

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



www.psrhs.org

January 2020 Newsletter

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Why is this photo of a concrete culvert in a newsletter about trains? See the companion photos and notes on pages 3 and 4 of the newsletter for the answer

Scheduled Events & Notices



Jan 23 PSRHS Board Meeting – 6pm – Auburn Airport Prior to Member Meeting

Jan 23 PSRHS Monthly Meeting – 7pm – Program – Scott Inman - Status Update on SP Archives/History Center/Model Railroad Facility in Rocklin

Feb 27 PSRHS Monthly Meeting – 7pm – Program TBA

Mar 26 PSRHS Monthly Meeting – 7pm – Program TBA

Its time to renew your PSRHS membership for 2020. Member dues are the primary source of funds for our club's historic preservation activities, field trips, etc.

**Mail your check to PSRHS, PO Box 1776, Colfax CA 95713,
or renew on-line at our web site, www.psrhs.org.**

Thanks for your support of our PSRHS activities and preservation of railroad history along the Donner Route.

PSRHS Monthly Meeting 7PM Thursday, Jan. 23rd, Auburn Airport Meeting Room

January Program: Scott Inman will give us a status update on the new 35,000 square foot Southern Pacific Railroad History Center to be constructed on the site of the original historic Central Pacific Railroad rail yards in Rocklin. The new museum will include the Southern Pacific archives and library, displays of Southern Pacific artifacts, a gift shop, and a massive railroad model of the SP line from San Francisco, over Donner Pass, to Ogden Utah. The archives will represent the most significant and comprehensive publicly accessible collection of SPRR data and documents. Outside in front of the museum will be a display of SP equipment, including an original SP RDC Railcar.

Scott Inman is President of the History Center and a well-known author and historian. The History Center will be an excellent resource for PSRHS's mission of preserving railroad history on SP's Donner Pass Route.

November Program Recap: PSRHS member Peter Hills presented **Norway - Trains, Planes, Ships and Snow**. Peter included information and views of numerous train rides, museum visits, a coastal voyage to points above the Arctic Circle, and lots of snow. Peter's inclusion of some history and facts regarding Norway rounded out this interesting program.

Membership Renewal Time

If you have not already done so, it's time to renew your membership in PSRHS for 2020. Member dues are our primary revenue source to fund club activities including research reports, field trips, historic preservation activities, etc. to document historic information about the Donner route for our members and the public.

If you are not already a member, we encourage you to join us as a paid member. Individual membership is \$25. You can renew by mail at
PSRHS, PO Box 1776, Colfax CA 95713,
or renew on line using PayPal at our web site
www.psrhs.org.

Board Meetings & Vacancy

The PSRHS Board will meet at 6 pm on January 23 prior to the member meeting. At the November member meeting the terms of board members Malcolm Frost and David Ferreira were extended for three years by vote of those present. One board member chose not to run again, and that position was not filled at the member meeting. Per our by-laws, the board can appoint someone to fill the vacant position.

If you are interested in serving on the board or know someone who may be interested, let President Chuck Spinks or any board member know prior to the Jan. 23 meeting. You are welcome to attend any board meeting to see how the board operates and addresses PSRHS technical and policy issues.

Topics discussed during the November board meeting included how to focus future PSRHS activities to support current member interest and to attract younger members into our group. Aging population is a problem faced by many organizations, especially those dedicated to history during an age when younger people look to google for shortcut answers to all their questions. If you have ideas to contribute contact a board member or better yet volunteer to serve on the board for a three-year term.

Spring Field Trip on Amador Central

Plans are still being formulated to offer a motor-car field trip on the old Amador Central line near Ione and Martell for sometime this spring. Watch future issues of the newsletter or our web site for more information.

Happy New Year



Passing Scene – Canyon Creek Crossing

When the Central Pacific tracks were constructed above Alta in 1866, a stone-arch culvert and fill were needed to cross Canyon Creek (see Hart photo on page 4). In 1916 the line was double-tracked by Southern Pacific, requiring a much wider fill to support the wider 2-track roadbed. This in turn required a much longer culvert under the expanded fill. The original stone-arch culvert was left in place, but it was lengthened at both ends with concrete extensions. The photo below was taken where Casa Loma Road crosses Canyon Creek just downstream from the railroad culvert and fill. The railroad bed is the straight line near the top of the photo. The guardrail in the foreground marks the edge of Casa Loma Road, just east of the Alta exit on I-80. *Photo 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>

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From the Archives

November Mystery Photo (right): Just east of Alta the new Central Pacific tracks crossed Canyon Creek. This view shows the stone-arch culvert and fill under construction to support the tracks as they crossed the stream. The culvert was 185 feet long with an opening width of 12 feet. This was the largest such structure on the railroad. For a current-day view of this culvert see the photo on page 3 of this newsletter. *PSRHS Collection, Alfred Hart Photo*



January Mystery Photo (left): What is this structure and where was the photo taken? What can be seen there today? *Art Sommers Collection*

Accidents/Other Incidents. *From the Sacramento Bee, 18 Jun 1918:* “**Carload of Wine is Telescoped; Hoboes Enjoy ‘Can Party’ – Tempting California Wines Destined for French Soldiers Fall to Lot of ‘Weary Willies’ at Colfax.** Colfax (Placer County), June 18 ... The streams and ditches on the Southern Pacific right-of-way, at the east end of Colfax, ran parti-colored with port, claret, sherry, zinfandel, muscat, angelica, burgundy and about all the other kinds of wine produced in the State of California. **Car Turns Turtle** In switching in the yards near the Colfax abattoir, a car laden with wine was telescoped. About one-third of the barrels in the car were bursted [*sic*] and the wine ran out in a stream. The place where the accident occurred is the rendezvous for all the hoboes who pass through this city, and there was a goodly number of the Weary Willies in camp at the time. **Hoboes Hold Orgie** As soon as they realized what had happened every available tin can in the camp was pressed into service and an orgie [*sic*] ensued. Wine was as free as the air and the gentleman of the wanderlust literally took baths in it. ... Thrifty residents of the vicinity took the juice by the gallon for future use. The wine was destined for France.”

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:

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