



# REPORT

Issue 92

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

January, 1973

## THE VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA

H. C. Kerr, Jr., President

HAPPY NEW YEAR - PSRMA's goal of establishing an operating public museum of railroading and urban rail transit, while a worthwhile mission, has become a monumental task, yet unaccomplished. To realize this goal 1973 will be the most important year in the Association history.

Ground will be broken for the permanent Museum facilities in 1973, but to realize this objective the total effort and commitment of all PSRMA members will be required. Your administrative staff pledges itself to work vigorously during 1973 to insure the growth and prosperity of PSRMA.

A RECAP - Looking back on the past twelve months I can see much progress to be proud of and some setbacks to view with dismay.

Some of the 1972 pluses were:

+ Suitable land was located in Campo for the Museum facilities.

+ The San Diego & Arizona Eastern Railway is agreeable to providing rail access to the site from their mainline.

+ All leases for storage of rolling stock have been renewed for one year more.

+ The annual Puerto Penasco excursion was the most successful ever conducted.

+ General Meeting attendance in Balboa Park has increased, although there is room for improvement.

+ Good publicity was received in the local newspapers and television and radio. Excellent coverage was given to our land needs and equipment acquisitions.

+ Barring unexpected difficulty with Congressional approval, PSRMA received the donation of an ex-Army 45-ton General Electric center-cab diesel switcher.

+ Turnouts improved at recent work parties and restoration projects.

Some of the 1972 minuses were:

- Liberation Mikado 141R1199 is still stranded in France for lack of funds or donated services to ship to San Diego.

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## THE VIEW FROM THE CAB

Dick Pennick, General Superintendent

It's a new year, hopefully one which will see us acquire our permanent home and begin our long-awaited Museum development. A personal "hello" to all new members.

The response to our call for help on the December 9th project activity was encouraging. Even Mother Nature showed up with her freinds Rain and Mud. The weather threatened so bad, in fact, that the activity was postponed to SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH. A word to our new members and others regarding our project activity policy: Unless otherwise advertised, all interested parties should call the General Superintendent in advance at 463-2276 to let him know they plan to help out. Otherwise we have no way of knowing how many helpers we can expect on a given day. Usually, if no calls are received, important projects may be cancelled. This is often an embarrassing as well as frustrating experience since much planning, and maybe other parties (like the SeaBees recently) have been set up in advance for that day.

December 9th, although aborted, did show that our members still care and are anxious to help get the job done! To all of you: Thanks, and hang tight 'til January 13th.

Mr. and Mrs. Hern Ruiz have graciously offered to provide some of the paint needed to restore our old wooder refrigerator car at MCRD. Incidentally, our ex-Master Mechanic Bob DiGiorgio is back in the fold after a somewhat disappointing stint with a missionary group. He has returned to his M.M. spot on the Museum staff and will be taking over the reefer restoration project as foreman. Contact Bob at 565-4452 if you would like to lend a hand. If you've ever wondered what a reefer looks like on the inside, this is your chance.

PSRMA LOCOMOTIVE LEASED TO NATIONAL CITY  
RAIL-ORIENTED RESTAURANT

PSRMA's oldest locomotive, the ex-CRI&P #82, has been leased to The Depot in National City. The Depot is the Santa Fe freight station in that city currently leased to local businessman Milt Pollard.

Pollard is converting the old structure into one of San Diego's finest gourmet restaurants. The original charm of the building is being coupled with a complete display of rolling stock and memorabilia to create a rail-oriented atmosphere.

PSRMA Board of Directors approved the terms of the two year lease at its December meeting, and on December 29th the locomotive was moved from its storage site in the yard of the Scrap Disposal Company half a mile south to the 24th Street depot site.

The locomotive was donated earlier this year to PSRMA by Jerome Williams, owner of Scrap Disposal. Although not a railfan per se it was Williams' foresightedness that preserved this historic jewel.

The locomotive, a small O-4-OT, was built in 1884 at the Silvis, Illinois shops of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. In 1904 it was sold to the Union Sugar Company and moved to San Francisco. It served a variety of jobs in California until acquired by Williams in 1948. He moved the locomotive by truck from Los Angeles to the Scrap Disposal yard in 1958. It had remained there until the recent move to The Depot.

Under the terms for the lease, the locomotive will receive surface restoration, and preservation, by Pollard. As the schedule calls for The Depot to open in early 1973 the #82 will receive a complete facelifting in relatively short order.

PSRMA member John Hathaway has been assigned as an advisor under terms of the lease to aid in the restoration and protect operating mechanisms on the engine. Mechanically the locomotive is in very good shape and quite feasibly will be returned to operating condition when it eventually moves to the permanent Museum site. But for the time being, it's paying its own restoration costs and helping expose PSRMA to the general public.

DEMOLITION OF SANTA FE SAN DIEGO DEPOT  
DELAYED BY CITY COUNCIL ACTION

While the future for the National City Santa Fe depot is secure the coming days for the huge passenger depot in downtown San Diego are uncertain.

Recently the San Diego city council thwarted Santa Fe plans to begin demolition of the 63 year old structure for 180 days. The railroad wants to replace the depot with a \$14-million development complex.

The city council took the delaying action in hopes of obtaining a \$1.6-million grant from the Federal government and converting the Spanish-style building into a central transportation facility while retaining its unique architectural heritage.

A Santa Fe official commented the city's actions delaying demolition might well jeopardize Santa Fe's plans for a new Amtrak station, mall, and business complex on the Kettner and Broadway location.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The highly successful Puerto Penasco trip paid off some extra dividends in a crop of new PSRMA members. We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all the newcomers:

CONTRIBUTING

- Werner Eilers, 2743 Via Arroyo, Fallbrook, CA 92028  
William A. Hammond, 12939 Caminito Bodega, Del Mar, CA 92014  
Catherine D. Hart, P.O. Box 236, Brawley, CA 92227  
Nora R. Hazlebrook, 681 "I", C-13, Chula Vista, CA 92010  
Dr. Edward M. Little, 972 Mountain View Road, El Cajon, CA 92021  
Mrs. Angeline Mroz, 4079 Eagle St., San Diego, CA 92103  
Edward R. Osborn, IC1 525-68-1876, "R" Division, USS Brooke (DEG-1), % FPO San Francisco, CA 96601  
Fred B. Otto, 3756 Putter Dr., Bonita, CA 92002  
Thomas E. Sandlin, 2944 Bautista St., Riverside, CA 92506  
G. C. Swaim, 1621 San Altos Place, Lemon Grove, CA 92045

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THE VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA  
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- 1972 was the second year in several that we were not able to have a membership steamup.

- Thirty months have passed since the general public has had access to our displays. This is a grave step backwards; we are not meeting our chartered educational functions.

- Money was, as always, in short supply, and efforts to secure major contributions ended in failure.

- Vandalism occurred on the Shay and car #576. No major damage was evident.

- Membership leveled off after several years of growth.

- The leased baggage-lounge car, ex-Santa Fe #1303, was sold by its owner.

- The Russell snow plow is being sold because of lack of funds to move it to San Diego. It had to be moved from its previous storage site prior to January 1st.

PSRMA'S NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS:

1. Land for permanent Museum facilities will be obtained and development begun.

2. New sources of financial assistance will be explored.

3. A vigorous public relations, promotion, and educational program will be started.

4. All vacant administrative staff positions will be filled.

5. Membership commitment and involvement will increase.

6. Additional restoration, preservation, and maintenance projects will be undertaken.

Our work has been cut out for us. Let us all support PSRMA to the limit of our abilities. 1973 MUST be the turning point. Your elected officers and volunteer staff cannot do the whole job by themselves. **THEY NEED YOUR HELP! THEY NEED YOU NOW!** Anyone who wants to contribute his or her talents please give me a call at 291-4787.

MEMBERSHIP BADGES - These are still available from Dick Pennick for a very nominal charge and can be obtained by any member. These attractive badges are the ideal way to help get our name across at all Association-sponsored functions.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS  
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REGULAR:

Joseph G. Albo, 4339½ North Avenue, San Diego, CA 92116

Carol Lande, 8633 La Mesa Boulevard, Apt. 88, La Mesa, CA 92041 (Carol is one of the first to renew for 1973!)

Milt Pollard, % The Depot, 24th and Harrison, National City, CA

Two of our staff officials have moved recently. If you have any questions concerning Stores & Purchasing, Terry Durkin's new address is 3754 Pringle St., San Diego, CA 92103. And Director of Records & Personnel John Hathaway has moved to 2926 Copley Avenue, San Diego, CA 92116.

The final address change this month is for Regular member Ward Peterson, P.O. Box 547, Alpine, CA 92001.

Next month's REPORT will include a Membership Application/Renewal Form for 1973 memberships. We're updating some of the information on the form and that's why it's coming out a month late. Previous year's memberships are good through April 15th, so you'll still receive REPORT issues.

PSRMA ANNUAL DINNER TO BE HELD AT HOTEL ISLANDIA SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 6 P.M.

Enclosed with this issue of REPORT is the special brochure/order form for the 1973 PSRMA Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers.

This is the number one PSRMA social function of the year and if at all possible you should attend for a number of reasons:

The Hotel Islandia is one of the nicest dining spots in the city.

Succulent dinners of braised Swiss steak or roast turkey are offered at the very reasonable price of \$4.80.

An intriguing evening of entertainment is planned.

And more....

If you've lost your Annual Dinner brochure, contact George Geyer, 2928 Fir Street, San Diego, CA 92102, or call him at 234-0555.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP: UPCOMING PSRMA  
WORK PARTIES AND PROJECTS SCHEDULED

The December 9th work party scheduled to consolidate the Museum's smaller collection items was postponed because of the untimely appearance of wind and rain. However, this very important session has been RESCHEDULED for SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH, and possibly extended to the FOLLOWING SUNDAY. With the cooperation of the SeaBees there will be no heavy work for Museum members, but the large numbers of smaller items can be handled much easier and quicker with extra hands helping out. All the items to be moved, and they're pretty well scattered at various locations throughout the county, are to be transported to the Association's new site for storage at the County's Valley Center maintenance yard near Escondido.

General Superintendent Dick Pennick is coordinating this effort, so he's the one to call RIGHT AWAY if you can help out either day. He has to have time to form the plan of attack for this large undertaking, so give him a call at 463-2276 in the evenings or weekends right away if you can possibly help.

Another job facing us is the restoration of the PSRMA refrigerator car now in storage at MCRD. Part of our agreement with the Marines was to maintain the car in presentable shape. Well, it needs a paint job. Mr. and Mrs. Herb Ruiz have been kind enough to donate the paint, so  
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the only thing remaining is a little labor. Master Mechanic Bob DiGiorgio is handling this project, and if you're interested in helping out with this one, give him a call at 565-4452. The first session on this project is scheduled for February 3rd and 4th, a Saturday and Sunday. This will be preparing the car for the paint job, so call Bob if you can.

Negotiations are continuing to move smoothly ahead on the lease terms for a possible PERMANENT MUSEUM SITE in the Campo area in east San Diego County. We must develop a reliable source of income to pay basic lease costs as well as development expenses for trackage, Museum buildings, etc.

To meet the expenses for development of our ultimate goal, the Association will have to undertake the most serious fund raising job in its history. The highly successful Puerto Penasco trips, plus our annual membership dues, have carried PSRMA along since its inception. But when we make the first step towards a permanent operating Museum these sources of income just aren't going to do it alone.

President Chop Kerr is currently working on this financial crisis that will face us. If you have any ideas, any talents that could possibly help out, any form of skill and labor you'd be willing to donate, any almost anything that would help, PLEASE contact Chop and let him know what is available as resources within our own Association structure.

PSRMA REPORT

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