

# CAROLWOOD CHRONICLE



OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CAROLWOOD PACIFIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

No 42



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## RETLAW 1 COMBINE UPDATE

By Larry Boone

It was July 17th, 1955 when a very special train made its first 'official' run around the outskirts of a very special park... *Disneyland*. That was opening day and Walt wanted everything to be perfect. The train cars were meticulously crafted on the sound stages of the Disney Studios and looked every bit like they had been transplanted right from the turn of the century.

The railroad at his park was so important to him that he chose it as the way to make his own grand entrance for the T.V. cameras. At that time Walt had a freight train pulled by engine #1, the *C.K. Holiday*, and a passenger train pulled by engine #2, the *E.P. Ripley*. Walt rode into Main Street Station that day as engineer of the *Ripley* with its bright yellow consist of one combine, four passenger coaches and an observation car. The grand opening of Disneyland was underway.

Walt had a lifelong interest in trains. As a boy he was intrigued by the trains that passed by his boyhood town of Marcelline. At about age 14, Walt got a job on the *Missouri Pacific Railroad* as a news butcher selling magazines, snacks and drinks to the passengers. Walt took his breaks in what was called a 'combine'. This was a combination rail car that was half passenger coach and half baggage car. It soon became Walt's favorite. This extended to his own trains at Disneyland with the *Santa Fe & Disneyland Railroad's* combine being a favorite as well.



There were smiles all around at the final signing of the agreement between the Norred family and the Carolwood Foundation. From top left standing: Carrie Norred, Michael Campbell and Larry Boone. Bottom row seated: Charlene Norred and Larry Varblow.

Walt's love of his *SF&D railroad* was such that it was personally owned by him. His train crew named the trains the "Retlaw 1 (passenger) and Retlaw 2 (freight)" in his honor. Walt later adopted Retlaw as the name of his personal corporation. (Retlaw, of course, is Walter spelled backwards).

The Retlaw passenger coaches, although a most accurate recreation of real 19th century rail cars, were somewhat slow to load and unload due to just a single door at each end. In order to speed up the loading process, new cars were designed.

The original passenger train was being used less often and finally taken off-line altogether some time in the mid '70s.

Avid railfan **Bill Norred** became concerned about the long-term care of the Retlaw 1 consist and made a trade with DL in 1996. The park got a 1927 Davenport locomotive in exchange for four of the passenger coaches and the combine. DL kept the observation car which was eventually converted into the Lilly Belle Parlor Car.

(Continued on page 3)

POPULATION

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Thank you



## WELCOME ABOARD



The Carolwood Pacific Historical Society is enriched by its many wonderful members.

New and renewing members from June, 2010 are:

Dennis Hanley, *Reseda, CA*  
John S. Herold, *Santa Ana, CA*  
Dennis Wolf, *Dayton, OH*  
The George Crabb Family, *Santa Clara, CA*  
Jeffrey Sumners, *Garden Grove, CA*  
Jaren & Janett Henderson, *Hesperia, CA*  
Steve & Judi Haydu, *Apple Valley, CA*  
David Leaphart, *Greer, SC*  
Ron Rohrenbacker, *Pomona, CA*  
Edmar Matern, *Oakdale, CA*  
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Dave Mason, *Flintridge, CA*  
Angel Hinton, *Cary, NC*  
Mark Cowan, *Sacramento, CA*  
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Glenn & Sandy Barker, *Burbank, CA*  
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Jeffrey Bray, *Columbus, IN*  
Robert Mason, *Billerica, MA*  
Don & Michelle Morin, *Mukilteo WA*  
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John Bouman, *Chino Hills, CA*  
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Terry Tucker, *Pensacola, FL*  
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Randolph Riscoll, *New York, NY*  
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Jim & Carlene Wallace, *St. Petersburg, FL*  
Scott Juhasz, *Montville, OH*  
Bob Bayley, *Longwood, FL*  
Tom & Pat Yendes, *Thousand Oaks, CA*  
Becky Epperson, *Los Angeles, CA*  
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Sebastien Barthe, *Cormeilles En Parisis, France*  
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Jennifer Germaine, *Berea, OH*  
Neil Norlund, *Cherry Hill, NJ*  
Ryan Hill, *Titusville, FL*  
George Kreis, *Mahwah, NJ*

**Welcome New and Renewing Members!**



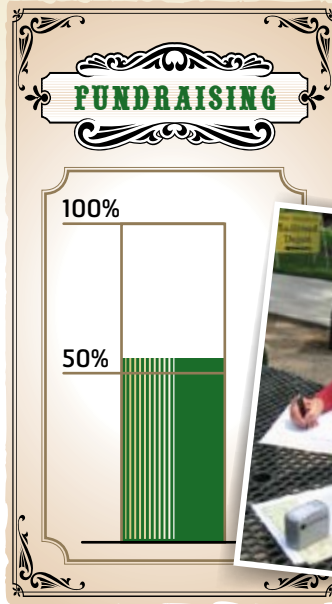
(Continued from page 1)

The loco ended up at Walt Disney World for a while but is now part of Cedar Point's Knott's Berry Farm. Mr. Norred was a founding governor of the Carolwood Pacific Historical Society. He had plans to restore all of his cars to their original condition. Unfortunately, Bill passed away in 1998 and the cars sat idle in a Ventura storage facility.

Sometime in 1999, the Norred family decided that these cars were too special to have them sit idle - where no one could see or enjoy them. So, the four passenger coaches and Bill's other two steam locos were sold to Bob Rossi for his new *Pacific Coast Railroad* at the Santa Margarita Ranch in San Luis Obispo. Mr. Rossi and his crews run these engines and the Retlaw 1 coaches on about two miles of track for both private and public events. Restoration is ongoing. At first, the Norreds did not wish to part with Bill's (and Walt's) favorite - the combine. It was about May, 2009 that the Norred family decided that the combine also needed to be preserved and should not sit in storage any longer. Train restoration master, **Tim Lagaly**, who had been

doing the restoration for Bill Norred, brought this information to **Michael Campbell** of the CPHS. Discussions were had with the **Disney-Miller** family and the Walt Disney Family Museum about purchasing it for their new facility in San Francisco. There was not enough space there so the offer was made to the Carolwood Foundation for display near Walt's barn. On July 18th, 2009, at the Barn's 10th anniversary event, official fundraising was announced for Carolwood to (hopefully) acquire that very special car.

Jump ahead to July 11, 2010. Over half of the needed funds have been procured and decisions have been made. **Charlene Norred**, Bill's widow, and her daughter **Carrie** meet Carolwood members at the barn and the combine purchase takes place. Carolwood Foundation CFO, **Larry Varblow**, writes the check with society governor, Michael Campbell, as witness. The combine is now ours and is scheduled to be displayed in what will be remembered as the 'old' picnic area. Tim Lagaly has resumed restoration work and the combine is slated to be moved to the barn area sometime this Fall.



Charlene Norred, trustee of the William Norred Estate, signs the sales agreement transferring ownership of Walt Disney's Combine Coach to the Carolwood Foundation. Also pictured is Larry Varblow, who signed the agreement as the chief financial officer of the Carolwood Foundation.

We are past the half way point with the fundraising. There are still costs for transportation, restoration and a permanent display structure. Your direct donations are gratefully accepted in any amount. The 'Adopt-a-Tie' program allows you to have your name on one of the railroad ties that will support the combine. Future rail excursions are also in the planning stages. So be a part of Carolwood

history and join the donors at: [www.carolwood.org](http://www.carolwood.org). The combine will be an exciting new part of barn operations on the third Sunday of each month and a wonderful display. Thanks for your support.

[In tribute to Mr. Norred, the Society created "The William A. Norred Railroad Preservation Award" to recognize individuals who have greatly contributed to railroad preservation].

## WELCOME TO THE LITTLE MINING TOWN OF RAINBOW RIDGE

BY LARRY BOONE

If you are a Mine Train enthusiast, like me, you will appreciate these shots of this long gone but fondly remembered Disneyland attraction. The arial view is just fantastic.





## CAROLWOOD MEMBERS PAUL AND ANITA BROWN CONTRIBUTE GRAPHIC ARTS TO SOCIETY



### RAIL TRIP RESCHEDULED



**THE FALL 2010  
RAIL TRIP HAS BEEN  
RESCHEDULED FOR MAY  
21 AND 22 2011 DUE TO  
DELAYS IN OBTAINING  
INSURANCE.**

***The cars are filling up fast, so don't wait to the last minute to register if you want to be part of this historic event!***

For the latest information about the upcoming rail trip please check [www.carolwood.org/event.html](http://www.carolwood.org/event.html) for updates



**T**he **Brown** family: **Paul**, wife **Anita**, son **Ethan** and daughter **Molly**, live in a small village in Essex, 55 miles from London. Paul and Anita run a small Graphic Design Agency in a 17th century converted barn just five minutes from their home. They have been in business since 1993 and have a great range of clients for whom they design logos, branding, brochures, websites, packaging and advertising.

*"I've always thought that my creativity was inspired from an early age by watching Walt Disney films, seeing him on television and dreaming about Disneyland and Walt Disney World - all which seemed a world away for a young boy in England," Paul says.*

*"Walt's drive for creativity, his strong work ethic and ability to 'plus' quality and ideas have in many ways been woven into my work life. My childhood hope of visiting one of Walt's magical lands coincided with our very first visit to the USA and also provided evidence of us being true Disney fans as we were married in Walt Disney World at the Polynesian Resort - a true Mickey Mouse Wedding! We have visited WDW over 15 times and Disneyland 4 times since!"*

Over the years Paul's passion for the Art of Disney Animation has also steadily progressed with his learning about the artists who brought their drawings to life in the animated classics that filled his childhood (and now his children's lives).

*"Now that I'm 'grown up' I've been able to purchase many animation drawings created by the Nine Old Men. This 'Disney addiction' has also led me to have been*



*"For me it really was all started by a mouse - and a creative genius who inspires me today just as he did when I was six," says Paul.*

*lucky enough to purchase three Walt Disney autographs (from Phil Sears) and a treasured wheel from Walt's Carolwood Pacific Railroad, along with many other amazing Disney collectibles," Paul reports.*

It was the researching of Walt's life that pointed him in the direction of learning as much as he could about Walt's Carolwood Pacific Railroad, his Barn, and the people at Carolwood.com.

*"It started with a purchase of an original roof shingle from Walt's Barn from their website and an e-mail conversation started with Sharon, which led to me offering my help to the Society so I could be a part of it all.*

*We were recently delighted to be able to coincide our family holiday in June with a visit to Walt's Barn where we experienced a simply amazing personal tour by Michael and Sharon, which our children still mention almost daily. Being in 'Walt's Place' really inspired us all and we all believe we could almost feel Walt there - especially when Michael generously allowed us all to try on Walt's pork pie hat! (see photo).*

Paul and Anita have generously donated their graphics expertise to several Society projects including the complete remake of the Carolwood Chronicle layout.

Paul's e-mail address is [paul@labanbrowndesign.co.uk](mailto:paul@labanbrowndesign.co.uk) Editor.





# The Mail Car

Thank you for a wonderful cruise out on the water! We all had a great time -- even Laura, who was a little nervous about it until we left the dock. A couple of her comments were, "I could get used to that." and "That was really relaxing."



I think Andy REALLY LIKED the boat and now wants a boat of his own. I probably should have mentioned it, but one of the video games that Andy and I play when he comes over is Hydro Thunder, a high speed boat racing game. He usually wins. :(

We also enjoyed the nice variety of food (yumm...). You may have noticed that we like food. :)

And the best part was getting to talk to the both of you without the constant interruptions like at the railroad shows. It was really very interesting and fun.

Although there were a few slowdowns, we had no trouble getting to the airport in time for our flight which left a few minutes late but arrived in San Jose on time.

In the attached picture, Andy is probably saying, "Don't worry. I know what I'm doing!" although Michael doesn't look too sure about it.

So, once again a very big THANK YOU for a wonderful time.

*George and Laura Crabb - Santa Clara, CA*

*Editor's note: George Crabb and Rob Anderson and family won the Cruise Around Westlake as a raffle prize during an event held last year at the Walt Disney Family Museum and St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco.*

We enjoyed meeting you at the NFFC Show and Sale. My daughter, Angela, and I talked to you about how excited we were to go out and see Walt's Barn. We've never been in L A on the third Sunday and living in North Carolina, but being a HUGE Walt fan, we couldn't wait. Sadly, although we thought we left in enough time, we got there close to 3 p.m. and asked a security guard just to be sure we were in the right place. The security guard directed us to Travel Town - another employee did as well. After we walked all around there and didn't find the Barn, we finally found it at the L A Live Steamers location - after the gates had been locked. We didn't even see anyone to ask if it would be possible to just go in for a minute to get some photos. You can imagine our disappointment. I sure hope sometime in the future we can make another trip out to see it. It would be so special.

*Shirley Hinton - Cary, North Carolina*

Just got back from visiting Southern California for the first time and wanted to pass along my family's thanks to the volunteers at Walt's Barn. Our flight arrived from Toronto at about 12 noon on August 15th and we headed straight for Griffith Park.

I must say my family and I were very impressed with the layout and displays at the Barn. Everyone was so helpful and we even had a chance to ride some of the trains. The entire experience made the beginnings of a perfect holiday. Thank you!

*The Ritchie Family - Mississauga, Ontario, Canada*

I'm not sure if you recall but I'm the fellow who stopped you on your way out from the Oakland/Arana wedding this past weekend. I wanted to say thank you again for taking the time to allow me to introduce myself and for sharing a bit of your history and organization. The pleasure was all mine.

I've taken the opportunity to read through the Carolwood website to learn more about the work you do. It makes my heart glad to see that there are individuals and organizations like the Carolwood Society and Carolwood Foundation that strive to preserve the legacy of this great man, Walt Disney. I envy you in that you were able to experience firsthand the energy and wisdom of such an amazing human being. It truly is a credit to Walt and his vision that he's been able to impact the lives of generations who've come after him, and I'm sure that with your work he will continue to inspire the many generations to come.

I noticed on the website that the Disney archive screening you mentioned was open by invitation only. If it isn't possible for my son and I to attend the event then I look forward to the 15th where we can see the Barn and all of the history that came out of the workshop. I'm sure that it will be just as inspiring.

I hope that in the near future we can meet again and I can hear more about your family history.

*Chris Andrade - Billings, MT*

I have looked and have read some of the articles in the latest Carolwood Chronicle. I like the new version - it is set up very nicely and is easy to read. I look forward to the Chronicle in my mail to get updates and read the stories and hear what is new. Thank you.

*Ed Hartnett - Weymouth, MA*

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



# Movie Night Stars Walt's Barn

By Jennie Hendrickson

*"You can't top pigs with pigs," Walt Disney said about sequels.\* But you can show a barn on a barn and make a hit.*

That's exactly what happened on Movie Night at Walt's Barn, on August 21. It was strangely touching to see films of Walt Disney and his friends, riding the Carolwood Pacific Railroad and working around his backyard barn, projected on a screen in front of those very barn doors. The sun setting behind the dove-cote and weather vane, and lights shining through the barn's windows, framed the scene in a picturesque way. Engineers steamed up in the gloaming, so whistles and chugging mingled with film soundtracks while tiny headlights meandered throughout the night like slow shooting stars.

The Walt's Barn volunteer crew greeted members of the Carolwood Pacific Historical Society and Los Angeles Live Steamers and their guests, offered free popcorn, and ushered with their trusty flashlights.

Carolwood Pacific Historical Society co-founder and chairman Michael Broggie presided as master of ceremonies for the evening of rare film clips and Disney cartoons. He called for a "Carolwood welcome," for the evening's guests, which resulted in warm applause that echoed through the clearing in Griffith Park. **Steve Waller** projected the films, wearing his engineer cap.

Classic cartoons Three Little Pigs, Out of Scale (Donald Duck faces a train hobbyist's

dilemma), and Mr. Mouse Takes a Trip (from the Burbank depot) made up a portion of the screening. Moviegoers got to engineer the Carolwood Pacific themselves by watching a clip from the original Disneyland television series. Filmed in the Disney backyard, much of that sequence was shot from the engineer's point of view. After rounding trestle and garden, the train enters the thrilling darkness of the famous S-curve tunnel. The black suspense lingers, finally broken by glimmering pixie dust - the Disneyland opening titles.



Much followed to please the genial crowd that was gathered in an awe-stricken arc, on folding chairs, benches and grass, in the moon- and barn-light.

**Scott Zone** (whose vast film industry experience includes digitally reformatting Disney family home movies for the film Walt: The Man Behind the Myth) brought along footage that displayed the

"fair weather route" of the Carolwood Pacific Railroad in all its leisurely weekend-afternoon charm. In a variety of scenes, Walt Disney, his family and his friends take full pleasure in his pastime. **Ron Miller** dons the engineer cap to impress his lovely and loving passenger, **Diane Disney** (soon to be, if not yet, his wife). Even the family poodle Dee Dee, with her pretty chocolate-grey curls flying, merrily chases the train. The barn is seen during its construction, and as a backdrop to the backyard fun. In addition, Zone presented a constellation of clips that loop daily at The Walt Disney Family Museum. This was a chance to witness the acting ability and personal magnetism of a young Walt Disney in Kansas City, and a rare glimpse of camera-shy Roy O. Disney.

**Ed Hobelman** (film archivist/preservationist for the Walt Disney Studios) brought rarities from the studio film vault. Surprises included the first public screening of special clips of Walt with the *Santa Fe & Disneyland Railroad* - in color! Footage of Kirk Douglas test-driving an Autopia car prototype at the studio preceded a clip of the ultimate daredevil. This was speedy young Michael Broggie, in a bright red racer, much to the delight of our evening's emcee. Michael commented that his father Roger (the cameraman for this clip) and Walt Disney called on him to feed his reckless fancy, so they could childproof the car design before the Autopia attraction opened at Disneyland. Another clip Hobelman shared has been considered the last footage of Walt Disney - his promotional



film about EPCOT. But our studio guest made a revelation. Later footage of Walt Disney has been discovered, and will be premiered at a special screening at the next D23 convention.

It's fun to speculate what this footage could be. A promotion for The Happiest Millionaire or The Aristocats, or the press junket for Mineral King ski resort? Another revelation was that footage from a "lost Pluto cartoon" has been found. The Disney Company animation division may complete it and release it, as it did some years ago with Destino.

After a question and answer session of generous length, complemented by a rousing "Carolwood thank you," the screen was taken down and the barn doors opened. The emerging light beckoned Disney railroad enthusiasts to relish the history their membership preserves.

\* referring to Three Little Pigs (Walt Disney: An American Original by Bob Thomas, original hardback, pg. 119)





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

Sharon & Michael Broggie, Editors  
 Sharon Broggie, Publisher  
 Paul Brown, Graphic Design

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Dave Tavres, Webmaster  
 Stephen Broggie, Internet Design

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# VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA

## Remembering Harrison "Buzz" Price

by Michael Broggie

Research economist Harrison "Buzz" Price helped Walt Disney hand-pick the optimum locations for Disneyland in 1953 and Walt Disney World in 1963, among other projects. And over time, through his method of leisure-time economic analysis: combined aspects of architecture and planning, along with economics and sociology; he became one of Walt's most trusted advisors.

Among his many contributions was the title "Imagineer." It came about during a lunch in the executive Coral Room at the studio's commissary. Walt was trying to describe the people he was selecting to build Disneyland. After listening, Buzz suggested that they do "imagineering." Thus, the new descriptive title was created.

A month prior to his death in 1966, Walt personally appointed Buzz to care for one of his most prized projects, California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) in Valencia. CalArts was to be a unique educational concept that would "cross fertilize" disciplines in art, design, music, dance, film, video, and theater.

Nearly 40 years since its 1971 opening, Buzz remained a dedicated trustee of CalArts. He said, "I have never thought of leaving the school."

Born in Oregon City, Oregon, May 17, 1921, Buzz moved with his family to San Diego, California in 1930. He graduated as an engineer from California Institute of Technology, in Pasadena in 1942.

He took a job as a sales engineer in South America and returned to the U.S. three years later to attend Stanford University, where he received his Masters in Business Administration in 1951.

Buzz went on to join Stanford Research Institute, where he was contracted by Walt and Roy O. Disney to determine the economic feasibility of, and the best location for, a new project -- Disneyland - the first theme park in the world.

As Buzz recalled, "I asked Walt if he had a bias about its location. Did he have any thoughts about where he thought it ought to be? He said, 'Absolutely not. You tell me where the best location is.'"

After concentrating on Orange County, Buzz analyzed ten potential sites in that metropolitan area. Considerations included population, accessibility, climate factors, and more. Ultimately, Buzz, Walt, and Roy selected 160 acres of orange grove in Anaheim, near the new Santa Ana Freeway as the ideal location for Disneyland.

This land purchase marked the Company's first exercise in sophisticated location analysis and acquisition. And Disneyland launched as the best-attended park in the world with about four million in attendance during its first year. Its attendance grew steadily over the next 37 years, at a compound rate of four percent, according to Buzz.

Walt respected Buzz's talent and encouraged him to form his own firm, offering a three-year contract for research time. So, in 1958, he founded Economics Research Associates (ERA) and conducted studies for Walt Disney World and EPCOT Center near Orlando, Florida, which he recommended due to its mild winters. He also conducted evaluating studies for CalArts and for Walt's proposed Mineral King project, a unique Swiss-themed ski resort that would be located near Sequoia National Park in California.



Walt's premature death, however, marked the end of the project.

Among 6,000 project assignments, Buzz conducted over 150 feasibility studies for The Walt Disney Company, including site selection and feasibility for Chiba, Japan for the site of Tokyo Disneyland. His numerous non-Disney projects include master planning eight world's fairs, including Seattle and San Antonio; site and economic feasibility studies for Six Flags theme parks and Sea World parks; and planning studies for winter resorts, including Vail in Colorado.

In 2003, Buzz authored his autobiography, *WALT'S REVOLUTION BY THE NUMBERS*, published by Ripley's Entertainment, which tells how Walt and Roy approached strategic planning issues and the impact of their innovation in the attraction field. At the Disney Legend Awards ceremony held at Disney Studios that year, Michael Eisner credited Price with being "...as much responsible for the success of The Walt Disney Company as anybody except Walt Disney himself." To date, Buzz is the only non-employee of Disney to receive the coveted award.

After retiring to Palm Springs, Harrison "Buzz" Price moved to Pomona where he died on August 15, 2010, at age 89 due to anemia. He was survived by his wife, the former Ann Shaw, as well as by two daughters, two sons, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

As a personal note, Sharon and I will always remember Buzz and his lovely wife, Ann, who, during a Palm Springs weekend, introduced us to tom-olives as the perfect martini garnish.



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**We're on  
 the WEB**  
 carolwood.com

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

*First Class Mail Address  
 Correction Requested*

## MEMBER PICTURES



Railroader **Bill Dundas** is on the throttle of his propane-fired 1:3.75 inch scale locomotive at his 20-acre pike in Santa Rosa Valley, CA. His other rolling stock includes a 30-inch gauge consist that once ran at the Ft. Wilderness Campgrounds in Walt Disney World, Florida. Photo by Corey Dundas.



Charter Member **Hugh Rutherford** and **Maureen** join **Michael Broggie** (middle) for the Un-Meeting in Orlando October 1st.



## Carolwood Event Calendar

**October 17** - Walt's Barn in Griffith Park open to the public from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**November 20, 21** - World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, St. Paul, MN - St. Paul Convention Center

**November 21** - Walt's Barn open to the public from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**December 19** - Walt's Barn open to the public from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 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 to the public from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

**February 20** - Walt's Barn open to the public from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.