

# HOT RAIL!

NEWS & EVENTS



Published by Southern California Railway Plaza Association

January 2022

2021 has come and gone and the Fullerton Train Museum continues to be a place for train enthusiasts and volunteers to serve and donate their valuable time, and for visitors of all ages to take a *“Walk Through Time”* and learn about the history of the railroad and its part in helping to grow the city of Fullerton.

Without our volunteers, we wouldn’t be able to put on events that continue to be free to the community like our Halloween and Christmas events. Or continue to be open for free tours on the first and third Saturday of every month.

The museum has also become a place for Boy Scouts to fulfill their leadership program to become Eagle Scouts and for local students to volunteer and complete their civic volunteer hours. We are very proud of our museum and the direction we are heading. We look forward to seeing you in 2022! Enjoy your newsletter and learn more. And also learn who was named the outstanding volunteer of the year.....

## Spooky Train Event a Success! By Mary Proctor

The ghost and goblins have been rather anxious the last year and half because there hadn’t been anyone to SCARE! The ghost finally got their day on October 16, 2021, when the Fullerton Train Museum hosted the Spooky Train event.

It was fun for everyone because most of the visitors were dressed in their costumes. Our visitors were tricked by a few skeletons in closets, a talking pumpkin and the very old conductor sitting in the caboose. There was lots of candy, of course.



A big thanks to all the volunteers who came out to decorate the cars but also passed out candy and helped the visitors on and off the cars.



## Christmas at the Museum By Mary Proctor

It was 2 weeks before Christmas and all through the yard, busy volunteers were **decorating** the railcars, in anticipation **for** Santa’s visit the very next weekend.

The day dawned sunny and bright though it was a little chilly, but that did **not** stop the kids from coming to see Santa. The visitors were treated to stickers, candy, coloring books and markers. The biggest surprise ever to the volunteers was “Who Santa Was”!

A big thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the decorations and helped on the day of the event.



## **President's message**

We have started the new year off with preparations for the installation for upcoming Rail-Stream Virtual camera at the Museum. Upon completion, the Fullerton Train Station will be live, 24/7 on You Tube about mid-February. This installation will provide a constant live feed of the Rail traffic at the Fullerton Train Station.

The electrical service has been installed and is up and operating and the footing work has begun.

We had successful Halloween and Christmas Events, thank you to all that decorated and participated in both events.

Donna Johnson and Beth Barlow have notified me that they will no longer be able to serve as Directors on the SCRPA Board. Their efforts and support for the organization will be greatly missed. Thank you from all of the board members and myself for your many years of service to the organization. Thank you!

We are looking forward to another successful year at your museum, there are many projects and events coming this year and hopefully your support and service will continue to help us grow.

Harold  
President, Fullerton Train Museum



Halloween 2021

## **Make a Donation EVERY time you shop at Amazon via the Amazon Smile Program**

Much appreciation to all of you who are shopping on Amazon Smile. That means you, our members, are telling your family and friends how they can help us raise money to continue in our restoration of the cars and cabooses.

Just a reminder on how easy it is to use AMAZON SMILE: Step 1-Type in Smile.Amazon.com Step 2-Type in Southern Calif. Railway Plaza Assoc. as the name of the group they will support Step 3: Bookmark the Smile.Amazon page. Step 4: Use that bookmark when going to AmazonSmile. Remember, for each Amazon Smile purchase you make, Amazon will donate a percentage to our organization.

Think of it as a sustaining membership. Thank you and keep shopping Amazon Smile and supporting the Fullerton Train Museum.

### **Quarterly Dinner Meetings and Movie Nights** **On hold—pending Sizzler Restaurant in Fullerton** **Corner of Harbor Blvd and Brea Blvd** **6 pm no host dinner then 7 pm meeting**

#### **Fullerton Train Museum**

**Mission:** Founded by the SCRPA, the **Fullerton Train Museum** will be the region's destination attraction that serves as a center for gathering, preserving and interpreting significant railroad artifacts -- including railcars, photos, charts, plats, maps, books and such dioramas as depots and model trains.

**Vision:** To provide an educational atmosphere that vividly brings to life the cultural and historical importance of rail transportation through the preservation, conservation and display of historic railcars and memorabilia.

## Railroad Operations Committee Update — ROC

### By Harold Benash

Many accomplishments' have been made in 2021. There are too many to list, but all that have participated in the work parties, you know who you are, thank you for a wonderful and successful year.

I look forward to everyone's participation in the upcoming year and to make 2022 even better. Thank you everyone for your efforts and involvement with the Museum. It could not have been done without you.

## Volunteers Wanted for Many Opportunities

Come out and volunteer your time at the museum. Do you like to help with:

- event planning and organization
- working on vintage railcars or learning how to work on vintage railcars
- becoming knowledgeable about history and teaching others
- fundraising and public relations and marketing

Contact us at 714-278-0648 and let us know what your interests are.....we can find a place for you!

## Membership — New and Renewal

It is time for our Annual Membership Drive. Your membership supports the Fullerton Train Museum in so many ways. We thank you in advance and ask you to continue your needed support by renewing or joining today.

Your financial support continues our growth and development. We are proud to say that 2021 has been a successful year. Visitors came back in force, and volunteers are back and working **harder** than ever.

As with most non-profits, our expenses continue to rise. Your tax-deductible membership is vital to the success of the Fullerton Train Museum. Your membership also allows you to volunteer – to become a docent or work on the cars and grow the museum.

Enclosed is our membership application for renewals and new members. You can also renew and join on our website and pay via credit card. Click on the "The SCRPA" tab, then click on "Membership" to pay by credit card.

Visit [www.fullertontrainmuseum.org](http://www.fullertontrainmuseum.org) to join and learn more. Again, thank you for your continued support, if you have any questions, please call us at 714-278-0648.

### Do you have a student that needs community service hours? We need YOU!

Please help us make these events successful!

Volunteers needed to:

- Help decorate the cars a week before the event
- Pass out candy the day of the event
- Crowd control

Contact the SCRPA Hotline at 714-278-0648 to volunteer.

## Volunteer of the Year

### Ridenour Service Award Presented to President, Harold Benash

Fullerton Train Museum and SCRPA President, Harold Benash received the 2021 Ridenour Service Award at the fall quarterly dinner at the Fullerton Sizzler Restaurant, October 11, 2021.

Presenter Mary Proctor recognized Harold's many years of service to the organization and his dedication to furthering the goals of SCRPA and the Fullerton Train Museum. She said Harold put his heart and soul into his volunteerism and is an inspiration to all of us.

Mr. Benash has been a member since 2000 and is currently starting his 6th consecutive term as president of the organization. He became active as a board member in 2008 and started off as the Chairman of the History and Modeling Committee which later became the Railroad Operations Committee.

Mr. Benash said later that he is rarely without words, but was completely caught off guard and "speechless" when presented with the honor.

The Service Award is named for Mr. Clarence Ridenour, a founder of the Southern California Scenic Railway Association 39 years ago. Mr. Ridenour was a very special person; one who could motivate others by his own work ethic and he was truly an inspiration to everyone he met.

Mr. Ridenour passed away in the early 1990's, but his memory lived on in the hearts of the SCSRA membership, and in 1993, SCSRA president, Chell Hurdle, proposed a service award named after Clarence, since, without Clarence's motivation and drive, SCSRA might not ever have become organized. Upon the merger of SCSRA and SCRPA, the accolade was embraced by SCRPA's Board of Directors and is awarded annually to a deserving member of the organization.

Congratulations, buddy. You certainly earned the recognition.



## A "Speeder" Arrives at the Museum By Wendell Hanks

The speeder story starts in 1893 with the Sheffield Velocipede Co. As time progressed, they were known as motorcars, putt-putts, crew cars, track maintainers, and draisines. Their purposes remained much the same for track inspection and general maintenance of way. From the varied manufactures over the years, the Fairmont Gas Engine and Railway Motor Car Co. became the dominant manufacturer. But, by the 1990s, the speeders gave way to automotive trucks equipped with flanged wheels so they alternately ride the highways and the rails. The name "speeder" was adopted by a comparison between a hand-pumper and gas engine powered versions. The hand-pumper's top speed was 15 mph with gasoline -powered speeders reaching an easy 40 mph. The last Fairmont speeder was made in 1991.

Our Fullerton Museum now has two Fairmont speeders we are restoring. Now, freshly painted, a 9' long model M-14 speeder was donated by museum member Gordon Bachlund. A second speeder, model M-19, along with a multitude of mechanical and electrical parts, was donated by Bob Bennett. The M-19 is being modified as a "passenger" car, sans engine, for youngsters and accompanying adults to be pulled by the M-14 along our museum's rail line. All aboard!



# Trivia

## "The Million Dollar Rexall Streamlined Convention

Compiled by Dennis White

Perhaps no other train was as popular, and quickly forgotten, as the *Rexall Streamlined Convention Train*. This publicity endeavor was carried out by the United Drug Company (Rexall), founded by Louis Liggett, along with the assistance from several railroads, most notably the New York Central.

The train went on a months-long tour around the country during 1936 as a rolling national convention for druggists.

During a time when the United States was still pulling itself out of the Great Depression the concept proved incredibly successful with millions visiting the train during its many hundreds of stops. Towards the end of the year the party was over and the equipment returned to its owners.

When the train debuted, the streamliner craze was hitting the nation. As a result, the Rexall Train was powered by a gleaming streamlined 4-8-2 and rebuilt heavyweight cars.

Amid struggling times, Louis Liggett wished to host a national convention for druggists (pharmacists) across the country. Realizing, however, that financial struggles would likely see low turnout at a central location Liggett came up with the radical idea of hosting a rolling convention by rail.

It wasn't long before he had acquired the needed equipment for such a train.

The consist included twelve heavyweight passenger cars, which were leased from Pullman while the New York Central provided ALCO 4-8-2 #2873.

To make the train really stand out the equipment was completely overhauled and given a streamlined look with new domed roofs, full width diaphragms; an entirely new concept that was all the rage in 1936.

"The Million Dollar Rexall Streamlined Convention Train" featured a livery of blue and white, Rexall's corporate colors at the time, with "The Rexall Train" adorning #2873's skirting as well as its nose.

All twelve cars were named for the latest Rexall products with some cars open to the public as exhibitions; the others

were either private or available only to druggists and store owners. To further enhance its appeal the train was entirely air-conditioned.

A brief overview of the consist is provided on the next page, including their Rexall name, use on the train, and disposition.

The *Rexall Train* departed Boston, Massachusetts March 29, 1936. During the next eight months it visited every state except Nevada, including portions of southern Canada. It traveled 29,000 miles, stopped at 200 cities, and entertained 10,000 druggists and 20,000 Rexall sales people.

Additionally, 2.3 million visitors made their way through the sections open



NYC 2873 - American-rails.com

The Finest Train In The World! ++ the

**MILLION DOLLAR STREAMLINED**

**Rexall TRAIN**

IN LOCKPORT  
TOMORROW SATURDAY  
September 19th

See It!  
Park Avenue  
N.Y.C. Freight  
Station  
This End Of City

...IT'S ALL FREE...  
Everybody is Invited To Inspect This Super-Liner  
Tell Your Friends! -- It's a Sight You Must Not Miss!

Parsons Drug Stores  
THE REXALL STORES  
3 MAIN ST. NEWLEY BUILDING 29 LOCUST ST.

ASK US FOR FREE TICKETS!

Inspection Hours  
Saturday  
September 19th  
10:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.  
Park Ave., N.Y.C.

FOUR CARS OF EXHIBITS PATTERNED BY CENTURY OF PROGRESS ARTISTS

SHINE SUBSTITUTES First Baby Nipples on Display

Standing across the country on the historic-making tour - this modern train with streamlined appointments is bringing a "Wonderland of Science" right to your door. A display of educational exhibits is the largest assembled to date in the world. A mighty locomotive weighing 250 tons!

This Spectacular Train is the only one of its kind in the world. Streamlined in its exterior and equipped with the latest innovations of transportation, with one coach as a mobile drug store; one with a model research laboratory - all interesting and educational features. Also, conveniently the Display of Pure Foods and Candy. Monthly drug sales to amount at the sight of Cigarette Sales flowing from the large branch of grapes suspended from the ceiling - artificial and stunning. Travel to the World's Finest Train.



Rexall Train route - themetrains.com

## The Consist Overview:

<i>Type of equipment</i>	<i>Rexall Name</i>	<i>Pullman Name</i>	<i>Use on Rexall train</i>	<i>Disposition</i>
<b>Baggage Club</b>	<b>Kantleek</b>	<b>Whitney</b>	<b>Storage, elect generator and work space</b>	<b>Sold to Gulf Mobile &amp; Ohio (GM&amp;O), numbered 419</b>
<b>16 section sleeper</b>	<b>First Aid</b>	<b>Haldeman</b>	<b>Sleeping quarters for Rexall staff</b>	<b>Sold to Southern Pacific (SP) maintenance of way SPMW5554</b>
<b>36 seat Parlor car</b>	<b>Ad-Vantage</b>	<b>Lanesville</b>	<b>Display car</b>	<b>Sold to Pennsylvania (PRR), converted to coach 1205</b>
<b>36 seat Parlor car</b>	<b>Research</b>	<b>Norwich</b>	<b>Display car</b>	<b>Sold to Pennsylvania (PRR), converted to coach 1204</b>
<b>36 seat Parlor car</b>	<b>Bisma-Rex</b>	<b>Bolton</b>	<b>Display car Open to the public</b>	<b>Sold to Pennsylvania (PRR), converted to coach 1202</b>
<b>36 seat Parlor car</b>	<b>Cara Nome</b>	<b>Halifax</b>	<b>Display car Open to the public</b>	<b>Sold to Pennsylvania (PRR), converted to coach 1203</b>
<b>36 seat Parlor car</b>	<b>Klenzo</b>	<b>Hadlyme</b>	<b>88 seat lecture car. Convert to dance hall at night</b>	<b>Sold to Missouri Pacific (MP), converted to Tourist car 6070</b>
<b>16 section sleeper</b>	<b>Symphony</b>	<b>Wanakena</b>	<b>Rebuilt by Pullman into a Plan 4004 dining car to serve train staff.</b>	<b>Sold to Atlantic Coast Line (ACL). Remained a dining car</b>
<b>36 seat Parlor car</b>	<b>Adrienne</b>	<b>Hingham</b>	<b>88 seat lecture car. Convert to dance hall at night</b>	<b>Sold to Missouri Pacific, converted to Tourist car 6071</b>
<b>36 seat Parlor car</b>	<b>Mi-31</b>	<b>Montwait</b>	<b>Bar/Lounge/ dancehall for store owners</b>	<b>Sold to Missouri Pacific (MP), converted to Tourist car 6072</b>
<b>10 compartment sleeper</b>	<b>Joan Manning</b>	<b>Ridgeville</b>	<b>Sleeper quarters for train staff</b>	<b>Sold to Royal American Shows.</b>
<b>4 compartment sleeper/ observation</b>	<b>Puretest</b>	<b>Newport</b>	<b>Private quarters of Louis Liggett</b>	<b>Sold to Northern Pacific (NP) business car #4.</b>
<b>4-8-2 #2873, New York Central Class L-2c streamlined Mohawk, American Locomotive Company (ALCO). Streamlined at NYC's West Albany, NY shops for The Rexall Train along the lines of the NYC J-3a Hudson #5344. NYC 2873 was converted to oil for the Rexall Train as coal was not available in the Southwestern United States.</b>				<b>Returned to NYC, shrouding removed and recon-verted to coal. Shrouding scrapped for the war effort in 1942</b>

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<https://www.american-rails.com/rexall.html>

**Fullerton Train Museum  
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Fullerton, CA 92838-5195**

***Address correction requested***

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## HOT RAIL!

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Send your letters to the editor to the address above

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### SCRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Harold Benash: President  
Allison Benash  
George Engelage IV  
Wendell Hanks, Vice President  
Denis Hergenreter  
Jim Hoffmann, Movie Night Chairman and Docent Chairman  
David Norris: Quarterly Dinner Program Chairman  
Mary Proctor: Treasurer/Secretary  
Stuart Proctor  
R. Dennis White  
Eric Shishima  
Martin Kluck  
Kathy Norris  
Rudolph Morgenfruh

### SCRPA APPOINTED CHAIRPERSONS

Secretary	tba
Poster Contest	Kathy Norris
Activities	tba

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Board of Directors Meetings at 9:00 a.m.**  
Second Saturday of every Month

**Quarterly Membership Dinners**  
Location tbd  
at 6 p.m.

Second Wednesday of  
January, April, July, October

**Railroad Operations Committee Work Days**  
9 am – noon at the rail cars  
Every Saturday

**Fullerton Train Museum Hours**  
**Free Tours**  
1st and 3rd Saturday of every month

**Movie Night —**  
tbd

Fullerton Train Museum  
presents the

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