

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



<https://www.psrhs.org>

## April 2026 Newsletter

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The Glendale Hotel was a trackside structure that vanished in later photos. Learn where this hotel was located and when at our April PSRHS program.  
*Photo Courtesy of Art Sommers*

## Scheduled Events & Notices



- Apr 28** PSRHS Monthly Meeting, 7PM – Program – Roger Staab – “Then You Saw It  
- Now You Don’t” - Vanished Donner Route RR Buildings & Scenes.
- May 26** PSRHS Monthly Meeting, 7PM – Program – Marilyn Sommerdorf –  
Railroad Dining Cars
- June 4** PSRHS Tour of Sacramento Shops – Attendance limited to current members

Watch our website and newsletter for monthly program details

**\*\* Remember to Renew Your Dues for 2026 or Become a PSRHS Member \*\***

Annual membership renewals pay for publishing railroad history documents, purchasing and posting historic photos, arranging field trips, & other historic preservation activities.

*Preserving Railroad History on the Donner Pass Route*

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



April 2026 Newsletter

## PSRHS MONTHLY MEETING

April 28, 7PM

AUBURN VETERANS MEMORIAL HALL

Our meetings are open to all who are interested. See our web site for updates on meeting topics and directions to the meeting location.

**April Program:** Roger Staab will present “**Then You Saw It - Now You Don’t**” - **Vanished Donner Route RR Buildings & Scenes.** Many railroad buildings and other features that are visible in old photos no longer exist, or have been replaced by more modern versions. This program highlights several “vanished” buildings or former sightings along the Donner Route, along with a brief discussion of their past roles and demise. The focus will be on the “then”, with comments offered about what came later (the “now”).

**March Program Recap:** PSRHS members presented a preview of UP Big Boy’s scheduled April 12 stop in Colfax, along with Caroline McCully’s comments on the community event planned from 10am-1:30pm that day to celebrate the return of the special train to our area, with food & craft vendors, music and activities. The March program also included latest updates on the tour schedule, the train consist, and comparisons of Big Boy and Southern Pacific Cab-Forward locomotives.

## Colfax - Disappointed but Recovering

UP canceled Big Boy visits to Colfax and Truckee at the last minute due to predicted weather conditions over Donner Pass, instead returning via Feather River Canyon. Needless to say, it was very disappointing for those planning to view Big Boy’s stop in Colfax and partake in the community festivities.

The community event, vendors, etc. were canceled when the news hit the day before the scheduled Colfax stop. Notices were quickly posted on web sites and Facebook pages to get the word out, but it became apparent that many people didn’t get the notice and on a rainy Sunday small groups began arriving in town.

The Colfax Museum and Visitor Center in the depot stayed open during the late morning and early afternoon, providing warmth and conversation for those who had arrived expecting to see Big Boy. Visitors were disappointed but good natured and enjoyed the museum exhibits and the items for sale in the visitor center. Some visitors went to Roseville to view Big Boy there, or made plans to view it somewhere along the route from Roseville to Feather River canyon.

As a partial substitute for the Colfax visit, links to some member & viewer videos of Big Boy on its west coast run will be posted on [our website Big-Boy page](#).

Colfax will now shift its railroad focus to our annual Railroad Days celebration Sept. 12-13, 2026, and build on the displays Union Pacific provided last year.

## June 4 Field Trip - Sacramento Shops

The PSRHS spring field trip scheduled for June 4 will provide an exclusive inside look at the Sacramento Shops buildings and equipment owned by the California State Railroad Museum. The tour will last from 10AM to 1PM. More details on where and when to meet will be provided at a later date to members who sign up for the tour.

The CSRM tour host is limiting the number of tour guests to 35. Therefore, this event will be offered only to PSRHS members who have renewed their 2026 membership. We may be able to accommodate an additional family member residing at the same address if space is available. **Members who would like to join this tour should email Jim Wood at [sierrageology@gmail.com](mailto:sierrageology@gmail.com).**

If interest exceeds 35 attendees, additional names will be placed on a waiting list in the order they are received to replace possible cancellations.

This tour promises to be a memorable experience for those who have not visited the Sacramento Shops and seen the equipment stored there, most of which has not been displayed in the main museum exhibit.





### Passing Scene - Track Grinder in Colfax

In the wee hours on December 6, 2025, the track grinder train passed through Colfax eastbound on Track 2. In the images below captured on the Colfax webcam, the grinding operation is in full view against the background darkness. This track grinding occurred a week before the freight train derailment on Track 2 just east of here the following weekend. *Colfax webcam images.*



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

[editor@psrhs.org](mailto:editor@psrhs.org)

#### Membership Information

Annual Membership = \$30.00/yr

- Monthly Meetings (4th Tuesday) 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 <https://www.psrhs.org/>







### The Dismantling of Rocklin Roundhouse and Yard

*The Placer Herald, June 10, 1905.* “**Railroad Notes.** ... At Rocklin the roundhouse will be enlarged and moved back, and the passenger and freight depots placed on one side of the track in a combination building. ...”

*The Roseville Register, Apr. 25, 1908.* “**Rocklin Dismantled.** On last Saturday night the removal of the Rocklin Roundhouse force, machinery, etc., to Roseville was practically completed and the end of that town as a railroad center practically came to an end. A few mechanics still remain there and will for several weeks, but Roseville is now the town from which all trains and helper engines are sent out. Even the switching in the yards at Rocklin is done by engines from Roseville. A great many of the railroad employees still have their homes in Rocklin and travel back and forth on bicycles and other means of locomotion. They will move down here just as fast as practicable although some who own their homes in Rocklin will probably reside there indefinitely.

We deplore the fact that quite a hardship has been worked on many who had to give up beautiful homes in Rocklin and move into a new town and commence building up again what they have been years accomplishing in the little town of Rocklin, which for 42 years has been noted as a railroad town of some consequence. The increasing business and improvements of the great Espee demanded more room, however, and Roseville was fortunate enough to be picked out as the field for greater activity and we rejoice with the people of Roseville over the upbuilding of our little town but do not glory over the downfall of Rocklin. The change had to be made and if Roseville had not got the coveted plum, some other town in this vicinity would have been picked out. The following is a copy of the notice of the farewell to Rocklin by the employes:

**FUNERAL NOTICE.**

DIED—At Rocklin, April 18, 1908.  
**The Rocklin Round House**  
A native of California  
Aged 42 years.

**FUNERAL . . .**

Funeral services will be held at Porter's Hall  
Saturday evening, April 18, 1908, at  
8 o'clock, P. M.

Pall Bearers—J. Curran, J. B. Garity, J. Collins, Ed Folger.  
Honorary Pall Bearers—L. W. Mc Carl, J. E. Arnel, A. Burke, T. Ronan.

Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, where refreshments will be served. Drays and wheel-harrows will be ordered at midnight.

Interment—Roseville.

N. B.—The machinists will not be responsible for the boiler makers' acts.

