating its current space in the old Baggage Building of the downtown Santa Fe station by the end of the year (two months away!). We're not talking a couple of boxes of old magazines here. We're talking several tons of books, magazines, maps, photos, operating records, and other collected materials relating to the railroads of the San Diego area and beyond. It is the largest single collection of materials relating to San Diego area railroads in the country, and unfortunately, many of our members are probably completely unaware of its existence!

The Library is going to need a large quantity of various sizes of acid-free storage boxes very soon. These special archival boxes aren't cheap, so if you have some spare shekels you can spare or a good lead on where we can find them on the cheap, let Bruce Semelsberger know. He can be reached at (619) 264-7282.

***** Web page update ***** Randy Houk

Don't forget that our web page has a link for Volunteer Services. You can see old issues of the Hot Scoop and a link to the Code of Federal Regulations. The username is "**volunteer**" and the password is "**2353**".

If you're receiving this via U.S. Mail but have gotten **E-mail**, please send an email to hotscoop@sdrm.org so we can make you a 'member'. We save postage that way!

***** Year 2001 Dates of Note *****

	November	December
Staff meeting (1900 at Solar)	6	4
Campo to Tecate	10,17,24	8,15,29
School Train	20	18
Brunch Train	11	9
Dinner Train	3	1
Wine Train	20	10
Board meeting (1830 at Solar)	27	
Museum Services meeting (1900 at Solar)	28	
Deadline for Hot Scoop articles	28	28

***** Article Submissions *****

Please submit articles in pure text (.txt) or MS Word (.doc) format.
E-mail to hotscoop@sdrm.org is preferred. Send address changes to the editor.

*****PHONE NUMBERS and e-mail*****

Web page: <http://www.sdrm.org>

SDRM ADMINISTRATION

		@sweet-haven.com
Business Office, Denise Winslett	(619) 595-3032	office
Business Office Fax	(619) 595-3034	
Museum Phone (La Mesa Depot)	(619) 697-7762	
Report Editor, Marianne Gerdes	(760) 632-5565	report
Hot Scoop Editor, Randy Houk	(858) 672-0111	hotscoop
La Mesa Depot	(619) 697-7762	
Campo Depot	(619) 478-9937	
Campo Car Shop	(619) 478-9451	

DEPARTMENT HEADS

		@sweet-haven.com
Executive Director, Bill Valverde	(619) 258-1966	valverde
Director of Campo Complex, Jim Polloreno	(619) 478-2140	polloreno
Research, Bruce Semelsberger	(619) 264-7282	semelsberger
Library, vacant		
Operations, Darren Apedaile	(619) 478-2659	apedaile
Safety, vacant		
Environmental Affairs, Jack O'Lexey	(858) 274-4449	olexey
Restoration, Ted Kornweibel	(619) 461-0098	kornweibel
Mechanical, Darren Apedaile	(619) 478-2659	apedaile
Steam, Dwight Koller	(619) 478-9348	koller
Diesel, Darren Apedaile	(619) 478-2659	apedaile
Training, vacant		
Trainmen/Guides, vacant		
La Mesa Depot, Jim Polloreno	(619) 478-2140	polloreno
Facilities, vacant		
Volunteer Coordinator, Steve Kostelak	(619) 741-5217	kostelak
Museum Services, Rich Borstadt	(619) 294-9321	borstadt@sdrm.org