



REPORT

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY
AMERICA
200 YEARS

1976

1776



RAILROADS AND THE BICENTENNIAL

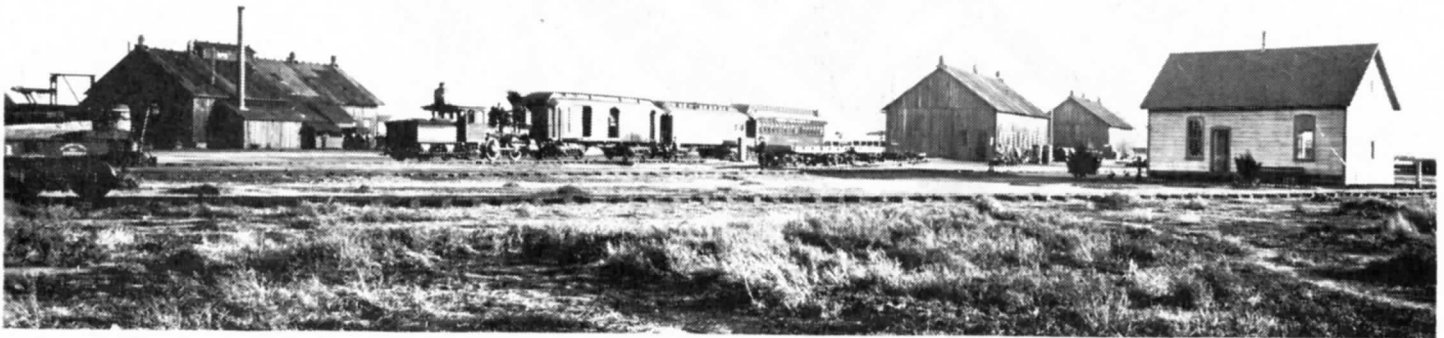
by H. Chalmers Kerr, Jr.

Railroads have earned their place in America's history. The year 1976 will highlight 200 years of American history. During the last 130 years of this period, American railroads played a major role in the development and settlement of the vast expanse of the continental United States. Without the railroads providing cheap and dependable service before and after the east-west linkup in Utah on May 10, 1869, the western United States would have been greatly handicapped in its development, perhaps never reaching its present position.

Also, in times of great national need both at home and overseas, railroads have played a decisive role, particularly during the War Between the States and both World Wars. Even in the Space Age, the flanged wheel on the steel rail is the most efficient and economical means of moving large numbers of people and monumental quantities of material.

For pure nostalgia, a steam locomotive-powered train has no equal. The steam locomotive was long an integral part of American life, and it has been immortalized in countless poems, songs, and motion pictures. It is an awesome machine, combining elemental fire, water, and fuel to produce power and earth-shaking din, accompanied by a whistle that has haunted and aroused generations. Although the steam era ended more than 20 years ago for all practical purposes, large portions of the populace remember it. And as the steam locomotive's phenomenal popularity in recent years testifies, many would like to see steam return to America's railroads.

Locally, railroads haven't taken a back seat to anything. San Diego County citizens began sending representatives East as early as 1840 to expound the merits of a San Diego terminus for a transcontinental railroad. Six times San Diegans were promised a railroad. Finally, during 1881-1885, the California Southern Railroad was built north from National City via Temecula to Colton, San Bernardino, and Barstow. The line was completed on November 15, 1885, and initial service provided two trains daily to a connection with the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad at Barstow. Eventually, the Santa Fe Railroad absorbed the California Southern and the A & P, and the present route between Los Angeles and San Diego was completed on August 12, 1888, downgrading the Fallbrook-Temecula-Colton route to a branch line.



Calif. Southern R.R. switch engine makes up one of daily trains in the yards at National City about 1886 (Title Insurance & Trust Co. collection)

San Diegans couldn't be content without a direct rail route East. In December, 1906, the San Diego & Arizona Railway was incorporated and the late, great John D. Spreckels broke ground for the new venture near 28th & Main St. on September 7, 1907. Twelve years and \$18 million later, on November 15, 1919, Spreckels hammered home the golden spike in rugged Carrizo Gorge. The "Impossible Railroad" was now a reality and San Diego had its direct connection East



First through passenger train arrives in San Diego on the new San Diego & Arizona Railway, December 1, 1919 (Title Insurance & Trust Co.)

through El Centro in the Imperial Valley.

Last but not least, street railways were a part of the local scene. Numerous lines came and went. The San Diego Cable Railway opened in 1890 and operated for about a year. The San Diego Electric Railway operated streetcars and busses for decades, suspending service in 1949. Coronado had the Orange Avenue line, and La Jolla and Mission Beach were served by a magnificent interurban line beginning in 1924.

As you can see, railroads have played a major part in the growth and heritage of San Diego, and in fact the entire United States. Therefore, railroads and railroaders are rightfully represented in the American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration. HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!!

SAN DIEGO STREETCARS ON TAP FOR JULY MEETING



Nostalgic scenes of the era of sparking trolley wires in San Diego will unfold as several PSRMA members team up for a movie & slide streetcar extravaganza on Friday, July 23, 1976.

Members Bill Wooten, Eric Sanders, and others will present rare films of San Diego Electric Railway's P.C.C., 400-class, Wilkes-Barre, New York 3rd Ave., Class 11, and work cars in action throughout the sprawling local system that should have never been scrapped. Wooten, a director of the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Riverside County and a co-editor of their newsletter, was active in PSRMA during its formative years but a move to the Los Angeles area eliminated his active participation with the local group.

Another large crowd is planned for this meeting, which is also the annual nominations meeting for next year's executive staff. A display of trolley material and paraphernalia may be available to set the mood for this fascinating program. Plan to join us on July 23rd for a ride through yesterday. Refreshments will be served.

1977 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS - NOMINATIONS DUE

Well, it's that time of year for us to again be thinking about the members we feel should be at the throttle to guide us through the anti-climactic year of 1977. Article IV of the Association By-laws states that "nomin-

ations shall be made during the third regular business meeting of the year". The July 23rd General Meeting will be the nominating meeting for 1977 officers and directors. Nominations can be sent in by mail, using the form supplied elsewhere in this issue, or voiced in person at the meeting, at which time the nominations will be closed. If you mail your nomination, please be sure it is mailed in time to be received no later than July 23rd.

It is very important to the continued success of PSRMA that mature, responsible, dedicated, and concerned members be elected to serve as officers and directors of YOUR museum association. PLEASE do not nominate another for a position without first determining that the member possesses the qualifications for the job and is willing to actively serve the Museum if elected. This point is very crucial. Disinterested or unqualified staff members will be a detriment to PSRMA during our developing years. Don't forget: you can nominate yourself.

The By-laws also state that an officer or director must be a Regular member in good standing. An individual becomes a "Regular" member only after serving as an "Associate" member for six months from the date he joins as a Regular member. Associate or Contributing members do not have the right to vote or hold Museum office. (H. C. Kerr, Jr.)

SUCCESS ON THE EMBARCADERO

by H. C. Kerr, Jr.

The Association's "Golden Age of Railroading" exhibit is going like "Gangbusters"! By the time you read this issue of REPORT, more than 5000 people will have visited the VICTORIA and COOS BAY No. 11 on display near the Star of India Maritime museum. Local and out-of-town visitors are running about even, and most of those passing through leave a donation. So far, PSRMA's coffers have been swelled by donations totalling over \$800. In addition, 15 of the guests have become members. With this kind of success, the Bicentennial year will be a pinnacle period for PSRMA public exposure. Hopefully, this enthusiasm will carry over into future years. It has so far been proven that an interesting static railway exhibit will attract the public in San Diego, provided it is located in an accessible site that doesn't require advance planning to visit. We as an organization must always remember that it will be the general public who will be visiting us, spending money, and leaving donations. If we expect to depend entirely upon the solid railfan hobbyist, we are doomed to financial failure.

So far, only a very small percentage of Museum members have volunteered to staff the exhibit. The assignment is fun, not too tiring, and is immensely beneficial to the Museum. Volunteers are needed NOW. If sufficient volunteers are available, the exhibit should be open every day until school opens in September. If you can serve as an exhibit host, Call Barbrann Parker (465-6387) or Ron Milot (298-8447) immediately. If only half of our membership volunteers, few will be required to serve more than once.

EDITOR: Dick Pennick, 9584 Upland St.,
Spring Valley (463-2276)
CIRCULATION: Ron Zeiss (277-8194)

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Since May 8th, according to a list submitted by V.P. George Geyer, the following members have staffed the exhibit. The number after each name indicates the number of staffing assignments accepted:

Frank Kearny	1
Daniel McLean	1
Ronald Milot	17
Ronald Zeiss	1
Eric Sanders	1
Ellen Sanders	1
Paul Sanders	1
Janet Sanders	1

Bill Hoefler	4	Hilma Muzikar	1
Tanya Rose (non-member)	6	John Patterson	9
Barbarann Parker	11	James Lundquist	6
Chuck Parker	3	Bob Wilson	1
Steven Rosefeld	1	Ronald Palhegyi	1
Anita Rhein	2	Corinne Tincannon	4
Cecil Badman	1	George Geyer	14

(as of June 24, 1976)

George extends a hearty thanks to all of the above for the contribution of their time and effort in the furtherance of Museum goals.

The San Diego Union and Evening Tribune have given space to the exhibit during the last few weeks, and the Grand Opening and ribbon cutting was held as advertised on Saturday, June 26th with Channels 8 and 10 covering the festivities. The ceremony was aired on both channels the same evening and observers report the coverage and the extent of the information was quite good. President Kerr gave some appropriate comments followed by the ceremonial ribbon cutting and the exhibit was officially launched.

ZEISS SUFFERS AUTO ACCIDENT

Ron Zeiss, Circulation Manager for REPORT, was involved in an unfortunate automobile accident on the freeway while on his way to pick up the June issue for mailing. Although Ron fortunately was not seriously hurt, his car was a total loss. He has indicated he will be unable to handle the REPORT mailing for six months or more. Any volunteers?

VICTORIA OPEN HOUSE MODERATE SUCCESS

Despite the admittedly short notice in REPORT about the member open-house at railcar VICTORIA on June 19th, many PSRMA members and friends took the opportunity to stop by and enjoy canapes in the relaxed atmosphere of the plush private car. For the benefit of those who were unable to attend on the 19th, another similar open-house has been planned for July 21st, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Museum members and guests welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

SMITHSONIAN COMMENTS FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mr. S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary to the great Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. had this to say in a recent issue of their magazine:

"We live in a time of increasing uncertainty about the purposes of education. Gone is the conviction that in our democratic society every citizen deserved the very best in the way of training and discipline of the mind which education purports to effect.

"In the past 12 years, the verbal and math scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Tests have been declining steadily ... and it is not uncommon to find community and junior college graduates today whose reading ability is at the ninth-grade level.

"At the level of basic training in writing and literate skills, I recommend, to counter the saturation level of television and its new mind-orientation toward objects - popety-pop goes the toothpaste tube in Disney-like dances with the deodorant can - a new museum-like training using exhibits of objects associated with words to reinforce the learning process, just as Madame Montessori argued years ago. Perhaps museums ARE the new open university option for teaching?"



Honor Roll



The Museum thanks the following members and friends whose generous contributions have furthered the goals of PSRMA during the month of June:

Dennis Weaver, owner of "The Back Shop" model railroad shop in L.A. (donated 45 gals. of concentrated detergent, as well as paint remover and brushes).

Norm Hill (donated new door mat for VICTORIA)

Jerry Unruh & Kenney Air Conditioner Co., Orange County (donated 60lbs. of No. 12 Freon for VICTORIA refrigeration system)

(Editor's note: member Norm Hill was responsible for securing the two donations listed above).

L.A. MEMBER EXTENDS INVITATION TO MEMBERS IN HIS AREA

Member Norm Hill, who now lives in Orange County, has invited PSRMA members in his area to join him in regular sojourns to San Diego by car or train for work parties and meetings. He says in some cases, he would even be willing to pick up the member or arrange to meet him at some convenient point. Norm says the Amtrak train is the best way to travel to San Diego and recommends the trip highly to any Angeleno. Call Norm at 714-963-6376. Thanks, Norm. Your gesture is much appreciated.



WORK RESUMED ON CAR 1509 AT MARINE BASE

Now that the Bicentennial display is all together, restoration work on our heavyweight observation car 1509 at MCRD has resumed. Assistant Superintendent Larry Rose reports the inside of the car has been completely cleaned up and preparations are being made to apply the original Pullman Green coating to the outside of the car and replace the gold Santa Fe lettering. The paint was donated earlier this year by Old Quaker Paint Co. This phase of the project will be an exciting one for our crews, so if you would like to get involved with this very interesting work, call Larry at 469-3064 for details.

COOS BAY 11 STEAMER FINALLY TOGETHER

Museum maintenance crews have placed the bell and headlight, and whistle, on the steam engine at our Bicentennial exhibit. The headlight was borrowed from Dick Pennick's private collection and completely restored by Larry Rose. The light came from an out-of-service steamer at a gravel operation in Louisiana years ago. Arrangements are being made to secure electricity from the Navy so that the light and the rest of the exhibit can be illuminated after dark for a very striking effect. Hardware for "Nick" Nichols' cab doors has been secured, so now the cab can be locked up after hours. A full-page photo of No. 11, suitable for framing, will appear in a future issue of REPORT.

ROSE NEW ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Larry Rose, Museum restoration foreman, has been selected by Sup't. Dick Pennick as his new Ass't Super, replacing Ronald Milot who has served the last two years in that capacity.

1890 WOODEN CARS DELIVERED TO POWAY STORAGE SITE

Combination 13 and Coach 14, the two wooden, open-platform cars recently acquired by the Museum from Short Line Enterprises in L.A., were trucked to the temporary storage site at Old Poway Village on Midland Road in Poway June 7th and 8th. All trucking was paid for by SLE as per the agreement involved with the deal. The first car to arrive was Coach 14 about 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 7th. The trucks came on a separate trailer and were unloaded first. The car arrived on a double gooseneck lowboy and was unloaded by crane, set on the trucks, and rolled into place on the Museum storage track. By 8 p.m. the car was in place. Dick Pennick and two members of the SLE group were on hand to assist. The next day, Tuesday, the Combination car was brought in and unloaded without incident. As the roof ments and steps had to be removed for transit, these were scheduled to be replaced the weekend of July 11th. Our ex-Rock Island O-4-0 down at the Depot Restaurant in National City was picked up by SLE the following day and taken to the L.A. area where it will be completely rebuilt for service on the restored V & T R.R. in Nevada. Estimated cost of rebuilding is \$20-30,000.

Tentative arrangements have been made with Museum member and Village owner Jack Porter to have the cars open to the public for conducted tours during scheduled hours, under the supervision of Village personnel. Donations will also be solicited. The cars are genuine antiques and are complete with seats and lavatories. Dick is attempting to trace down the history of the cars and his results will appear in a future issue. If you are in the Poway area, drop by for a trip back through time to a more relaxed era of rail travel.



PSRMA BOOTH AT DEL MAR FAIR

We again have a public information booth at the Southern Calif. Exposition at Del Mar, where a large photo of our Bicentennial display will be on exhibit. Call George Geyer for details on staffing (234-0555).

Iron Horse Manure: One of our members walked through the cab of SD & AE 2-8-0 No. 104 at the Fairgrounds the other day and inquired of the young railfan on duty there if he had seen the terrific railroad display on the Embarcadero. Our member went on to expound on the beautiful condition of the locomotive and the plushness of the VICTORIA, and concluded by asking the hapless fellow if it was owned by the Railway Historical Society of San Diego, the group that exhibits each year in the Del Mar train. Unaware that his inquisitor was a member of PSRMA and in process of "putting him on" in the royal manner, the gentleman replied to the effect that the Embarcadero display was provided by another group whose name had escaped him and who were a bunch of mostly trolley enthusiasts who had a small loose-knit group in the San Diego area. He added that the Railway Historical Society was the only railroad museum group in the area. Actually, since we don't yet have a permanent site, he's probably not too far from the truth. In any case, it's unfortunate that he has been so thoroughly indoctrinated against PSRMA that he refuses to accept the fact that we are a very active group of over 250 souls with a national reputation and hundreds of thousands of dollars of antique railway equipment in its collection. Just think of all the fun that misguided staffer in the engine cab is missing by turning his back on the most significant historical and educational endeavor in the short history of San Diego County railm museum activity. We can only hope he will see the light while he is still able to make a significant contribution to a truly worthwhile enterprise.

MIRAMAR TOURS STILL GOING STRONG

Thanks to the tremendous effort by member Linda DiGiorgio, our Miramar Tour coordinator, tours through our rail equipment stored at Miramar Naval Air Station are still hot and heavy. Recent groups that have enjoyed the guided tours by Museum volunteers are as follows, provided by the Navy Public Affairs Office:

- May 24th 'Y' Indian Guides, Escondido
- June 14th 30 Cub Scouts, Hilltop Elem. School, Chula Vista
- June 14th 33 disadvantaged children from Tucson, Ariz.
- June 14th 33 3rd & 4th graders from Curie Elem. School
- June 21st 30 4th grade students, Painted Rock Elem. School, Poway
- June 21st -same-
- June 21st 15 Cub Scouts from Pack 10, Hillcrest

So you don't think we perform a public service? Guess again!

P.R. DIRECTOR SEEKS MONEY*RAISING IDEAS

P.R. Director Herbert Kehr asks all museum members to come up with fresh ideas for fund-raising activities. Some of the activities already suggested are a PSRMA night at an area miniature golf activity center, a garage or white elephant sale, and a new auto raffle. Jot your ideas down on a 9-penny postal card, including any items you would be willing to contribute to a garage sale, and mail to Herb at 4551 Bannock Ave., San Diego 92117.

The FLORENCE AND CRIPPLE CREEK RAILROAD		TRAIN SERVICE BETWEEN STATIONS.	
Stations on F. & C. C. R. R. and C. & G. R. R. Standard		G.	
TRAIN No. 10	TRAIN No. 8	TRAINS	TRAIN No. 1
8.30 A		Lv. Cripple Ck. Ar.	5.00 P
11.00 A		5.7 Lv. Victor Ar.	4.35 P
		40.3 Ar. Florence Lv.	2.05 P
VIA D. & R. G.			
12.4 P	1.15 A	73.2 Ar. Pueblo Lv.	12.55 P
1.10 P	2.25 A	Lv. Victor Ar.	12.35 P
2.30 P	4.00 A	117.6 Lv. Colo. Spr'gs Ar.	11.25 A
3.30 P	5.10 A	140.5 Lv. Palmer Lake Ar.	10.39 A
5.00 P	7.00 A	192.8 Ar. Denver Lv.	8.45 A
No. 1	No. 9	No. 10	No. 2
2.11 P	6.45 A	Ar. Canon City Lv.	11.20 A
			4.55 A

July 4: America's 200th birthday. Coos Bay bell rung at 11 a.m., 200 years to the minute from the first ringing of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.

July 5: Del Mar Fair ends.

July 23: Quarterly meeting, La Sala Room, House of Hospitality, Balboa Park 7:30 p.m. Public invited.

Each weekend: Restoration sessions. Call 469-3064 for details.

Each weekend: Bicentennial display open to public, Embarcadero.

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