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CAROLWOOD FOUNDATION'S FIRST RAIL TRIP A SUCCESS

by Michael Campbell

On May 29, a bright, sunny Saturday that can only be described as "Walt Weather," over 70 railfans came together for our first ever fundraising rail excursion. Departing from the historic Los Angeles Union Station, passengers aboard the "Carolwood Limited" traveled up the beautiful California coast on a trip to the San Francisco Bay Area.

And what a trip it was! Originally planned for just a single rail car, popular demand necessitated the use of two coaches: the sleek Silver Splendor and the inviting Two Rivers. The casual elegance of these "rail yachts" provided the perfect setting for presentations by four notable speakers: Disney Author and Historian (and CPHS co-founder) Michael Brogaie, Disney Legend Bob Gurr, Walt Disney Imagineering Creative Director Rav Spencer and Disney Animator and Railroader John Kimball. Even the largest seating area on the train accommodated just 24 passengers, so each presentation was a rare chance to engage these speakers on a personal, interactive basis. The inside stories and wonderful memories shared by these gentlemen made for fascinating and often hilarious discussions.

Led by Steward **Roger Colton** -- who also conceived the idea for the trip -- the train staff (including Society members **Shelly Smith** and **Paul Schnebelen**) expertly



attended to passenger needs throughout the journey. The owners of the two cars, John and Heidi Caestecker and Roger Stabler, not only joined us for the excursion, they prepared the delicious meals and snacks. Although historic rail cars can make for close quarters, everyone maintained a great sense of humor as they moved between the lounges, the observation dome and open-air vestibules.

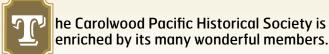
On Sunday, passengers were taken by bus to the truly outstanding Walt Disney Family Museum. There, the Foundation presented A Celebration of the Great Locomotive Chase to our passengers and a limited number of Museum Members. The program included Out of Scale, Behind the Scenes with Fess Parker (replete with 1950's commercials) and a rare public showing of the Great Locomotive Chase. The highlight of the afternoon was a panel discussion featuring the four guest speakers reminiscing about Walt Disney, Ward Kimball, and the past, present and future of Disneyland. This highly interactive session was very popular with the capacity crowd who rewarded the speakers with a standing ovation.

After enjoying an evening in San Francisco, the passengers boarded an early train for the return trip to Los Angeles.

(Continued on page 3)







New and renewing members from March, 2010 are:

Susan Murphy, Mission Viejo, CA Ron Fauset, San Diego, CA Andrew Ritchie, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada Robert Fendler, Simi Valley, CA Dean & Lila Severns, San Jose, CA Alan Sadwin, Wantagh, NY Dean Josh Cimino, Santa Rosa, CA Bill Lambrecht, Wilmette, IL Brian & April Ballinger, Aurora, IL Richard & Shirley Powell, Riverside, CA Brian Espe, Saco, ME Wes Tyler, Easton, CT Bob & Rita Cisneros, Thousand Oaks, CA Frank Turner, Springfield, VA Dennis & Patsy Hendricks, Van Buren, OH Jack & Jill Miller, Pacific Palisades, CA James Klich, Franklin, MA Mary & Doug Fraser, Westminster, CA Donna Clark, Westminster, CA Dennis Ritchev. Fullerton. CA John Garcia, Bellevue, WA Tom & Donna Maier, Rio Rancho, NM Larry Walton, Hesperia, CA Joel Paul Fruge, Baton Rouge, LA Noah Joel Fruge, Baton Rouge, LA Terry Joseph Fruge, Baton Rouge, LA Christopher Spiegel, O Fallon, MO David Hughes, Pickering, Ontario, Canada Richard & Donna Tranchina, Sonoma, CA James Cotterman, Orlando, FL Robert Dudley Stone, Chico, CA Gary & Mercedes Nauman, Belleville, IL Harry J. Laws, King City, CA Alan Coats, Venice, CA Christopher Dolciato, Hudson, OH Roy Hollis, Phoenix, AZ Lawrence Laden, Minneapolis, MN Bill Wissel, Los Gatos, CA Jan Averre, San Jose, CA Greg & Lynnette Hahn, Riverside, CA Patricia Asker, Fairfax, CA Steven & Dora Byerly, Lake Arrowhead, CA Michael Patrick, Newport News, VA George Koerner, Palo Alto, CA Thomas Day, Salt Lake City, UT Marie, Art & David Aceves, Rohnert Park, CA Lee & Edna Hotchkin, Fresno, CA Frank Pflock, Branford, FL Barbara Baker. Sacramento. CA William Bailor, San Jose, CA Scott Nishihara, San Jose, CA

Dean & Billie Jean Tecklenburg, Hartsel, CO Thomas Moore, Rockledge, FL Paul Brown, Beaumont, Essex, United Kingdom Kristopher & Manuel Ferriera, Lodi, CA Janet & Tom Joyce, San Jose, CA Edward & Teresa Fazzalaro, Georgetown, DE Rich, Carol & Michael Koster, Mandeville, LA Barbara K. Schiller, Fullerton, CA Darrell K. Harvey, Fullerton, CA James Keith, Cincinnati, OH Michael, Samantha & Alisha Ellard, San Jose, CA Douglas Temple, Fullerton, CA Daniel Williams, Inisfil, Ontario, Canada Mark Hurt, Duluth, GA Paul Schnebelen, Oxnard, CA Bill Hadley, Denham Springs, LA Daniel, Sandi & Cameron Butcher, Cleveland, TN Trey Sullivan, Gibbstown, NJ Blake & Sherolyn Thomas, Lake Forest, CA William & Carol Bunnagar, Jr., Sebring, FL Michael Forester, Kennesaw, GA Ralph Whittington, Riverside, CA The Schuck Family, McCordsville, IN Kenji & Karin Luster, Pasadena, CA Dwight Morgan, Pasadena, CA Michael & Sharon Chase, East Dubuque, IL Jean-Michel Vedrine, Saint Etienne, France Jeffrey Kinsley, Columbia Station, OH Lowell & Carol Regehr, Manhattan, KS Bryan & Vonna Laue, Brea, CA John & Sandy Hopkins, San Mateo, CA Mike Funt, Venice, CA David Turner, Bear, DE William Allen, Palm Bay, FL Michael Valentini, Sacramento, CA Thomas Longo, Lake In The Hills, IL William W. Grav. Overpeck. OH David Walkup, College Station, TX Kristopher Hummer, Sunrise, FL Randy Schultz, Irvine, CA Lowell & Barbara Smith, Portland, OR Catherine Wartelle, San Leandro, CA Jeff & Stacy Giovanniello, Staten Island, NY Harold Wilson, Nashville, TN Rodd & Francille Peters, Stockton, CA Heather Hunt, Spanish Fork, UT Glenn Lane, Sierra Madre, CA Julie Mikesell, Sunnyvale, CA Bill Mikesell, Los Banos, CA Patrick & Helen Lewis, Silverton, OR Ronald & Patti Iverson, Dubuque, IA Lon & Tami Dreyer, Napa, CA Jennifer & Bill Lawrence, Sacramento, CA Roger Colton, Livermore, CA Minnie Pillsbury, Salem, OR David Pratt & Chris Murray, Alameda, CA Russell Banks, Clermont, FL Steve Dessert & Joan Stephens, Camarillo, CA The Ross Irvine Family, League City, TX

Welcome New and Renewing Members!



Bob Gurr and Sharon Broggie show you what NOT to do on a moving train!

(Continued from page 1)

More presentations, tasty food and good company made for a swift journey. Indeed, the only complaint heard on the train was that the trip was over too soon.

The excursion was a major financial success as well. having raised over \$20,000 for the Combine Preservation project! The majority of these funds came from an exclusive auction that featured several treasures donated by Mike Aronson, Michael and Sharon Broggie, Ray Cadd, Roger Colton and Ray Spencer. Special thanks go to Walt Disney Imagineering for allowing us to auction the chance for a few lucky individuals to tour Imagineering.

Perhaps more important than funds, however, were the friendships that were forged as part of this trip. Many e-mail addresses were exchanged and I suspect that the conversations that graced our coaches will continue well into the future. An event of this scope consists of hundreds of important details. It simply would not have been possible without: the dedication of **Bill Barbe**, Sharon Broggie, Roger Colton, Bob Lemberger and Debra Turner; the terrific support of the Walt Disney Family Museum; the exemplary service by the train crew; and, the gracious sharing of their time by our quest speakers.

Since our return, we've heard one question over and over: "When is the next trip?" Although the details are very sketchy, we are actively looking at booking another trip for later this year. And, we've already booked one of our speakers: that talented bundle of energy and creativity, **Terri Hardin**!



Please keep an eye on our site at www.carolwood.org for future announcements about this next adventure. (Michael Campbell is the project director for Walt Disney's Combine Preservation project conducted by the Carolwood Foundation -- Ed.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATHAN - AGAIN!

Yup! **Nathan Eick** has done it again! Please see the letter to the right that was sent to Nathan on May 27, 2010 regarding Disney's 2009 EARS To You Grant: Congratulations Nathan!





We are delighted to inform you that your organization, Carolwood Foundation, Inc., has been approved to receive a \$1000 EARS To You grant in recognition of your outstanding volunteerism in 2009.

The check will be mailed directly to the charity on your behalf. As you know, volunteerism and commitment to community service are an important part of the Disney culture. We appreciate your dedication to making a difference in the community.

We hope that this grant makes you feel that your time has been even more worthwhile by enabling you to turn your volunteer hours into a meaningful cash contribution to an organization for which you are passionate. Please accept our sincere congratulations and appreciation for your contribution to your community.

We salute your efforts and send best wishes as you work to make the world a better place!

From your friends at Disney.



PROFILE: BILL COLLEY - HOLLYWOOD HOGHEAD

STORY BY KATHRYN R. BURKE

tell you why. And in the telling, you'll see why Bill Colley, senior engineer for the *Durango* ξ *Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad* is truly: the Hollywood Hoghead.

Colley grew up a train buff, although no one else in his family, mostly Trekies, had any interest in railroads. He loved movies, especially those with John Wayne, who lived just up the street from his family in Newport Beach, and anything by Walt Disney. Colley got to combine both loves when he went to work for Disneyland -- five of those vears with Retlaw Enterprises. a company Walt personally owned, which owned and operated the steam trains and monorail attractions. "I was a conductor on the train. and riaht before I left. night closing conductor on the steam train,"Colley says. He also worked on the monorails as an operator, and the steam trains attraction and aspired to help with Disney's "Pirates," a particular favorite. Since coming to the *Durango E* Silverton, Colley has run five trains for movie productions... not surprisingly, all Disney movies. "Now we need to do one for 'Pirates of the Caribbean," he says. "A nice night shot, pirate flags flying. And me running the train, of course!"

But wait! The Fantasyland connection goes even deeper. Even before Disney, Colley did a one-year stint at Knotts Berry Farm, "I was an engineer, working D\$RGW and RGS equipment they had there," he notes, "running the D\$RG WK27 464, and D\$RGW C19 340, RGS C19 #41, RGS Goose No.3. It happened because, while I was runnin' the 19" gauge steam locomotive at Orange County Fairgrounds, these guys saw me and said, 'Hey, Knotts needs engineers, and they're hiring.""Colley

also ran the locomotive for the *California Western Skunk Train,* steam locomotive #45, a dream he'd had since he was a boy, an assignment from the present owners of the D&S when they took over that railroad during its financial meltdown.

So, how did Colley become the senior engineer for the D\$S, and get to run trains making movies? He followed his heart and came to Durango in December, 1980, hoping to get hired on by the railroad. "Bradshaw - the then-owner kinda knew me,"Colley says. Which helped. He got the job, began as a car man, graduated to engine watchman, and his first summer, fireman on a Helper for a Double Header. In 1995, he was promoted to engineer, and 11 years later, to senior engineer, a position he really loves.

"I think I really got it right this time," Colley says. "If you believe in reincarnation, I'm not coming back, everything has come together in this lifetime, I've made good choices, I picked Kris, my wife, my kids are fantastic, I'm doing what I was meant to do, what I love to do!"

A word about romance and railroads. Colley met his wife, Kris, on the D\$S where she was the concession person. *"Hey, can you imagine that?"* he laughs. *"She was from Huntington Beach; I was from Newport Beach, and there we both were, working for the train."*In his years working for the railroad, Colley, and his best friend Mike Nichols (featured in the 2009 Silverton Magazine) have married people and stood witness for marriages on the train. When their good friend Jeff Ellingson (featured in 2008) recently married, Nichols was the "preacher" and Colley the best man. Railroads and romance just seem to go together.

"A steam locomotive is a beautiful piece of machinery!" Colley believes. Although he best likes that machinery in motion, he enjoys modeling it as well. For a brief two-year period, Colley owned a model train store in Irvine, California, where he was fortunate enough to meet famed railroad photographer, Richard Steinheimer, who later came out to Durango to ride the train and visit with Colley and Mike.

"Steinheimer came down to the railyard one night," Colley recalls, "when the 480 was out. Mike and I tried to position ourselves to recreate his famous photo of the Southern Pacific at Saugus, California. It came out really great!" Colley was also called upon by the Disney family to create the model display likeness of a train Walt Disney worked on as a "news butch" when he was about 15 years old. "It is one of the neatest things that I've ever worked on," he says. "I'm actually in the credits for the museum!"

Now all that remains to make a perfect memory of a very perfect career is for Disney to call upon the Hollywood Hoghead to do a "pirates" movie with Colley at the throttle and the pirate flags flying.

Bill Colley is a Carolwood member and currently lives in Ignacio, Colorado – ED.

CPHS ANNOUNCES NEW PRODUCTS

THE CAROLWOOD PACIFIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE TWO NEW PRODUCTS.

Due to popular demand, we asked Accucraft Trains to create an electric gauge-1 (G-scale) version of the fabled Fort Wilderness Railroad trains. The locomotive is similar to the live-steam version we produced a few years ago, but is electrically operated and includes over 30 cosmetic enhancements. We are also producing the accompanying coaches in both standard and "observation" versions.

For the first time, a model of the hand car that was given to Walt Disney has been created in G-scale. Precision crafted by Accucraft in brass and stainless steel, this hand-powered model is a faithful recreation of the Kalamazoo hand car, one of which is often on display in front of Main Street Station at Disneyland.

For more details, please visit the Society's new product website at http://www.carolwoodcollection.com.

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OTHER PRODUCT ANNOUNCEMENTS COMING SOON!



My wife Paula and I will be celebrating our 30th anniversary next October and we are planning to go to California where we spent our first anniversary and visited Disneyland. We have plans to do the Adventures By Disney and do the Backstage Magic Tour, visit the Walt Disney Museum and go to Walt's Barn (which I also hope to volunteer at for a couple of hours). You can see where I'm going with this. It's going to be an all inclusive Disney Experience. I have Michael's book about the Walt Disney railroad and I love it. I always go back to it to refresh the contents because it is so loaded with information. Last but not least I always take my ride on the train on Main Street and go all the way around the Park.

►coscos

Ed and Paul Hartnett - Weymouth, MA

We are so excited to be able to go on the train trip over the Memorial weekend. We are anxious to hear all the stories and meet all the guests you have scheduled. What a monumental task to have lined all these things up for Club members. You must always be busy doing an exciting array of events for Club members. (*This event was created and basically put together by Carolwood Foundation Director Bob Lemberger with help from Michael Campbell, Bill Barbe and other Foundation members. - Ed.*)

I have been waiting for Walt's Museum to open for years. We know the family took time to make it special. We know we won't be disappointed. San Francisco is our very favorite city! What a great way to spend our 40th! Thanks again. To quote Mickey.... "See Ya Real Soon!"

Pete and Linda Olson - Jenks, OK

We have been Disney nuts for as long as I can remember and watched opening day at the Park on TV. I thought, and still think that Walt was one of the greatest men ever to live! I love being in that Park and feel close to him and all his wonderful ideas. Perhaps someday we will be able to see his apartment, or eat at Club 33. We really look forward to a ride on the Lilly Belle. I have my Club pin, not sure about the membership card, though.

I was delighted to see in the winter newsletter that fellow Omahan **Warren Buffet** has joined the group. His recent acquisition of BNSF has, of course, created a lot of front page news out here. Reports from the Omaha World Herald posed an interesting question when they started trying to figure out just why it is that trains have so much fascination for people. I'm not sure his short article fully answered the question, but it's interesting food for thought. I'll attach a scan of the article; it talks about Mr. Buffett and quotes another Carolwood member, **Richard Warner***. Perhaps inclusion of some of this article in the newsletter would be interesting to other members.

Please include an article in the next newsletter about the upcoming rail trip. I wish we could join you but our youngest son, Steven graduates from high school that weekend! We will be thinking DISNEY also, since the day after his graduation he wanted to go to WDW to celebrate. We brought our kids up right!

Barb Warner - Council Bluffs, IA (next door to Omaha, NE) * Please see the mentioned article on page 6

Again, I had a wonderful day at the show. The layouts were amazing! I am so sorry we have lost our Railroad Days here in Fullerton thanks to our "out of touch" City Council. Hopefully one day it will return. And finally Michael, your talk on Walt was simply wonderful. Believe it or not I really had not heard most of it. Usually when seminars are going on during the NFFC Conventions I would be out at the registration table helping our members.

It was such a treat to see so many of the old photographs. What a childhood you must have had with your Dad and Walt and so many other "Imagineers." I especially enjoyed your mentions of Mrs. Disney. I had the opportunity on two occasions to help Mrs. Disney when she came into the Emporium in the mid-80's before the big remodel of the store. How she loved the Doll Counter which I understand was something she personally wanted in the store. Even though Disneyland was known as a "first name place" I could never bring myself to call her Lillian – it was always Mrs. Disney... it just seemed right. What a beautiful and gracious lady she was. As I told Sharon before I left today, one of the things I am so grateful for with my association with the NFFC is all the wonderful and creative people I have had the opportunity to meet.

Every time I go to Disneyland or Walt Disney World I think I enjoy it a little bit more because of the "inside stories" I have gotten from the very people who helped Walt build his dream.

I can tell you right now every time I see the E.P. Ripley pull into the Main Street station I will see Walt at the controls and that 12-year-old boy standing in the cab behind him. What a thrill that must have been. Thanks for creating more memories for my next visit to a Disney Park!

►CO3CO3

Dennis Ritchey - Fullerton, CA

Send your letters to: Carolwood Pacific Historical Society, 1032 Amberton Lane, Thousand Oaks CA 91320-3514 or email us at sharon@carolwood.com





a love of trains

By Dane Stickney, Kevin Coffey and Wes Taylor (World Herald Staff Writers)

arren Buffett isn't the only one to savor that clickety-clack the railroad industry has long ridden the pop culture track.

But you don't have to be an oracle billionaire to appreciate choo-choos. There's just something about trains - the clickety-clack of wheels on track, the shrill whistle blowing, the oldfashioned simplicity of rail travel - that endears them to people young and old.

"I think a lot of the love people have is simple nostalgia," said John Bromley, director of historic programs at the Union Pacific Railroad Museum in Council Bluffs. "People have quite a romantic notion of what it's like to have ridden on a train. They have the feeling of 'Oh, those were the days.' Sometimes it's not too realistic, but it still means something to them."

"My day job is being a dentist," said Richard Warner of Council Bluffs. "I've yet to find anybody who builds scale-model dental offices the way the model railroaders build train sets."

And he's never had anyone take pictures of the outside of his office like train buffs snap photos of steaming locomotives.

Warner recently finished a five-year term on Amtrak's national advisory board. During that time, he logged 200,000 miles aboard Amtrak trains.

"Almost anytime one looks out the window, there is

somebody out there taking a picture,"Warner said. David Mrsny owns Omaha's House of Trains model railroad store at 8106 Maple Street. Every day he sees scores of people who are into small trains, but for him, the real McCoys are the most impressive. "They're larger than life when they go by,"he said. "You look at it and this is rolling past you at 70 miles an hour. They're a lot of fun."

Pop culture references are plentiful.

Just how much fun? Take a look at how trains have played a leading role in various forms of entertainment:

FILMS FEATURING FAMOUS TRAIN SCENES

"The Bridge on the River Kwai" - An explosion that helped define a true classic.

"Back to the Future Part II" - How do vou make a train cooler? Add time travel.



"Lawrence of Arabia" - One of the most harrowing train raids ever filmed and part of an epic.

"Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" - "Think you used enough dynamite there, Butch?" Enough said.

"The Fugitive" - You'd run, too, if even the train was trying to catch you.

And a special addition: 1895's "Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat," one of the most important early motion pictures, directed by the Lumière brothers. Allegedly, the image of a filmed train was so startling to early audiences unaccustomed to moving pictures that they fled to the back of the theater as the locomotive rumbled on-screen.

SONGS FEATURING TRAINS

"I've Been Working on the Railroad" - If you've ever had kids, you know this classic can get stuck in your head all the live-long day.

"The Wabash Cannonball " -Now listen to the jingle and the rumble and the roar - of this fictional train immortalized in the 19th century American folk song.

"Midnight Train to Georgia" - Gladys Knight & the Pips landed at No. 1 on the singles chart in 1973 with this classic Motown hit.

"Runaway Train" - Minneapolis alt rockers Soul Asylum got lots of radio play with this 1993 hit.

"Chatt anooga Choo Choo" -Glenn Miller and his big band choo-chooed America home with this 1941 tune.

TRAIN TOYS

Thomas the Tank Engine -The nice little blue engine dominated the toddler tov scene until that unfortunate lead paint dustup.

Lionel model trains - A popular electric train brand renowned for its attention to detail. American Flyer model trains - The No. 2 brand that always tried to steam up behind Lionel.

Lego - All Legos are cool, but their buildable trains have been a staple since the 1960s.



GeoTrax – The powered plastic toys are newer to the train scene, but the Fisher-Price brand sells well with tots.

FAMOUS REAL TRAINS

The 20th Century Limited -America's famous luxury train that ran from New York to Chicago from 1902 to 1967.

California Zephyr - The diesel-powered passenger train famous for its use of Vista-Dome cars runs from Chicago to the California coast with stops in Nebraska.

Trans-Siberian Express -At 5,778 miles, it's the longest regular train trip in the world from Moscow to the Sea of Japan.



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Ollie Johnston Ward Kimball William Norred Richard Thompson

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President Bill Barbe Vice President Fred Lack III CFO Larry Varblow Director Nathan Eick Secretary Debra Turner

Society membership information is available by emailing Sharon at Sharon@carolwood.com or going to the website at www.carolwood.com.

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VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA by Michael Broggie

Remembering Fess

If you were anywhere in grade school through high school in the 1950s, vou remember television's first superhero, Fess Parker. Dressed in fringed buckskin and wearing a coonskin cap, "Davy Crockett" captured the hearts and minds of millions of viewers who watched their black and white TVs on Sunday evening as Walt Disney introduced the legendary frontiersman, Congressman and Alamo warrior. Based loosely on the actual historical figure, David Crockett from Tennessee, Parker, who was from Fort Worth, Texas, literally brought the character to life.

Set for three episodes of the initial season of *Disnevland* on ABC network, no one, not even Walt Disney, foresaw the incredible impact the character would have on the collective conscience of the American public. As a communications medium. television was in its commercial infancy. Between 1954 and 1955 the number of sets in homes grew from one million to ten million. ABC had become an important investor in Walt's family amusement park in Anaheim. In exchange for \$5 million, Disney agreed to produce a one hour primetime television series for the network, which was struggling to gain viewers against the more established CBS and NBC networks. They both turned down the opportunity to invest in Disneyland Park.

When the three consecutive episodes of *Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontie*r aired, the ratings and viewer response were unequaled in broadcasting history. Overnight, kids demanded coonskin caps, long toy rifles and brown clothing and moccasins. Playing frontiersmen and fighting Indians became a national passion. The anthem, "Davy, Davy Crockett; King of the Wild Frontier," stayed atop the music charts for nearly three months.

Walt commented to colleagues that it was the company's bad luck that it created a national hero who's killed off in the third installment. The story department quickly began to stitch together prequels that enhanced the legends, while the first three episodes were edited into a feature length film that was released to theaters. Even though it was broadcast as a gray-scale television production, Walt had the foresight to film it in 35mm color with full theatrical quality.

Disney merchandising was not so lucky. Even though the company quickly tried to capture the market, it was too late to gain control of the merchandise. Factories throughout the world were cranking out products



to meet the overwhelming demand, most of which were unlicensed by Disney. The demand for rabbit pelts that could be dyed to look like raccoon drove the fur market all the way to China. In the haste to produce enough Crockett caps to supply retailer's shelves, many rabbit pelts were under processed. Uncounted kids developed head lice from wearing the improperly cured caps.

By the time Disneyland opened July 17, 1955, Fess Parker's character was the most recognizable celebrity on television. When he rode his horse down Main Street USA on that warm Sunday afternoon, the crowd went absolutely crazy.

Interestingly, Fess wanted to branch out from his buckskin image. He tried several roles, including starring as James Andrews in *The Great Locomotive Chase*, arguably Walt's favorite live action feature motion picture. Eventually, the typecasting led to a starring role as Daniel Boone, which he also produced. It had a highly rated run for six seasons in the 1960s on NBC. The network had asked Disney to negotiate the rights to use the name Davy Crockett, but the company declined.

Having a natural aptitude for business, Fess carefully saved and invested his earnings in California real estate. It should be acknowledged that the highly recognizable six-foot-six actor had a distinct advantage while negotiating. Many were simply in awe to meet their boyhood hero. Worship aside. Fess made a series of deals that led to Santa Barbara and the development of a premium resort on 23 acres of ocean front land that was reclaimed from ramshackle structures. Going further north, he acquired land near the small community of Los Olivos and planted wine-producing grapes. The Fess Parker Winery became a very popular tourist destination and the producer of award-winning wines. Always the genial host, Fess would politely accommodate requests for autographs. He particularly liked signing wine bottles with his gold marker pin. Understandably, the logo of the winery is a coonskin cap.

Upon the 50th year anniversary of The Great Locomotive Chase in 2007, the Carolwood Pacific Historical Society commissioned Hartland Locomotive Works to make a limited edition of 50 G-scale electricpowered models based upon the General locomotive. Fess agreed to hand autograph each of the engines on the roof of the cab and also sign a certificate of authenticity. For those lucky enough to obtain one of the models, there was a private reception at Fess's Santa Barbara resort. He spoke about his career and then signed a multitude of Davy Crockett merchandise. He stayed for several hours until every request was satisfied.

Fess Parker, who was 85 when he died on March 18th, leaves his portrayal of American historic figures such as Davy Crockett: "King of the Wild Frontier," and Daniel Boone, and his numerous successful business enterprises. The result is a durable legacy that has benefited generations of admirers and will continue to inspire others to also pursue their own dreams and aspirations.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Marcella. Their son Eli and daughter Ashley operate the family's enterprises. There are 11 grandchildren and one great grandson.

For those of us who counted Fess as a personal friend, and those who recall their childhood television memories, he will always be our ideal of an American hero.



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Email us at sharon@carolwood.com



"We don't have boring meetings, we just do fun stuff!"

First Class Mail Address Correction Requested

<u>Minnibur Picturis</u>



After a long winter, lots of digging for parts, tons of elbow grease and hard work from the guys at the body shop (not to mention a lighter load in **Mike Venezia's** checking account), his 1966 Good Humor Truck is done and ready for the 2010 Ice Cream season – just in time to kick off the celebration of Good Humor's 90th anniversary.

(Mike Venezia, president of Venezia Enterprises, Inc., also owns Little Engines located in Lancaster, PA. -Ed.)





David Leaphart, Greenville, South Carolina, models the shirt that he designed for the Carolwood Un-Meeting in early October. You can obtain one by going to dkleaphart@yahoo.com.

In addition please go to www.steelwheelonsteelrail.com for information on his upcoming book(s) about the *Fort Wilderness railroad*.

Carolwood Event Calendar

July 18, 2010 – Walt's Barn in Griffith Park open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

July 14 thru August – Stage Nine presents "Get Animated" at the California State Fair in Sacramento, CA – please go to www.stagenine.com for more information

July 18 – Disneyana Fan Club Show and Sale – Crowne Plaza Hotel, Garden Grove

July 24 – Movie Night at Walt's Barn, 8pm Showing Buster Keaton's "The General" plus selected clips – special guest will be actor James Karen

August 15 - Walt's Barn open

August 21 – Movie Night at Walt's Barn, 8 pm Showing featured clips from the Disney vault – special guest Ed Hobelman

September 19 - Walt's Barn open

October 1, 2, 3 - CPHS Un-Meeting in Orlando, FL

October 17 - Walt's Barn open

November 20, 21 – World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, Saint Paul, MN – Saint Paul Convention Center

November 21 - Walt's Barn open

December 19 - Walt's Barn open with Engineer Santa

January 8, 9 – World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, Columbus, OH – Greater Columbus Convention Center

January 15, 16 – World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, Omaha, NE – Qwest Center Omaha

January 16 - Walt's Barn open

February 12, 13 – World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, Atlanta, GA – Cobb Galleria

February 20 - Walt's Barn open