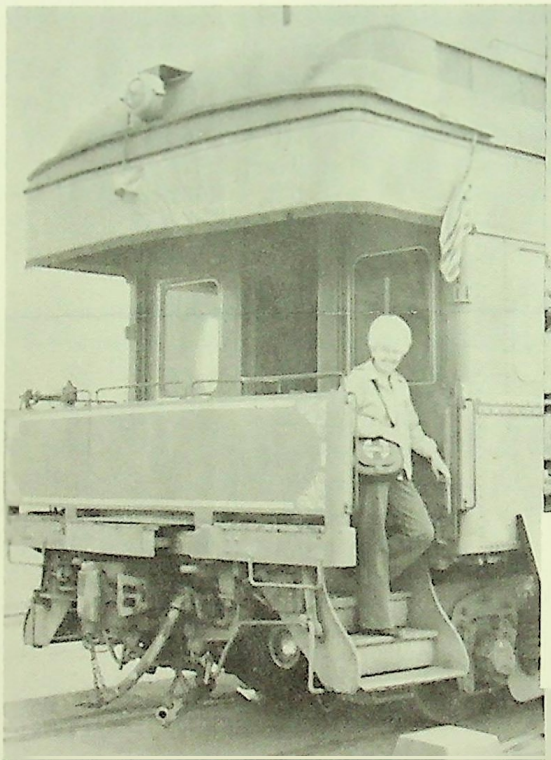
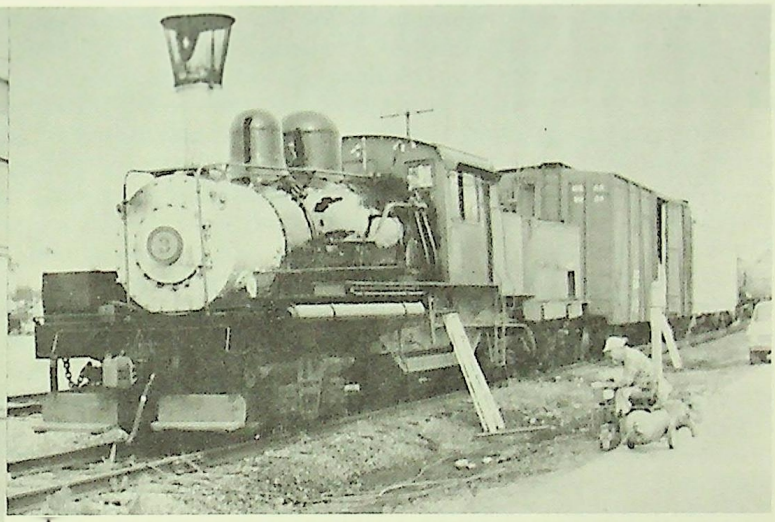
Jan. '79 **REPORT** No. 154

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of the PACIFIC SOUTHWEST RAILWAY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION, Inc.

OUR BEST YEAR EVER!

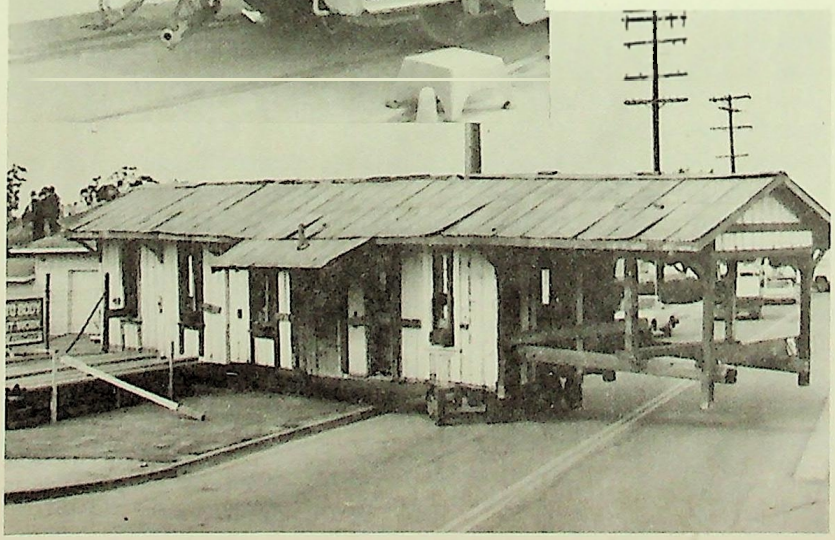




Shay project nears completion at Miramar.

Victoria exhibit brightens San Diego waterfront.

La Mesa Depot project underway at last!



1978 was a banner year for PSRMA, with many long dreamed of projects finally off the ground. Our success this year can be contributed to three areas of supreme accomplishment. Leading the way was the most successful excursion season ever. Excursion Director Vern Cook and his staff of volunteers deserve a "hats off" cheer from everyone. Second was a membership drive that increased our ranks by 30%. Third was the continued success of our downtown exhibit and the great P.R. work of Jo Pressnall and her gang of volunteer staffers. Thanks to all for a job well done!

FROM THE CUPOLA

by H. Chalmers Kerr, Jr., President

Happy New Year! PSRMA is entering its sixteenth year with the expectation of achieving many long sought goals during 1979. I personally wish to thank all members who worked so hard during 1978 to put PSRMA on a firmer foundation. Without your commitment and dedication, PSRMA would not have progressed toward the ultimate goal of a permanent railroad museum in San Diego County.

We can all be proud that our museum is a successful organization devoted to the avocational study, preservation and operation of vehicles that utilize a steel wheel on a steel rail. PSRMA's membership comprises quite a crew, each involved in pursuing their own interests in the furtherance of museum goals, be it history, restoration, collecting, writing, conducting excursions, operating equipment, model building, or just plain railfanning: ferroequinologists all!

Some of the highlights of museum activity during 1978 were; Membership grew 30% to 555 members at year's end. The Railfan Patrol became an officially sanctioned activity of PSRMA, proving a valuable asset to railroaders and adding to the positive image of our museum, as well as railfans in general. Many large and small donations of historic items were received, ranging from old photographs to four ex-Navy boxcars. Contributions of funds to insure the survival of our many artifacts were received as well. The Embarcadero exhibit continues to be an important San Diego attraction. Two major excursions, Creel and Puerto Penasco, earned $7,400, our best year ever. Purchase of the William Carberry collection of railroad books, magazines, photographs, timetables and blueprints greatly expanded our research library.

The museum restoration crew made great strides toward restoring the equipment stored at NAS Miramar, finally getting the upper hand on car #1509 and car #576, as well as making significant progress on the Shay and the Army kitchen car. PSRMA continues to host groups of children and senior citizens at Miramar. There was increased attendance at the general meetings, taxing the capacity of the meeting room, with over seventy persons attending the October meeting.

We continue to hold encouraging discussions with the Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB) regarding our use of property in Campo for the museum headquarters; hopefully, this matter will be resolved in early 1979. The MTDB approved an agreement with Kyle Railways, Inc. to operate freight service on the SD&AE Railway. A provision of the agreement allows the operation of occasional excursion service. Financially, the museum finished the year in the black, ending 1978 with $16,178 in the bank, an increase of $7,138 over last year's ending balance. 1978 has been our best year ever!

During 1979 PSRMA will continue its active pursuit of a site for our museum headquarters, concentrating on MTDB-SD&AE and adjacent property in the Campo area. Additionally, the La Mesa Depot museum project may break ground, giving us a long needed metropolitan location. Of course, restoration projects will accelerate, anticipating the display needs at Campo and La Mesa. To complete all our projects in 1979 is going to take an incredible amount of work and dedicated involvement from each of us.

Every member is encouraged to become involved in some aspect of PSRMA's activities. Many and varied tasks await your attention. The first step is easy; call me at 291-4787 evenings and weekends and say "How can I help?" The association will be delighted to help you decide where you can make the greatest contribution to the museum needs. Besides, getting involved can be a lot of fun!

Monthly director's meetings are open to all PSRMA members. They are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Board Room of the San Diego Trust and Savings Bank office building in downtown San Diego. Please attend; your ideas are welcome. See you all at the annual dinner meeting February 17th!

PSRMA ADVISORY STAFF FOR 1979

General Manager----------Larry Rose
Superintendent----------John Ashman
Master Mechanic----------Ken Helm
Purchasing & Stores--------"Mick" Ackelson
Comptroller----------Eric Sanders*
Public Relations Director--OPEN

Membership Director----------Tanya Rose
Excursion Director----------Vern Cook
Special Activities Director--George Geyer
Publications Director--------Larry Rose
Exhibit Staff Director-------Jo Pressnall
(*Staff Representative on Board of Directors)

RESTORATION NEWS

by Ken Helm and Knud Antonsen

The Holiday season is usually slack time in equipment restoration and maintenance, but in between the parties and family good times a lot was accomplished.

Saturday, December 30th saw nearly the entire crew down at the Santa Fe Depot to remove a complete Waukesha air conditioning system from member Gordon Ingram's private car "Los Angeles Club". Gordon is converting his car to diesel and donated all of the existing system, in excellent working order, to PSRMA. The car is a Budd observation built in 1947 and saw service on Northern Pacific's "North Coast Limited" and was called the "Tacoma Club" at that time. The car had been re-named the "Hulham" when acquired by Gordon several years ago.

It took all day for the crew to remove the heavy engine and compressor, propane tanks, sub cooler, reservoir and assorted plumbing and parts and get everything loaded in a small fleet of pickups. Dennis Massey came to the rescue with his four-wheel drive truck about the time the museum general manager realized the 1500 lb. engine unit would squash his little Datsun pickup. Dennis also handled a hastily rented fork lift with professional skill when the awkward Waukesha was transferred from his truck to our boxcar at Miramar. This equipment is exactly like the gear we have on Victoria and has become rare and expensive in the private car marketplace. The museum is happy to have this choice windfall and special thanks are due Gordon Ingram for thinking of us.

On another front, newly elected Director Knud Antonsen is re-building the battery charging system on our 45 ton diesel. The batteries we have been using were left by the Navy when they borrowed our engine last summer and need to be replaced. Knud is also cleaning the fuel system and filters that have become clogged with impurities. Knud was also in on the Waukesha move as was Russ Sargeant, "Nick" Nichols, Norm Hill, Ken Helm, Larry Rose, Tom Collins, Ron Milot, Dennis Massey, and, of course, as you might expect, Good Ol' Jack Linn.

EXCURSION NEWS

by Vernon Cook, Excursion Chairman

Our annual Puerto Penasco trip of 1978 was a very successful sell-out. This was made possible by the assistance of many dedicated members. B. V. Parks and Eric Sanders who assisted so ably, Bert Straw who did a real hi-ball job with reservations and tickets, Frank Kearney whose publicity brought people from all around, including Arizona, car and bus attendants George Geyer, Herb Kehr, Frank Kearney, Jack Linn, Bob Martin, Dave Mason, Ann McVeagh, "Nick" Nichols, Jo Pressnall, Janice Sanders and Ed Smith are all to be thanked. A special thanks to Barbarann Parker who was always there when we needed a hand for typing addresses and labels and to those I may not have listed for a job well done.

Don't forget our future trips! You have already received notices on Benjamin Hill and Guadalajara. We also hope to run our annual trip to Santa Barbara, if we can get enough help. Call me at 422-9086 or Eric Sanders at 469-1288 if you can assist. We look forward to hearing from you!

NEW YEAR USHERED IN ON VICTORIA

The Victoria staffers hosted a New Year's party on our favorite private car that lasted 'til 3:00 am. Jo Pressnall organized the bash and brought a huge tray of fried chicken that was kept warm in the Vic's diesel fired stove. Ida Mae Milot also furnished many goodies as did several others.

Ron Milot worked all day on the many mechanical systems insuring that the lights would be on all night.

What a party! Over seventy five members passed through the car during the evening to partake of wine and cheese and a good time.

Special thanks to Dennis and Charlene Massey, Larry Rose and Ron Milot for cleaning up the car on New Year's Day.

REPORT

Official Publication of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc. P.O. Box 12096, San Diego, CA 92112.

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ASSOCIATE EDITORS - - - Ken Helm, Tanya Rose
CIRCULATION - - - - - - James J. Lundquist

Published monthly by the Association. PSRMA is a California chartered non-profit, tax-exempt organization of persons who share an interest in railroad operations, travel, and history.

Membership News

by Tanya Rose

J.D. & Dorothy Corder, charter members of PSRMA's Mc Cook Nebraska division.

John D. Corder, a Burlington Northern engineer who lives in Mc Cook, Nebraska, is the winner of our membership contest, nosing out Tanya Rose by a score of 57 to 54. Bob Martin finished in third place with 29 points.

I wish to congratulate John for winning the contest, and thank every single one of you who entered by either recruiting people and/or upgrading your own membership. I have to use two file boxes now to hold all the names of our regular and family members, and just one box, scarcely half full, for the contributing members. I recall that when I took over this job last year the membership was pretty evenly divided between regular and contributing. 1978 has been a gratifying year as far as our growth is concerned.

I extend a hearty welcome to the following new members listed here and extend an invitation to become active participants in museum activities.

FAMILY MEMBERS

Gene O. & Jacquelene Hartley
Harlan F. & Lois Hatz
James P Meglasson
H. Ernest & Jane Schnepf (upgrade)

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

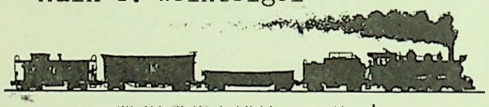
Darryl Bustamante
George E. Schnur, Jr.
Mark T. Weinberger

REGULAR MEMBERS

Walter W. Andert (upgrade)
California State R.R. Museum
Tom Cheesborough (upgrade)
P. Allen Copeland (upgrade)
Edwin J. Gaede
Terry Grater (upgrade)
Fred Kahl (upgrade)
Ethan C. Robbins
Ed Stauss (upgrade)
Verne Sweigard

IN MEMORIAM

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to long-time member Bill Kingston, owner of the Whistle Stop Model Railroad Shop, whose mother, Mrs. Kathleen Kingston, passed away January 5th after a lengthy illness.



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