



# The TURNTABLE

September 2009

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

## Important Dates

### September 5th-

Interpreting the 2901,  
9-10am, Carriage  
Room

### September 5-7

Labor Day Weekend  
Live Steamers on  
display all weekend

### September 12th

Docent Training 8:30-  
9:45, Carriage Room  
Joe Sparagna will be  
speaking on Lumber  
Companies and the  
Jamestown Jail!

### September 15th

All Hands Meeting  
Tri-Dam, 12:45

### September 19th

Railtown Wine and  
Cheese Train

### September 22nd

12:45 (after lunch)  
Gondola Car Plan-  
ning Meeting– pre-  
liminary meeting to  
discuss plans to con-  
vert a gondola car for  
use at Railtown in the  
excursion train con-  
sist. Project man-  
ager, logisitcs, crew  
and other volunteers  
needed.

**“Do your best, where you are, with what you have”  
-African American Proverb**

**“The key to success is often the ability to adapt”**

**When you're finished changing, you're finished.”  
-Benjamin Franklin**

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## **Message from the Park Superintendent**

There's no doubt about it: change is hard, even when it's good.

We've all been under a huge amount of stress lately. Most of it related to change currently underway, or anticipation of changes to come. One thing is certain though– in order to survive, we must adapt. One way we are adapting is to implement new park fees which will help build financial sustainability for the park. Another way is to adopt a “can-do” positive attitude. It's amazing how much can get done when you believe anything is possible. And, it sure beats dwelling on the worst. While we are still unsure about the park closure list and how it might impact Railtown, we can spend our time focused on the positive and celebrate all of our considerable accomplishments.

Here's a few such positives: We have an incredibly engaged community, and the support we've received is priceless. The Sierra No. 3 restoration will be complete in 2010 and will put Railtown in the national spotlight. This project will be the focus of a documentary film about quality steam restorations, which will again put us in the spotlight for the great work being performed by our crew. Caboose No. 7 will be back on line shortly. The 2901 will be celebrating its 100th birthday (when?) We'll have a new brochure, new park signs, and probably some new exhibits within the next couple of months. And, last, but certainly not least, we have a dedicated and talented paid and volunteer crew who sustain us every day and make Railtown a special place for our visitors.

As a part of the Railtown Team, you have a choice to be a positive force, and to work with a Team focused on accomplishment. I know how and where I want to spend my time, and I hope you agree that we can accomplish much together if we believe that we can. Are you with me?

Kimberly Baker, Park Superintendent

## Special Acknowledgements

- 'A special thanks to Dewey and Juanita Barron for all their work organizing this years Red, White and Blue Days. Dewey, is a retired Fire Captain from Orange City, and also set up a nice display of firefighter artifacts from his own private collection.
- Thanks to Dave Tadlock, Ron Sloane, David Ethier, Dan Maher, Kevin Zimmerman and the other roundhouse elves for their hard (and sometimes frustrating) work on the #2 this season.
- Thanks to Erik Young, Jason Smith, Danny Taylor and Warren Smith for some last-minute magic enabling us to run steam for the Meals on Wheels Train.
- Mike Warzee for painting the chassis of the #3, just in time for transport to the Sac Shops
- Rick Willson for crafting a beautiful sculpture from the scraps of the new #3 tender, and donating to the Wine and Cheese benefit silent auction
- John Stier for devising the new misting system for the freight shed dock.
- And, ALL of our volunteers whose generous gift of time and talent keeps this operation going throughout the year.
- Monty Youngborg for his project help.
- Jerry Tannhauser for his continuing fine-tuning of our Railroad Operations radios.



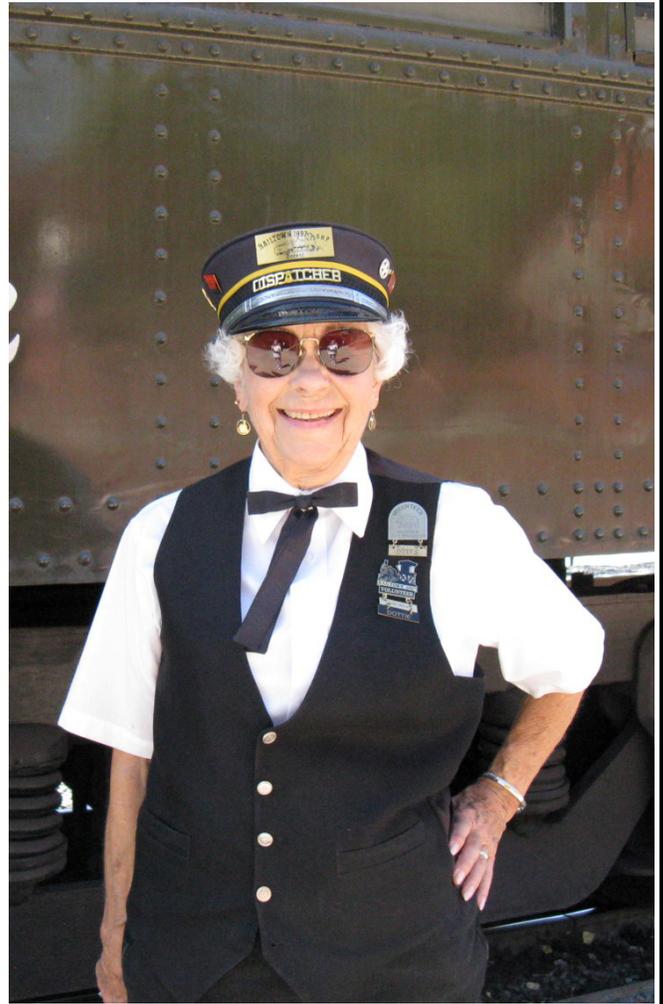
**Special Meeting– Saturday, September 5th 9-10am**  
**Interpreting the #2901 Pullman Car**

All Car Hosts, Stationmasters, Park Staff and prospective Car Hosts are invited to attend this meeting. Learn about interpreting this fascinating car. Safety issues will also be discussed.



## Volunteer of the Month-Dottie Bolander

When you talk about our long term volunteers here at Railtown, and those who were here during the early days of our State Park since 1982 on, you have to mention a small handful. Al Lehr, Virgil and Marge Lovingfoss, 'Pat' and Mary Patterson, Jerry and Doris Redfern, Joe Bispo and Al and Dottie Bolander. Al Bolander who is fondly remembered by many, passed on in 2006. He volunteered in many different capacities, including Tour Guiding, Car Hosting and working on various restoration projects involving the Belt Driven Machine Shop, the #3 and engine #28. Dottie and Al had already been volunteering from their home in San Francisco, when they moved to their Tuolumne County home in 1987. Dottie remembers the early days when "we all mowed lawns, planted roses, pulled engines out of the roundhouse with the yard switcher (so visitors could view the engines while on tour) and ran the Depot Store". Today at 84 (she just celebrated her birthday) Dottie is found volunteering as a Stationmaster, Car Host, Greeter and helps cook lunches for the Tuesday work crew. When asked what she likes most about Railtown she says 'meeting people from all over the world, I've made lots of friends! It's a wonderful part of my life'. Her advice to the older set: 'Stay active. If you just sit in a chair you're gonna deteriorate'. Happy Birthday Dottie from all of us and thanks for all that you do !



## In Memory of Jean Rand



Railtown Docent Jean Rand passed away on August 20th, 2009. Survived by fellow docent, and husband of 57 years, John Rand, Jean enjoyed working as a Ticket Agent, and was proud of her historically accurate ticket agent costume, which she spent a great deal of time researching.

Jean was an avid gardener, a private airplane pilot, a writer, a fan of the Sonora Farmer’s Market, and an active member of a number of civic clubs and community organizations, including Aronos Club, Bach Festival, Sonora Beautiful and the Sonora Ladies Investment Club.

We will miss Jean and her friendly face at the ticket counter. Our thoughts are with John and her family. Services are scheduled for Saturday, September 5th at 2PM at Heuton Memorial Chapel on S. Stewart Street in Sonora.

## Quiz Results

The winner of last month’s **Test Your Knowledge** trivia quiz is Monty Youngborg, chosen by lottery from a number of correct entries. He correctly answered all ten questions and won a \$25 gift certificate, which is good for any purchase at our Depot Store. Congrats to you Monty!

If you were stumped, here are the answers.

1. **Hetch Hetchy** is the Miwuk Indian term for a type of grass and seed, which they used as a food source.
2. The #34 Mikado steam engine was nicknamed “The McArthur” during WWII .
3. James Porteous (a Scottish immigrant)
4. the answer is D. all the above
5. False, Baldwins were built in Philadelphia
6. Railtown sits on 26 acres
7. 1906 (year of the S.F. earthquake)
8. False, the Rogers Locomotive #3 was an oil burner
9. 1902
10. 55mph (although it could be argued that under certain conditions it could be higher)



## Sierra #3 Update

On August 26th, the chassis of the Sierra #3 was loaded up for transport to the Sacramento Shops of the California State Railroad Museum, where it will be joined by the boiler on September 9th. Utilizing the crane and a specialized drill press, the boiler will be bolted to the chassis, and then transported back to Railtown in early November, where the final steps of the assembly will occur.

Last week, the new crankpins, machined by Bob West in the Tri-Dam shop, were fitted to the driving wheels using a dramatic process of liquid nitrogen freezing to ensure the proper interference fit. The operation was just a bit more exciting than expected, with the addition of a documentary film crew following our every move.

Meanwhile, the Tri-Dam crew is working quickly to complete the assembly of the new tender. Many of our Railtown crew members will be working in both locations over the next few months, including Kim, George, Lisa and maybe even some of the other shop staff. The Sierra #3 is our #1 priority, so we appreciate your patience as we defer many of our other responsibilities to coordinate and complete the purchasing, engineering, logistics and physical labor required to complete this project by our year-end deadline.

**The Railtown Blog** (an online diary of the shop activity), has been very well received, and is nearing 10,000 visits. It's a great way to keep up on the status of the #3 project, we try and update it at least twice a week. The address is [www.railtown1897.wordpress.com](http://www.railtown1897.wordpress.com), or just go to the [Railtown1897.org](http://Railtown1897.org) website and click on "What's New". A printed copy is available in the Depot Store.

On September 10th, at 10am, Kathy Daigle, George Sapp and Kim Baker will be appearing on Capital Public Radio's "Insight" program hosted by Jeffery Callison. In this area, it can be heard on 91.3 FM, or [www.capradio.org/programs/insight/](http://www.capradio.org/programs/insight/) (where you can hear it after it airs).





**RAILTOWN 1897**  
State Historic Park

**PO Box 1250**

**Jamestown, CA 95327**

**Return Service Requested**

**TO:**



**Docent Hotline-** (209)-984-4408

**Docent Site-** <http://Railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers/default.aspx>

**Railtown Blog-** [www.railtown1897.wordpress.com](http://www.railtown1897.wordpress.com)



**Railtown Paid Staff Contact Information**

*Newsletter submissions: [RailtownNews@parks.ca.gov](mailto:RailtownNews@parks.ca.gov)*

<b>Kim Baker</b> , Park Superintendent	984-4622	<a href="mailto:kbaker@parks.ca.gov">kbaker@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>George Sapp</b> , Railroad Restoration Lead Worker	774-6368	<a href="mailto:gsapp@parks.ca.gov">gsapp@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Ryan Richelson</b> , Maintenance Supervisor	984-3115	<a href="mailto:rrichelson@parks.ca.gov">rrichelson@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Joe Bispo</b> , Asst. Railroad Operation Manager	984-8718	<a href="mailto:jbispo@parks.ca.gov">jbispo@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Virginia Stamm</b> , Admin Assistant	984-3953	<a href="mailto:vstamm@mlode.com">vstamm@mlode.com</a>
<b>Rob Buchanan</b> , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-3115	<a href="mailto:rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov">rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Danny Taylor</b> , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-3115	<a href="mailto:dtaylor@parks.ca.gov">dtaylor@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Dave Rainwater</b> , Park Aid (and Docent Coordinator)	984-4408	<a href="mailto:darainwater@parks.ca.gov">darainwater@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Lisa Smithson</b> , State Park Curator I	984-8719	<a href="mailto:lsmithson@parks.ca.gov">lsmithson@parks.ca.gov</a>

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