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WINTER 2016
127th Edition

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THE NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

An Agency of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

SAGEBRUSH HEADLIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

NSRM Acquires Richardson Models Through Generous Gift

By Wendell Huffman, Curator of History

In November 2015, the four children of Jack and Margie Gibson purchased on behalf of the Nevada State Railroad Museum, and as a lasting memorial to their parents, the George Richardson ½-inch scale models of 15 Virginia & Truckee locomotives and the McKeen motorcar. These models were initially loaned to the Nevada State Museum in 1973, and

moved to the Jacobson Interpretative Center at NSRM in 1990. However, the models were never the property of the museum- they were always here on loan from the Richardson family. After George Richardson's son John died in 2011, his grandson Bill expressed a desire to sell the collection, threatening to withdraw the models from the museum as the loan contract allowed. The Gibson's purchase of

these models and their donation to the Museum makes them a permanent part of the Museum's collection and a fitting legacy to Jack and Margie Gibson, who had been active with the Museum since its conception.

The models themselves were built by George L. Richardson over a 16-year period, starting in 1957. Initially his plan

Continued on page 6



The Gibson Family. From left: Skip Gibson, Gail Simon, Suzan Oliver, Diane Uchtyl, Margie & Jack.

VISIT THE MUSEUM

**Open 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday through Monday
(closed Tuesday & Wednesday)**

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Days

Museum Admission:

Adults 18 & Over - \$6.00

Children (Under 18) - FREE

Museum Members - FREE

STEAM TRAIN & MOTORCAR RIDES

Rides run every weekend May through September with select dates in October, November and December.

See complete 2016 operating schedule on our website at: museums.nevadaculture.org/nsrmcc

STATE OF NEVADA

Brian Sandoval, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Claudia Vecchio, Director

DIVISION OF MUSEUMS AND HISTORY

Peter Barton, Administrator

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM, CARSON CITY

Vacant, Director

SAGEBRUSH HEADLIGHT NEWSLETTER

Adam Michalski, Curator of Education: Editor

Lara Brown, Museum Attendant: Designer

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Address correspondence for the *Friends* to:

Friends of NSRM

PO Box 1330

Carson City, NV 89702

Meet Jason Stultz, Our New Groundskeeper

By Adam Michalski, Curator of Education

On February 22, 2016, Jason Stultz became the new Groundskeeper at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. Jason was born and raised in Carson City and has lived here his entire life. Jason's interest in grounds maintenance began at a young age. His dad ran a local cemetery and occasionally Jason worked with his dad on burials. However, early in high school Jason became interested in taking care of the turf and plants at the cemetery. He would take care of family plots by mowing the grass or planting flowers for an extra fee.



Jason realized he really enjoyed this type of work and pursued a career in grounds keeping. While still in high school, Jason worked at Thunder Canyon Golf Course during the summer maintaining the fairways and greens. In

2006 he started working with Dayton Valley Lawn maintaining lawns and handling landscaping projects for customers. In 2007, Jason moved on to Carson City Parks and Recreation where he maintained softball diamonds and soccer fields until coming to NSRM.

Besides having an extensive background in grounds keeping, Jason is an avid jet skier. Jason has two jet skis that he takes to lakes throughout the region. He travels all over the west to view jet ski competitions. In the coming years Jason intends to race in jet ski competitions, as well.

Jason looks forward to contributing at the museum and making sure the grounds remain well-maintained. If you have not met Jason yet come out to the museum and introduce yourself. We are excited to have Jason on board! 🚂

NSRM Receives Major Award

By Adam Michalski, Curator of Education

On September 18, 2015, the Association of Tourist Railroads and Railway Museums (ATRRM) held its annual meeting at the Holiday Inn in Crystal Lake, Illinois. At this meeting the ATRRM awarded the Nevada

wanted to recognize this as a significant and major restoration, said Aaron Isaacs, a historian at the Minnesota Streetcar Museum and awards committee chair

for the group, which represents museums in North America. This is one of only two winners selected. We considered more than 40 projects



MAJOR PLAYERS. Chris de Witt, Restoration Supervisor; Rick Stiver, Restoration Specialist; Mort Dolan, Restoration Specialist; Lee Hobolt, past NSRM Restoration Specialist and his wonder dog Kelsey.

“We wanted to recognize this as a significant and major restoration.”

State Railroad Museum with one of two 2015 Significant Achievement Awards for the restoration of the steam locomotive Glenbrook, which was completed earlier in the year.

The Glenbrook is such a noteworthy and rare piece of rolling stock. We

done this year and we chose the Glenbrook because it stood above the others.

Curator of Education Adam Michalski was on hand to accept the award for the Nevada State Railroad Museum.

The museum sincerely appreciates the ATRRM recognizing the incredible work that NSRM's Restoration Shop does and all of the staff and

volunteers who helped in the process of restoring the Glenbrook. The museum also thanks everyone without whom the Glenbrook restoration would not have been possible: Dr. Michael Fischer, former Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs; the Division of Museums and History; the late Senator William Raggio and most importantly, the E. L. Wiegand Foundation. 🚂



Adam Michalski accepting the award from Aaron Isaacs

A Very Fond Farewell to Museum Director, Greg Corbin

By NSRM Staff

Museum Director Greg Corbin retired in January after a 34-year career with the State of Nevada. After several years as director of the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City, Greg headed north to serve as the museum director at NSRM Carson City. During Greg's 17-month tenure the museum experienced many great successes, including: the completion of the *Glenbrook* with a well-attended dedication ceremony; exciting changes to the Jacobsen Interpretive Center; improvements to the look and feel of the grounds; an increase in ridership on Santa Train; new events such as Harvest Train; an increase in sponsorships/donations for special events at the museum; and greater cooperation and communication between staff and the Friends. ***While we are disappointed to see Greg leave we wish him well in retirement and new pursuits.*** Thank you for your service to the museum and the State of Nevada, Greg!



FIRST ANNUAL HARVEST TRAIN YIELDS SUCCESS!

By Adam Michalski, Curator of Education

During the weekend of October 17-18, the Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum put on the first Harvest Train event. The event

“Media coverage included KOLO 8, Carson Now and the Nevada Appeal.”

featured a food drive, a scarecrow auction, a pumpkin patch, Nevada Nosh food truck, arts and crafts vendors, and train rides. Not even the rain on Saturday could dampen Harvest Train. Trains were generally full and the pumpkin patch sold out of pumpkins, necessitating the Friends to go

to the grocery store on Sunday and purchase more. There were lots of families out enjoying the event, especially on Sunday when the weather cleared up. The scarecrows in the auction received quite a few bids, as well.

Media coverage included KOLO 8, Carson Now, and the Nevada Appeal. Attendance numbers turned out to be similar to what we might expect during the Fourth of July weekend, which is

great for a non-holiday weekend in October.

“Attendance...similar to what we might expect during Fourth of July weekend.”

The Harvest Train event was such a big success that a second

weekend will be added for the 2016 season!

Thank you to all of our fantastic volunteers and Friends members who put together an exciting new event for the museum. NSRM could not host Harvest Train without your help! 🚂



Some of our fantastic Harvest Train Volunteers! Matt & Cristol Digangi, Kevin Owens and Loren Jahn



Making it Happen! Friends' Event Committee Chair: Rebecca Bevans and husband Eric.

Spreading Holiday Cheer with the Carson City Santa Train!

By Josie Martel, EnVogue Marketing

Celebrating its 27th year, the popular Santa Train took a new approach to this year's programming by enhancing the event with upgraded amenities, expanding to 3 weekends, and optimizing participation by launch-



ing a new online ticketing system.

The Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum had several great raffle prizes available, including a sleigh ride in South Lake Tahoe. Quite popular with the children was the letters to Santa table with children having a chance to write a letter

to Santa and put it in Santa's mailbox.

The Carson City Railroad Association displayed an HO scale model layout, which was popular with kids and adults alike. Also, for the first time, volunteers dressed in period clothing from the Victorian Era to greet visitors on the platform and ride in the train to provide guests with a more festive experience. Inside the Jacobsen Interpretive Center the Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum raised money by selling photos of guests with the Inyo, the famous wood burning locomotive built in 1875.

In addition to providing holiday decorations for the train cars and depot, Valley Pediatric Dentistry had helpers on hand to interact with chil-

dren about the benefits of good oral health and distributed over 2,500 free toothbrushes to area children during Santa Train.

Turnout for 2015 ex-

"Turnout for 2015 exceeded expectations with over 4,000 visitors experiencing the event."

ceeded expectations with over 4,000 visitors experiencing the event. On Sunday, December 19th, the museum ran



an extra train to accommodate a crowd that came late in the day. In all the 2015 Santa Train had a 26 percent increase in riders compared to last year. The museum would like to thank all of the volunteers, the Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum and our sponsors for an outstanding Santa Train experience.



NSRM Acquires Richardson Models Through Generous Gift

Continued from Page 1

was to make only one or two models, but following his retirement from Pacific Telephone in 1960, the project became something of an obsession. He estimated that he spent over 10,000 hours building these models.



Part of the Jack & Margie Gibson Collection, on permanent display in the Interpretive Center.

Inspired by the Gibson's donation of the models, long-time Friends member Jerry McGowan subsequently donated George Richardson's notes and drawings, given to him by Richardson's widow following his death in 1974. These notes

reveal the effort Richardson expended in researching the locomotives and planning the models. Several of the models are based on measurements he made of surviving engines, but in two cases, the models are based only on photographs.

It is noteworthy that the 15 locomotive models represent just over half of the 29 locomotives ever used on the Virginia & Truckee. Except for three of the models, the Booth-built 2-6-0 No. 1 *Lyon*, the Danforth-built 2-6-0 No. 16 *Ophir*, and the Baldwin 2-4-0 No. 21 *J.W. Bowker/Mexico*, the models represent the nine V&T locomotives to survive into the V&T *Railway* in 1904, and three of the five to be added by the new company.

When the Gibsons bought the models, Bill Richardson donated to the museum his grandfather's first two models, the Western & At-

lantic's *General* and the Mohawk & Hudson's *DeWitt Clinton*. These had never been at the Museum, and are now on exhibit, along with various spare parts acquired from Richardson's widow by Friends member Bill Semerau.



"...a fitting legacy to Jack and Margie Gibson, who had been active with the Museum since its conception."

Dedication of the Gibson Collection

On January 15, the public was invited to dedicate the Gibson Collection at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. A strong showing of staff, volunteers, and Friends members attended the dedication ceremony honoring Jack and Margie Gibson.

Jack Gibson was a printer working in various newspapers in Nevada and California before retiring from the *Nevada Appeal* in 1982. Jack and Margie became involved with the Nevada State Museum, volunteering thousands of hours to several projects there. Jack, a lifelong railroad enthusiast, advocated for the creation of the Nevada State Railroad Museum during the 1980s. The Gibsons supported the museum generously for many years.

The reception featured slide shows of Jack and Margie Gibson, as well as a brief lecture about the Richardson models by Stephen Drew, retired Chief Curator of the California State Railroad Museum. Friends and family recalled several of their favorite memories of Jack and Margie, adding a great personal touch to the evening.

The museum staff would like to thank the Gibson children, Diane Uchytel, Suzan Oliver, Gail Simon, and Skip Gibson, for their generous contribution in honor of their parents. In addition, the museum staff would like to thank the Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum for their invaluable support to secure the Richardson models for the museum.

Russ Tanner, March 14, 1939 – February 20, 2016

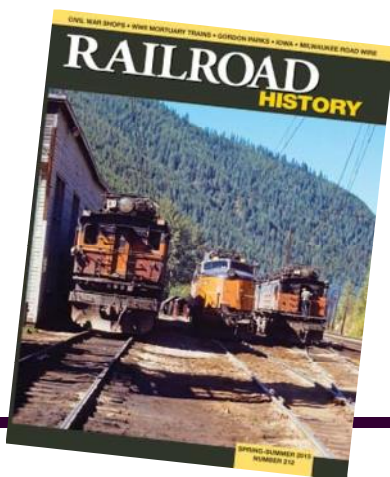


It is with great sadness the museum reports the passing of long-time volunteer Russ Tanner. He passed away on February 20, 2016. Russ was a popular and well-respected volunteer at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. Until recently, Russ was a fixture at the museum, coming in several days a week. He did everything from guiding tours to operating trains. He played an important role in developing the "Become a Motorman" class, as well. In addition, Russ was well known for his amazing storytelling capabilities and how he left groups of children and adults with a smile on their face. He was a mentor to the many volunteers who had the pleasure to work with him. Russ will always be remembered for his heart of gold and the love and respect he showed to his family and fellow volunteers. A celebration of Russ's life will be held at the museum on Sunday, May 22, 2016. More details will follow as they become available.

A Message from the Friends of the NSRM President Regarding *Railroad History Magazine*

By Barry Simcoe, Volunteer & President of the Friends of the NSRM

In January 2015 the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum voted to discontinue *Railroad History Magazine* to better use those funds for other projects. Our most important project in 2016 and beyond is raising funds to return locomotive #8 to operation. The savings realized from discontinuing the magazine subscription will significantly help the fund-raising program. 🚂



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE MUSEUM!

The Nevada State Railroad Museum depends on the energy and dedication of many talented volunteers to provide the services necessary to make a visit to the museum a memorable and educational experience.

Volunteer shifts at the Nevada State Railroad Museum are usually four to six hours, once a week, Thursdays through Mondays. Museum employees train volunteers in the use of cash registers and other equipment. Opportunities are year-round unless otherwise noted, and include the following:

Admissions Desk
Museum Store
Depot Ticket Sales
(seasonal)
Annex Tour Guide
Train & Motorcar Crews



If you have questions about volunteering at the Nevada State Railroad Museum, or you would like to enroll as a volunteer, please contact:

**Museum Attendant Lara Brown at
 775-687-6953 ext. 233, or send an email
 to lbrown@nevadaculture.org.**

"Your Hand on the Throttle"

Contact: Johnny Walker
john.walker@nevadaculture.org
775.687.6953, Ext. 231

Cost per Person: **\$500**
(Your photographer rides FREE)
Museum Members: **\$450**

Check our operating schedule at:
museums.nevadaculture.org/nsrmcc
"Your Hand on the Throttle" is available on
any scheduled steam operations day.
in-cab operation.

Your two-hour learning experience begins
with classroom instruction and moves to

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