

# REPORT



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San Diego, California

## VICTORIA OPEN HOUSE ROUSING SUCCESS

A steady procession of PSRMA members, family and friends accepted the Museum's invitation on September 15th to be formally introduced to the latest, and certainly one of the finest additions to PSRMA's growing collection of historic railway memorabilia.

Many favorable comments were overheard between sips of champagne and bites of wine meat balls and sauteed mushrooms. "Outstanding," "plush," "what a car!" "when do we leave?" "here's my \$7.00. I'm upgrading my membership to Regular," to mention a few.

Everyone had a wonderful time, surrounded by the car's sumptuous decor. And as far as we know, only two freeloaders managed to slip into the car, but they appeared to conduct themselves in the proper fashion and no problems arose.

The success of the festivities was due in large part to the wonderful members and friends who did the work that had to be done. Under the general coordination of Dick Pennick, who suggested the open house idea, member Ann McVeagh headed up

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a committee assisted by Gretchen Timmermans, Mrs. Josephine Mercer, Mrs. Clifford Pennick, Jack Stodelle, Mrs. Joel Cloud, Ron Milot, Mrs. Rob Sides, Mrs. Dan Marnell, Bob DiGiorgio, and Frieda Butler. Many of these great people donated champagne, hors d'oeuvres, punch, glasses, etc. Ron Milot and Bob's eldest son Danny, attired in the white coats of dining car porters, enhanced the private car setting and were kept busy serving second helpings in the grand manner to the many guests throughout the car. Ann's son Chris and a friend served champagne, as did Perry Timmermans and others. Contributing member Steve Rosefeld locked his keys in his car, but the combined efforts and ingenuity of Rosefeld, Cliff Pennick, and Dick Pennick retrieved the keys on the end of a coat hanger wire, and a catastrophe was averted. A day to be long remembered!

## DOCTORS' WIVES TOUR CANCELLED

The planned tour of VICTORIA on Sept. 20th by the wives of doctors attending an acupuncture seminar in San Diego was cancelled due to lack of wives! The coordinator of the tour called to say that only a very small number of wives had accompanied their husbands and therefore was no need for the special planned activities.

Concerning future use of the VICTORIA, the Museum has not yet worked out a procedure or lease agreement to allow public tours at this time.

## OLLIE JOHNSTON'S LOCO BACK IN BUSINESS

The diminutive "MARIE" was an authentic 36" gauge 0-4-2 steam locomotive once used to haul coal in Washington and now owned and operated occasionally by Mr. Johnston at his Cuyamaca mountains estate, has been repaired.

Some of our members recall Ollie's disappointment this last Spring when, while the engine was being steamed up for our annual run, a flue burst, cancelling the planned steam operation. A narrow-gauge speeder was substituted for the ailing Porter.

Word has been received recently that the engine now sports a complete new set of flues and is again ready for providing pleasure to the Johnston family, friends, and hopefully the Museum in Spring, 1975.

MUSEUM NAME BADGES STILL AVAILABLE

Official 3" diameter name badges, with dark blue lettering on a light blue background, are still available from the Museum for only \$1.00. You have probably noticed many members wearing these attractive badges at meetings, banquets, and other get-togethers. They are available to all members, whether regular or contributing, and are great for getting to know who's who in PSRMA. Send your check or M.O. to: Dick Pennick, 9584 Upland Street, Spring Valley, CA 92077. All potential Puerto Penasco train staffers should have one.

PSRMA IN THE NEWS AGAIN

Under the by-line of Joe Stone, long-time San Diego Union feature writer and frustrated locomotive engineer, our Museum was again brought before the public's eye in the Travel & Liesure section of the Sept. 22nd issue.

Featured in the  $\frac{1}{2}$ -page presentation were photos of members' children satisfying their curiosity on our railroad equipment at Miramar NAS. The text was essentially accurate and gave a good account of our progress to date and our hopes for the future. Copies of the paper may be obtained at any office of the San Diego Union for \$.50 each. Copies of the photos used may also be obtained by calling the business office and requesting an order form.

The Museum extends its appreciation to Mr. Stone and the San Diego Union for providing this glimpse of "America's finest railway museum."

THANKS FOR THE HELP

I wish to thank Ron Zeiss, Mr. and Mrs. Fairweather, and especially Dan McLean for helping in the clean-up and taking inventory of the VICTORIA. (Ron Milot, Ass't Supt.)

VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA, by H. Chalmers Kerr, Jr., President

WHAT IS THIS HOBBY OF OURS? - Railway historical pursuits are a sport!

And, by definition, the word sport means, "that which diverts, and makes mirth; pastime; amusement;...a game or other form of pastime involving some amount of bodily exercise and carried on either in the open air or indoors - any activity providing entertainment or recreation - a pastime - a diversion."

Each of us are involved in railroading because we enjoy it. If we didn't we'd be collecting stamps or playing tennis or building model airplanes. As individuals, each of us has our own particular interest areas within the spectrum of railroading. For some, restoration of equipment, from scratch or with the help of plans, is the most enjoyable aspect of the sport. Others who care very little about building, painting, etc., enjoy riding and operating trains, locomotives and streetcars. Still other individuals enjoy the rewarding process of historical research, collecting of books, photographs, paper and hardware artifacts and building models too, and finally the thrill of educating young and old alike in the fascinating world of railways.

And, all of these categories - building, operating, researching, collecting and educating - can be broken down into more specific interest groups. As an example, the builder may be primarily interested in the intricate details of painting and restoration of wooden passenger car bodies, or, if he or she is technically oriented, understanding the maintaining steam, diesel and electric locomotives can provide a lifetime of challenges. The operator, on the other hand, may be involved in the pursuit of thundering down the High-Iron, hand on throttle with smoke laden wind for his breath. Or, you may enjoy the social aspects of visiting other museums, attending railfan conventions and riding on special excursions, behind steam or diesel, no matter, enjoying the challenge of a lively railroad memorabilia auction, all of these events are offered on the local, regional, and national levels.

VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA -- Continued

The key to the entire sport of railroading history is your personal enjoyment of that sport. If you work under continual stress and a highly competitive job, and find that competition makes you continually nervous, then our sport is for you. There is a place for everyone in railroading history pursuits. Also remember the Sunday railroader - he constitutes 95% of the sport, and is, in fact, the backbone of it. By all means then enjoy those activities that you can safely and successfully engage in - do it.

All of this is simply in recognition that there is a place for everyone in this sport and hobby and that your enjoyment of this sport is of prime importance. If you don't enjoy what you are doing, don't feel that you have to do it - in fact, you would be well advised to find another aspect that you would enjoy more, for your own good and certainly it will enhance PSRMA's goals. But, whatever you do, do it to the best of your ability, for maximum personal enjoyment, and remember always that any sport involves sportsmanship - and this sport and hobby is full of good sportsmanship due to the individuals involved in it being willing to lend a helping hand to another hobbyist whenever it is needed.

In fact, you, as a railroader belong to one of the most exclusive fraternities of sportsmen in existence - the railway enthusiasts around the world who speak the same language regardless of differing political viewpoints. This is evidenced by the camaraderie and outstanding sportsmanship evidenced in U.S. and foreign railway publications, when visiting others and via the personal written word.

We hope you'll like being a railroad sport!

A REMINDER - October 25, 1974 will be the next general membership meeting. Same place -- House of Hospitality, La Sala, in Balboa Park; same time, at 7:30 pm; program of railroading slides, plus business and the election of 1975 PSRMA officers. If you can't attend this meeting, please all regular members mail their ballots to the Association Secretary Bob DiGiorgio so he will receive them prior to October 25th.

FROM THE CAB, by Dick Pennick, Superintendent

BICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT

Due to the present uncertainty over the arrival date of the French Mikado, the Museum directors have decided to substitute our ex-Coos Bay Timber Co. Mikado tank locomotive No. 11 in our planned Bicentennial exhibit on the Embarcadero, hopefully later this year. The directors rightfully felt the big logging engine would be a more appropriate substitute than any of the three smaller engines owned by the Museum and available for display. Of course, the No. 11 will need some new paint and shining up, but that's the fun part!

As you may remember, the other half of the exhibit is to be ex-Santa Fe Cafe-Observation No. 1509, now in storage at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot along Pacific Highway. The car will be completely repainted and refurbished inside and out, and showcases installed to display the history and development of San Diego and Southwestern United States railroads. Title Insurance Co. of San Diego has promised a selection of its vast photo archives for display in the car, and much local historical material is available for loan. A bicentennial committee chairman will be selected shortly, and a plan of attack worked out.

Some of the items needed for display are:

1. glass showcases (loan, rent, donation,)
2. picture frames, large and small
3. photos, timetables, books, tickets, passes, etc., pertaining to the history and development of railroads in the Southwestern U.S., with particular emphasis on ATSF, S.P., and the once prolific local lines in and around S.D.

If you should have any of these items and wish to loan them to the Bicentennial committee for the duration of the exhibit (through 1976), please contact Eric Sanders at 469-1288. No material will be picked up until the car is ready to receive it. All we need to know now is what there is, and where it is.

We will also need some volunteer help to take care of the many smaller tasks involved with refurbishing the car. Some of you have seen our VICTORIA, so you know what can be done. Call Dick Pennick, Superintendent (463-2276) to offer your help.



October 25, Fall General Meeting,  
PSRMA, 7:30 pm, House  
of Hospitality, La Sala  
in Balboa Park, San  
Diego. Election of  
officers and program  
of slides on railroading  
in Alaska!

October REPORT: VICTORIA Open House reported success

Ollie Johnston's MARIE is back

Bicentennial Exhibit News

Come to the meeting, Friday,  
October 25th!

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# PSRMA

## GENERAL MEETING

When??? Friday, October 25, 1974  
7:30 pm

Where??? House of Hospitality, La Sala  
Balboa Park, San Diego

What??? Business meeting  
Election of 1975 officers  
Program!!!

Vernon Cook will give us a showing  
of slides pertaining to railroading  
from his trips --- last year in  
Alaska, perhaps this year in the  
Pacific Northwest; and...

Slides from fan trips with car 1509  
between National City and Fallbrook  
(1963 and 1964). Come and see how  
it was done then!