

HOT RAIL!

NEWS & EVENTS



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Fullerton Train Museum Gets Major Acquisition

By Dennis White

The Fullerton Train Museum added something new, and very special to its collection of historic rail cars recently with the arrival of [Former Santa Fe Super Chief 8-6 sleeper, Palm Leaf](#), PPCX 800237, formerly Amtrak 2753 and Santa Fe 1604. Since 1984 this car has been lovingly overhauled several times and actively operated and maintained in charter service all over the [AMTRAK](#) system.

Built by American Car and Foundry (ACF) for Santa Fe's flagship ultra-luxe *Super Chief* in 1951, she was one of thirteen Palm series 10-6 sleepers (10 roomettes, 6 double bedrooms) ordered by the railroad in 1948. The *Palm Leaf's* double bedrooms feature either a short sofa and individual lounge chair or a long sofa seat: the sofas convert to lower berths at night while upper berths are folded away and stored against the ceiling or wall when not needed. Each double bedroom has a private bathroom with individual toilet and wash basin. Folding the partition between adjoining double bedrooms creates a suite during the day if so desired. Roomettes are single bedrooms with a short sofa and sink; the single bed is stored against the wall during the day.

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK), created May 1, 1971 by Congress, assumed ownership of *Palm Leaf* renumbering it AMTK 2753, and with the exception of removing the *Santa Fe* name from the letter board, the addition of Amtrak's red, white and blue stripes along the win-

dow band and obligatory black underframe and running gear, she remained physically unchanged from her glory days on the *Super Chief*. At one time or another, *Palm Leaf* served on most, if not all nationalized passenger trains requiring a sleeper car throughout the AMTRAK system until 1981, when entropy finally raised its ugly head and they decided not to expend funds to overhaul and equip the car with head-End-Power (HEP); *Palm Leaf* was de-

clared surplus, retired and moved to Beech Grove, Indiana to await her fate.

A private individual purchased *Palm Leaf* from AMTRAK in 1982; moved her to Englewood, Colorado and spent the next four years lovingly overhauling and modernizing her with full Head-End-Power

(HEP), a new and larger generator, train communication line, air conditioner, and individually controlled heat in each room. Amtrak paint and number were removed, her undercarriage and trucks returned to their "before AMTRAK" silver, with "Pullman" added to the formerly blank upper letterboard. She was renumbered to PPCX 800237 and departed Denver, CO for Los Angeles, CA to begin her new life as a private railcar in charter service.



Story continued on page 3

President's message

By now you are all aware that we cancelled RR Days 2020, also cancelled are the April Quarterly Dinner and Movie Night due to mandated procedures by the powers to be. We will continue to maintain the Museum properties and equipment in spite of the circumstances. All precautions will be taken by those who work to maintain the Museum.

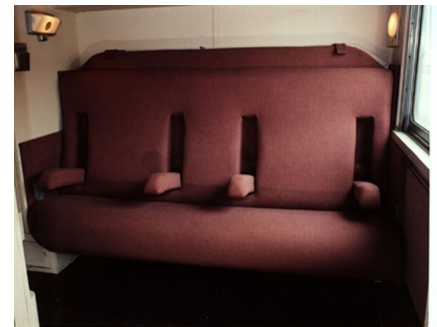
We have completed the crossover to the Palm Leaf, which has arrived at the Museum, and is ready to be included in our Open House tours when we reopen. It is a major addition to our collection and complements our other pieces of rolling stock. We are planning to display the compartments for daytime travel, as well as nighttime, by preparing them for sleeping status. Your FTM Porters will be undertaking these duties in the near future. We are also working on providing electrical power to the Palm Leaf.

We are looking forward to reopening the Museum to the public as soon as it is feasible, considering the current health conditions.

In the meantime, take care of yourselves, be safe, be positive and let's return to normal with gusto when the time is right.

A big thank you to all of our volunteers, Docents and Worker Bee's, for the continuing effort that they provide to the maintenance and upkeep of our Museum.

Harold Benash
President
Fullerton Train Museum



Quarterly Dinner Meeting — April—CANCELLED

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.

Palm Leaf, con't.

Palm Leaf underwent further modernization in 1992; her interior reconfigured to 8-6 floorplan, (8 roomette, 6 double bedroom) gaining much needed space for the addition of a dressing room, shower, kitchenette with refrigerator, freezer, and microwave - amenities that made multi-night trips much more civilized. Her exterior wasn't ignored, either; the word "*Pullman*" was removed from the letter board and replaced with the historically accurate "*Santa Fe*."

A group of friends acquired PPCX 800237 sometime around 2007, incorporating as *Palm Leaf Corporation*. They developed *Rough Rider*TM trips to identify and promote the organization's series of low-cost rail excursions utilizing the sleeper; minimizing expenses by traveling without a separate diner/lounge car. Passengers brought food items of their preference to sustain themselves over the course of several days touring, all of which were stored in refrigeration and freezer space onboard and prepared by the guests themselves. Self-service and informality were the rule; however, a porter was always onboard to assist with traveler's needs if needed. *Palm Leaf Corporation* operated the sleeper several times a year for more than a decade in this manner, until AMTRAK banned most private car operation, March 28, 2018. With the end of a means to support the car, she was put into storage and ultimately finding a new home at the Southern California Railway Plaza Association (SCRPA) in Fullerton, CA residing in its Fullerton Train Museum alongside the historic Fullerton former Santa Fe depot.

Please make plans to visit the Fullerton Train Museum soon and take a nostalgic walk through the Palm Leaf and all of our railcars. Talk to the docents and workers, and if you are of like mind, join in the ongoing work to maintain and display these beautiful artifacts.

Palm Leaf PPCX 800237, nee AMTK 2753, and ATSF 1604, is thought to be the last surviving Palm Series sleeper in existence, making her acquisition particularly sweet.



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Address correction requested

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SCRPA APPOINTED CHAIRPERSONS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board of Directors Meetings at 7:00 p.m.
Second Monday of every Month

Quarterly Membership Dinners
Sizzler Restaurant in Fullerton on Harbor Blvd.
at 6 p.m.

Second Wednesday of
January, April, July, October
"APRIL IS CANCELLED"

**Railroad Operations Committee Work Days and
Fullerton Train Museum Hours
Free Tours**

9 am – noon at the rail cars
1st and 3rd Saturday of every month
"CLOSED FOR NOW"

Movie Night —
tbd

Fullerton Train Museum

presents the

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