



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CAROLWOOD PACIFIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 31

PERSERVING WALT DISNEY'S PERSONAL AND RAILROAD HERITAGE

Winter 2007

**Carolwood Holds Un-Meeting in Walt Disney World**

by John Bailey and David Leaphart

<i>Carolwood Un-Meeting in Walt Disney World</i>	1
<i>Welcome New and Renewing Members</i>	2
<i>Forever Grateful</i>	3
<i>LALS/TTOS Picnic 2007</i>	4
<i>Have Your Name Etched in Barn History</i>	4
<i>Around the Barn</i>	4
<i>The Mail Car</i>	5
<i>Board of Governors</i>	6
<i>Un-Meeting Pictures</i>	6
<i>Carolwood Event Planner</i>	7
<i>The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour</i>	7
<i>View from the Cupola</i>	8

PART I, by John Bailey

The fourth annual Un-Meeting at *WALT DISNEY WORLD* is behind us; the three-day event was an outstanding success. More than fifty CPHS members and guests enjoyed three days of Disney Railroad Fun and History.

Thursday evening, October 18 several members enjoyed an introductory dinner at the Wolfgang Puck Restaurant at Downtown Disney.

Then Friday morning at 0700 the real fun began with 24 members and guests riding the steam train to the roundhouse for the Behind the Magic of the Steam Trains Tour with our cast members/hosts Jim and Jack. As always, this tour was superbly guided by our knowledgeable hosts. And special thanks to all *WDW RAILROAD* crew for their hospitality.

After this great event everyone headed to Disney University for lunch and then the noontime event, **Michael Broggie's** Disney Railroad Heritage presentation which drew even more members and guests as well as some WDW railroad cast. Thank you, Michael.

And we weren't finished yet! Immediately following Michael's talk, a group of nearly

50 headed next door to Holiday Services where Lisa Borotkanics, manager of Holiday Services, showed the group how she and her team prepare to decorate the entire Walt Disney World property for Christmas. After the tour, Lisa presented each attendee/family with a nice, glass Christmas ornament. This ended the first full day of activities and everyone was free to enjoy the evening at their leisure.

Saturday began with a hardy breakfast at Roaring Forks Restaurant at the Wilderness Lodge followed by the highlight of the day, the dedication of The Carolwood Pacific Room (formerly The Iron Spike Room) at the Wilderness Lodge Vacation Club Villas.

*Now, I know that this is rather unconventional, however, having received two excellent narratives of the event, and with space constraints, I'd like to finish by printing David Leapart's version on the ribbon cutting.—Ed.*

PART II, by David Leaphart

The next morning the group gathered at the Wilderness Lodge to rededicate the Iron Spike Room, located off the Wilderness Lodge Vacation Club lobby. Michael worked with Marty Sklar and

Wing Chao in the Disney company for seven years to get the name of the room changed. On Saturday, October 20, 2007, the Iron Spike Room officially became the "Carolwood Pacific Room!" About 52 folks witnessed the unveiling of the new painted brass Carolwood logos that graced both entrances to the room. Michael then gave a tour of the room, discussing the artwork and memorabilia. Replacing the "Mile a Minute Murphy" photo is a photo of Walt running his Carolwood Pacific Railroad along with a negative of the picture taken by Michael's father, Roger Broggie. **Kendra and Russell Trahan** generously donated the prized collectible to the Room. **George Hulcher**, who hosts the bi-weekly gatherings in the room, added some colorful explanations on why the Imagineers designed the room the way they did as well as additional insights to the art and memorabilia present in the room. In preparation for the next day's activities at Fort Wilderness, **Les Smout** presented Michael with a *Fort Wilderness* length of track tastfully mounted for display.

The magic of the Un-Meeting continued the following morning by having *(continued on page two)*

**Moving?**

Don't forget to notify us of your new contact information.

Please email [scbroggie@msn.com](mailto:scbroggie@msn.com).

(continued from page one)

former engineers of the *Fort Wilderness Railroad* as our tour guides. Dave Martin had been an engineer on the railroad in 1973-74. Vern Conner was an engineer 1975-1977. Les brought copies of the 1974 Fort Wilderness map, which contained the railroad right-of-way. Using Les's map, we started at the location of the Main Settlement Depot and continued down the east side of Fort Wilderness to the main parking lot and the Gateway Depot with Dave and Vern telling of many adventures and interesting stories along the way.

If you happen to be in Florida in late October, attending the Un-Meeting at Walt Disney World is an outstanding way to meet other Carolwood members and enjoy more Disney history. (Pictures on page 6.)

*As a postscript, David Leaphart is writing a book about the Walt Disney World Railroads and needs photos of the Fort Wilderness Railroad! If you can help, please contact David at [dleaphart@steelwheelonsteelrail.com](mailto:dleaphart@steelwheelonsteelrail.com) for more information.—Ed.*



Carolwood members enjoy a tour of the Fort Wilderness Railroad right-of-way.  
*Photo by John Bailey*



## Welcome New and Renewing Members!

The Carolwood Pacific Historical Society is nothing without its many wonderful members. New and renewing members from September 1, 2007 are:

Melvin Asher, San Francisco, CA  
 Devon Borgstrom, Camarillo, CA  
 David Davoust, Wheaton, IL  
 Michael Glogow, Sherman Oaks, CA  
 Larry Holsinger, Catlettsburg, KY  
 Geoffrey Lillich, Camarillo, CA  
 Dona Lorenzen, Davenport, FL  
 Barry & Julie McIntosh, Guilford NSW, Australia  
 William Megill, Jr., New Hope, PA  
 The Jeff Myers Family, Santa Barbara, CA  
 Steve/Martha O'Brien, Redwood City, CA  
 Brian Pichette, Camarillo, CA  
 Mel & Pat Roop, Newbury Park, CA  
 Albert & Shirley Schmidt, Kaukauna, WI  
 Mark Sierakowski, Mission Viejo, CA  
 Frank Siliato, Stony Brook, NY  
 Mark Toto, Irvine, CA  
 Scott Calzia, San Jose, CA  
 Joseph Palumbi, Locust Valley, NY  
 Hugh Finegan, Glen Cove, NY  
 Aaron Gruesel, Burbank, CA  
 Johnathon & Michelle Weiler, Monrovia, CA  
 Patience Hoag, Phoenix, AZ  
 Charles Pagano, Methuen, MA  
 Richard Bastress, Lodi, CA  
 Kris Stewart, Encinitas, CA  
 G. Miller Smyth, Brielle, NJ  
 Wendy & Gary Naumann, Belleville, IL  
 Kaitlin Tillan, Darnestown, MD  
 Keith Snell, Cambria, CA  
 Jake Johnson, Glendale, CA  
 John Rossi, Lake Oswego, OR  
 Jeffrey & Bev Hayes, Vernon Hills, IL  
 Scott & Ann Rorie, Cary, NC  
 John Goodwin, Glendale, CA

## FOREVER GRATEFUL . . . *by Christy Myers*

It all started Saturday night, September 15, 2007. **Austin Myers** was tossing and turning. He was just too excited to sleep. It was the day before his 11<sup>th</sup> birthday... and the **ONLY** thing he wanted... the only thing... was to go down to this wonderful "barn" that he had read about. He did not want the big "party." He did not want the big "present." Instead, quite simply, he wished for a trip from his home in Santa Barbara to that very special "barn." His two older brothers said he was crazy. Austin just smiled.

Walt Disney was Austin's hero. Austin's dream and biggest wish was to make the world a better place. He had searched high and low for a role model. He soon realized that there was no greater man than "Walt" himself. He had read about this glorious "barn" where Walt had spent hour after hour. He read that it was actually called the "birthplace of Imagineering." He understood the importance and the special magic of this building. To add even MORE excitement... an incredible man named "X", (a Disney Legend)... was going to be in the barn that Sunday, September 16th.

It was just too good. It was the perfect birthday for Austin. So he tossed and he turned that Saturday night. He finally fell fast asleep with a huge Christmas grin on his face. When he woke up on Sunday morning, he knew for sure it was to be the best birthday of his life.

He jumped out of bed. He was walking on air. He flew through the morning with big bright hopes and genuine dreams that only a small child can truly have. It was his chance of a lifetime. It was better than Christmas. He was ready to go.

Cruel reality hit him like a ton of bricks when he heard the words "car trouble." He was stunned and crushed all at the same time. It was too late in the day to go rent a car... and his biggest dream of his young life had just vanished... into thin air. Just like that. Whoosh. It was gone. This was his once-in-a-lifetime golden opportunity. He knew in his heart, it was never to come again.

Surrounded by his two big brothers... he tried with all his might to put up a brave front. He was unusually quiet for the rest of the day. Sadness and disappointment filled the air. Finally, when I tucked him in that night... his face was cov-

ered with huge, quiet tears. This was unusual for Austin. He was not one to cry, but this was an exception. He was totally crushed. It was as though his hopes and dreams were just stolen from his heart. His once in a lifetime chance was gone and he knew it.

We talked a lot about Walt that night. We talked about how he overcame things. How he never gave up. How his positive thoughts kept him strong. When times were tough, Walt always came through like a champion. I promised Austin I'd do my very best to help fix this thing... but to be honest... there didn't seem to be a quick fix.

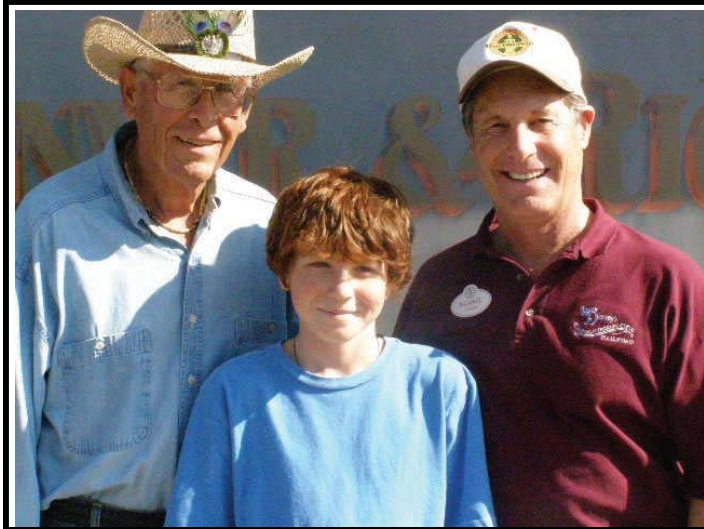
With a heavy heart... Austin said a few prayers. He took a deep breath. He tried hard to be brave for me. He wiped away his tears. I said goodnight, but as I listened at the door... I could hear the muffled sobs of pure sadness. He quietly cried himself to sleep that night. The only heart that was heavier than his... was mine. I had to do something... but what?

I almost didn't take him to school the next day. His eyes were the size

of golf balls. They were swollen... and very sad. He was completely wiped out. His teacher wondered what happened. It was that bad. When I picked him up from school that afternoon, we went straight home and made a few phone calls. Not much luck at first... until Austin walked over with a scribbled down phone number he got off the computer. "Try this one," he said hopefully. He watched as I dialed.

A kind and strong voice on the other end of the line introduced himself as "Michael Broggie." I had no idea at the time who I was talking to. Yet as the conversation continued... I realized that I was speaking to a very special man. I put him on speaker-phone so Austin could hear. It was just too good to be true. We were talking to someone who had actually grown up around Walt Disney! This kind man had actually run Walt's trains! Austin's eyes were huge, and he was smilin' from ear to ear. He was jumpin' up and down. When I tried to explain Austin's birthday... and how it crushed his spirit and crushed his dreams... the kind voice on the speaker-phone replied, "We'll just have to put those dreams back into his heart."

*(Continued on page four)*



**The Three Amigos! Bob Gurr, Austin Myers and Michael Broggie at the Carolwood Foundation event — Santa Margarita Ranch November 3, 2007.**

*(Continued from page three)*

Everything changed as soon as Austin met this magical man. All of a sudden, Austin felt like he could “dream” again. He felt like he could do the impossible, just like Walt did. Michael Broggie graciously invited us to bring Austin and to come to his home, to meet his wife Sharon, and to listen to a few “Walt” stories. Austin was so excited. As Michael told his amazing tales... Austin’s eyes were glued to him. He soaked up every single word. As we drove back home to Santa Barbara, a small voice came from the back seat. “I wish I never had to leave.”

Wow. It doesn’t stop there. We immediately joined the Carolwood Pacific Historical Society and took advantage of the opportunity to attend the event created by **Bob Lemberger** of the Carolwood Foundation. At the Santa Margarita Ranch outside of San Luis Obispo, on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Austin had the chance to meet with a real life Disney Legend... an incredible man by the name of **Bob Gurr** who is also on the Board of Governors of the Society. They even got to ride together in the cab of a steam train with Michael. It just doesn’t get any better than that.

“Bobby” was absolutely so inspirational. With his twinkling blue eyes and his big bright smile... he took Austin aside and gave him a few secrets about becoming a Disney imagineer. Austin was living a dream. His eyes never left Bob’s face... and he soaked up every word. The pictures we have of that special day are just priceless. The magic is back for Austin!



Austin Myers gets a little sage advice from Bob Gurr.

**LALS/TTOS PICNIC 2007 . . .**

By Steve Waller

On Saturday, August 18, 2007, the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum hosted the Toy Train Operating Society, Southwestern Division’s 7th Annual TTOS Run, and by special request, the Disney Barn was opened for the event.

Stationmaster Charles Westphal boarded more than 250 guests for multiple rides at New Sherwood Station. LALS/RM volunteers crewed a robust roster of 1/8th scale trains.

Volunteering at the Disney Barn were **Bill Barbe** and **Fred Lack III**. The TTOS visitors particularly enjoyed the operating ‘O’ scale Lionel train display and the exhibit dedicated to the late Ward Kimball, who was a TTOS past president.

LALS/RM member Mike Houston ran the ‘G’ scale railroad at New Sherwood for the toy train fans. TTOS-SW president Larry Pearson made sure that all of the volunteers ate well at the Kountry Kitchen.

For more information about the Toy Train Operating Society, check out [www.ttos-sw.org](http://www.ttos-sw.org). To learn more about the Los Angeles Live Steamers, visit [www.lals.org](http://www.lals.org).

Thanks to everyone who volunteered at the TTOS Run!

**Have Your Named Etched in Disney Barn History**

By Bob Lemberger

Bricks are being placed around the train station originally owned by one of the “Nine Old Me of Disney classic animation, **Ollie Johnston**. The train station has been removed from the Johnston property and obtained by the Carolwood Foundation and relocated at the Disney Barn in Griffith Park. Squares 8” by 8” will be inscribed with the names of any donor who gives \$250 or more. At this point seven have been sold. There are only 10 available. Smaller bricks are available for \$125 and will also be inscribed and placed on the walkway. There are 20 of these bricks available.

*To find out about obtaining one of the bricks and/or new pins created by the Carolwood Foundation please contact Bob*

**Around the Barn**

By Bill Barbe

Hello again from Walt’s Barn. It has been a busy few months. Time sure does fly when you are having fun.

In the last few months, we have been visited by none other than Disney Legend X Atencio. He was nice enough to stop by and sign autographs and tell us about his experiences at Disney. It is always a treat when a legend comes for a visit.

In October, we were honored by the presence of famous artist, sculptor and actress Terri Hardin. Terri is such a sweet person and really a pleasure to have around. One of her many talents is pumpkin carving and she was nice



enough to not only agree to carve a pumpkin for us, but also provide the pumpkin (and it was huge!).

In honor of Walt’s love of



trains, Terri sculpted a Disneyland train for us. The amount of detail was outstanding. I was also amazed *(continued on page five)*

(continued from page 4)

that she could do something this big in just a few short hours.

After completion, Terri donated the work to the Los Angeles Live Steamers to use for their Halloween Night Train event. I am sure everyone who saw it was in awe.

We are still looking for volunteers to help us keep the Barn going. You don't need any special skills or knowledge, just a desire to have some fun and meet some great people. Many of our special guests come early and stay late, because it's such a great place to be, and also, to spend time with our volunteers. And we never know who will just stop by unannounced.

Disney Legend **Virginia Davis** was our special guest in November. Walt's first human star, who's 88 years young, spent the day signing autographs, posing for pictures and telling wonderful stories.

We have a great time and you get a chance to meet people and do things you might not get to do on your own. If you are interested in volunteering, just shoot me an email and I can give you all the details. [billb@carolwood.org](mailto:billb@carolwood.org)

Remember, in December we will have our annual Holiday Pot Luck following the regular Barn day. Email if you wish to attend.

Hope everyone has a great holiday season! See you at Walt's Barn!

## The Mail Car (or, in this case, The E-mail Car)

Dear Michael,

It was nice to have a chance to meet you last weekend at the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour in Schaumburg, IL. I enjoyed your presentation.

It is great nostalgia to hear stories of Walt's life, his railroad and the early days of Disneyland (even though I was only born within a year or so of Walt's passing). Perhaps because I still have images in my mind of visiting Disneyland and riding the railroad there at a very young age and remembering it as a magical place. Or perhaps because I remember my father attempting to build a live steam "American" model just like Walt Disney's backyard railroad when I was a youngster (my father was a machinist and model shop tech throughout his life, similar to your father).

I have enjoyed reading *Walt Disney's Railroad Story* many times over. Before it was published, I had spent many hours trying to find pictures and information about Walt's backyard railroad to no avail. So it was very much appreciated to have the extensive compilation of pictures, history and stories of Walt's backyard railroad contained in your book. Many thanks.

**Michael Pryor**  
*Lake Zurich, IL*

Hi Michael [*Campbell*],

Just a quick one to let you know that *Lilly Belle* has arrived, safe and sound. I tracked progress on the UPS website, quite a complicated route to the UK: Oakland to Louisville to Philadelphia to East Midlands Airport UK to Exeter to Burnham-on-Sea. It would have traveled down the M5 motorway overnight from the Midlands to Exeter then back up to Burnham this morning. I

can see the M5 from our house!

However, very good service, the loco was with me before lunch today.

I have spent an hour this evening just looking at *Lilly Belle*, absolutely wonderful! (The limited edition number is 172 so not many left now.)

Thank you so much for all your help, and Sharon too, of course. I will keep in touch. Best wishes.

**Bob Bullock**  
*Burnham-on-Sea, UK*

Dear Sharon,

My thanks to you for your time and efforts in making the free passes to the past weekend's World's Greatest Hobby on Tour show available to my wife Beverly and me. I can't tell you how much Bev and I enjoyed meeting you and your husband and for the kindness you both showed in signing the train set and book. We both particularly enjoyed Michael's presentation very much, although I think it meant much more to me, having been a regular at Disneyland from the late 1950's on. I was reminded by some of Michael's photos how much the Park has changed over the years.

I don't know how much advantage a member in the Chicago area can take of his membership in the Society but I am thrilled to be a new member. And I promise to take advantage of any activities I can when we visit my family in the Palos Verdes area. We may be out there next fall. If all goes as planned we may be visiting Disneyland Paris and I promise we'll ride their train first thing upon entering the Park. After all, it's tradition.

**Jeffrey Hayes**  
*Vernon Hills, IL*

**Board of Governors**

- Michael Broggie, Chairman
- Bill Barbe
- Michael Campbell
- Miguel Fernandez
- Bob Gurr
- Darrell Holmquist
- Ollie Johnston
- Jeff Kaye
- Fred Lack III
- Doug Marsh
- Diane Disney Miller
- Jon Newbill
- Scott Rhodes
- Kendra Trahan
- Steve Waller

**Governor Emeriti**

- David Flesh
- Bob Witter

**In Memoriam**

- William Norred
- Richard Thompson
- Ward Kimball

Membership information is available by contacting the Society.

Carolwood Pacific Historical Society, LLC, is an independent membership group and is not an affiliation of The Walt Disney Company.

Carolwood Pacific Railroad and Society-related logos and fixtures are trademarked or copyrighted by Retlaw Enterprises, Inc. or the Walt Disney Family Foundation. Other copyrighted materials are the property of their respective owners.

Opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Society or the Walt Disney Family Foundation.

Michael Broggie, Editor  
Sharon Broggie, Publisher

**Contributors:**

- John Bailey*
- Bill Barbe*
- David Leaphart*
- Bob Lemberger*
- Christy Myers*
- Steve Waller*

David Tavres, Webmaster

©2007 Carolwood Pacific Historical Society, LLC  
Walt Disney Family Foundation, Inc.



Les Smout presents Michael Broggie with a commemorative piece of track from the Fort Wilderness Railroad. *Photo taken by John Bailey*



Members of the Carolwood Pacific Historical Society gather in the soon-to-be Carolwood Pacific Room at the Fort Wilderness Lodge Villas during the Un-Meeting in October 2007. *Photo by John Bailey*

# Carolwood Event Planner



November 17, 2007 through January 6, 2008 — Railroad display — Richard Nixon Presidential Library, Yorba Linda, CA

Hours — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Admission \$9.95 for adults / \$3.95 for kids

December 16 — Walt Disney Barn open 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. — Santa makes a visit!

January 5 & 6 — The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour in Sacramento, CA at Sacramento Convention Center

January 12 & 13 — The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour in San Diego, CA at Del Mar Fairgrounds

January 20 — Walt Disney Barn open 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

February 16 & 17 — The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour in Norfolk, VA at Hampton Roads Convention Center

February 17 — Walt Disney Barn open 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

March 15 & 16 — The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour in Kansas City, MO at Kansas City Convention Center

March 16 — Walt Disney Barn open 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

April 20 — Walt Disney Barn open 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

May 18 — Walt Disney Barn open 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

May 31 & June 1 — Carolwood Un-Meeting, Northeast in Strasburg, PA (for info contact Mike Venezia/732-239-9960)

June 15 — Walt Disney Barn open 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

June 28 & 29 — The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour in Louisville, KY at Kentucky International Convention Center

July 20 — Walt Disney Barn open 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

July 20 — NFFC, Anaheim, CA

Plus more events to be determined

## THE WORLD'S GREATEST HOBBY ON TOUR SCHEDULE

Six cities are in queue this year for The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour. Having done 13 of these shows in the last three years, we are thrilled to continue bringing the wonderful hobby of model trains to the public. Due to the fact that the date for the first city is Thanksgiving weekend, that one will not be included in this article as this newsletter will not be out until after December 1st. If you live in or around one of the cities we are visiting, are a Carolwood member and would like to visit the show, please email your re-

quests for free tickets to: [sharon@carolwood.com](mailto:sharon@carolwood.com). Children under 16 are free so you won't need to request tickets for them.

The 2008 schedule is as follows:

Sacramento, CA, Jan. 5 & 6 at the Sacramento Convention Center

San Diego, CA, Jan. 12 & 13 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds — Del Mar, CA

Norfolk, VA, Feb. 16 & 17 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, Hampton, VA

Kansas City, MO, Mar. 15 & 16 at the Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas City, MO

Louisville, KY, Jun. 28 & 29 at the Kentucky International Convention Center, Louisville, KY

As always, when we are on tour we are happy to meet with our members. Please email us to let us know that we can look for you at the show!

[sharon@carolwood.com](mailto:sharon@carolwood.com)

Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Carolwood Pacific Historical Society  
1032 Amberton Lane  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91320  
Email us: sharon@carolwood.com

*We're on the Web!*  
[www.carolwood.com](http://www.carolwood.com)  
[www.Carolwood.org](http://www.Carolwood.org)

*"We don't have boring meetings  
~ we just do fun events!"*

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**  
**ADDRESS CHANGE**  
**REQUESTED**

## VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA BY MICHAEL BROGGIE

We lost several friends recently that reinforce how connected and influential others are to our lives.

On October 29, Fulton Burley's life was celebrated at a laugh-filled evening in the main theater at Walt Disney Studios. Friends and colleagues gathered to remember the popular entertainer whose lilting Irish tenor voice and raper comedic skills highlighted the Golden Horseshoe Review at Disneyland for a quarter century with Wally Boag and Betty Taylor. Four decades ago, as a young publicity writer at Disney Studios, I was assigned to manage two national promotional tours: *Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day* and a reissue of *Peter Pan*. Each tour consisted of a group of costumed performers from Disneyland portraying various characters from the film, a musician-accordionist named Joe Diamond, and starring Fulton Burley as master of ceremonies.

These junkets utilized the company's Grumman Gulfstream aircraft featuring the unique tail number beginning with MM. The rigorous schedule included appearances on television shows, at shopping malls and children's hospitals in 20 cities in 30 days.

While on the tour, besides becoming a good friend, Fulton became a mentor to this mid-20-year-old publicity-public relations practitioner. He generously helped me to understand how to negotiate with producers for television airtime, plan and execute a press event and manage a troupe of entertainers. The skills he imparted to me in those nascent days have served me well throughout my career.

Fulton passed away on May 7 at the age of 84; however, his influence and legacy as a Disney Legend live on.

~ ~ ~

Within the past two months, Society Members **Vincent DeDomenico** and his wife of 60

years, **Mildred**, passed away. Vincent was the debonair entrepreneur who parlayed an idea for rice and pasta into a staple in American cuisine known as Rice-A-Roni. After selling Golden Grain Macaroni Company, which his family founded, and Ghirardelli Chocolate, which he acquired in 1964, to Quaker Oats Company in 1986, he purchased the right-of-way to an 1864 Southern Pacific line that ran through the lush vineyards of Napa Valley.

Using standards Vincent and Mildred experienced aboard the fabled Orient Express, he created a fine dining experience featuring gourmet food paired with Napa Valley's finest varietals. They are served by a well-trained staff aboard an operating collection of restored vintage dining cars decorated and furnished to recreate various periods of railroad history, which are hauled by an equally vintage diesel engine.

The Napa Valley Wine Train became a regular destination for Carolwood Society members who have enjoyed a series of Wine & Rail Fests. In 2000, after 10 years of successful operations, Vincent became the recipient of the Walter E. Disney Railroad Preservation Award from the Carolwood Society in recognition of his efforts to preserve railroad history.

Vincent passed in his sleep on October 18 at the age of 92 after a routine day at his office. Mildred followed on November 26, just five weeks later. In spite of very demanding personal schedules, Vincent and Mildred made a point of attending every Wine & Rail Fest. For all who have enjoyed their company, we lift our glass of fine wine in a celebratory toast to their memory.

~ ~ ~

To those who knew him, **Bruce Gordon** will be forever young. His creative energy and passion were childlike, while his understanding and application of design and technology were uncharacteristically mature. When we

think of Bruce, we have to smile, because he brought youthful joy whenever and wherever he chose to congregate, particularly when it involved the latest release from Apple or Segway.

Typical of Disney Imagineers, Bruce was multitalented and adroit at multitasking. While designing concepts for the new Walt Disney Museum that is being developed at San Francisco's historic Presidio, Bruce also was designing the layout for Wally Boag's autobiography. In addition, he was working on the restoration of the famed Magic Castle in Hollywood and consulting on the layout for a book on the history of Walt Disney Studios, a project by Society Governor Gary Oakland and this pixel-splattered columnist.

Bruce was the quintessential Disneyphile. This was evident in the variety of people who attended his celebration at Glendale Forest Lawn on Monday afternoon, November 12. From Walt's daughter Diane and members of her family and Bruce's family, to Imagineers, friends and colleagues, and fellow authors and members of NFFC: together we laughed, cried, and shared our memories of Bruce.

Victim of a sudden heart attack at 56, his many accomplishments foretold of a future that we now only imagine.

Fulton, Bruce, Vincent and Mildred, collectively and individually provide testimony that a well-lived life is a life well lived.

### Holiday Greeting

To all our friends we share the joys of the Holiday Season and offer Warm Walt Wishes for Health, Happiness and Peace.

*Sharon & Michael*