

# THE R.L.S. CHRONICLE

A REPORT OF LIVE STEAM ACTIVITIES ON THE R.L.S.

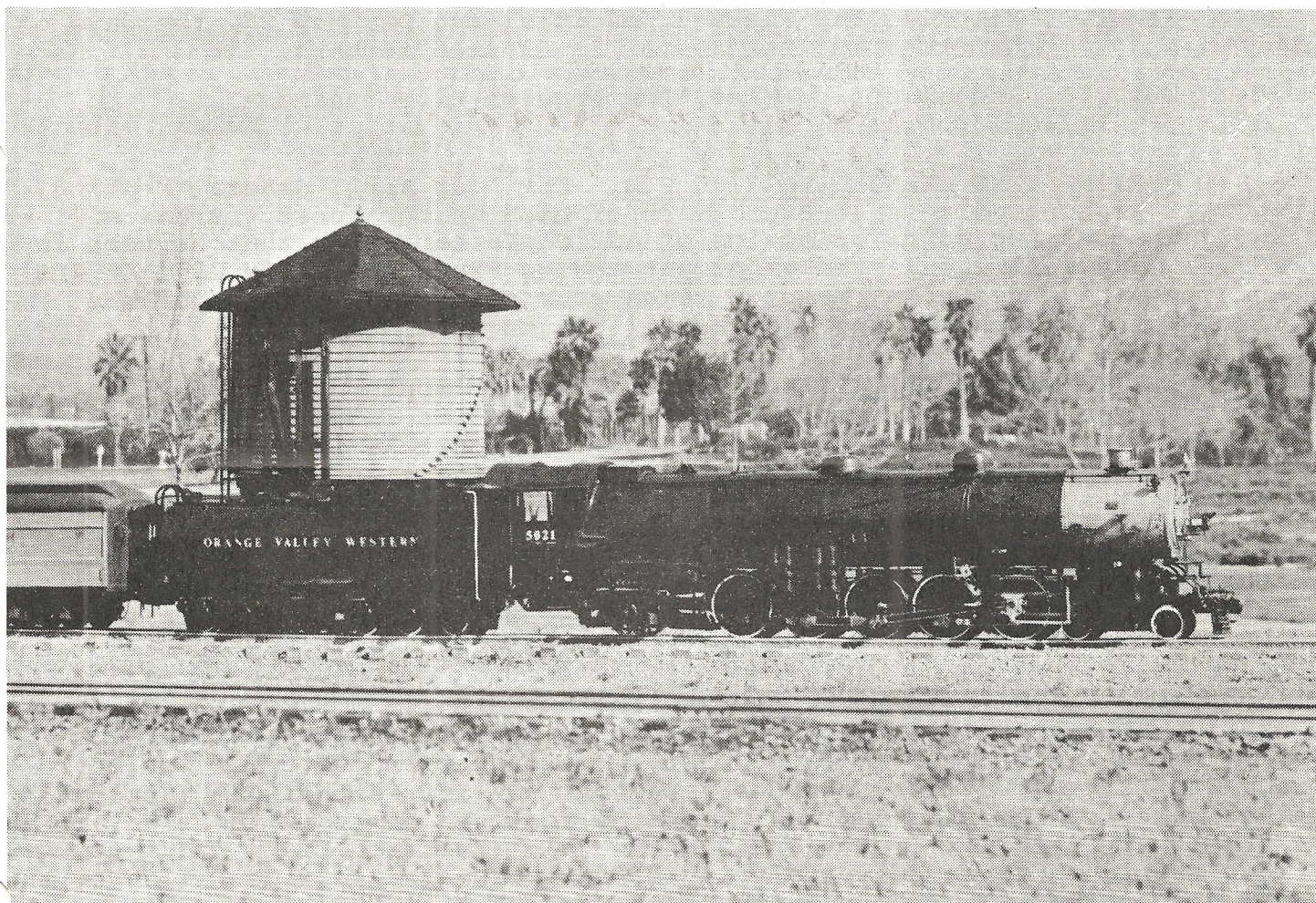
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GEORGE HILDEBRANDT  
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FRANCIS ZAPPEN

TRACK LOCATION:  
1496 Columbia Avenue  
Hunter Park  
Iowa & Columbia Streets  
Riverside, California



Shades of the 1950's. Do you remember when scenes like this were common on the Southern Pacific? Actually, it is 1973, Hunter Park, Riverside, and the locomotive is only 1/12th size. The beautiful locomotive and water tank belong to Jack Sessums, 1972 Nutsplitter of the Year winner.

## COMING EVENTS

### APRIL 1973

- 21..... Special Easter Egg Hunt Run, 9:30 a.m. until finished
- 22..... Easter Sunday, unofficial run day for interested members
- 26..... General Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Engine House (NOTE TIME CHANGE)
- 28..... Work Day, 8:30 a.m. until finished
- 29..... Rescheduled Official Run Day

### MAY 1973

- 5..... Work Day, 8:30 a.m. until finished
- 10..... Board Meeting, 8:00 p.m., Engine House
- 12..... Work Day, 8:30 a.m. until finished
- 13..... Run Day
- 19..... Work Day, 8:30 a.m. until finished
- 24..... General Meeting, Engine House, 8:00 p.m.
- 26-27-28..... Memorial Day Weekend, official Run Day May 27, run days on Saturday and Monday for interested members.
- 26-27-28..... Annual Spring Meet, Los Angeles Live Steamers

APRIL MEETING TIME CHANGED TO 7:30 P.M. For our April General Meeting, we will be honored to have Bruce Ward of LALS as our guest. Bruce will be showing about two hours of movies of African steam power that he took in 1971. Many will recall the excellent movies Bruce showed in 1971 at RLS, and you are urged to mark April 26 on your calendar. Because of the length of the program, the meeting will start at 7:30 p.m.

THREE RLS MEMBERS HOSPITALIZED During the past month, three of RLS's long time members have been hospitalized. Bob Babb was in the hospital for a week of tests and observation, but happy to report he is regaining his strength rapidly, and has already been out to the club. Ken Kepner underwent heart surgery on April 6, and was able to come home April 15. Ken reports he is feeling better every day and is looking forward to starting his post-surgery therapy. He hopes to <sup>be</sup> back to RLS in a very short time. Sorry to report that Sir Francis Smith was hospitalized again on April 12, but he is now home and is to have six weeks of home rest. Listen to the doctor carefully Smitty for we want to see you in Riverside soon.

THANK YOU CITY OF RIVERSIDE A beautiful new sign is now mounted on the station roof that identifies our operation and outlines when the trains will be run. The sign was made possible through the efforts of Don Derr and the Park Department Sign Shop, and our own Jim Keith. Jim fabricated the frame for the sign and had it on the roof the same day the sign arrived.

This should increase the popularity of our passenger service, which by the way has handled 8,512 passengers since September 1, 1972. Poor weather has held our passenger count down with three run days wiped out so far, and several others affected by cold, windy weather.

WELCOME TO TWO NEW MEMBERS We are pleased to announce that two new members have joined RLS. Reinstating his membership is Darryld Babcock, 1271 Ruberta Ave., Glendale, 91201. Glad to have you back!

The second new member is George Earl <sup>CARSON</sup> ~~Carlson~~, 332 N. Las Palmas Ave., Los Angeles. Earl has been active in live steam for many years, and owns a 1" 4-6-2, 4-6-4 and 4-8-4. Currently he is finishing an 1-1/2" 4-6-4 that we understand will truly be outstanding. Welcome to RLS Earl, and we will look forward to having you with us.

TRACK PROGRAM MOVING AHEAD The major track rehabilitation program continues to make substantial progress with over 1,400' of the 1-1/2" main line being reworked to date. Renovation of the track in place has now been started on the original Hunter track still in the ground and with our many power tools, progress can be rapid. All that is needed is more help as an eight man crew can cover many hundreds of feet of track in a day. We have a devoted small group that turns out nearly every Saturday, but more help can be used for we have not had the eight man crew for several weeks.

One of the major tasks ahead is reworking the ball park road crossing for it is taking a beating with increased traffic at the ball park. On April 14, Jim Keith, John Noble and Ken Casford with Barney Root supervising made temporary repairs on the crossing, but the job is not completed. John Keith has made a panel by panel survey of the main line so that we may properly plan the work and acquisition of necessary materials to put the main line in first class shape.

Turning out during March to help with the track work were Allen, Babb, Bagley, Ken Casford, Creighton, Hildebrandt, Jim and John Keith, McChesney, Noble, Powelson, Ratliff, Riesen, Root and Wilson. Work will continue as shown under Coming Events. The weather has been perfect this spring for railroad maintenance work. Come on out.

SACRAMENTO LIVE STEAMERS TO HOLD GOLD SPIKE CELEBRATION The gold spike will be driven on the Sacramento Live Steamers railroad on May 19 during a two day invitational meet on May 19-20. All live steamers are cordially invited to attend. The Sacramento Valley Live Steamers track is located in Rancho Cordova Community Park, a short distance east of Sacramento on Freeway US 50.

Their track is ground level 4 3/4" and 7-1/2" dual gauge 2000' in length with six 20' steaming bays and a 16' turntable. Water, air and electricity are available. If you can attend, please advise SVLS Secretary Curt Janssen, 7413 Alexandria Pl., Stockton, CA 95207. A no host banquet will be held Saturday evening, May 19.

AIR COMPRESSOR BACK IN OPERATION The club air compressor is back in service after being overhauled. It is now hooked up to the new motor recently donated to RLS. One item that would certainly help keep the compressor in good shape would be that when engineers want to blow off dirt and grease from their locomotives that they use an air tool with a small outlet. I think most of us have been guilty of using an air hose with no tool, and this really reduces pressure in a hurry putting an extra heavy load on the compressor. Many thanks to Ernie Wilson for overseeing the repair work on the compressor.

4-8-4 ENGINEER TRAINING UNDER WAY Under the supervision of Dick Bagley, nine members are currently undergoing training on the 4-8-4. Signed up for training are Creighton, Ken and Rich Casford, Cranford, Zappen, Krohne, Ratliff, Willoughby and Van Wingen. If you are

interested in signing up for the 4-8-4 training program, contact the secretary for an application form. As mentioned earlier in the pages of the Chronicle, the program is open to all responsible RLS members upon presentation of an application and a \$5.00 fee. This is an excellent program, and all members are urged to participate.

MARCH RUN DAYS March 11 rained out, but five engines out running on a cold, foggy 25th. On the 1" were Carl Allen (4-6-2) and Mac McChesney (0-6-0). On the 1-1/2", Dick Bagley (4-8-4) and Ken Casford (4-6-2) provided passenger service, while Clarence Johnson out to oversee operation of a magnificent 4-6-0 he recently completed and sold to Carl Bunce, Los Angeles. We hope that Carl will bring the engine back soon for it is beauty. Many visiting LALS members out to see the 4-6-0 in operation.

WITH THE MEMBERS: Carl Allen making good progress on his 1-1/2" 2-8-0. Dick Bagley tried his new 4-4-0 on the club track in March and it performed beautifully. Dick is now working to complete the locomotive and hopes to start on the tender soon. Good to see Al Easley again. He is starting work on his railroad in Arizona. Good to see John Edwards, Clarence Johnson, Ray Walker and Buzz Sutch around RLS. It has been a long time since we have had the pleasure of seeing these members. Come back again soon. John Keith has rebuilt the trucks on one of his gondolas, refurbished the car and has installed brakes. The other car is now in his shops for similar treatment. Rudy Van Wingen reports his Yankee Girl #1 worn out, and a box of parts now. Yankee Girl #7 (Frank Krohne's old 2-6-2) has been rebuilt and fired up according to Rudy. A note from Dean Willoughby with ideas for a block signal system he is working on. Still in the Far East.

WELCOME BACK 2-6-0 One of the most pleasant surprises in months was to arrive for run day on April 8 and find Ron Wilkerson out giving his rebuilt 2-6-0 a break in. Ron ran for about four hours and it was really great to see the engine back in service. It is now equipped with a speedometer. Take a look the next time.

THANK YOU CLARENCE! Clarence Johnson has donated a brand new, fully machined hand pump to RLS to raffled off in the future. As soon as the Board decides how it shall be handled, you will be advised. Support of RLS such as this is what makes this such a great club!

NOTED AROUND THE RAILROAD: After all is said and done, there generally is more said than done.

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