

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

March 2019 Newsletter

In this issue:

March Meeting and Presentation. Page 2

Golden Spike 150th. Page 2

Program Ideas Requested. Page 2

Spring Field Trip To Siemens. Page 2

Passing Scene. Page 3

Amazon Smile Fund Raising. Page 3

From the Archives. Page 4

Golden Spike 150th Activities. Pages 5-6



See page 4 for the location and details of this postcard image along the Donner Route. Postcard courtesy of Jim Wood.

Scheduled Events & Notices



- Mar 28 PSRHS Monthly Meeting & Presentation – 7PM**
– Program – Roger Staab – Railroad Scenes Then And Now
Along the Donner Route
- Apr 25 PSRHS Monthly Meeting & Presentation**
– Program – Tom Shook – Siemens Sacramento, Past, Present & Future
- May 10 Sesquicentennial Ceremony for Completion of Transcontinental Railroad**
– Golden Spike National Historic Site, Promontory Summit Utah
– See pages 5-6 for list of other events taking place before & after May 10
- May 16 PSRHS Spring Field Trip to Siemens Sacramento - 2-4pm**
-- Paid Members Only – See page 2
- May 23 PSRHS Monthly Meeting & Presentation – Program – Paul Greenfield**



Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

March 2019 Newsletter

PSRHS Monthly Meeting 7PM Thursday, Mar. 28th, Auburn Airport Meeting Room

March Program: Roger Staab will present a slide show titled **Railroad Scenes Then and Now Along the Donner Pass Route**. Roger has been collecting then and now photos along the Donner route since 2003, capturing today's images that match or closely match locations from old photos.

February Program Recap: Francisco Castillo, UP Public Affairs Director, discussed UP's plans for the 150th celebration, including the appearance of steam locomotives UP 844 and Big Boy UP 4014. He also described a special exhibit car that will appear in Sacramento and Roseville in April, with a possible stop in Colfax. See the next section for more information on the upcoming events tied to the 150th celebration.

Golden Spike 150th Transcontinental Railroad Sesquicentennial Celebration

Many events are planned around the May 10 Ceremony marking 150 years since the completion of the nation's first Transcontinental Railroad. Promontory Summit in Utah will be host to a ceremony on May 10, along with other activities and celebrations through May 12. Major celebrations will also take place in Ogden, Utah, including a planned visit by the newly operational Big Boy steam locomotive UP 4014. Plans are for UP 4014 and UP 844 to be on display May 10-11 in Ogden, and to re-stage the famous golden spike photograph. The two locomotives will then double-head the return trip to Cheyenne. The web site for the heritage locomotive movements to the Utah celebration is

<https://www.up.com/heritage/steam/schedule>

This March newsletter contains additional pages 5 & 6 listing the many events, meetings and conventions planned in conjunction with the golden spike celebration. An updated list will also appear in the April newsletter. The list has been compiled by Chuck Spinks.

At last month's PSRHS meeting, Francisco Castillo described the special UP exhibit car and train that will give visitors a walk-through look at the history of the Transcontinental Railroad and Union Pacific. He mentioned that it might make an additional stop in Colfax for viewing, but the latest on-line schedule shows it in Sacramento April 19-22, Roseville on April 23 from 9-3, and Sparks April 24 from 9-3, with no stop or time for a Colfax stop appearing on the schedule.

Detailed plans have not yet been published for the months after the May event. It is possible that one or both of the steam locomotives and/or the special train and exhibit car may pass over the Donner Route later in the year.

The web site for the special train and exhibit car is <https://www.up.com/heritage/experience-up>

Web site for more information on the steam locomotives and their movements can be found at <https://www.up.com/heritage/steam/>

Program Ideas Requested

Vice President Don Anderson asks that anyone with ideas for future programs or presenters email him at 25eagle@wavecable.com

Spring Field Trip to Siemens Thursday, May 16, from 2 to 4pm

A reminder that our spring field trip to Siemens rail systems in South Sacramento will be on May 16. More details will be provided in the April newsletter.

If you would like to be put on a wait list for the event and are a current 2019 PSRHS member, email Jim Wood at greenstonemaker@gmail.com.

Siemens has informed us that only persons over 18 can attend tours through their factory floor areas.



Passing Scene – Private Varnish on the Donner Route

That's PSRHS member Paul Greenfield waving from the rear vestibule of the Silver Iris private car as it approaches the Colfax Depot on the rear of eastbound AMTRAK #6. The Silver Iris previously visited Colfax in 2007 and was featured in the Sept. 2017 PSRHS newsletter. 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. Paul Greenfield and his wife Marty rode the Silver Iris to Denver and back February 22-26, 2019. Paul will give a presentation on the trip and some of the car's history for our May meeting. *Photos by Roger Staab*



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>

From the Archives

February Mystery Photo (right): This postcard image shows tracks dropping from Andover into Coldstream Canyon and Horseshoe curve. A spur track once extended off the curve on the visible cut, providing service to a sawmill owned by A.P. Stanford, Leland's brother. See Donner Crossings Issue #3, Spring 2013 for more details on the spur and sawmill. *Postcard image courtesy of Jim Wood*



March Mystery Photo (left): What is the significance of the concrete visible in this photo? The rail and ties at bottom right hint that the scene must have something to do with the railroad. Answer will be provided in the slide show presentation at the March meeting. *Photo by Roger Staab*

Accidents/Other Incidents. *Sacramento Daily Union, 18 Jan 1898 – FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENT – AN OVERLAND TRAIN DERAILS NEAR COLFAX – Engineer “Doc” Hackett and Fireman Edward Lightner Killed – No Passengers Hurt* – The first serious accident to a passenger train on the Central Pacific branch of the railroad occurred last evening, resulting in the death of two men ... the forward engine of the west-bound overland train ... jumped the track one mile east of Colfax, and leaving the road bed turned over down a low embankment. The second engine followed its leader off the track, but luckily remained on the road bed, instead of plunging upon the engine that went down the embankment, or the fatality list might have been longer ... The mail car, the baggage and express car, the day coach and the smoking car also left the rails, but did not leave the road bed, and beyond a general shaking up none of the passengers were injured... Two tourist, two sleeping, and a dining car remained on the rails, and beyond a shock and jar the passengers knew nothing ... of the tragedy at the front of the train ... It is supposed either that the front engine broke an axle or else that the rails of the track spread ... The train had just a minute before crossed the trestle bridge across a long ravine 90 feet high ... All trains will be delayed at least twelve hours.

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

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





2019 Golden Spike Sesquicentennial Activities

Through March 31 Locke Locke Boarding House Museum
Chinese Historical Society of America *Chinese and the Iron Road*

Through May 26 Salt Lake City, Utah
Utah Museum of Fine Arts *Union Pacific Railroad "Race to Promontory" exhibit*

Through Aug 30 Sacramento Sierra-Sacramento Valley Medical Society
Museum of Medical History *History of Railroad Hospitals*

Apr 18 Sacramento Gold Spike Lecture Series Sacramento History Museum
A Legacy in Brick & Iron: Sacramento's Central & Southern Pacific Shops Mary Helmich

Apr 19 – 22 Sacramento Special Union Pacific Train with "Experience the UP" Exhibit Car

Apr 23 Roseville Special Union Pacific Train with "Experience the UP" Exhibit Car

Apr 24 Sparks

Apr 24 – 27 Sacramento California State Railroad Museum
Heritage Rail Alliance Conference

Apr 24 – May 31 Sacramento California State Railroad Museum
Special Exhibit in the museum of Original 66' long 1861 Theodore Judah Map of Central Pacific Railroad
From California State Archives

Apr 27? Gold Run (may be relocated)
Chinese Historical Society of America *Chinese Railroad Worker Memorial Monument Dedication*

May 1 – 5 Sacramento
NMRA Pacific Coast Region Joint Convention with Feather River Rail Society

May 5 – 11 Ogden, Utah
Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society joint Conference with Union Pacific Historical Society

May 6 Sacramento Sacramento Convention Center American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
Golden Spike Sesquicentennial Railroad History Symposium Keynote Speaker: David Haward Bain

May 7 Sacramento Gold Spike Lecture Series California State Railroad Museum
The Creation of the Transcontinental Railroad From 1842 to Completion David Haward Bain

May 7 – 12 Salt Lake City, Utah
National Railway Historical Society Conference

May 8 Sacramento Sesquicentennial Community Day Special Events in Old Sacramento

- Recreation of Historic Parade
- Complimentary Sacramento Southern Train Rides
- Melodrama Performances at the Historic Eagle Theater
- Community Picnic with Live Music



2019 Golden Spike Sesquicentennial Activities (cont'd)

- May 8 – 12 Ogden, Utah** Railway & Locomotive Historical Society Conference
- May 10 – 12 Promontory Summit** Golden Spike National Historic Site Ceremony, National Park Service
- May 10-11 Ogden, Utah** UP 4104 and UP 844 on display
- May 11 Sacramento** California State Railroad Museum Foundation
Sesquicentennial VIP Banquet at the Museum
- May 11 Rocklin** Plaque Ceremony for Historic Rocklin Station
- May 23 – 25 Santa Clara** O Scale National Convention
- May 25 – 27 Sacramento** Old Sacramento Gold Rush & Railroad Days
- Jun 23 Sacramento** Crocker Art Museum 150th Anniversary Community Festival
- Jun 23 – Sep 29 Sacramento** Crocker Art Museum
Union Pacific Railroad Historic Photographs Exhibit
“Race to Promontory: The Transcontinental Railroad and the American West”
- Jun 27 Sacramento Gold Spike Lecture Series** California State Railroad Museum
The Transcontinental as a Business Venture and How it Shaped the American West Richard White
- Jul 2 – 13 Salt Lake City** NMRA National Convention
- Jul 25 Sacramento Gold Spike Lecture Series** California State Railroad Museum
California’s Complicated Relationship with the Railroad William Deverell
- Aug 22 Sacramento Gold Spike Lecture Series** California State Railroad Museum
The Recovery and Interpretation of the Experience of Chinese Railroad Workers in America Gordon H. Chang
- Sep 4 – 7 Sacramento** National Narrow-Gauge Convention
- Sep 6 Niles** Niles Canyon Railway Museum
Celebration of completion of Western Pacific Railroad Extending the Transcontinental Railroad to the Bay
- Sep 7 Sacramento Gold Spike Lecture Series** Crocker Art Museum
Photographing the Transcontinental Railroad Glenn Willumson
- Sep 21 – 22 Colfax** Colfax Railroad Days

List compiled and updated by Chuck Spinks and Roger Staab