

**Upcoming Events**

- June 1**  
Special School Days Event  
Theme: "It takes a lot of workers to run a railroad"
- June 7**  
Railtown Ladies Luncheon  
11:30 @ Cover's Apple Ranch. Call Dottie:533-8483
- June 8**  
Railtown booth at the Senior Expo, at the fairgrounds
- June 14**  
Behind the Scenes Tour with Dieter Teschke, 10am in the Carriage Room
- June 19**  
Father's Day
- July 2, 3 & 4**  
4th of July trains
- July 5**  
Railtown Ladies Luncheon  
Great Wall of China at the Junction, call Dottie @ 533-8483
- July 8**  
Trains begin every Wednesday in July and August, \*Also Story Time in the Little Red Caboose
- July 30**  
Rods to Rails Event



**June 22 at Railtown**  
Volunteer picnic, all are Invited. Potluck, bring a dish to share and your own item to Bbq. Also bring your own chair, drinks, plates and eating utensils. Starts at 3pm  
Call Dottie @ 533-8483

**A Tribute to a True Railtown Pioneer**

by Darryl Bramlette

When the Crocker Family sold the Sierra Railroad in 1982, they gave the Jamestown facility to the State of California to establish Railtown 1897 State Historic Park. Looking back at that time, Marge and Virgil Lovingfoss, Jay Cullen (then a teenager) Dottie and Al Bolander, Maryanne and Pat Patterson were the first Docents to manage Railtown for years before the state took over the management of Railtown. This group formed the Railtown 1897 Docent Association and continued the operation of the Railtown 1897 as a living museum. These volunteers contributed hundreds of hours in an unprecedented dedication to the preservation of Railtown 1897. One of most outstanding women that helped to start the Railtown 1897 Docent Association was a very special person, Marge Lovingfoss. Marge was an



integral part of all the special events such as: vignettes of old-time railroading activities and the movies that were filmed on the Sierra Railroad. 'The Supper Special', which included a dinner served on the train. 'The Twilight Limited', included dinner served in park. 'The Wine & Cheese Zephyr' which included Bar-B-Q served in park. The 'New Year's Eve Special', included prime rib dinner, a live band, and champagne at midnight.

After the State took over the management of Railtown and renamed it "Railtown 1897 State Historical Park" in 1987 the Railtown 1897 Docent Association was dissolved, but Marge and many of the other volunteers

(continued)



continued their dedication to the historic preservation, restoration, interpretation and continued operation of Railtown 1897 as a living museum. For more than 34 years Marge contributed thousands of hours in an unprecedented dedication to preserve Railtown 1897. Without Marge's dedication and persuasiveness Railtown 1897 State Historic Park would not be what it is today. We all thank you Marge, and will miss you dearly.

**\*Note: In 2009 the Capital District and staff at Railtown honored Marge, her husband Virgil and Dottie Bolander with the Volunteer Medallion for Superior Achievement, which is the highest level award given to volunteers who have made a long and significant contribution to California State Parks.**



**Al Bolander**



**Dottie Bolander**



**Pat Patterson**



**Virgil Lovingfoss**



**Marge Lovingfoss**



**Jay Cullen**



### Set & Release (from David Tadlock)

So you're sitting on the train at Rock Siding looking out at the Conductor who seems to be staring at something under the car, then suddenly he looks up towards the Engineer and moves his arm horizontally out to his side. You hear the sound of air escaping and the metal clinking from under the car. Then a short blast of the whistle. The Conductor now intently looks again under the car. Then he raises his arm straight up in the air and makes a fist, more sounds come from beneath the car, and this time the Engineer gives two short blasts on the whistle. What just happened? What you just witnessed was a Class 3 Air Brake test (Set and Release) required by federal law to be conducted each time we do a run-a-round at Rock Siding or in front of the Depot. The Conductor, after reconnecting the air hoses from the locomotive to the passenger cars, listens and watches as the air brake system "charges" and the brake cylinder piston retracts, thus releasing the brakes. The Conductor then "stretches" his arm out horizontally, signaling the Engineer he wants the brakes to be applied (stretching out the brake piston) - that's the sound you hear coming from underneath the car. The short blast from the whistle is the signal that the brakes have been applied. Once the Conductor is satisfied the brakes have functioned properly he raises his arm straight up making a fist, signaling the Engineer to now release the brakes. Two short blast of the whistle let the Conductor know the brakes have been released. After ensuring that the brake cylinder piston fully retracts, the train is ready to proceed. And another time honored railroad tradition has been completed. (more pics next page)





**Release**



**Piston Extended**



**Piston Released**

**\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE FOR TOUR GUIDES & ROUNDHOUSE HOSTS\*\*\*\*\***

We are asking everyone not to talk about the so called rental agreement for the #34 locomotive. Basically it is in legal limbo and the ownership is up in the air. Furthermore, the family members that owned it and may have a claim on the #34 are still alive. Interpreters shouldn't comment on it since they may insult the family.



Photo's by volunteer photographer  
**Steven Brooks**  
smbrooks\_2000@yahoo.com





**PO Box 1250**  
**Jamestown, CA 95327**  
**Return Service Requested**

**TO:**



Depot Store- (209) 984-3953  
 Railtown Website- [www.railtown1897.org](http://www.railtown1897.org)  
 Volunteer Website- <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>  
 Railtown Blog- [www.railtown1897.wordpress.com](http://www.railtown1897.wordpress.com)  
 Newsletter Editor— [Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov)  
 Crew Caboose- (209) 984-0352



**Railtown 1897 & The California State Railroad Museum Foundation thanks our following business members:**

The Union Democrat, Black Oak Casino Resort, The Willow Steakhouse and Saloon, The National Hotel, The Jamestown Hotel, The Twain Harte Rotary, The Tuolumne County Economic Prosperity Council, Tourism Tactics, Pizza Plus, Buck's Auto Body, Yosemite Title, Sierra Nevada Communications, Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau, Edward Jones, Hurst Ranch, Robert E. Boyer Construction Inc., Kiwanis of Sonora



**Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information**

*(all area codes are 209, except where noted)*

<b>Stephen VanEtten</b> , Park Superintendent	984-4622	<a href="mailto:Stephen.vanetten@parks.ca.gov">Stephen.vanetten@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>George Sapp</b> , Railroad Restoration Lead Worker (DSLE)	774-6368	<a href="mailto:George.Sapp@parks.ca.gov">George.Sapp@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Lisa DeLacy</b> , Museum Curator I (DER)	984-3119	<a href="mailto:Lisa.DeLacy@parks.ca.gov">Lisa.DeLacy@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Karen Kling</b> , Park Interpretive Specialist	984-8703	<a href="mailto:Karen.Kling@parks.ca.gov">Karen.Kling@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Jeri Zemon</b> , Park Interpretive Specialist	984-8703	<a href="mailto:jeri.zemon@parks.ca.gov">jeri.zemon@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Rob Buchanan</b> , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-8702	<a href="mailto:Rob.Buchanan@parks.ca.gov">Rob.Buchanan@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Danny Taylor</b> , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-8702	<a href="mailto:Danny.Taylor@parks.ca.gov">Danny.Taylor@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Dave Rainwater</b> , Senior Park Aide & Volunteer Coordinator	984-4408	<a href="mailto:Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov">Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Lew Barnard</b> , Fire Patrol Coordinator	916-343-2667	<a href="mailto:wa6esa@sbcglobal.net">wa6esa@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Karen Ethier</b> , Ticket Agent Coordinator	471-7525	<a href="mailto:kmethier@gmail.com">kmethier@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ron White</b> , Stationmaster Coordinator	551-7087	<a href="mailto:rbarryw@att.net">rbarryw@att.net</a>

*Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request*