

CAROLWOOD CHRONICLE



Issue 12

Summer-Fall 2001

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CAROLWOOD PACIFIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2001 Event Timetable Schedules Subject to Change

Track 1

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum Hosting Walt Disney Tribute Through Sept. 4, 2001

"Walt Disney—The Man and His Magic," is a centennial tribute to Walt that includes a display of his 1:8 scale Carolwood Pacific Railroad equipment, including the original *Lilly Belle* steam engine, freight cars and yellow caboose that ran at Carolwood fifty years ago. Other exhibits highlight Walt's career and personal life. Commemorative merchandise is available in the Museum Gift Shop.

Saturday, Aug. 18 at 1 pm

A special presentation in the Museum Auditorium: **Michael Broggie's** salute to Walt: "*The Man Behind the Myths and Magic.*"

The library is open daily 10 am to 5 pm and is located in Simi Valley off the 23 or 118 Freeways. Phone 800-410-8354.

Track 2

Walt Disney's Carolwood Barn Aug. 19 11 am - 3 pm

LA Live Steamers at Griffith Park
At Noon meet special guests and Society Members: "Engineer **Bill**" **Stulla** and "Imagineer **Bob**" **Gurr**. Bill was a pioneer of children's television in LA in the 1950s. Bob was instrumental in designing and trouble-shooting nearly everything with wheels at Disneyland. He was also involved in the creation of the Abraham Lincoln AA figure. Free parking and free admission. All donations benefit the LA Live Steamers.

Official Disneyana Convention Sept. 4 - 8

Disneyland Resort

After five years, The Walt Disney

(Continued on page 3)

Walt's "Perfect Engine" Offered

Precision Brass Model *Lilly Belle*

Among the challenges facing fine scale model builders and collectors are natural debates that arise when the subject of the modeling project is well known.

Such is the case with Walt Disney's *Lilly Belle* steam engine and tender. Many variations of the 1872 Central Pacific No. 173 have been built. The first known model was one Walt discovered through Jerry Best, a friend who was a railroad historian and author. Jerry had built a 1:24 (1/2 inch to the foot) scale live steam version that ran at the 1939 Golden Gate Exposition in San Francisco, on the site of Golden Gate Park (reference page 140: *WALT DISNEY'S RAILROAD STORY*). Jerry recommended the CP 173 to Walt, who observed that it was the most perfectly proportioned steam engine ever built.

After Walt got his railroad running at Carolwood—his home in Holmby Hills—he formed the "Walt Disney Railroad Company" (circa early 1950s), which offered 1:8 scale CP 173 engines, cars, parts and plans that were sold through the Studio's Machine Shop under direction of Roger Broggie. Soon others followed Walt's lead and offered the CP 173, among them were Little Engines and Railroad Supply Company.

Fast forward to October 2000. Hartland Locomotive Works built the first G scale (1:24) or garden gauge *Lilly Belle* model to be offered by The Walt Disney Company. In a unique arrangement developed by the Society, with the cooperation of the Walt Disney Family Foundation, the Disney Company became the exclusive distributor of the worldwide limited edition of 1,500 units. At this writing, they are within a couple hundred of being sold out.

Hartland Locomotive Works of LaPorte, Indiana, has an excellent reputation for building durable running engines, and this *Lilly Belle* is no exception. It has a TRW-built electric motor that is known to run well over two thousand hours. Constructed of precision molded plastic, on a steel frame with steel wheels and brass fittings; its design is representative of Walt's engine. Priced at only \$595, the commemorative package also contains a solid wood display base, brass length of track and a clear plastic dust cover. With that stated, some prospective buyers found the engine lacking in exact prototypical detail, particularly the boiler's short length. The fact is, the short wheel-base adds to its tracking ability in tightly curved layouts.

The newest chapter in this saga takes on a global perspective. Bing Cheng is the highly respected owner of AccuCraft Trains. Bing takes great pride in building the world's finest scale models. To obtain absolute precision in reproductions of ships, vehicles and railroad equipment, he uses brass and stainless steel that is scaled and shaped according to actual construction blueprints. The finish colors and decals are individually hand applied. Every conceivable detail is faithful to the original prototype as it is humanly possible to achieve by the craftspeople at AccuCraft's factory in China.

When given the opportunity to build a precise 1:24 scale model of Walt's

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(Continued on page 2)

Walt's Brass Lilly Belle

(Continued from page 1)

engine and tender, Bing set his goals high. Working with Society Board Member **Michael Campbell**, Bing built four successive prototypes before proceeding with production.

Through a painstaking inspection procedure, over 200 changes were called out. Reviews by members **Jon Newbill**, **Roger Broggie, Jr.** and **Michael Broggie** called for additional modifications such as the color of the cab. Walt's was made of varnished wood—its impossible to paint wood grain on brass—so the cab is painted wood tone without grain. One of the discoveries made during this process is that the smokestack on Walt's original *Lilly Belle* has been remounted incorrectly, likely during one of the repairs made years ago. Jon pointed this out when he compared early photographs with the actual engine, which is currently on display at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, through Sept. 4.

Jon's point: A small step is mounted on the left pilot support bar that would have been used by the crew on the full sized engine to reach the damper lever on the stack (page 172 *ibid.*). Walt's engine currently has the stack's lever on the right side. Some may think this is a minor point, but precision modelers take satisfaction in being as exact as possible.

Another point is the number of rivets on various parts of the engine and tender. Some refer to precision modelers as "rivet counters" with justification. A careful count was made of the rivets and except for a place where the tolerances on the stack didn't allow for space to apply the exact number, the count is correct. However, the seams on the stack are exact!

Some concession to exact detail is caused by the gauge of G-scale track (45mm). Since it is proportionally narrower than standard narrow gauge would be, the pilot and drive wheels are closer to-

gether. One result is the cab is slightly narrower and space doesn't allow for two support bars that are found inside the cab on Walt's engine. A similar concession was made when Roger Broggie, Sr. was asked by Walt to build a 5/8th scale model of his *Lilly Belle* engine for the Santa Fe & Disneyland Railroad. He found that the scale Walt wanted for the Park was too small to accommodate the engineer and fireman in the cab. Walt approved Roger's recommendation to increase the cab's size to 3/4th scale and keep the rest of the engine at 5/8th. This is readily apparent when comparing the proportions of the *C. K. Holliday*, Engine No. 1 at Disneyland, to Walt's *Lilly Belle*.

Society Exclusive

Orders for the AccuCraft model of Walt's *Lilly Belle* are now being accepted exclusively from members of the Society until Sept. 10, 2001. Members are invited to submit their reservation and deposit for one of the limited edition of 173 numbered engines. After Sept. 10, the regis-

tered members' names will be entered into a random drawing for numbers beginning with No. 1. Society members can purchase the engine for \$1,650.

After Sept. 10, the suggested retail price of the engine will be \$2,700, and any remaining units will be offered only through AccuCraft retailers. Comparable brass engines are priced well into thousands of dollars. For some who may prefer live steam to electric power, the *Lilly Belle* will be offered in this format by special order only. It will have a number of design deviations due to the steam system and will cost an additional \$450. Delivery will be six months after the electrics, which will be shipped for receipt by Dec. 5, 2001. The engine and tender come in a fitted steel transport case. A personalized nameplate and a certificate of authenticity accompany the model. To obtain a reservation agreement, contact the Society or visit www.carolwood.com. PayPal has been added for members' online convenience.

When Bing Cheng inspected the final production prototype he said, "*This is the finest 4-4-0 we have ever built.*" Others believe it may be ranked among the finest scale model engines ever built.



Society Governor Michael Campbell and AccuCraft's Lilly Belle G-scale model engine. Only 173 numbered units will be built. John LeSchofs Photo

(Continued from page 1)

Company's official Disneyana Convention returns to Anaheim. A special limited edition G-scale model of Walt's Carolwood Pacific yellow caboose by Hartland Locomotive Works will be offered to only 500 attendees. It will have an exclusive Walt Disney Centennial imprint and custom pin, both designed by Society Member **Mike Lima**. Public day is Saturday Sept. 8. Also be sure to visit Master Artist and Society Member **Bob Byerley** at the Fantasia Room in the Disneyland Hotel, where he will be signing lithographs of his incredible Walt Disney Centennial tribute: "Walt's Magical Barn."

Track 3

Walt's 100th Birthday Party

Sept. 21-23

Marceline, Missouri

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Walt Disney's birth at historic Marceline, Missouri: Walt's boyhood home and the inspiration for Disneyland's Main Street USA. Walt's barn will be recreated on its original site at the Disney family's farm, now owned by Society Members **Kaye** and **Wally Malins**. Visit: www.WD100birthday.com. Or call: 660-376-9258.

"Walt Disney's Happy Place" — a book designed for both child and adult readers by Michael Broggie

Following the success of his book, *WALT DISNEY'S RAILROAD STORY*, which sold nearly 17,000 copies, Michael Broggie announced his third book is designed for children and includes adult level text for sharing.

WALT DISNEY'S HAPPY PLACE chronicles the milestones in Walt life through a series of barns, beginning in Marceline, Missouri. The story leads the reader on a path to filmmaking, miniature backyard railroading, the development of Disneyland, a public museum, and finally back to Marceline. The underlining message is the preservation of family history—that everyone has a story worth telling.

His second book is a technical review and history of the steam trains at Disneyland, co-authored by Steve DeGaetanos. It's in review by Pentrex Media Group, the publisher of Michael's first book, which won the Benjamin Franklin Gold Medal as the best biography of 1998.

Track 4

Disney Legends Award

Dec. 5-10 am

Walt Disney Studios, Burbank

On this special day, exactly 100 years after the birth of Walt, the company he co-founded continues its annual tradition of honoring those who created the magic and contributed to the success of The Walt Disney Company. The award presentations, hosted by Michael Eisner and Society Member **Roy Disney**, will be followed in the afternoon with a tour of Walt's Carolwood Barn in Griffith Park.

Track 5

Ward Kimball Engine Dedication

Date to be Announced

Disneyland Park

Ward Kimball becomes the namesake for Disneyland Engine No. 5, the first steam engine to be added to the Park since July 25, 1959. Dedication ceremonies for the 1904 Baldwin loco and special commemorative merchandise will be announced when finalized through Society Member **Scott Smith**, who manages Disneyland's railroad facilities.

Walt's Centennial Subject of Fine Artist Bob Byerley

Lee's Summit, MO—Widely celebrated as the "painter of our American childhood," Bob Byerley has a large following of fine art collectors who eagerly await each new release.

Contacted by Society Board Members **Michael Campbell** and **Michael Broggie**, Bob agreed to create a special tribute to Walt. After visiting Walt's Carolwood Barn at Griffith Park, he decided this was the perfect setting for his one panel story.

Filling his canvas with nuances of Walt's life, Bob creates a freeze frame that ranges from early childhood in Marceline to Los Angeles and beyond.

Bob will be a special guest artist at the Official Disneyana Convention and will be signing his newest release, "Walt's Magical Barn."

Please see "View from the Cupola" on page 6 for more on Bob.



Masterpiece—Renowned Artist Bob Byerley is joined by "Engineer Bill" Stulla at the premiere of "Walt's Magical Barn" at the Reagan Library. John LeSchofs photo

Walt Disney Exhibit Highlights Reagan Presidential Library and CPHS "Un-Meeting"

Simi Valley, CA—The Carolwood Pacific Historical Society enjoyed another of its famous "un-meetings" at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum on June 16, 2001. Over 150 members and their families gathered to tour the featured exhibit: WALT DISNEY: THE MAN AND HIS MAGIC, which continues daily through September 4.

Many of the exhibit's items are from the personal collection of Walt Disney's family and have never been on public display. These include Walt's personal Autopia car, the desk he used as a schoolboy in Marceline, Missouri, awards and citations from around the world, and even the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Many familiar items are also on display, including original Disney Studios concept art and animation, some of the 32 Oscars® won during his lifetime, and costumes from the Mickey Mouse Club and Walt's saddle and riding boots. One of several common interests Walt shared with Reagan was a love of horses and riding.

Of particular interest to Society members, is the magnificent live steam *Lilly Belle* locomotive, the centerpiece of Walt's large scale Carolwood Pacific Railroad. Here, for the first time in nearly a half-century, the 1:8 scale engine and tender have been coupled to original Carolwood rolling stock. This includes a flat car, gondola, boxcar and the famous yellow caboose. Accompanying the train are other Carolwood artifacts, on loan from members of the Society's Board of Governors.

After the tour, the group gathered in the Banquet Room, where they were treated to an authentic "White House" luncheon. Society Chairman and Founder **Michael Broggie** began the afternoon's program by announcing awards to several of the Society's outstanding volunteers. This year, **Terry and Robbin Lynn** received the coveted Richard Thompson Volunteer Spirit Award for his dedication in operating Walt's Barn in Griffith Park. **Samma Thompson** presented the award in her late hus-

band's memory.

The Walt Disney Railroad Legacy Award, the Society's highest honor, was presented, posthumously, to **William Norred** for his tireless effort in saving, preserving and protecting vintage railroad equipment. Mrs. Charlene Norred accepted the honor on behalf of her late husband.

Michael then announced the creation of a new citation: the William A. Norred Railroad Preservation Award. This honor recognizes individuals or groups who best represent the ideals of steam train preservation that Bill Norred exemplified. In its first year, Bill's daughter Carrie Norred, presented the award to the volunteers, both Disney cast and Society members, who helped rescue the Fort Wilderness Railroad equipment. This group includes: Jayne Alcorn, Bob Babcock, **George Britton**, **Michael Campbell**, **Dan Chesnicka**, **Bill Dundas**, **Luther Hunter**, **Ward Kimball**, **Bob Knecht**, **Mike McQueen**, **Downs Prior** and **Marty Sklar**.

Finally, Michael presented the Governor's award to **Darrell Holmquist**, in recognition of Darrell's consistent and enthusiastic support of all the Society's efforts.

Upon the conclusion of the presentations, Michael drew a box from under the podium and called upon his wife, **Sharon Broggie**, co-Founder of the Society. Joining him on stage, Michael thanked her for her many years and countless hours of support for all things relating to managing the Society. He presented her with a crystal box with a bronze Society emblem and an engraved message of appreciation.

Michael then turned the podium over to CPHS Governor Michael Campbell, who presented a brief history of the creation, demise and eventual salvation of the Fort Wilderness Railroad. Campbell closed by asking for volunteers to help in the restoration effort. Interested parties should contact the Society at broggie@carolwood.every1.net or mjc@theambertongroup.com.

Campbell then introduced the first in a series of fine art celebrating the life of Walt Disney. Responding to a challenge to create "something significant for Walt's 100th birthday," he contacted the renowned artist **Bob Byerley** to determine his interest in creating a special portrait of Walt. Bob readily agreed, and spent the next few months visiting Walt's favorite places and speaking with people who knew him well. Bob then took the stage and explained the creative process that he goes through to produce a work of art. Several examples of his amazing talent were displayed around the banquet room. Michael Broggie then read the caption he wrote for this inaugural piece, entitled "Walt's Magical Barn." At the conclusion of the reading, Bob and his wife **Alice** unveiled the finished work. This was met with a spontaneous standing ovation and a host of questions for the Byerleys.

[Editor's note: "Walt's Magical Barn" is now available through the Society. Later, it will be sold through several divisions of the Walt Disney Company including theme parks and selected Disney Stores later this fall.] The un-meeting concluded with a few productand event announcements. Among them: the Hartland G-scale Lilly Belle is almost sold out, and the AccuCraft museum-quality Lilly Belle will soon be ready for reservations. Of course, no Carolwood gathering is complete without a souvenir and group photo, and this one was taken outside the main entrance to the Reagan Library, just as the afternoon sun was descending in a clear blue sky. The souvenir was a custom embroidered "Presidential" cap with the Society logo embellished with eagle's wings. A \$50 gift certificate, donated by the Library's gift shop, and a personalized copy of Bob Byerley's art book, **AN INVITATION TO FLIGHT**, were given as door prizes.

The Society thanked everyone who participated in this highly successful event. For those unfamiliar with Society rules, there are only two: Ride the steam train whenever visiting a Disney theme park; and, no regular meetings. Hence, the reference to "un-meeting."

Historic Retlaw 1 Coaches Find a Home in a 200 Year Old Mission

San Luis Obispo, CA, May 6, 2001—Thirteen members of the Society were treated to a special visit back in time.

Leaving this quaint college town, the group caravanned north on 101 to Santa Margarita Valley, thorough the village of Santa Margarita, over a wooden bridge and passed a wrought iron sign that read: "Santa Margarita Ranch - 1772."

After another hundred yards, the entourage arrived at a very large barn covered in corrugated sheet metal. Poking out the doorway was a vintage-appearing diamond-stacked 2-4-0 steam engine. Turns out, it was a costumed Vulcan that has accrued enough movie and TV credits to make many an actor envious.

Coupled to the engine was the reason for the visit. There, in much the same condition as when decommissioned over 30 years ago, were four Retlaw 1 coaches in surprisingly good condition, from the gold leaf designs in the curved mahogany ceilings down to the journal boxes with the WED covers.

Built to the exacting specifications of their original owner Walt Disney, the bright yellow and brown trimmed Retlaw 1 passenger coaches were the pride of the Santa Fe & Disneyland Railroad that stopped at Main Street Station to load guests "for a complete trip around Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom."

As the Society visitors gathered in front of the engine, a man approached and introduced himself as Brad LaRose, executive director of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum and caretaker of the vintage rolling stock at the 13,000-acre Santa Margarita Ranch, owned by developer Rob Rossi.

Brad provided a tour of the engine and background on the historic ranch, which traces its lineage to the original Spanish land grants when it was comprised of 73,000 acres. Waving his hand across the horizon, Brad explained the original property covered everything visible in all directions. He went on to describe plans to lay eight miles of narrow gauge trackage and creating a major railroad system to serve the central coast as an historic public attraction.

Then he turned towards the large barn. Hidden beneath the metal sheeting and beam-supported roof, is a California

treasure; an original Mission building that was constructed by Chumash Indians, under the direction of Franciscan monks, with cut stone and adobe filler.

It now serves as shelter to four of the five historic Retlaw 1 coaches acquired by late Society Governor **Bill Norred**. (Bill's family still owns the combination car, which was Walt's favorite.)

They had been stored at the back of the Stream Train Facilities Building for over 20 years when Bill approached the company with an offer to trade his restored Davenport Forney steam engine for the five coaches.

The sixth coach, the *Grand Canyon* platform car, had been refinished dark red, converted into a lavishly appointed Presidential Car to celebrate the 1976 national bi-centennial and renamed *Lilly Belle* in Mrs. Lillian Disney's honor.

After concluding the trade for the remaining five coaches, Bill's engine was supposed to go to Disneyland but was deemed to be too heavy for the trestle running through Critter County. However, it was too light to haul the longer and heavier coaches at Walt Disney World. It languished in the Steam Train Facilities Building at WDW for four years, under the watchful eyes of Foreman **George Britton**.

Two years ago, Disneyland reentered the picture and Bill's engine was traded for a 1904 Baldwin Forney from Cedar Point, an amusement park in Sandusky, Ohio. Disneyland's steam train crew, under Society Member **Scott Smith**, is carefully rebuilding the Baldwin into Engine No. 5, the *Ward Kimball*.

In a roundabout way, through Walt, his family, Bill Norred, two Disney Parks, two vintage steam engines, and Bill's daughter Carrie Norred, the coaches have traveled a long journey to arrive at their present location. The journey isn't over. Plans are to use them again (with the Santa Fe & Disneyland Railroad lettering covered) as public transportation. Regardless of their name or appearance, to Society members, they will always be Walt's Retlaw 1 coaches.



◀ Posed in front of a vintage Vulcan 4-4-0, members of the Carolwood Pacific Historical Society enjoy a rare visit to the location of the Retlaw 1 Disneyland passenger coaches at the Santa Margarita Ranch of Rob Rossi. At left is their host, Brad LaRose, executive director of the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. Members are (left to right) Winston Lynn, Sharon & Michael Broggie, Robbin & Terry Lynn, Ken Rockey, Fred Lack & Nancy Stewart, Mike & daughter Jennifer Lima, and Jenny & Larry Boone with their new arrival, Brandon.

Jim McIntire photo

Carolwood Chronicle

News Along the Fair Weather Route

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Membership information is available by contacting the Society.

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Address correction
requested



View from the Cupola "Walt's Magical Barn"

A humble barn can become a magical place. With a child's imagination a future showman can transform it into a neighborhood theater. Sometimes a barn is the creative place where an adult's fanciful ideas are nurtured into reality. For Walt Disney his quaint red barn is the center of operations for his large scale Carolwood Pacific Railroad. On this fine spring day, we find him working on his steam locomotive, which he named *Lilly Belle* for his beloved wife, Lillian.

Suddenly, a boy appears with his older brother, Roy. In the distance chuffs an old steamer on its thundering run through Marceline, Missouri. Walt notices the boy looks strangely familiar. Quite possibly, he's Walt's inner child beckoning him to come outside and wave once more to the engineer, Uncle Mike Martin.

~*~

"Walt's Magical Barn" is an outstanding work of fine art. Bob Byerley's attention to detail and ability to create light, shadow and reflection invites comparison to the finest Dutch masters of the old world. Enhancing his artistic ability is his gift of storytelling. In a single frame, he reveals much about a remarkable man who never lost touch with his childhood, which ultimately became Walt Disney's legacy to the world.

Woven into the scene are connections to his miniature railroad hobby, his Carolwood Barn, his roots back to his boyhood town of Marceline, and his relationships with his Uncle Mike Martin and older brother Roy, who often pointed the way. We even see a subtle reference to his future in a blueprint of Main Street Station at Disneyland. Another delicate touch is Walt's watch is without hands, conveying the promise that his presence in our lives is timeless and indelible.

The Society is pleased to offer Bob Byerley's outstanding art direct to our members. Please review the ordering information on the printed insert.

Happy rails!
-Michael Broggie