

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CAROLWOOD SOCIETY

WALT DISNEY'S SMALL SCALE RAILROAD INSPIRATION

ANTHONY HOFFMAN

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CAROLWOOD EVENT CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENT In 1939, Billy Jones, a Southern Pacific locomotive engineer living in Los Gatos CA was making a freight run between Los Gatos and San Francisco.

While they were making up a new train for his return trip, he took a walk along the Embarcadero for a little exercise. He spied a small scale steam locomotive on a pile of scrap metal headed for Japan. It would have probably come back as part of a Destroyer during the war.

Intrigued, he discovered it was one of three built in 1905 to transport prospective buyers to a Venice, California development. He bought it, and had the locomotive loaded onto a flat car to be shipped back to his small ranch in Los Gatos. He intended to use it as a father-son project for he and his two sons to restore.

Unfortunately, his two sons were killed during the war; they were Army Air Force pilots. Depressed, Billy noticed that his spirits were lifted when he was around children, so he decided to restore the locomotive as a memorial to his two sons. With the help of many local volunteers, in 1949 the project was completed, with a loop of track around his orchard on the corner of Daves Avenue and Winchester Boulevard in Los Gatos.



Billy Jones brings his 47-hp Prairie Engine around Orchard Bend

Billy provided free train rides most weekends, which all the townspeople and their children loved. Later, he had a 'donation' jar sitting on a table, and a person could donate or not as they wished.

Walt Disney got wind of Billy's operation from his friend Ward Kimball, and they and others

quietly came up north to spend a weekend at Billy's home, where Walt and Billy ran the train together. After that, almost every year, Walt would secretly come up and spend time at Billy's ranch. At one point, Walt made an offer to buy the railroad for a theme park project he had in mind, but Billy declined. Ward Kimball told Walt it was too small for what he planned, anyway.

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The donation jar, which everyone assumed was to defray the costs of operating the train, was not for that. Walt and Billy had an arrangement, whereby every time Walt came up, he would match the collection from the donation jar, and the two men would buy a load of things for the children's ward at Santa Clara County hospital, on the condition the donation remain anonymous.

The free train rides went on for many years, until Billy passed away in 1968. His two daughters had no use for the locomotive and its rolling stock, and were about to sell it to Sims scrap metal in San Jose, when a group of interested citizens who did not wish to see the train end, stepped in and bought it after securing permission from the City to move it to Oak Meadow Park in Los Gatos. The purchase was finalized just in time; Sims had already marked the locomotive in two places with chalk where they intended to cut it up for transportation to their scrap yard.

Over just one weekend, volunteers packed up and transported the entire railroad, including track, from Billy's orchard to its new home at Oak Meadow Park, approximately a mile away. When the semi-truck drivers learned of the purpose, they donated their time and trucks to the cause.

The Billy Jones Wildcat railroad lives on with about a mile of track, operating two steam locomotives on weekends from approximately May through September, and two diesels during weekdays. The diesels operate weekends the rest of the year. The funds to build one of the diesels, 2502, came from Al Smith, an Orchard Supply Hardware owner for many years.

CAROLINO DE TOS O DE

HAPPY RAILS

WELCOME ABOARD

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

Alfred Cournoyer, Paxton MA Amanda Waters, Franklin TN Angela Coulter, Culver City CA Anne Lewin, Temecula CA Anthony Hoffman, Saratoga CA Ashley Cunha, San Angelo TX Avepeter Barilla, Sierra Madre CA Bill Wilson, Renton WA Brandon Holst, Lake Mary FL Brian Allan, Lutz FL Brian Ballinger, Aurora IL Brian Cagle, San Tan Valley AZ Brian Marra, Berwyn IL Carol Olson, San Jose CA Carol Regehr, Manhattan KS Chris Dolciato, Hudson OH Christine Shaffer, Monticello IN Christopher Youngblood, Lake Buena Vista FL Clifford Gray, San Bruno CA Clinton Cottrell Jr, Peachtree City GA Dan Buonarota, Coral Springs FL Danilo Viazzo, Dublin CA Dave Bayless, Citrus Heights CA David Arendes, Santa Ana CA David Byerly, Rosamond CA David Daisy, Springfield IL David Manore, Utica NY David Maruca, North Haven CT David Mccashen, Santa Maria CA David Meek, Clarkdale AZ David Ruhe, West Mifflin PA David Simms, Windsor PA David Simonds, Evans GA David Walkup, College Station TX Debra Rider, Stockton CA Demy Riley, Fallbrook CA Don Morin, Mukilteo WA Edward Lee, Los Angeles CA Edward Pressnell, Brentwood CA Eric Summers, Middletown MD Erik Kanter, Westwood NJ Estela Beecham, Chula Vista CA F. Andrew Chaney, Houston TX Felicia Williams, Fayetteville GA Frank De Losa, Sterling VA Gary Grooms, Highlands Ranch CO Gary Naumann, Belleville IL Gary Verville, Woodstock GA Gary Woolard, Canoga Park CA Gary Wooland, Calloga Falk Of Gary Youngs, Santa Clara CA Gavin Lambie, Woodinville WA Geoffrey Lillich, Camarillo CA George Kreis, West Nyack NY Grant Fetzer, Salt Lake City UT Gregg Ziak, Mission Viejo CA Heather Hebenstreit, Santa Ana CA Heather Q, Belfast ME Hugh Rutherford, Winnipeg MB James Cotterman, Orlando FL James Dinwiddie, Buena Park CA James Ganem, Tucson AZ James Klich, Franklin MA Jane Boyce, Lititz PA Janelle Pearson, Hampton GA Janet Joyce, San Jose CA Janne Wissel, Los Gatos CA Jason Herbert, Pipersville PA Jay Miller, Boca Raton FL Jay Weitlauf, West Mystic CT Jennifer Germaine, Berea OH Jim Bocash, Ventura CA Jo Ann Fisher, Highland Lakes NJ John G Abbott, Jr, Melbourne FL John Grigas, Madison WI John Hopkins, San Mateo CA John Sloane, Indian Hills CO John Uzzalino, Woodland Park NJ Johna Moulton, Davenport FL Bruce Foote, Gilbert AZ Karl Mogel, New Braunfels TX Keith Buczak, Honolulu HI

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DEER IN THE MAGIC KINGDOM

JOHN STRONSKI

ears ago I worked on all sorts of rehabs at the Magic Kingdom. Almost all these many projects were done overnight. This variety of projects took me back and forth to the Central Shops area.

A large building housed the Monorail Trains on the upper level or floor, and the Steam Trains below on the ground level. Most evenings or early mornings there would be a group of deer, perhaps 10 - 15, grazing on the grass by the train tracks leading into the Steam Train Bay at the maintenance and storage building. I thought that the train cast members put out food for the deer.

Finally, I stopped one night to inquire about the grazing deer I was told by a few cast members that the grass in the area of the tracks had some petroleum or diesel residue in the steam that blows out from the engine as the locomotives are backed into the Train Barn at night.









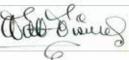
A PANDEMIC MESSAGE



POSITIVE THINKING WILL KEEP US ON THE RIGHT TRACK



I ALWAPS LIKE TO LOOK ON THE OPTIMISTIC SIDE OF LIFE.



ranscending all the various subjects and projects that hallmark the life and career of Walt Disney, was his unflagging optimism. He could not be convinced that his concept for a family-oriented Disney theme park was a terrible idea. A featurelength cartoon based upon a classic fairy tale would not be acceptable to audiences. A 30-thousand-acre city of tomorrow was too big and ambitious to succeed.

What kept Walt on track was his belief in people doing the right thing. Now, with the global pandemic, we all are relying on our fellow men and women to do the right thing.

We are forgoing visits to Disney theme parks, viewing Disney movies in theatres, and gathering to celebrate our common bond of all things Disney. The annual UnMeeting at Walt Disney World has been postponed until next year. Tens of thousands of Cast Members have been furloughed throughout the world. Film and television productions have been placed on hold. Even the Walt Disney Carolwood Barn in Griffith Park has temporarily halted third Sunday free public openings.

Remembering Walt's optimism, we can be assured that working to limit social contact and using best practices to limit potential infection, will get us through this. Many generations have survived economic and natural disasters, pandemic outbreaks, and world wars. As they did, we also will survive Covid-19 if we remember that better days lay ahead. Until then, stay safe and strive to be optimistic.







RIDING THE RAILS

BRIAN MARRA

Greetings fellow Railroad and Disney friends.
I'd like to tell you about my luck and wonderful experience last year.

Pirst of all my name is Brian Marra, a 16 year railroad veteran. I hired out with Union Pacific at the age of 25 in 2003. I'm now 42 and am a Conductor with Amtrak on their Central Division.

I have to say, I grew up a Disney fan because of my older brother who was a railroad fan. I wanted to be just like him and that usually drove him nuts (ha ha). Still, as time went on, I found out about Walt's railroad and, of course, our little club, The Carolwood Society!.

I've been fortunate enough to run on the old Santa Fe just west of Chicago where the trucks still go past Marceline, Missouri. I got to see where

Union Station Chicago, with my

two boys, Vincent and Michael,

young Walt would have stood and watch trains go by. The beautiful rolling landscape for an imagination to grow. I always took the opportunity to tell young railroad fans that's the boyhood town of Walt Disney!

Now on to my trips to Disneyland and World. My first trip was everything and more. I, despite being a big kid, had hesitated for a long time. Well my wife finally broke me down and low and behold within five ninutes of being there,this big kid had a tear in his eye. But it was my first time!!

So much to do and so much to see!! We were there four days and were so busy that we didn't have time to ride the train. I was over whelmed and having two babies with us, time

With beard at Disneyland

Me with the Lilly Belle on the steam tour

just got away! (I did ride the Casey Jr and I loved it, tho!

Well as luck could have it, it was time to make my way out to California to visit a friend and that friend suggested a trip to Disneyland. I could not pass up the opportunity and made my way on the 2nd car and finally enjoyed that first wonderland ride around Disney's park in Glendale But then as planning stages began for the trip, I'd come to realize that due to the construction of the new Tron Ride, the train ride wouldn't be possible.

Fast forward a few years and my wife says to me "Alright, that's enough. We're going to Disney World. This time I was devastated as I found out that some of the rides were down for different reasons.

Not to be stopped, I found out that the wonderful and highly recommended, "Magic Behind our Steam Trains Tour would still be running! Passage on one of the last four cars was booked for me and my oldest son! I was going to live the dream and ride both trains in one year! My family drove to Central Florida, getting to our room late in the morning. I was almost too tired to sleep. And our tour was leaving early in the day! Amazingly we made the World in record time.

It was AMAZING! Fun and informative, the people and the train tour to the back shop was wonderful! I was dog tired but I managed to share all the excitement with my son. The experience was nothing short of fantastic My guide was great — just magical but that's what Disney does.

I hope that, if you have not been to the two parks, you put them on your bucket list and make time to ride the rails!

Me and Vincent in Disney World







IS THE TENDER SEAT AVAILABLE?

JIM VANOSTENBRIDGE



If you are lucky enough to visit Disneyland on a day with cool temperatures and when either the C.K. Holliday or the E.P. Ripley are rounding the park, you might be fortunate enough to be there on a day when you can catch a ride in the tender seat, that is a seat at the front of the tender, immediately behind and with direct visibility into the locomotive's cab.

You must wear closed toe shoes and long pants are suggested. A ride in the tender seat will take you for the full grand circle tour, departing from and returning to Main Street Station.

Arriving at Main Street Station, I sought out a cast member in a conductor's uniform. He checked with his lead and then suggested I wait on a bench in the station for the C.K. Holliday's next arrival. Upon the train's arrival, I was guided toward the locomotive and welcomed into the cab by the fireman and engineer. I was advised that the ride in the cab is a little more rough up front than riding in

the railcars. I was then asked to secure my backpack full of camera gear along with myself in the seat embedded in the front of the tender.

The tender seat is big enough for two passengers and, of course, there's a seat belt, surprisingly the same kind of seat belt that you'll find on Dumbo the Flying Elephant or Autopia (which is adequate, but thematically seems a little less than authentic) to ensure that you are securely buckled into your seat. As soon as I was situated in the seat, I started inspecting everything in the cab and a moment later, I heard the conductor call "All Aboard!"

As the engineer released the break and slowly opened the throttle, the C.K. Holliday gradually accelerated toward New Orleans Square. I didn't experience much in the way of significant vibration though I could feel some measure of the heat emanating from the firebox and boiler.

After taking on new passengers and water at New Orleans Square Station, our journey continued through the Splash Mountain tunnel and onward to

the Rivers of America Trestle where being up at the front of the train was a unique, open air experience. Continuing on past the balance of Frontierland there were great views of the landscaping, rockwork, and spire-like buttes of Big Thunder Mountain Railroad.

As we traversed the rails to Fantasyland Station, past It's a Small World, Tomorrowland Station, and the Primeval World dioramas, I found myself conversing more with the crew. Both the engineer and fireman had great experiences to share and clearly expressed their strong passion for driving one of Disneyland's original steam locomotives.

As I reflect on this special experience, I can't help but consider what it must have been like when Walt Disney hopped aboard to drive his train. He must have been so enthused and so incredibly proud to see cast and guests enthusiastically experiencing the kind of ride on a train that offered him so much inspiration as a boy. I'm grateful that I knew to ask to ride in the tender seat and will look to experience this again on a future visit.







The Mail Car

REACHING THE MANY CORNERS OF THE WORLD



Hi there!

It's been a while since we connected, thank you so much for your reply! I have a video of last year's unmeeting in Florida with Tony Baxter and a few carolwood people riding big thunder mountain and thought Sharon could use it somehow but she says she needs things in print not video. If you desire the footage I'm happy to share, it's a fun short video, and definitely the wildest ride in the wilderness!!

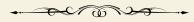
I hope you and all of the folks at Walt's barn are well and enjoying the barn this year! You made all my wildest dreams come true in 2017 when I came out with my family, and we can't thank you all enough for everything you do!

Best regards, Kimberly Cook

Send your letters to: The Carolwood Society, 1653 Gettysvue Way, Prescott, AZ 86301 or email us at sharon@carolwood.com

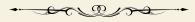
THINGS TO DO NOTICE BOARD

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BOARDS

and more!

HAPPY RAII S



NEW VIRTUAL
PROGRAMS
ANNOUNCED

The wonderful Walt Disney
Family Museum is currently
closed but have announced
a series of web based
New Virtual Programmes.

Find out more about them on their website:

www.waltdisney.org

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VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA

An unexpected seismic shift in the leadership of The Walt Disney Company caught 220,000 Cast Members, millions of shareholders and the financial media by surprise on February 25 when Bob Iger announced, effective immediately, Bob Chapek as his successor to be chief executive officer of the global entertainment empire.



Disney CEO Bob Iger and his successor Bob Chapek

During his 27 years with Disney, Bob Chapek has served as chair of Disney Parks, Experiences and Products, and was chair of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. He managed the opening of the \$5.5 billion Shanghai Disney Resort in 2016, the addition of Star Wars attractions at Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts, and the expansion of Disney Cruise Lines. He also headed Disney Consumer Products and global film distribution for The Walt Disney Studios.

Bob Iger will continue to play a key role on the management team as executive chair of the board of directors while leading all creative activities of Disney until the termination of his contract on December 31, 2021. For the past 15 years, as chair and CEO of the company, he led successful negotiations for the acquisitions of Pixar, Lucasfilm, Marvel and Twenty-First Century Fox, which has resulted in huge growth of the company's market valuation of \$246 billion. More recently,

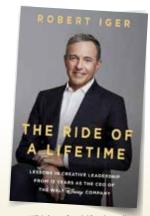
he launched Disney+, a consumer-direct streaming TV service that competes with Netflix, Amazon and Apple.

Upon making the announcement of Bob Chapek as his replacement, Iger said, "He's led with integrity and conviction, always respecting Disney's rich Legacy, while at the same time taking smart, innovative risks for the future."

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

"The Ride of a Lifetime" is the title of Bob Iger's personal story of his rise from a studio gofer on daytime soap operas and game shows in the 1970s to top management of the world's most successful media and entertainment empire.

Published by Random House (not Disney), his straightforward tome chronicles the many challenging obstacles he overcame, such as having a degree from an undistinguished college in northern New York



"Ride of a Lifetime" by Disney Chief Bob Iger

state rather than earning an MBA from one of the prestigious ivy league business schools. Being from a working-class family living in a small Long Island town, he had to create his own breaks the hard way.

Along his career path, he encountered tough and demanding bosses such as ABC Sports and News icon Roone Arledge, media mogul Tom Murphy, and his predecessor as Disney's CEO, Michael Eisner, who was known for micromanaging his team.

Through it all, Bob honed his management skills while maintaining his ego and self-awareness.

He summarizes his 246-page chronology with 45 "Lessons to Lead By," that include "Don't be in the business of playing it safe." Another advises, "To tell great stories, you need great talent." Buried in the prose, Bob addresses the question of possibly being a candidate for President of the United States.

He somewhat dances around running for The White House in 2024. His name has appeared on numerous lists of potential candidates, but, so far, he's chosen to defer his answer. Many who read his book may reach the conclusion that his experiences as Chief of the House of Mickey, might prove to be perfect preparation for leading the world's most powerful country!

--Michael Broggie



The Carolwood Society 1653 Gettysvue Way, Prescott, AZ 86301

Email us at sharon@carolwood.com



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

First Class Mail Address Correction Requested



ANNOUNCEMENT

Carolwood Event Calendar

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

June 21

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

July 19

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

August 16

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

PANDEMIC UPDATE THE BARN IS CURRENTLY CLOSED

Sadly due to the Coronavirus Pandemic The Barn will be closed until further notice.

You can keep in touch via our social media channels where we will be posting updates:

www.twitter.com/waltsbarn www.facebook.com/carolwoodsociety

Stay safe all.