



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CAROLWOOD SOCIETY

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF WALT DISNEY'S CAROLWOOD BARN JULY 13TH

MICHAEL CAMPBELL

### IN THIS ISSUE

**PLATFORM 1**  
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
WALT DISNEY'S CAROLWOOD  
BARN JULY 13TH

**PLATFORM 2**  
WELCOME ABOARD

TONY BAXTER IS HONORED  
GUEST AT 2019 UNMEETING

**PLATFORM 3**  
TONY BAXTER IS HONORED  
GUEST AT 2019 UNMEETING  
CONTINUED

20TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION

**PLATFORM 4**  
RETLAW 101 COMBINE CAR  
BUILDING

**PLATFORM 5**  
LYNN JOHNSTON AND OLLIE  
JOHNSTON: TWO RAIL FANS  
RARE WALT DISNEY EAGLE

**PLATFORM 6**  
THE MAIL CAR  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**PLATFORM 7**  
VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA

**PLATFORM 8**  
CAROLWOOD  
EVENT CALENDAR  
ANNUAL UNMEETING AT  
WALT DISNEY WORLD

**O**n a perfect summer day in July 1999, friends, fans and family of Walt Disney gathered at Griffith Park to dedicate his Carolwood Barn.

At the request and under the guidance of Diane Disney Miller, a team of volunteers — including Michael Broggie, Miguel Fernandez, Bill Abel, Jay Carsman and others — had meticulously relocated the Barn from the Disney estate on Carolwood Drive to the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum.

This was fitting as Walt was a founding member of that organization. Indeed, the Barn sits at the center of an area called the “Disney Loop” as it uses track donated from Walt’s Carolwood Pacific Railroad.

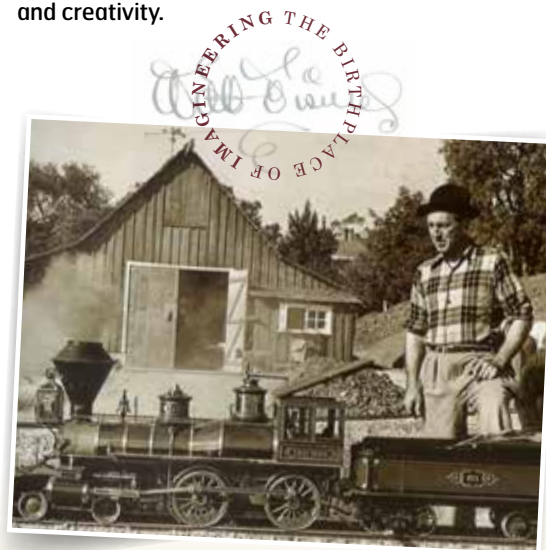
In the time since, the Barn has been the site of many presentations by Disney Legends and celebrities, and has hosted countless guests.

Every visitor has had the chance to explore the humble workshop that served — as aptly described by Disney Legend Marty Sklar — as “the birthplace of Imagineering.” It is entirely appropriate that the Carolwood Foundation (the non-profit organization that operates the Barn on behalf of the Walt Disney Family Foundation) marks the 20th anniversary of the Barn’s dedication and opening to the public with a grand celebration. I was asked to serve as Producer of the evening’s entertainment and am thrilled to share with you the program we have planned:

- Our hosts are Bill Rogers and Camille Dixon, announcers at Disneyland and Disney California Adventure.
- We will present a panel discussion of the saving of Walt’s Barn featuring Michael Broggie, Miguel Fernandez and Bill Abel along with some rare behind-the-scenes photos and video.
- Dinner is a feast prepared by Stonefire Grill.
- Rare art and objects are offered as part of exciting live auction and raffle.
- Guests should expect the unexpected, as we have a few special surprises planned as well.

When Diane Disney Miller dedicated the Barn, she observed that, “Our hearts and our heritage are in this barn”. Taking inspiration from her comment, we are proud to initiate the Carolwood Foundation Hearts & Heritage Award.

This prestigious honor will be presented to those individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions towards preserving and promoting Walt Disney’s railroad legacy. In this inaugural year, we will honor four current and former Imagineers who have done just that: Tony Baxter, Bob Gurr, Kim Irvine, and Ray Spencer. Each of these talented individuals have made careers out of “dreaming and doing” and every day tens of thousands of happy Disney Park guests experience the results of their passion and creativity.



Tickets are strictly limited and are expected to quickly sell out. If you’d like to be part of this historic and fun-filled evening, please visit the Carolwood Foundation’s web site at [www.carolwood.org/anniversary.html](http://www.carolwood.org/anniversary.html)

We look forward to celebrating with you at Walt Disney’s Carolwood Barn on July 13!



## HAPPY RAILS

## WELCOME ABOARD

**T**he Carolwood Pacific Historical Society is enriched by its many wonderful members. New and Renewing Members:

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 William Lenharth, *Durham, NH*  
 William Puckett, *Windermere, FL*

## TONY BAXTER IS HONORED GUEST AT 2019 UNMEETING

**F**ew who visit a Disney theme park anywhere in the world are aware of the tremendous contributions Tony Baxter provided to their experience.

Tony spent his entire 47-year adult career working for The Walt Disney Company. Living in Santa Ana near the original Disneyland in Anaheim, California, Tony and his grandmother often visited the park as customers. He was eight years old when the park opened in 1955. When he turned 17, he applied for a position as a Cast Member and was hired to sell popcorn and later scooped ice cream in Carnation Plaza. He tells of a time when Walt Disney visited his station he was so starstruck he couldn't speak as he filled the founder's order for a single chocolate cone.

As his experience grew, and he became 18—old enough to work on the attractions—his interest in how they worked became a passion. When he saw the AudioAnimatronic show “Great Moments with Mr. Lincoln,” which was installed at Disneyland in 1964, Tony's desire to become an Imagineer was cast in stone.

He began submitting drawings and concepts to the managers at WED Enterprises, later renamed Walt Disney Imagineering in Glendale. They recognized his raw talent and advised him to seek education that could further enhance his abilities.

At the time, he attended Cal Poly Pomona majoring in landscape architecture. Following the advice gained from Imagineers, he transferred to California State University at Long Beach, switching his major to theater design. His logic was that Disneyland is all about the “show” and this course of study would provide the necessary background to hone his natural abilities.

For his senior project, he designed a fully developed concept for a dark ride themed on Mary Poppins.

Soon after graduating, Tony reported to costuming at Disneyland to pick up his outfit for the day. They told him he







Disney Imagineer Legend Tony Baxter holds the brass plaque presented to him by The Carolwood Society recognizing that his olive trees originally were planted at Disneyland when it opened in 1955. Tony saved the trees by moving them to his home in Anaheim Hills. Photo by Jim VanOstenbridge.

didn't have a costume. Tony panicked that he'd been fired. He then learned that he had been reassigned to Glendale to work at Imagineering!

Thus, began a four-decade career conceptualizing, designing and shepherding major attractions for Disney parks around the world. Over the years, Tony was promoted to increasingly higher positions, eventually being named senior vice president of creative development for Walt Disney Imagineering. The position he held upon retirement in 2013.

A personal interest of Tony's is steam railroading. A member of the Board of Governors of The Carolwood Society, he owns a one-eighth scale model of Central Pacific's No. 173, the identical engine Walt Disney selected for his miniature Carolwood Pacific Railroad. Also, at his home, Tony rescued the original olive trees Walt chose for the hub in front of Sleeping Beauty Castle and had them transplanted in his garden. When he hosted a home tour for members of The Carolwood Society, he was presented with a brass plaque noting the provenience of the trees.

Named a Disney Legend in 2013, Tony is the creator of such attractions as Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, Star Tours, Splash Mountain, The Indiana Jones Adventure and Journey Into Imagination, plus the entire concept of Tokyo Seas next to Tokyo Disneyland.

He will share highlights of his 47-year Disney career at the annual Carolwood Society UnMeeting at Walt Disney World the last weekend this September.

Information and reservations are available at [www.carolwood.com](http://www.carolwood.com)



## 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY JULY 13TH



**T**he Carolwood Foundation is presenting an evening of entertainment and fun celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Disney Barn in Griffith Park on Saturday, July 13th, 2019.

This may be a multi-day, multi-location event. Please check for updates and ticketing information on our Facebook page at: "Walt Disney's Carolwood Barn" or our website at: [www.Carolwood.org](http://www.Carolwood.org)

GRIFFITH PARK

1999 **20** 2019  
LOS ANGELES



## RET LAW 101 COMBINE CAR BUILDING

BY LARRY BOONE

Back in 2010 the Carolwood Foundation was able to purchase the Santa Fe & Disneyland Combination Car (Retlaw 101 – the first car in the consist of the original passenger train) from the Bill Norred family.

**S**hortly after the Foundation built a structure over and around that car to protect it and to enhance the display.

On several occasions we have taken the Combine to various other locations including Fullerton Railroad Days, Santa Margarita Ranch and the D23 Expo in 2017.

This is a rather involved process of placing wooden blocks over the small scale rails of the L.A. Live Steamers, adding flex track over the blocks and winching the car from its shed onto the back of a tilted flat-bed truck. Once that is accomplished the Combine can basically go anywhere.

Since the Combine storage structure was completed there was another step that was needed to take the car on the road. The south end wall

needed to be partially removed in order for the car to get out. Rather than removing and reinstalling a generic wall back in place each time the car was moved we opted for something different – a sliding door. This will make it much easier to access the car in the future. But, there's more. The sliding door is a special door that came from Disneyland Park. It is door #2 from the original Disneyland Railroad Roundhouse.

Years ago a new roundhouse was built at Disneyland behind Small World with the Monorails on top level and the trains on the bottom. The original roundhouse was converted into a paint shop. With the addition of Star Wars – Galaxy's Edge all of the structures in the paint shop portion of the backstage area needed to be removed. That included the old roundhouse/paint shop. We were able to acquire all 4 of the roundhouse doors.

They are big and heavy and a nice remnant of a very special part of the original DLRR. We picked the best of the 4 and used door #2 for the new sliding end door (not to be confused with Endor – where the Ewoks live).

Future plans call for the Combine building also being used as a walk-thru display area along the back wall section. We'll keep you posted as this new project takes shape.

You can be sure there will be lots of new and wonderful things to see once we get these new displays installed.

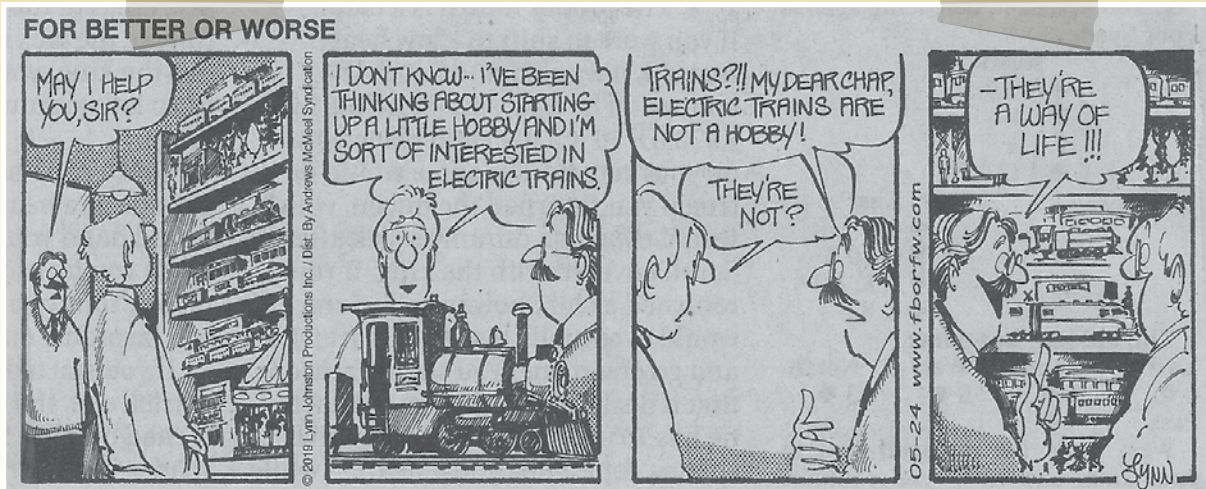


Left: The Combine at the D-23 expo in 2017

Below: The Combine shed with the new sliding door







## LYNN JOHNSTON AND OLLIE JOHNSTON: TWO RAIL FANS

**L**ynn Johnston, an award-winning cartoonist from Canada, has for many years drawn a comic strip titled "For Better Or Worse."

It appears daily in more than 2,000 newspapers in Canada, United States and numerous other countries. She became friends with Disney Legend Animator Ollie Johnston and the two traded

drawings over several decades. While their last names were spelled the same, they couldn't find a family tree connection. One other thing they shared was an interest in model trains.

This sample of her work appeared on May 24th depicting a recurring story theme about miniature railroading.

## IN THE STORE

### RARE WALT DISNEY EAGLE

GET YOURS TODAY! [WWW.CAROLWOOD.COM](http://WWW.CAROLWOOD.COM)



*Among extremely rare Disneyana collectibles is Walt Disney's Steam Locomotive Eagle.*

**T**his solid bronze eagle, with a five-inch wingspan, sits atop each of the sand domes on all steam locomotives at Disneyland and at the Magic Kingdom in Walt Disney World.

It was personally selected by Walt Disney when Disneyland opened in 1955. The photograph of Walt shows the eagle in the background on C. K. Holiday, Engine No. 1.

Over many years, the eagles fell into disrepair. Fortunately, the master was available to create more. The casting was performed at the same foundry in Prescott, Arizona, that produced the famed "Partners" statue of Walt and Mickey Mouse located in the hub at most Disney parks around the world.

Responding to interest from Carolwood members, a small production run was recently completed. While supplies last, the mounted eagle as shown can be ordered for immediate delivery at the Carolwood website.

It is accompanied by a photo of Walt with the eagle and a certificate of assurance signed by Founding Chairman Michael Broggie.



Hi, Sharon!

My name is Ed Marra, and early this year I met Michael at the World's Greatest Hobby show in Oaks, PA. I just wanted to send along, after reading a good part of the Railroad Story book, how much I am enjoying it, as well as how much of a pleasure it was to meet Michael there!

My father was friends with Ward Kimball, but when I met Mr. Kimball, I was very young (about 5 or 6!) It's a shame, as what I've learned over time, there would have been so many questions I could have asked him about Walt, trains, as well as his work on so many wonderful movies and the Tomorrowland segments of the Disneyland series!

I just wanted to say how much I'm enjoying the book, how great the Disney presentation was at the show, and how honored I am to have met Michael. I consider it as making a new friend, and I hope to be able to communicate with him here and there about Walt and trains!

Thank you for your time, and hope to hear from you soon!  
*Ed Marra*



Dear Michael,

Thank you so much for your prompt response. I have just paid the membership fees and enrolled.

I was not fully sure if this was going directly to you so I didn't say it before, but I shall say it now: I am very thankful for your wonderful book on Disney's fascination with the railroad and how that deeply impacted the Park. You did such a wonderful job there at bringing together so much material, while not losing the nuance and richness of the individual topics themselves. My colleagues and I always value this balance in historical work. Reading your book, it was wonderful to be able to get a sense of the big picture, while also seeing the traces of all those key details and materials that interest me in my research.

Please do pass along my information to anyone who might wish to learn more about my research and teaching. I am very interested in getting to know more about everyone's interests and of course the experiences of those who have worked in and contributed to the Parks. This seems like a great opportunity as I continue to further my research.

Best,  
*Roland Betancourt, PhD, University of California, Irvine*



Greetings, Dr. Betancourt--

I believe that there are resources within the membership of The Carolwood Society that may be of value in your search for information.

As you can see among our listing of Board of Governors, names such as Bob Gurr and Tony Baxter. These two Disney Legends may be assets for your research. Their bios (and mine) are posted on wikipedia.org. Another Society Governor is Michael Campbell, a long time Disney railroad historian whose son, Tyler, is in management at Disneyland. Then there's Dr. Brian Alters, who taught at Harvard and is currently a professor at Chapman University. His course is titled "From Darwin to Disney, the pursuit of happiness." Each semester he invites knowledgeable Disney veterans to address his class. If you wish, I will share your interest with him.

Happy rails,  
*Michael Broggie*



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Society membership information is available by emailing Sharon at [sharon@carolwood.com](mailto:sharon@carolwood.com) or going to the website at [www.carolwood.com](http://www.carolwood.com).

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## VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA

**T**he challenge facing any organization is attracting volunteers. According to my Second College Edition of The American Heritage Dictionary, the word describes a person who performs or gives services of their own free will.

Back in 1993, when Lady Sharon and I were working on a book that became "Walt Disney's Railroad Story," we decided to announce the forthcoming publication by renting a booth space at a Disneyana event held inside the Disneyland Hotel.



We needed a "volunteer" to be in the booth to draw attention. We called upon Disney's Legendary Animator/Imagineer/Railroad Maven Ward Kimball. I had known Ward since my early childhood when my father would take me to the Kimball's backyard Grizzly Flats Railroad steam-up parties in San Gabriel, California.

Over the years, as adults, Ward and I shared many wonder times together. So, the favor of asking him to volunteer at this event wasn't necessarily "off the scale." He readily agreed and said that his wife, Betty, would also come to help.

Betty was one of the pioneers in the Ink & Paint Department at Walt Disney Studios, where the couple met. To have both was a genuine coup for the initial activity of the nascent Carolwood Pacific Historical

Society. Understandably, this name eventually was pruned to its current, more manageable: The Carolwood Society.

Ward and Betty were an instant hit. Most of the attendees had never met a Disney Legend, and certainly not of the stature of Ward Kimball. The event, quite literally, put The Carolwood Society on the radar.

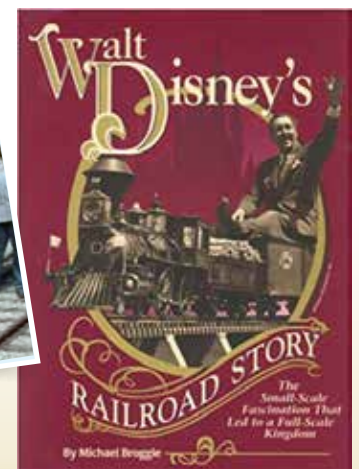
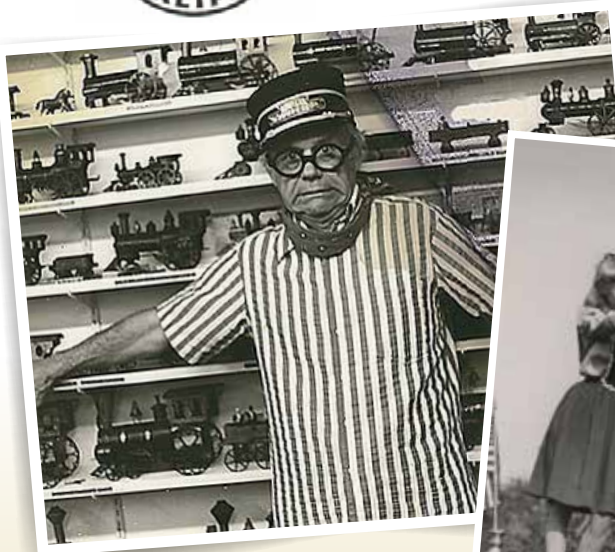
It was soon after that a small group from San Diego, consisting of Downs Prior, David Flesh and Scott Rhodes, asked that the Society be opened to accepting members. Lady Sharon and I were busy on the book and didn't want the extra load of running an organization. Particularly, we didn't have time for meetings. The group stated that they would volunteer to help get the Society up and running and agreed there would be no boring meetings—only fun events.

Fortunately, over the past 25 years, many amazing volunteers have come forward to help organize magical events, create tickets and posters, provide photography, operate Walt Disney's Carolwood Barn, construct a replica barn on the original site in Marceline, Missouri, create a string of memorable UnMeetings at Walt Disney World, design our newsletter, and more.

Another form of volunteer support are our members in 44 states and 11 countries. Without each of you, none of The Carolwood Society would exist.

Thanks, and Happy Rails toward at least another 25 years!

--Michael Broggie





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Prescott, AZ 86301

Email us at [sharon@carolwood.com](mailto:sharon@carolwood.com)

**We're on  
the WEB**  
[carolwood.com](http://carolwood.com)

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

*First Class Mail Address  
Correction Requested*

## BE SURE TO VISIT US



The Barn is open the third Sunday of  
each month from 11:00am to 3:00pm  
weather permitting

Admission and parking are free

The Barn is located at:  
5202 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027

## Carolwood Event Calendar

### July 7

Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### July 13

Barn 20th Anniversary Event 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### July 21

Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### August 4

Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### August 18

Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### September 15

Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### September 26-29

Annual UnMeeting

### October 20

Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

JOIN US FOR OUR

## ANNUAL UNMEETING AT WALT DISNEY WORLD

**September 26-27-28-29, 2019**

Featuring Disney Legend Imagineer Tony Baxter  
Reservations are required.

**BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!**

Visit [carolwood.com](http://carolwood.com), select Club 173,  
then UnMeeting

For any log-on issues: email [mike@broggie.com](mailto:mike@broggie.com)