

R.H.S. of S.D. Newsletter No. Two, 1963
RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO, INC. - NEWSLETTER - No. 2-1963 - FEBRUARY -

FEBRUARY MEETING: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 1963 - 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: SANTA FE RAILWAY STATION, Kettner & Broadway - Upstairs in the Safety Room.

PROGRAM: Following a short business session this month's program will be on the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority. (Streetcars and service on 3/31/63.)

STREETCAR NUMBER 54

Former cable car # 54 is becoming a very fine appearing car again thanks to the small group of hard working society members that have been turning out each Saturday. The work would be accomplished much faster with bigger work crews.

Restoration work has now progressed to the point of new flooring, reinforcing of floor with new beams and repairs to original beams, all metal straps and braces have been cleaned and painted, new end sills, etc. Above the line of frame and floor the siding is being replaced and all old paint being scraped off and a new coat of sealer put on. The car has a new roof and the step straps and steps are being put on.

If you haven't been down to look at car 54 lately you will be surprised the next time you see it. The car is making headway in its come back but we still need many able helping hands on Saturday work days on old 54. The car is at the Whaley House in Old Town, on the bus line, plenty of free parking....when are you going to come down and put in a few hours rebuilding our fine old trolley car?

Our thanks to that little, hard working, on the job group that is responsible for the work done to date. Our carpenter, Walter Silberhorn, has done a fine job so far, all he asks is that more members turn out to help. 2nd V.P. Tommy Mann has spent endless hours at the car and in making arrangements for materials, etc. Our 1st V.P., (in 1962) and now president, Earle Swaine, has done more than his share on the 54. There are others that have been helping on the work of restoring the car, to them we also say a big thank you. Don't quit, keep up the good work and some of you members that have not had a bit of time spent on car 54...how about coming out some Saturday and giving us a hand. There are all kinds of jobs to be done, you are sure to find a job you are capable of doing.

EVERY SATURDAY...Next door to the Whaley House on San Diego Avenue in Old Town.

Contact 2nd V.P. Tommy Mann for further information: 273-8824

STREETCAR NUMBER 171

San Francisco trolley # 171 located at the Orange Empire Trolley Museum in Perris shows signs of weather and wear. There is a work party planned for the weekend of February 9th and 10th, 1963.

There is much to be done on car 171 to get it looking bright and shiny once more. There is clean up work to be done prior to painting.

If you will have a free weekend soon, try to make it for the 9th & 10th of February. If possible, get up to Perris for one or the other of the two day work party, Sat. or Sunday.

Wear old work clothes, contact V.P. Tommy Mann for further information: 273-8824

1963 DINNER & INSTALLATION

A nice crowd turned out at the Midway Chuck Wagon on Monday, January 7th, 1963. The big night for the new society officers. Our old buddy Jack Stodolle took over as MC and read off the names of the 1962 and 1963 officers. Each new officer read a list of his duties and the outgoing officers were all given a hand for the fine job done in 1962.

Small wooden gavels were presented to each of the past presidents since the society incorporated in 1958. The brass band is engraved with the members name and year he served as president.

As a review for those not attending the big doings, Wendol Pyers steps down from president and Earle Swaine takes over. Earle had been 1st VP and in his place for '63 we now have Thomas Matson. Leaving the job of 2nd V.P. and taking over again is Tommy Mann, he is the man with the job of over seeing all of the society owned

railway equipment. Gladys Umbarger switches from Recording Secretary to 3rd V.P. this year. Charles Resak retires from 2nd V.P. and steps down to being just a good old regular member. Wally Ruthie is now our Recording Secretary and Jane Resak hands over the position of Corresponding Secretary to Barbara Thomson. Our good man Fred Fink takes over as Treasurer for another term, Fred is a regular at that job!! In the Excursion Directors place we again have Corky Thomson and Dwight Couch takes over as our Historian from Eric Sanders.

MAY 5th 1963??

The NEWSLETTER is the official monthly race bulletin of the RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO, Inc. and is published by the Pacific Beach & Western Press (hand operated) for distribution to members and exchange with other railroad groups. Corky Thomson, Editor. R.H.S.of S.D. mailing address: P.O. Box 9351, San Diego 9, California.

EDITORIAL

What does it take to lure new members and get the present members active in society doings? Good question! The R.H.S.of S.D. was a small group of devoted members some 15 to eight years ago and in years before that. Now the society has grown up from 8 to 14 members to well over 100 regular members each year. Out of this growth we have added to our group of railway cars and equipment, from S.D.&A.E. locomotive 108 and observation car 090, now we also own San Francisco streetcar 171 (now at O.E.T. in Pomona, Calif.) San Diego Electric Ry. 528, a handsome P.C.C. streamlined streetcar and last purchased by the S.D.E.Ry. Also on our list is that much talked of old streetcar #4, once a cable car, later built larger for trolley service, retired for many years as a residence and now once again about to be restored to an electric trolley car. We have a narrow gauge U.S. Gypsum Co. crew car in storage out near El Cajon, plus other odds and ends....not to mention the wish to add to our list many other items of the shining rails. Where to put them? Who will maintain them?

At no time in the history of this historical group has there been a greater need for leadership, organization and equipment. Who will help to supply these items? First we need an active working group, people that will take a little time to devote toward society projects. There have been some members in recent years that saw fit to drop out, strangely they were the people with the most time and the ability to carry out many of our present projects and help make the future projects come true. Were they just too lazy to carry the burden? Were there hard feelings because everyone couldn't be the boss instead of the worker? Whatever the cause, these people, or new people with the same abilities are needed in our society to help carry the burden, share the fun, work together for the general good of all members and share equally the pleasure gained each time another fine old railway car or streetcar is acquired and restored.

Thanks to those of you that have done so much and continue unselfishly to carry on the good work. We hope some of the past members (continued in next column.....)

BIG RED PRIVATE CARS

In this age of private car ownership the rails ring once again to the flanges of these big former Soo Line cars. Recently our former Soo Line #52, now the Cyrus K. Holliday, owned by a group of San Diegans (including several of our R.H.S.of S.D. members) was on the line of the Santa Fe and Union Pacific on a trip to famous Las Vegas. The Mt. Rubidoux Chapter of the Pacific Railroad Society also owns one of these Soo Line cars, number 94. They have been over the Santa Fe and the U.P. to Los Angeles on several occasions from the home base. San Bernardino, car #4 has also been to Arizona, and now plans are all set up for a jaunt to the city by the Golden Gate, San Francisco. Reason for the trip is to hear a Sorensen performance on the big Worlitzer Organ in the Fox Theatre. This fine old theatre will soon be torn down and this will be the final midnight concert. The trip goes north on the rear of S.P.'s #91 and return via the S.P. San Joaquin Daylight, #52. This should prove to be a memorable trip for the members of the Mt. Rubidoux Chapter. This journey is planned for the weekend of Feb. 9th & 10th.

Speaking of private cars, red once that is, our new member, 14 year old Jonathan Soap, has his former S.P. commute coach (S.D.&A.E. M.W.) stored on the end of the old Cadahy spur. This old Harwin Standard will require a lot of fixing to make it worthy of main line running but given a little time and hard work she may see main line service again someday. Jon would like to make an open and observation out of it.

The society could sure enjoy small group trips if we owned a good car for such use, any suggestions? Things like private cars and the fun of an occasional trip can do wonders for a group like ours....but once again it requires a good active membership. Anyone for buying a big red Soo Line car?

MAY 5th, 1963 ???

EDITORIAL....Continued from column one:
may see fit to rejoin the R.H.S.of S.D. and the present members find more time to get into the restoration work and society activities. There are probably many people in the San Diego area that might be quite interested in membership... here is where the present members may help. Get out and sign up new members, spread the word of our group to people interested in railroading and the history of rails in this area.

We have a good group, some very fine railroad equipment and we are located very close to what is becoming one of the best trolley museums in the country....what more can we ask for? GET ACTIVE IN R.H.S.of S.D. IN 1963!!

STREETCAR TRIPS ON THE L.A.M.T.A.

Feb. 3: sponsored by P.R.S.

Feb. 9: (originally planned for the 16th)

This trip will be sponsored by ERHsofSC and will benefit the O.E.T. LAMTA FUND. The car will be all-electric PCC #3165 on this trip. R.H.S.ofS.D. members are urged to take part in this streetcar excursion, fare is \$5.00 (\$2.50 for children under 12 accompanied by parent or guardian.) Saturday, February 9th, 11am to 5pm

March 3: sponsored by SDCRMA, via charter bus from San Diego, fare is \$9.00 (meals extra)

March 10th: sponsored by P.R.S.

March 17th: sponsored by ERHsofSC using cars listed as "mystery equipment" which might be anything, sounds like a fun day.

March 30th: sponsored by ERHsofSC, this will be a daytime trip, later in the day there is an evening or better yet, all nighter.

March 30th: sponsored by P.R.S., afternoon & evening trip.

March 30-31: sponsored by ERHsofSC, all night final streetcar trip.

This is the end of trolley days of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority, cars and service on March 31, 1962. Another fine fleet of streetcars falling to the smell and fumes of disease'ls. (busses)

For information and fares on any or all of the above trips contact the following names:

P.R.S. Pacific Railroad Society, Inc., P.O. Box 5279, Metro Sta., Los Angeles 55, Calif.

E.R.H.A. of S.C. Electric Railway Historical Association of Southern California, 936 South Genesee Ave., Los Angeles 36, California.

S.D.C.R.M.A. San Diego County Railway Museum Association, c/o Wally Dathis, 2800 University Ave., San Diego 4, California.

P.R.S. HI-LEVEL

Pacific Railroad Society came into our city on Sunday, January 27th with a nice big train of hi-level Santa Fe equipment. Ten of the big cars plus the standard Dol Mar Snack Car, an open door baggage car and good old open platform observation car 1509. Diesel 339 had the honor of this "Sunday in San Diego" by the P.R.S. and about 700 passengers detrained at San Diego for a trip to the zoo or a harbor tour. Local railfans went wild taking pictures along the coast and on the trip to the "eye" at National City. Many society members were on hand when the special arrived.

GENERAL ELECTRIC

G.E. publishes a monthly news magazine called "GOING PLACES" which is available for the asking. Write: General Electric Company, 212 No. Vignes St., Los Angeles 54, California.

The January issue is a "must read" issue and covers the recent approval for a rapid transit system in the San Francisco bay area. This is for persons interested in electric railroad transportation.

(Editors note: this is quarterly, not monthly.)

R.H.S.ofS.D. BADGES

For the small sum of one dollar, you can wear a handsome RHsofSD membership badge, you members without badges....write for one, send a dollar and get your badge.

R.H.S. of S.D. RENEWALS & DONATIONS

1963 society renewals have been coming in at a nice pace. Actually our deadline is in March but the earlier the renewal, the sooner we have our 1963 roster complete and ready for mailing.

To date we have about 80 renewals and now members for 1963, that's good for January. If you haven't renewed or signed up that new member, get your check in and get that new member!!

A very special word of thanks is due to the following members as they are the good people that have included in addition to their dues, a donation to the restoration fund, thank you all.....

ROBERT BALZER, HENRY F. EUGENHAGEN, BERNHARD D. EUNJE, JOHN H. GORBY, THOMAS N. HANMORE, DOUGLAS HARLEY, WILLIAM A. KINGSTON, GEORGE R. LLEWELLYN, JR., THOMAS W. MATSON, MURRAY S. SMITH, ROBERT M. SMITH, LOUIS J. THOMAS.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF RHsofSD

We have picked up some new and interested members for the year 1963, welcome to the society.....

ROBERT & ZELMA GREEN, WILLIAM H. PETERSON, JONATHAN W. SAAP, and STANFORD UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES.

R.H.S.ofS.D. 1963 MEMBERSHIP CARDS

They will be mailed shortly, we are going to double check all of our renewals and the addresses.....we realize some of you failed to get 1962 cards....WATCH FOR YOUR 1963 CARD SOON