

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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[www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org)

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## September 2017 Newsletter

### In this issue:

**September Meeting and Presentation** Page 2

**Fall Field Trip.** Page 2

**Colfax Caboose Open.** Page 2

**October Meeting Change.** Page 2

**Passing Scene.** Page 3

**Amazon Smile Fund Raising.** Page 3

**From the Archives.** Page 4



*Location revealed: See page 4 for the location of this building featured in last month's newsletter  
Photo courtesy of Art Sommers*

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### Scheduled Events & Notices



- Sep 28** PSRHS Monthly Meeting & Presentation 7pm – Details on Page 2  
– Auburn Airport Pilots' Lounge  
– Program – Bill George – Film - Creating California's Empire of Agriculture
- Oct 7** Colfax Caboose open 9am-3pm for Colfax Craft & Harvest Fair
- Oct 14** Colfax Caboose Planning Meeting & Work Session - 9am-1pm Colfax Caboose  
– Meet Second Saturday of each month
- Oct 26** PSRHS Monthly Meeting & Presentation 7pm  
\*\*\* Note Location Change – Colfax Passenger Depot \*\*\*  
– Program – Railroad Changes in Colfax thru the years + Caboose Tour
- Oct 28** PSRHS Fall Fieldtrip – see page 2 for details
- Nov 8-11** SPH&TS 2017 Annual Conference – Santa Rosa [www.sphts.org/convention/](http://www.sphts.org/convention/)
- Nov 11-12** Roseville Railfair, Placer Co. Fairgrounds [www.internationalrailfair.com](http://www.internationalrailfair.com)

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### Monthly Meeting 7PM Thursday, Sept. 28th, Auburn Airport Pilots' Lounge

**September Program:** Bill George, historian and film maker, will present his new film, "Beyond A Miracle, Creating California's Empire Of Agriculture". The film tells the story of the agricultural pioneers who shaped the state's farm heritage. Bill formed Nimbus Films in 2010 to tell the story of building the transcontinental railroad across the Sierra with his well-known first film, "The Hidden Wonder Of The World, The Transcontinental Railroad From Sacramento To Donner Summit". Bill is working on Part 2 of the "The Hidden Wonder...", called "Crossing Donner Summit", for release by the 2019 Gold Spike Sesquicentennial.

**August Program recap:** Mark Davidson gave an interesting and entertaining talk on early people and events and the related early California land issues. Mark also included some fascinating old historic artifacts for display at the meeting. *Recap notes provided by Chuck Spinks.*

### Colfax Caboose Open Oct. 7th

The Colfax caboose will be open to the public on **Saturday, Oct. 7th from 9am-3pm** in conjunction with the **Colfax Craft and Harvest Fair**. Volunteers are needed to help staff the caboose on dates that it is open to the public. If you can offer some time contact Ken at [colfaxcaboose@gmail.com](mailto:colfaxcaboose@gmail.com). Help us tell the caboose story to generations that have largely forgotten about the caboose and its important role in earlier days.

**Our club's October meeting will be held in Colfax on Oct. 26th.** There will be a program presentation at the Colfax passenger depot at 7pm, followed by a tour of the caboose. More details in the October newsletter.

Check out the new web page for the Colfax Interactive Caboose on our club's web site [www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org). There is a link on the caboose page to a photo summary of the caboose renovation. Those who participated may enjoy this abbreviated look at the many steps along the way to get from there to here. Interactive caboose planning meetings and work sessions are held from **9am-1pm on the second Saturday of each month.**

### Fall Field Trip October 28th

Jim Wood reports: "Our 2017 Fall field trip will be another one focused on railroad equipment. This time we'll look at historic equipment."

On Saturday, October 28, we will have the rare opportunity to visit the railroad memorabilia collection of Les Wilmunder of Chico. We'll have the added pleasure of preceding our visit with Les with a stop to see the extensive railroad signal collection of Dick Dorn in Yuba City.

This trip will be especially attractive for our narrow gauge fans. The two main features of Les's collection are his fully restored and operable Porter locomotive and his Heisler. I'll leave the rest of his collection a surprise for your arrival.

Les has also invited our group to join his family for a BBQ lunch.

Because of the size of the group already showing interest in this trip and the lunch hosting logistics, it will be necessary to **limit attendance on this trip to members only**. More details to follow in the October newsletter."

If you are interested in attending this field trip contact Jim Wood by email at [greenstonemaker@gmail.com](mailto:greenstonemaker@gmail.com).



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## Passing Scene

This photo captured at the Colfax depot in 2007 shows the Silver Iris private car heading over Donner Summit on the rear of eastbound AMTRAK. The car was built by Budd in 1952 for CB&Q's American Royal Zephyr. It became part of the AMTRAK fleet but was retired in 1979. The following information on the car in private service was obtained from the web site silveriris.net. *Photo by Roger Staab*

"The *Silver Iris* welcomes you back to the first class rail travel of yesterday with the modern conveniences of today. Our all stainless steel sleeper-lounge is fully heated and air conditioned with separate temperature controls and electrical outlets in each room. A full galley provides complete meal service in the dining lounge with a crew of two owner-operators offering the friendliest on board service available anywhere! Four bedrooms sleep two each in upper and lower berths while four roomettes each provide comfortable and private accommodations for one. All rooms have a large picture window as well as their own private toilet and sink. There is a spacious shower at each end of the car and an open air vestibule with two extra portals where smoking is permitted."



## Amazon Smile Fund Raising

We are now part of the Amazon Smile fund raising campaign. We receive a donation to the society based on your purchases. Please feel free to copy and paste the link below and include it in all your emails.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0488569>



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## From the Archives

**August Mystery Photo (right):** This view looking eastbound shows the two-story Auburn depot and hotel located on the northeast side of the tracks. An 1891 map of Auburn shows the CPRR depot, saloon and waiting room north-east of the tracks, with the freight depot on the opposite side of the tracks where the present Auburn depot is located. *Art Sommers collection*



**September Mystery Photo (left):** What type of locomotive is shown in this photo, where was it operating, and what was its significance? Hint: Look at the tracks. *Ken Yeo collection*

**Accidents/Other Incidents.** Landslide on the Central Pacific near Alta – *Sacramento Daily Union, Jan. 17, 1894.* “The first landslide that has taken place on the Sacramento division of the Central Pacific Company for many years occurred between Alta and Towle’s Station about noon yesterday. About one-half of an acre on the mountain side slid upon the railroad track between the two stations. The slide leveled everything in its path, telegraph poles, large trees and survey monuments being entirely swept out of existence. A large force of men was at once ordered to the scene, and efforts are being made to clear the track as speedily as possible. The slide delayed East-bound trains that left the city last night, and the trains due here this morning will also be delayed.”

### Membership Information

Individual Members = \$25.00/yr  
Each Additional Family Member = \$5.00/yr

- Monthly Meetings (4th Thursday) and Newsletter
- Member Activities, History Pubs and Field Trips
- Display and Restoration Projects

PSRHS, P.O. Box 1776, Colfax, CA 95713  
or join/renew online at [www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org)

Reader comments, additional details, etc., are invited on any newsletter items or photos. Please forward comments, suggestions or information for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter to:

Roger Staab (530) 346-6722 [roger.staab@psrhs.org](mailto:roger.staab@psrhs.org)