



A publication for the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum members

November 2022

MUSEUM CONTINUES TO BE USED FOR FILMING ADS AND VIDEOS

Revenue Makes a Positive Impact on the Budget





**Pacific Southwest Railway Museum
Association, Inc.**
WWW.PSRM.ORG

Museum and Train Operations
Campo Depot
Highway 94 at Forrest Gate Rd, Campo
619-478-9937

La Mesa Depot Museum & Office
4695 Nebo Drive, La Mesa, CA 91941
619-465-PSRM (7776)

PSRMA Board of Directors
Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the
month except Dec at 6:30PM, A link to
join the Zoom meeting will be provided
on our website at members.psrn.org.

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Facilities Dept: Frank Denison
Museum Services Dept: Jarod Black
Operations Dept: Martin Caestecker

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Hot Scoop Editor: Jim Lundquist
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Asst. Dir. Of Facilities: Jim Lundquist
Station Master (La Mesa): Timothy Miller
Social Media Mgr: Jason Brenkow

Volunteers Respond to Request for Help

By Jim Lundquist, Editor

Last month's *Hot Scoop* was dedicated to a request for our members to become more active in volunteering. We are grateful to see so many new faces at Campo assisting in various areas in the museum—decorating for Pumpkin Trains and in the Shop Building working with the Equipment Department. **WE THANK YOU** for responding. The timing was perfect. This issue will highlight those new volunteers and their activities.



Letters. Mark Landguth writes:

“Another great *Hot Scoop*! I just finished reading it cover to cover. Thank you for getting the coverage of the Dec 10th fundraiser. The San Diego Eastern truck in Bruce’s article was very interesting. Ha had mentioned it to me but I really did not appreciate the contact until the article. Thanks for including history in *Hot Scoop*! Regards.”

Every volunteer appreciates recognition and thanks for a job well done. I know I do. Bruce Semelsberger’s effort to acquire all the local San Diego railroad history is phenomenal. In this case, he made contact with the San Diego Historical Society, developed a relationship and trust with them, and convenience them that our Museum and our Library was the correct depository for all railroad related items. They trust Bruce and they trust our Museum to be good caretakers of historic documents. It is a honor to be so well respected in the historic community. Thanks to Bruce for his diligence efforts in making this all come true.

I truly appreciate when our volunteers send in articles and photographs of interest in and around our Museum. This month, I would like to single out Jason Drenkow. Jason flew into San Diego from Nebraska to assist in decorating for the Pumpkin Trains. While at Campo, he took the time and effort to take photos of volunteer activities, took down names and sent them to me for inclusion in the *Hot Scoop*. Jason will also use these photos in our Facebook pages as he is the Facebook contact person. Thank you Jason.

If I have more photos than I can use in an issue of the *Hot Scoop*, I will post them as “bonus pages” available for our on-line readers.

Campo Video Production Report

The Museum and its volunteers provided location services for two video productions this spring.

Shooting occurred on Saturday, April 9, 2022 for a music video by singer Mercedes Scalzitti entitled "Mercedes Rides Out - Sweet Thang".

On site for the shoot was Mercedes, co-producer and actor Larry Mitchel, director-cinematographer-editor Rich Varville, two assistants, and Museum Location Coordinator Lew Wolfgang.

This shoot didn't require rail equipment movement and so the on-site crew was small. Nevertheless, the shoot was professionally and efficiently executed in one afternoon. Rich had a large van filled with very expensive production equipment and he did an excellent job of directing and handling post-production of the video.

Mercedes Rides Out - Sweet Thang

<http://sdrm.info/sweet-thang>

Several outside Campo yard scenes were used as backdrops, and the interiors of RS&S #3, The Robert Peary, ATSF #74 RPO, and one of the SD&A coaches were put to good use. A green screen was used for some of the scenes to show moving countryside's through the coach windows.

Mercedes is a native San Diegan and she remembers when people were still living in the Jacumba Cars in Jacumba.

The second shoot was a much larger affair, possibly the largest location production seen at Campo in some time. Train movement was required, with various production personal and volunteers being on site for four days.

Unfortunately, a detailed description of the shoot can't be published at this time due to a non-disclosure agreement with the producers. Public release of the completed video is scheduled for debut on January 17, 2023 at Las Vegas. Look here for a more detailed description of your Museum's involvement at that time.

Welcome New Members

Each month we are privileged to welcome new members in our Museum family. Some of these members will be come active volunteers assisting in our goal of preserving and presenting San Diego's railway history. Welcome one and all:

Lisa Davis, Tim Dickey, William (Bill) Dresselhaus, Amy Jeffers, Benjamin Lazerson, Kili Marinelle, Barbara McNeese, John Rogers and John & Cynthia Swanguen.

We invite you to participate in your railroad museum. There are MANY opportunities and jobs available.



The *Hot Scoop*® is a publication of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc.

The opinions expressed in the *Hot Scoop* are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc., (PSRMA) its officers or staff.

PSRMA Mission Statement:

PSRMA is dedicated to preserving the physical legacy and the experience of rail transportation. Programs address the historical, social, economic and technical impact of railroading with particular emphases on railroads of San Diego County and the systems with which they connected in the United States and Mexico.

PSRMA is a non-profit educational organization operating under section 501(c)3 of the tax codes. Donations may be tax deductible.

PSRMA is a member of the Heritage Rail Alliance.

Submission guidelines: All articles should be single spaced and submitted in Microsoft Word format. Photographs are also welcomed. Send all submissions to JimLundquist@gmail.com

The *Hot Scoop* is available in color via email. To receive the electronic version in PDF format, send an email to editor@psrm.org and include your name, membership number and email. Note that if you opt for the e-mail version, you will no longer receive the printed copy.

Comments are always welcome. Send your feedback to:

JimLundquist@gmail.com

Volunteers decorate for our annual Pumpkin Trains

Jason Drenkow was out at Campo on October 1st to assist in decorating for the Pumpkin Trains and took these photos of other volunteers making ready for our special trains.



Bryon, Misti and Kaylee Anderson and with friend Kaylan (white shirt) did a large portion of the haunted train.



Rena, Vanessa, Bryon and Kaylan putting in final touches of the haunted train



← Martin Caestecker on the forklift and Tom Ulrich unload straw from the AT&SF horse car.

Gabe Zorbas (left) and Jarod Black set up the straw bales as the pumpkin patch. →



← Jason Drenkow flew in from the Midwest to assist where needed.

Richard Finch took time away from the Library to set up ghosts in



Volunteers decorate for our annual Pumpkin Trains and more - continued

It is so **GREAT** to see so many volunteers and new faces working around our museum.



(left) Martin Caestecker and Richard Ulrich install a new hand brake on a SD&A coach inside the Shop Building.



(right) Richard Finch has a new Halloween ghost display set up in the #050 inside the Exhibit Hall.



(left) Jason Drenkow works on a Halloween display on the steps of the RPO car.



(left) Mark Landguth is working on the seats in UP #576 coach car.



(right) Martin Caestecker and Stephen Hager continue the effort of installing new hand brakes.



All photos by Jim Lundquist



Visitors enjoying the Pumpkin Trains at Campo by Jim Lundquist

There were many happy families at Campo this month enjoying the Pumpkin Trains. There were special display and decorations inside the Exhibit Hall for all to enjoy.



(right) Timothy Miller, along with BJ Miller and Justin Hyland were in charge of the pumpkin patch this year.



Photos by Jim Lundquist
10/8/22

Ongoing Maintenance Completed by Volunteers



Father and son volunteers, Tim (father) and Darrien (son) Mendeola. Cleaning and changing gasket for air brake cylinders on coach car 254. Tim, Darrien and Jason Drenkow, under the guidance of Stephen Hager were able to fix an air leak on 254 by replacing a union and were able to service both brake cylinders in 1 afternoon.



Carl cleans and services windows in ATSF 1509



Tom Ulrich lending a hand on coach car 254.

Sunday October 2nd crew. Three new volunteers is all it took to make tremendous progress on getting our operational fleet serviced and ready to go for busy event season.



Jason Drenkow scrubs the brake cylinders of 254 clean and can't believe he's working on railroad cars. He learned a lot about air brake systems and found the work to be very rewarding.

All photos by Jason Drenkow 10/2-3/2022



Martin Caestecker works on #254.

From the Back Platform

by Stephen Hager, President

The Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association's holiday season has officially started! As of writing this, we have successfully completed three out of four weekends of our popular Pumpkin Express event. The turnout this year has exceeded expectations with over 600 visitors coming to Campo to ride the trains each weekend. First class service on the Pumpkin Express trains aboard ATSF 1509 has been particularly popular, often selling out well in advance.

As with any special event, the Pumpkin Express trains are volunteer-intensive. A small core group of volunteers has been responsible for making this event a success each weekend. That core group includes Richard Finch and Timothy and BG Miller, who have been managing the festivities in the Exhibit Hall every single day of the event. Richard has been running the projection equipment in SD&A 050, creating a spooky holographic experience for those who dare to enter. Timothy and BG have been tending the pumpkin patch and the decorating stations as hundreds of visitors pass through each day. Bruce Semelsberger, Mark Brown, and Justin Hyland have also been stepping in to assist Timothy and BG on various dates.

In the gift shop at the Campo Depot, work camper Teresa Gonzales has continued to work tirelessly to keep the steady stream of arriving visitors moving through the gift shop as quickly as possible. Teresa has also been receiving some much-needed assistance from Vanessa Garcia and Pat Filiciccia. Work camper Pablo Martinez has been tending to various janitorial duties around the grounds throughout the event. Aboard ATSF 1509, Grace Brown has been staffing the bar nearly every day of the event. Lastly, I

would like to acknowledge Colin Atwood, who has volunteered in train service for four out of six days of the event to date.

Since August, volunteers in the equipment department have been cycling our passenger cars through the Campo Car Shop to receive their annual inspections, testing, and maintenance. On top of the usual air brake maintenance and testing, SD&A coaches 252, 253, and 254 have all received new handbrake mechanisms this year. The brand-new mechanisms were purchased to eliminate a clearance problem with the old mechanisms, and have the added benefit of being much stronger! Most of the mechanical work has taken place under the supervision of Martin Caestecker and myself. We have been assisted on various dates throughout the last three months by Colin Atwood, Mark Landguth, Tim Wamsley, Rich Paulus, Jim Baker, Jason Drenkow, Paul Bandemer, Duke Schweikert, Tim Mendeola, Darrien Mendeola, and others (apologies to those whose names I missed).

As soon as the Pumpkin Express event concludes, we will be quickly changing gears to prepare for our most popular event, the North Pole Limited! NPL project manager Mark Landguth has been working diligently to plan this year's event and recruit volunteers to fill several critical roles. Mark has separately assembled an extensive list of volunteer needs for the event and I don't desire to duplicate his efforts. However, suffice it to say that we are in need of more volunteers to make this event go off successfully. Interested in helping with the North Pole Limited event? You can contact Mark directly at npl@psrm.org to see how you can help.

I hope to see you out at Campo soon. Until next time, keep it on the high iron!



Tim Mendeola assists in removing seats in the UP #576 while one new seat cushion has been completed.

Photo by Mark Landguth



With the Pumpkin Trains over, next up are the North Pole Limited's and



The image features a festive holiday-themed advertisement. At the top left is a circular logo for the "NORTH POLE LIMITED" with a green banner across it that reads "PACIFIC SOUTHWEST RAILWAY MUSEUM". To the right of the logo, the words "SANTA", "NEEDS", and "HELPERS" are stacked vertically in white boxes. The central image shows Santa Claus, with a white beard and red suit, sitting in the window of a red train car and waving. Below the train window, the website address "www.PSRM.org/volunteer" is written in white text.

NORTH POLE LIMITED
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST RAILWAY MUSEUM

**SANTA
NEEDS
HELPERS**

www.PSRM.org/volunteer

There are a variety of volunteer jobs which need to be filled. Please refer to the October 2022 *HotScoop*, pages 5 & 6, for a complete list. If you can assist, please make contact with Mark Landguth via email at **NPL@PSRM.ORG**

thank you!

A note from Fundraising by Donna Spevack

Thank you to our donors:

Foster and Pamela Stahl (purchased a bench in Memory of Larry and Tanya Rose); Mike Retz (reupholstering seat in coach car UP#576); Tom Frankum – Steam or Museum; Carol Bailey-Sumber; Lenora Porella; Karen Scanlon; Greg Brands; Judy Tagg and Mr. Ronald Atkinson- donated a 7.5 ft tree and an array of railway ornaments to the La Mesa Depot.

Have you made your reservations for the NPL? Better hurry as it fills up fast [North Pole Limited – Pacific Southwest Railway Museum \(psrm.org\)](http://psrm.org).

And not to forget along with Christmas comes shopping season and the thought of gift giving. Want a unique gift for that special hard to buy for person on your list, plus the benefit of an deductible tax donation (two for the price of one). Look no further, I've highlighted a few below for you to consider:

What about a membership to PSRM [PSRMA Membership Information – Pacific Southwest Railway Museum](http://psrm.org) or their very own bench with plaque at the museum. Maybe a seat to be reupholstered on the UP#576 (contact us for options).

Think that guy or that train enthusiast on your list might want to ride in the Locomotive Cab upon his visit to PSRM? Well, it's just a click away at [Locomotive Cab Rides – Pacific Southwest Railway Museum \(psrm.org\)](http://psrm.org).

Don't forget **NOVEMBER 29th** is Giving Tuesday!

You can easily donate online at www.psr.org or mail with the clip out below to:
PSRM, 4695 Nebo Dr., La Mesa, CA 91941-5259.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Project or general fund: _____ (please specify)

If you are interested in volunteering with a specific project or if you would like to volunteer with the NPL excursion ride November 25-December 17, please let us know. Mark Landguth needs volunteers!

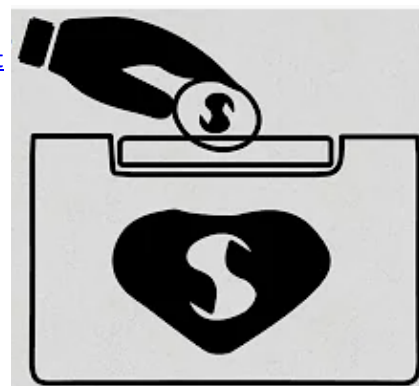
We thank you in advance and welcome all volunteers and donations to help with restorations and special events. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you!

Like us on Facebook! [Pacific Southwest Railway Museum Association, Inc. | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/PacificSouthwestRailwayMuseumAssociation).

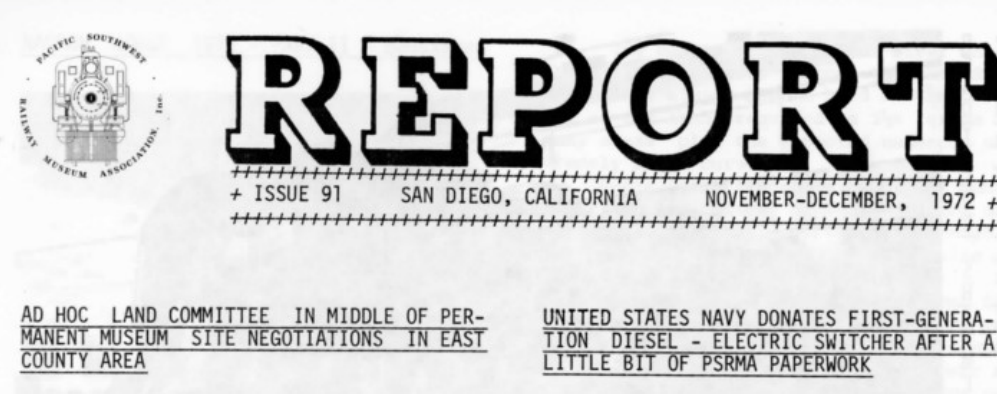
Thank you for you continued support!

Donna J. Spevack
Administrator of Fund Development
Fundraising@PSRM.org



Looking Back at Museum History

50 years ago - November 1972: The newsletter, then called the *Report*, reported on a proposal to

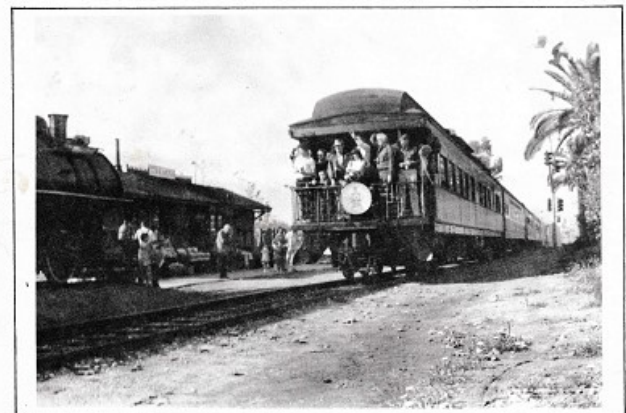


lease property in Campo east of the depot and the acquisition of our first diesel-electric locomotive. The lease fell through but in less than a decade later, the Museum purchased eight acres in Campo! The locomotive acquired was the

#7485, which was the Museum's workhorse in bringing all the equipment to Campo 11 years later. #7485 was also used at Miramar and leased to the San Diego Trolley during their start-up period.

40 years ago - November 1982: ➡

After a successful "La Mesa Cannonball" weekend passenger trains, the Museum operated "Santa Claus Express" trains between Lemon Grove, La Mesa and El Cajon. Over 1,000 passengers enjoyed the trains over the weekend.



THE 2nd S.D. & A.E. EXCURSION IN 54 YEARS !

← **10 years ago - November 2012:**

The Museum was working with Walt Disney Studios to produce a scene for their movie "Saving Mr. Banks." The movie was a story about Walt Disney, played by Tom Hanks. The film was named one of the ten best films of 2013 by the National Board of Review and the American Film Institute, and was also commercially successful, grossing \$118 million at the worldwide box office.



Walt Disney Studios technicians install cameras on PSRM caboose 13936, the "Mo Pac" caboose, in preparation for filming for the movie "Saving Mr. Banks." The movie, starring Tom Hanks as Walt Disney, will be released in late 2013. More pictures on Page 10. Photo by Dave Tomeraasen

North Pole Limited PRESIDENT'S CAR FUNDRAISER



JOIN THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST RAILWAY MUSEUM FOR AN
EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE!
KICK BACK AND RELAX ON A CHARTERED BUS TOUR FROM
SAN DIEGO TO CAMPO. ENJOY A PRIVATE WINE TASTING
AND LIGHT MEAL IN OUR DISPLAY BUILDING BEFORE
JOINING SANTA AND HIS CREW FOR A RIDE ON THE NORTH
POLE LIMITED.

DECEMBER 10, 2022
\$300 PER PERSON

TICKETS
ON SALE NOW!
WWW.PSRM.ORG

New Exhibit and updated signs at Campo by Jim Lundquist



There is a new exhibit board being constructed in our Exhibit Hall. The moveable wall will feature railroad scenes in and around San Diego while also serving to hide the pedestrian rails.



(left) A new banner was designed for our special trains and installed at the directional signs in Campo.

(right) A new sign at La Mesa Depot reflects the new hours.



(below) The station signs on the SD&A were renewed as the old ones had weathered.



All signs were installed by Jim Lundquist.

*All photos by Jim Lundquist
10/15/22*



Operations Volunteers for September 26, 2022 to October 23, 2022

by Rich Paulus, Chief Operations Officer

Train Service - those who are qualified train crew members and speeder operators/crew who have helped us run 9 Golden State trains, 2 Sunset Special trains, 24 Pumpkin Express trains, and the number of days they have volunteered through October 23: Colin Atwood 4, Jim Baker 1, Paul Bandemer 1, Carl Brooker 2, Martin Caestecker 2, John Cenken 1, Stephen Hager 3, Randy Houk 1, Justin Hyland 2, Charlie Karayan 1, Bryson Medlock 1, Mike McIntyre 2, Rich Paulus 2, Glen Rogers 3, Duke Schweikert 2, Dave Smith 1, Rob Stebbins 2, Tom Ulrich 1, and Tim Wamsley 3.

Pumpkin Express is one of our major fundraisers in the year. We are 3 weeks into the 4 weeks of Pumpkin Express trains and 2100 passengers so far have ridden the train to the Pumpkin Patch and Haunted Train in the Exhibit Hall.

MOW - maintenance of way volunteers who have assisted Roadmaster Glen Rogers and Track Foreman James Caestecker in maintaining tracks and right-of-way this period: James Caestecker 1, Martin Caestecker 1, Glen Rogers 2, and Tom Ulrich 1.

Yard switching - these are the volunteers who have worked in PSRM and CAMPO yards this period: Jim Baker 1 and Rich Paulus 1.

This totals to 41 volunteer-days this period.

LIBRARY UPDATE FOR OCTOBER 2022

by Bruce Semelsberger

Autumn has come to Campo in its usual variable fashion; air conditioning required one day and heat the next in the office, but our archival spaces remain relatively stable in their enclosed metal boxes. Each work day we open all of the doors to let the interiors equalize and then close them off at days end to isolate the contents from any hazards that may occur when no one is there. The routine of processing donated items goes on as usual while other considerations such as upgrading software and computers are discussed. We are now looking for recommendations from the membership for an IT consultant to come out and advise us on setting up a server-based network. If anyone has had a good experience in that arena, please forward your recommendation to us at psrmlibrary@att.net.

One project nearing conclusion has been the unpacking of stored artifacts from several donors including the estates of Doug Duncan and Roy Athey and particularly Thomas Sefton as mentioned in previous articles. The Sefton collection was received in at least 28 boxes during the early 2000s and stored in our race-horse express car after being processed while the library was in storage. Each box apparently came with an inventory sheet, but most of those are now missing and the volunteers who did the work are no longer available for questions, so we have been left with the task of identifying a vast variety of items of all sorts as a part of each work day.

On the 22nd, a group of similar items from more than one box was assembled and proved to be minor variations of the same uncommon item. Each item is an oval brass tag with an engraved number in large print and has an attached leather strap. Some of the straps are of a different hue or length. Each tag has the words "Baggage Check" below the number in small print and the abbreviation "O.M. & EX. CO." in larger print above the number. Can you guess what the lettering might mean? Hint: This predates the completion of the transcontinental railroad and is NOT a railroad item.

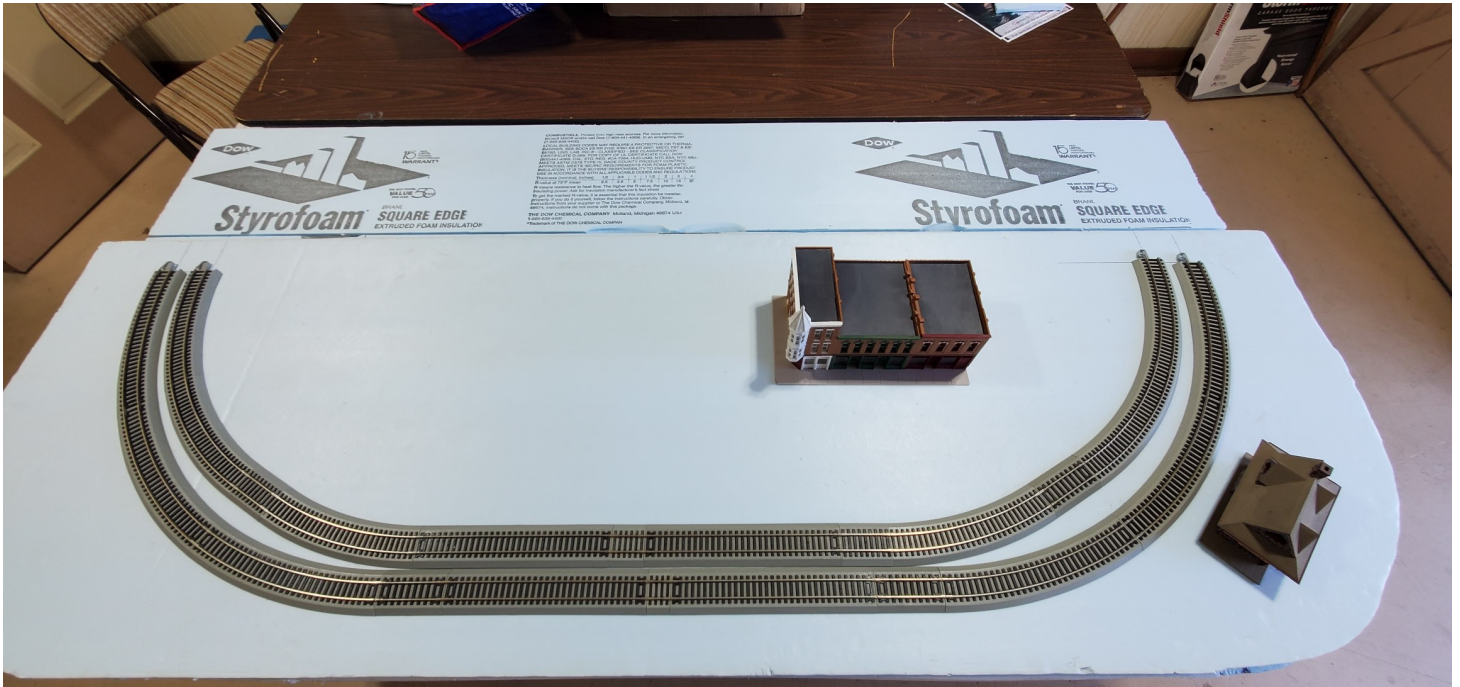
If you guessed that these are from George Halliday's Overland Mail & Express Company, you are, indeed, a student of the Old West! This pioneering stagecoach line had its heyday around 1866 and was sold to Wells Fargo about the time of the 1869 completion of the railroad. How Mr. Sefton managed to acquire so many of these rare items is a testament to his passion for collecting and saving tangible assets of our history and we are proud to have them in our collection.

In place of our usual plea for library volunteers, I ask that if you have not participated in any of our special events before, please consider helping out in November as we prepare for the North Pole Limited. There is a lot of cleaning and decorating to be done before and during the December event and you will not only make some new friends but will feel some real holiday spirit and a great sense of accomplishment.

Down at the Depot November 2022 by Timothy Miller, Station Agent

We have been busy at the La Mesa Depot. We were open during all three days of the La Mesa Octoberfest. Timothy and BG Miller were there Friday and Sunday, and Paul Falk held down the depot on Saturday. We made sure to pass out lots of flyers and give lots of information about riding our trains to the Pumpkin Patch and the North Pole. The La Mesa Village shops will be open for Trick or Treaters on Halloween evening. We plan on being open, and handing out flyers as well, from 4:00 to 6:00PM.

Progress in getting trains running on the module railroad has been steady.



The water fountain replacement has not started yet, but most of the fittings to repair the rest room plumbing have been purchased. The best monthly improvement was when Jim Lundquist updated the museum's sign on the front lawn with the museum's correct hours of operation!

Save the date! We will be hosting a Holiday Gathering at the La Mesa Depot on the evening of Tuesday, December 13, 2022, from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM. You're invited to visit and see what's new. Warm drinks and snacks will be provided.

Volunteer needed to answer museum phone by Gabe Zorbas

We are looking for one or more volunteers who would be willing to be put on our Grasshopper phone tree for our general inbox. This only entails responding to voicemails left on our museum voicemail box. Most messages left are just answering simple questions, such as train and museum times, location, and other similar inquiries.

All that is required is a working smart phone. This is the perfect opportunity for anyone who would like to help out more but can't make it down to the museum as often as you would like!

If you are interested in helping out, please let me know! Email: GZorbas@psrm.org

Last Stop. San Diego & Arizona Eastern Railway passenger train #3 arrives San Diego Union Station in downtown San Diego. Note the truck unloading from the baggage car. This scene looks different today with electric trolleys passing by on two new tracks behind the steam locomotive and the tracks used by Amtrak, Coaster and BNSF freight trains. Alas, the SD&AE no longer serves the station, but, the station, now known as the Santa Fe Depot, exists almost unchanged. *Facebook, Photo by H.W. May. Ron Amberger collection.*

