



The TURNTABLE



Happy Thanksgiving

November 2012

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

Upcoming Events

November 1 & 15 @ 1PM
Starlight Planning Meeting
Carriage Room

November 1
Depot Store Winter Hours
10 am—3 pm

November 6
Railtown Ladies Luncheon
at the Black Oak Casino
Buffet, call Marge for info
533-4595

November 9 , 10 & 11
Decorating the trains for
The Santa Trains

November 16, 17 & 18
Decorating the trains for
The Santa trains

November 17
Trial run for the Starlight
Express @ 5:30pm,
Family welcome to ride
No hot chocolate or
entertainers

November 23 & 24
Santa's Starlight
Express 5:30 & 7 pm
Special Entertainers:
Santa, Ron Delacy
and Keith Keenom

November 23, 24, 25
Daytime Santa trains
Daytime train entertainer:
Richard 'Tater' Learned

November 27
Volunteers needed to help
Un-decorate exterior of
the train 8:30am

December 15 , 16
Daytime Santa trains
Entertainer: 'Tater'

December 16
5:30 pm Wacky Gift
Exchange and
Potluck at the Senior
Center on Greenley Rd

January 19
Volunteer Recognition
Dinner @ Elks Lodge

January 26
Annual All Hands Meeting
Jamestown Community
Hall



Petticoat Junction

After our last issue about the water tank, I thought it would be good to follow it up with a reprint (*used by permission of Larry Jensen the author from his book "The Movie Railroads" published in 1981*).

If one of the Sierra Railroad's film credits had to be singled out as its most famous, it would have to be the TV series "Petticoat Junction." Between 1963 and 1970 locomotive No. 3 and combine No. 5 were seen "rollin' down the track" during the opening and closing credits for each episode and they figured prominently in many of the stories. The expense of constantly traveling to the Sierra to shoot railroad scenes was prohibitive, so the show's producers leased a replica of Rio Grande Southern engine No. 20 from the Hoyt Hotel in Portland, Oregon and moved it to Hollywood. The replica had been built by the Twentieth Century-Fox prop shop in 1949 for the movie "A Ticket to Tomahawk", and looked similar to No. 3. After repainting it as the "Hooterville Cannonball," it joined a duplicate combine No. 5 on a sound stage and together they were used for any scenes involving the cast. Stock footage of No. 3 was spliced in when action shots were required. The "Petticoat Junction" company made its final visit to Tuolumne County in June 1965 to film color footage to replace the original black-and-white shots. The footage taken at this time was used for the remaining five seasons of the series. "Petticoat Junction" left its mark on Jamestown, where developers named a street after the show .

The "Shady Rest Hotel" sign on the Jamestown water tank was pointed in the right direction, south, but it would have been a long walk. The complete interior and exterior of the hotel's first floor was actually located 350 miles away on a sound stage at General Service Studio in Hollywood. The structure was surrounded by preserved trees and bushes, grass-mat lawns and a backdrop painting of mountains. A quarter inch-scale miniature scene was used when the script called for a view of the entire building. The "Petticoat Junction" company did construct a false-front set for "Sam Drucker's General Store" at McCormick for shots of No. 3 pulling to a stop, but it too had a counterpart on the sound stage. The little Ten-Wheeler brought back fond memories for at least one of the stars
(*continue next page*)

(continued from page 1) present that day. In March 1975 Sierra Engineer David Sell was working in the Jamestown roundhouse when he came across a well-dressed lady quietly walking around the Three-Spot. He explained to her that the roundhouse was closed to the public and she really shouldn't be there. She reassured him that it was all right—she used to “run the locomotive.” He was a bit apprehensive until she removed her sunglasses. It was Linda Kaye Henning, who played Betty Jo in the series and had, indeed, “run” No. 3. She'd returned to visit an old friend. *(For more information about Petticoat Junction and other TV and movie film shoots, look for Larry's book “Hollywood's Railroads, Volume Two: Sierra Railroad” which is due to be released in 2013).*



Jim Wren Photo's, © Ken Rattenne Collection used by permission

A few things to note in the photos from Ken Rattenne: The No. 3 has been renumbered to No. 8; The Shady Rest Hotel sign attached to the water tank (partially hidden by shrubs); and just to the left of "No. 8" is a prop representing the flag stop passenger shelter for the Shady Rest Hotel.

Railtown News

Decorating Volunteers Needed

If you'd like to help decorate our Santa Christmas trains and the lighted Starlight Express Trains, we could use the extra help. Alexa Melville will be coordinating the interior decorating (contact her in the Depot Store 984-3953) and David Ethier for the exterior (contact 532-1359). The scheduled days for decorating are November 9, 10, 11 and 16, 17, 18. Thank You!

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Volunteer Hours

We're nearing the end of our 2012 season and it's a good time to get those extra hours in to qualify for invitation to the Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner on January 19th. It's always a festive event with a fine catered dinner and entertainment. Volunteers with at least 84 hours receive the invitation.

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Thank You From Laverne

Laverne wants to give a special thanks to everyone for their cards, prayers and well wishes during her recent illness. It's great to have her back with us!

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Carol Mabe's Incredibly Scrumptious Corn Bread Recipe

Normally we don't publish recipes, but I was told this is too good to pass up! Ingredients: 4 eggs, 1 cup Melted butter, 1/4 medium onion chopped, 3/4 cup sugar, 4 tsp baking powder, 1 can cream corn, 1/2 tsp salt, 1 cup flour, 1 cup Bob's Redmill corn meal, 1 cup grated cheddar cheese. Beat eggs and melted butter and cool it. Add onion. Mix dry ingredients, blend together with egg mixture. Pour into buttered 9 X 13 dish, bake at 350 for 45 minutes and enjoy.

In Memory

We want to pause and remember two wonderful members of our Railtown family who have recently passed on. Ron Davila died of heart failure on September 28. A private family memorial was held a week later for family and friends. Ron is survived by his wife and fellow volunteer Jessica and son and daughter in law Rich and Delfina Davila (also Railtown volunteers), son Robert Davila, and grandsons Michael and Gary. Ron, originally from Oakland retired after a career as a chemist for the Coca Cola company. He joined us in 2000 and worked primarily in greeting and hospitality. He was always a gentleman and a positive influence on everyone. Maintenance volunteers enjoyed the cakes he made each week for the lunches. He enjoyed serving hot chocolate on our Santa trains and at our ice cream socials where he was nicknamed 'The Big Dipper'.

Lori Brandon-Rainwater died on October 2nd after a three year long battle with cancer. She was widely known as a singer and former member of the folk group The New Christy Minstrels as well as her many professional appearances around Tuolumne County. She was an employee in our Depot store for three years. Lori grew up in Simi Valley and began singing at a very early age. She moved to Sonora in 1989 where she married her first husband Ron Brandon. They have one son, Jaron who is currently a junior at the University of California, Merced. She is also survived by her husband Dave Rainwater, mother Mona Mollring, father in law Robert, sisters Teri Bissonette and Kim Mollring, brothers Todd and Dave Kanteman. A graveside memorial will be held Sunday, November 18 from 2 – 3 pm at the Columbia Cemetery. A social hour will take place immediately afterwards at the City Hotel in Columbia from 3 – 4pm. We will miss them!



Ron Davila



Lori Brandon-Rainwater

Looking Forward & Looking Back

Kim Baker, State Park Superintendent 1

As I write this, it's the last normal operating day (excluding the holiday trains), and I can't help but reflect on the challenges of the year, and feel some relief that we're still here. With the possible closure on the horizon as we started the operating season back in April, it was a challenge for our marketing for the year. Although we did get an influx in visitors who came for their 'last ride', ridership appears to be down for the year overall. Recent legislation ensures no parks will be closed through June of 2014, which is great news, but as budget cuts are still in effect, there is no funding. Lots of unanswered questions linger.

On the positive side, we had several great events this year. The Spotlight on Railtown Fundraiser was a fabulous new event that we'll repeat next year and the community awareness and partnerships that emerged from the closure crisis have given me great hope for the future. Our member trains were a lot of fun and a huge success earlier this month, and we gained some great new volunteers this year as well. We have a beautiful new show booth so we can head out to different events in the region and promote the great things we do and entice visitors! The freight shed just got a new coat of paint which looks great and gives a little more protection to this oldest building in the park. Volunteers have been doing great work on the makeover of the 12 car, and it's looking better than it has in years.

2013 is right around the corner, and we have to stay positive, be open to new ideas, and try new things. We'll keep on rollin' up our sleeves and thinking of ways to "Keep Railtown Rolling".



RAILTOWN 1897
State Historic Park

PO Box 1250

Jamestown, CA 95327

Return Service Requested

TO:



Depot Store- (209) 984-3953
Volunteer Desk- (209) 984-4408
Docent Site- <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>
Railtown Blog- www.railtown1897.wordpress.com
Crew Caboose- (209) 984-0352



Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

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Rob Buchanan , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-3115	rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov
Danny Taylor , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-3115	dtaylor@parks.ca.gov
Dave Rainwater , Park Aid & Volunteer Coordinator	984-4408	darainwater@parks.ca.gov
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Carl Rudolph , Crew Caller Fire Patrol	586-9905	cakr@sonnet.com
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