

R.H.S. of S.D. NEWSLETTER No 9

RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY of SAN DIEGO, Inc. - NEWSLETTER NUMBER NINE (9) - SEPTEMBER, 1963.

SUMMER GREETINGS TO OUR MEMBERS:

Been busy? We have. Summer seems to bring on many things to do and little time to do all the things there are to do! It is hard to find time for society affairs with all the usual summer activities. A few of the faithful have continued to work on streetcar #4 down in Old Town by the Whaley House, they are there on Saturday...have you been down? The Newsletter should have been in the mail a week ago, the September meeting was changed one week due to the Labor Day holiday on the first Monday, the meeting date is MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1963.

Our SEPTEMBER meeting will feature several railroad films loaned to us by the Santa Fe Railway. They will be sound-color 16mm films and should prove interesting to all. As an added feature, if no is available on that date, Mr. John McCarthy, General Agent, Santa Fe Railway, will be at our meeting & give us a talk on railroading. There will be the usual prizes and good refreshments, time to talk with your friends and enjoy our hobby. The date: one week later this month, the SECOND MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1963 - 7:30 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. upstairs in the Safety Room, Santa Fe Railway Station, Kettner & Broadway, San Diego, California.

Our thanks to Ray and Daley Miller for the program at the August meeting. For those of you unable to attend, we had two 8mm reels, one on electric operation in the Los Angeles area primarily featuring the final days of Pacific Electric "Big Red Car" operations on the various lines and final running of Los Angeles streetcars under M.T.A. operation. The second reel was logging railroading and shown operations on the famed little three foot West Side Lumber Co. line in the Sierra Nevada. Scenes of the log trains coming down out of the mountains and of mill operations were shown. Pictures of a railfan excursion on the McCloud River RR. with two steamers on the head end were also included in the steam reel.

Have you been train riding this summer? Have you been watching any of the railroad activities here around San Diego? The railroad picture has been rather bright and interesting this summer. As reported in the August issue, the potash trains are becoming quite a thing here in San Diego. Since that issue there has been a rather steady run of heavy duty covered hoppers running back and forth along the Santa Fe. Some solid hopper trains have not had a car count but the trains have run from 60 to 85 cars in length, one string of empties going north appeared to be close to 100 cars. Since the new bulk loader was put into service at the Tenth Avenue Terminal, railroad tonnage has made a definite step upwards. Southern Pacific is bringing the bulk of the alfalfa pellets for bulk loading to ships. The Santa Fe potash trains originate in New Mexico. Diesel power on the Santa Fe potash trains usually consist of eight varied power units. San Diegoan streamliner service has been hauling a goodly share of people in and out of San Diego this summer. Fifteen car trains are a welcome sight and there are two 14 or 15 car trains daily, the rest of the schedule vary from 8 to 12 cars. The early morning northbound train is the shortest, up to six cars.

The Labor Day weekend really put the passengers over the line, shortage of equipment had three high-level cars in service on the San Diegoan. Del Mar race trains had a hodge podge of types of passenger cars, three trains were stuffed into Del Mar wye and sidings on Labor Day. Motive power has ranged from two unit "A" - "A" Alco diesels to a short 2 unit "A" - "B" EMD F-7 on one train, also used, 4 and 5 units of passenger power to Del Mar for race trains. The Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal parking lot was full to capacity over the week end. The trains out of L.A. were also interesting due to need for equipment, quite a variety of types of passenger cars in service. Lots of trains rolling and a very interesting cross section of equipment for the railfan to watch and photograph.

A reminder, the restoration project on our old fashioned San Diego trolley car continues each Saturday at Old Town. The famous old "California" type car is becoming quite a show now that it has taken on such a fine and shiny appearance. Many of the Whaley House visitors now include a visit to car #4 while on the grounds. Help is still needed as well as cash donations toward restoration costs. (see CAR #4 restoration donation on back page of this issue.)

***** NEWSLETTER *****

Monthly bulletin for the R.H.S. of S.D., Inc.
All news items should reach the editor on or before the 20th of each month. Send news items to S.L. "Corky" Thomson, 3204 McGraw Street, San Diego, California, 92117. (Phone: 276-3266)

* * Railway Historical Society of San Diego, Inc.
P.O. Box 9351, San Diego, California, 92109.

REQUEST REQUEST WANTED WANTED

We are looking for some good black and white prints of pictures taken on the May 5th Escondido excursion. DO YOU HAVE ANY SUCH PICTURES???? The Santa Fe Railway would like to run a story in the monthly Santa Fe Bulletin and pictures are needed. Contact Corky Thomson at 276-3266 or Thomas Matson at 295-1219.

SUNDAY EXCURSION to L.A. HARBOR

September 22, 1963 will be the day for a train excursion over the Santa Fe freight-only Harbor Branch to the great seaport at San Pedro and a visit to Ports of Call, American President Lines' S.S. Pres. Cleveland and railroading on the Harbor Belt RR.

Golden West Rail Tours presents a low-cost Sunday Excursion on a special Santa Fe Train. Ride a special train within feet of the landing strip at International Airport, a photo stop is planned at this point, ride through an area used normally by freight trains only, down through Torrance, Wilmington and San Pedro. The Harbor Belt RR will move our special train for a visit to Southern California's newest attraction, Ports of Call, a recreation of early California Fishing Village, complete with quaint streets, shops and 90 minutes to browse.

Highlight of the day will be a visit to the luxurious American President Lines' Passenger Terminal and an open house tour of a famous trans-Pacific liner, the S.S. Pres. Cleveland.

Leave Los Angeles Union Station...8:30a.m. return at 7:00p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22, 1963.

Fares: adult tickets @ \$6.95 and children @ \$3.50. Write to GOLDEN WEST RAIL TOURS, 2210 So. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles 64, Calif. If ordering direct, enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope, deadline for tickets, 9/18/63.

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 1963

NEWS NOTES

San Diego & Arizona Eastern's La Mesa Boulevard crossing now has rails tied to the new Spring Street-(truck route)-La Mesa Blvd., traffic signals. Eric Sanders states he has not observed an actual crossing but it would appear that the train comes to a stop and then crosses when it has a signal. Apparently the Spring Street traffic can cross on a forward green arrow but all other traffic comes to a halt. Eric also sends us news of one to four cars spotted at the Montgomery Ward warehouse in El Cajon. Perhaps earlier traffic routing commitments were the cause of delay of the new rail facility in early months of operation at the M.W. warehouse. Freight car movements to and from the facility are quite regular now.

Another beer distributor is going in on Fletcher Parkway and it would appear that a rail spur will be installed. Eric also states that a building contractor added a building and a spur in El Cajon and that there are always one or two cars on the spur.

It is good to see the El Cajon-La Mesa Branch of the S.D.&A.E. coming back to life as it has this year. The little G.E. diesels make almost daily runs now and vary from two to three units according to tonnage. Some days the diesels make several runs out the line to do switching.

Mainline S.D.&A.E. trains are sporting four unit "big" power from the S.P., Cotton Belt and T&NO. Diesels vary from low-profile "geeps" to the older original GP-9's and F-7 cab and "B" units of the "wagon top" style. Cotton Belt power can be spotted by the yellow hand rails. There is a marked variation in the condition of motive power. One recent train was observed heading eastward with two very clean and neat low nose "geeps", one was of Southern Pacific and the other Cotton Belt, behind these two beauties were two F-7 units, an "A" and a "B" unit, the two were by far the dirtiest and most run down looking locomotives on the S.P. The "B" unit was smoking heavily, it was E.M.D. power but had the smoking ability of some of the older Alco diesels. In spite of appearance, they were working and pulling tonnage. All forms and styles of S.P. paint jobs can be seen on S.D.&A.E. trains. At last count there were five of the little G.E. diesel switchers in San Diego.

The Tenth Avenue Terminal has actually run out of yard tracks with potash cars. It's a busy place these days.

CAR 54 WHERE ARE YOU???.....At the Whaley House, in Old San Diego, WORKERS WELCOME.
(Contact C.T. "Tommy" Mann, 273-8824) SATURDAY WORK DAYS.

RHS of SD EXCURSION NEWS?????

Not much planned at present, any big trips via Santa Fe or Union Pacific are a little to expensive for the general trend of family money spending at this time. Such trips would be to Calico, Barstow, the O.E.T. Trolley Museum at Ferris, Capistrano Mission, etc. It is felt that any big trips of \$12 to \$15 per adult are not wise at this time.

For R.H.S. of S.D. members....small trips are in the making! By private car to Vista and live steam on the little 0-4-0 steam locomotive owned by Mr. & Mrs. Pollard. There is no date set at the moment, we will see how the warm weather holds out and wait for a nice even temperature this fall. Mr. Pollard will have the locomotive under a full head of steam and let members ride and OPERATE the locomotive!!! We will keep you posted as to the date and we will give you ample time to plan for it. It will be a rather limited type affair due to space and time. All of you steam fans will enjoy this little outing, maybe we can have a little picnic along with the steam operation.

Cajon Pass....by charter bus is the most economical method, but for those wishing to spend \$20 or so, maybe a charter trip on the private observation car, Cyrus K. Holliday. In the cool of early November, we will probably charter an air-conditioned bus and visit the famous SUMMIT of Cajon Pass. Approximate fare \$5 to \$7 per person. Object: to watch trains and photograph same.

R.H.S. of S.D. HOBBY SHOW

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th, 1963 - 1:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. HOBBY DISPLAY SHOW at the S.D. Park & Recreation UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS BUILDING, 4044 Idaho Street.

Building will be available from noon to 5:pm for setting up, display and removal.

Display time from 1 to 4 PM.

Bring your favorite hobby and display it for the rest of the members to see and enjoy. We all don't collect trains, bring out some of our members other hobby interests.

Contact Gladys Skeen, 284-3449 for more information or write Roy Miller, c/o U.S. Naval Hospital, Oceanside, California.

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO BRING AND TO DISPLAY THEIR HOBBIES. YOU are needed to make this a success.....remember the date-----
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13th - 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.

ADD TO 1963 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS:

GUTH, George - Space 20, 855 W. Grant, Escondido.
MILOT, Ron - 2345 Presidio Dr., San Diego 3.
PETERSON, W.H. - 1354 E. Altadena Dr., Altadena.
LAUFERSKI, S.R. - 1128 Devonshire Dr., S.D. 7.
MACDONALD, S.H. - 3933 St. James Pl., S.D. 3.
HOPPER, J.A. - 1645 Dale St., San Diego 2.
MARDOCK, V.E. - 2348 Tulip St., San Diego 5.
EUTLER, R.F. (Jr.) PFC, A Co. CAE, En. MCRD, S.D. 40.
ROBERTSON, D.J. - 3761 Herman Ave., S.D. 4.
ALLISON, W.C. - 1400 Woodruff, Los Angeles 24.
SIDNEY, I.L. - 5310 Vespor, apt. 2, Van Nuys.
FERRIS, John - P.O. Box 53081, Los Angeles 55.
BELL, C.E. - P.O. Box 311, Barstow, Calif.
MACMILLAN, Jerry - 2727 Presidio Dr., S.D. 3.
FRY, C.R. - 316 N. Crescent Heights, L.A. 48.
HARO, Alfonso - 4127 Florida St., San Diego 4.
CHAMBERS, J.L. - 3760-28th St., San Diego 4.
LEHMUTH, R.H. - 1417 Walnut, Manhattan Beach.
(Pfc, "A" Co. CAE GEMFC, H.C. R.D., S.D. 40)
GANN, E.F. - 3155 Lynwood Rd., Lynwood, Calif.
SNISSLER, J.L. - 2801 Franca Ave. S.,
Minneapolis 16, Minn.
DAVENPORT, I.S. - 1430 W. 52nd, Los Angeles 62.
GOSS, D.E. - P.O. Box 254, Alhambra, Calif.
ROOT, R.J. - 180 "J" St., San Bernardino, 92410.
CROCKETT, E.S. - P.O. Box 147, Lakeside, Calif.
KALLIS, R.L. - 20643 Quado Dr., Woodland Hills.
BARRIGER, John W. (IV) 208 Witmer, Los Angeles 26.
BARRIGER, John W. (III) President, Pittsburgh &
Lake Erie RR., Pittsburgh 19, Pennsylvania.
BELEC, J.M., Flight Lieutenant - R.C.A.F. Station,
Saint-Sylvestre Quebec, Canada.

Welcome to all the above, some of you are back with us as renewals, many are new members, Mr. Belec brings the 1963 roster to 151 members.

Getting crowded finding all the members names and addresses! For your convenience there will be a complete roster, up to date as best we can get it regarding current addresses, to be printed and mailed within the next 60 days. We want you to have it by the end of October or first of November for your Christmas card list and general information, phone numbers will be included and as many ZIP numbers as possible.

SPECIAL MEETING was held at the Santa Fe depot on Monday, Sept. 2nd for any possible visitors expecting us to be having our regular monthly meeting on that date. Thanks to Tom Matson for opening up and showing some films for any of our members or guests on that date.

R.H.S. of S.D. REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING.....MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 1963 - 7:30PM Santa Fe Depot.

CAR 54 What is car 54? The body of a once proud San Diego trolley car, and going back in the years, it was at one time a San Diego cable car. This old streetcar dates back to the turn of the century, is it any wonder we want to properly restore car 54?

→ → → → YOU, YOU and YOU, CAN ALL HELP!!

(MONEY)

If you do not have the time or the ability to help work on streetcar 54, can you spare any hard needed cash for the project? We don't like to go crying for money but it takes money to buy the wood, the windows, the paint and all the other needed items to properly restore this fine old trolley car. Maybe you say to yourself "I'm not a trolley car nut so why should I donate"???? WHY?? For the same reason model railroaders, steam fanatics, diesel followers, boat enthusiasts and.....trolley lovers.....ALL like to see a job well done, be it a steam engine overhaul, the Star of India, or a demanding fund at Orange Empire Trolley Museum, restoration of fine old historic things is worth a donation.

✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ ✱
We need money to finish streetcar 54. Have you looked at it lately? The old girl is becoming a real beauty again.....SEND YOUR DONATION NOW= RHSeFSD, P.O. Box 9351, San Diego, Calif. 92109.

Coming soon, fall work party on streetcar 528 at the Del Mar location, also work on the locomotive and observation if needed. Fall work on streetcar 171 at Perris will be needed as well, so you FEM, able bodied RHSeFSD members had better plan on putting in a few FUN weekends on the equipment. Contact Tommy Mann for dates, 273-8324.

Our narrow gauge U.S. Gypsum crew car will have to be moved soon, anyone know of a good location?

Don't forget, we are looking for some good photos taken on the Escondido excursion last May, the Santa Fe wants them for their monthly bulletin.

Speaking of restoration on car 54, have you seen the wonderful job that has been done to the Star of India? So down to the water front one of these fine days and see what years of stick to it and hard work have done for the old sailing ship.

Interested in some city, county or state historical tours? Contact Jim Reading about WHALMY HOUSE HISTORICAL TOURS, 293-2462, 10am to 5pm, Wed. thru Sun. Jim is working up some charter bus excursions to various places, local and state, give him a call if you wish to.

RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY of SAN DIEGO, Inc.
(A non-profit Calif. Corp.)
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