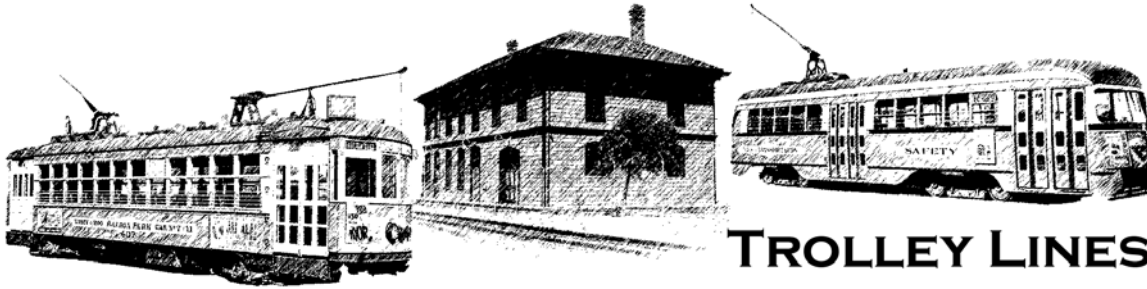


SAN DIEGO ELECTRIC RAILWAY ASSOCIATION



TROLLEY LINES

San Diego Electric
Railway Association
PO Box 89068
San Diego, CA 92138
(619) 474-4400

August 2008

Check us out at our
web site:
www.sdera.org

1970's Depot Photo Shows Early Alterations



National City Depot as seen circa 1970. At this point in its life, the Depot still had the raised loading dock (and doorway to the Freight Room). An Alco S2 diesel engine #2319 with caboose and boxcars is seen alongside the modified raised loading dock, and a new, narrower doorway leads to the Freight Room. A siding also appears to go around the other side of the Depot building towards what is now Motivational Systems, Inc. (MSI). The Depot has since been restored to what it looked like from 1882 to 1893, the period of its greatest significance, which was during the operation of the California Southern Railroad. It is also painted in the colors from that period. No Santa Fe logos, nor was a "National City" sign painted on the sides. This great photo is by Donald Decker and the negative has been donated to SDERA. Full size 8" x 10" black and white prints may be purchased at the Depot from the Gift Shop.

Inside this issue:

<i>1970 Depot Photo Shows Early Alterations</i>	1
<i>PCC Car Project Update</i>	2
<i>President's Message</i>	3
<i>SDERy White Line Truck: Our Next Restoration?"</i>	4
<i>Own a Piece of San Diego Electric Railway History</i>	5
<i>Vintage Trolley Project Still Needs Your Help!</i>	5
<i>For Sale—Series 5 Fareboxes!</i>	5
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	Back

Psst! Wanna Know a Secret?

This newsletter is available **in color** on our website! See www.sdera.org and look on our Newsletters page.

SDERA operates the historic National City Depot museum which is open Thursday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone 619-474-4400.

San Diego Electric Railway Association

- David Slater, President
- George Geyer, Vice President / Bookstore Manager
- Chris Higgins, Secretary, Webmaster / Newsletter Editor
- Tom Matson, Treasurer
- Directors: Jim Price, Tom Carnes, Gary Sweetwood, Mitch Beauchamp, Jeff Trimble

**SAN DIEGO VINTAGE TROLLEY, INC.**

The San Diego Vintage Trolleys, Inc. (SDVT) volunteers for this month are: Art Aydelotte, Chuck Bencik, Larry Hall, Anthony Carideo, Ron Sutch, Tom Carnes, Dennis Frazier, Paul Kimo McGregor, George Geyer, John Hopperton, John Tarantino, Jr., Bob Recks, and Mark Delia, owner of Citywide Auto Glass, who has donated ALL the glass and installation! The windows for cars #529 and #530 are completely restored and operational. Car #531 is nearly complete with regard to window restoration. The window team is comprised of Window Team Project Leader Chuck Bencik, window team workers: Dennis Frazier, Paul Kimo McGregor, Ron Sutch, Art Aydelotte, and Tom Carnes.

Brackets for attachment of the safety catchers have been installed on all three cars. The fender and body basket for Car #529 are assembled, and the fender has been attached to the car! Bob Recks managed this portion of the project for me, and is assisted by Chuck Bencik, Larry Hall and Dennis Frazier.

Chief Electrician Larry Hall, assistant Journeyman Electrician, Anthony Carideo, and welder Gilbert, from San Diego Trolley, to whom SDVT has budgeted his hours, have gotten all the steel together for the base for the pantograph for #529, and this is an ongoing project for installation, as the fabrication has already been completed. The base for the "pan" is critical, as it abates pitch and yaw when the pantograph is raised or lowered, which will almost never happen. Were it not for this intricate base, the adverse effects of the up and down motion of this device could tears the thin metal of the roof. This is now behind us, and now when we fabricate this same structure for the other two cars, we will have a good deal of experience to work with. The first of anything is always the most difficult, in the learning curve, so to speak. Steel was donated by Larry Hall, Dave Slater, and others who choose not to be named.

Our cars are a veritable "beehive" of activity. More volunteers are always needed! Please think about joining this team. For information, please contact Dave Slater @ (619) 222-5442. Gene Calman has come through for us once again, with regard to fabrication of a post for the headlight bucket for the headlight on #531. Art Aydelotte has been working diligently on this installation, fraught with "bumps". It is industrial archeology at its finest! Not only does Tom Carnes perform our tabulations of volunteer hours on a monthly basis, but also is a worker on the window team. The total volunteer hours ending with June 2008 are: 4,598!!!! THIS IS VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSIVE!

Upcoming Work Party Dates: Work Sessions are now being held Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. *Due to security requirements, please contact Dave Slater / 619-222-5442 for authorization to be on the Trolley grounds.*

PCC Car Project Update

- Dave Slater, Project Manager

Now on the web at www.sdera.org/sdvt

Art Aydelotte is also working on pattern making for the redwood trim around the right rear tear drop shaped window for #531. I have had this car moved in and out of the car barn several



times to facilitate the work, as she is over the pit on Track 3. Every time she goes outside, we get lots of comments from the public. Sergio Lopez (left), master fare box mechanic, and Gary Johnson (below) are working on all of our Johnson fareboxes at

Sergio's shop in Escondido. Roger Jenkins just donated an ORIGINAL Johnson Model D electric fare box and stand from his collection of SDERY artifacts! It was evident that this is an original SDERY item as



the stand is painted the same teal color as the inside of the original cars. WHAT A GREAT DONATION! MANY THANKS ROGER! Gary Johnson came to the car barns this past Saturday to take it to the fare box repair facility.

The PCC Wheel Fund now is up to about \$7,800.00 in cash and pledges, I am told by Talleymaster Jeff Trimble. All donations to SDVT are really needed, both large and small, they all count. Also, thanks to Anthony Carideo for his donation of huge amounts of electrical conduit from one end of all the cars to the other for fare box wiring! We have such a great team, and I thank all for the terrific work that we do as a community of dedicated restorers! Saturday, I received another very nice donation of destination sign parts from our friend Dale Laird of the Vancouver, B.C. Trolley Museum! More destination parts are on route from other sources who choose not to be named here, however, all efforts are really appreciated!

Many thanks also to long time friend and SDERA Director Gary Sweetwood for his donation of passes for Harbor Cruises, which I have passed out to our SDVT volunteers and all SDERA members.

President's Message Dave Slater

This has been another very successful time for our Museum. Our brand new DVD, entitled "San Diego Electric Railway," is on the rack and for sale at our Gift Shop. I originally ordered 25, and they were delivered to me a week ago Friday, and over half of them have sold already! This is a great fund raiser for our Museum! Get your copy of this DVD while they last! They are going very rapidly.

On July 12th and 13th, we had the first Swap Meet we have had in about four years, I am told. There were 6 vendors, myself included, and about 36+ buyers. Our Gift Shop took in about \$600.00 from our portion of this crowd! I have no idea how the vendors did, with the exception of our member, Mark Effle, who sold the most merchandise. He also donated many items to us. I bought two large photos of some of the last cars to run on 24 April 1949, (The last day of service for street cars in San Diego, until 1981) at the Adams Avenue car barn. I will have them framed, and will donate one to us for our rotating exhibits. Overall, the Swap Meet was a success! I had two banners, made as my donation, announcing the swap meet which Mike Quigg and I put up on the east fence and that helped a lot.

Many thanks go to our volunteers for this month: Jody Surowiec, Willie Amador, Jim Anderson, Charles Smith, George Geyer, Randy and Robert Butler, Scotty and Tim Lewis, Chris and Tim Higgins, Pete Pearson, Mike Quigg, Robert Baxter, Missy Cheesman, Mitch Beauchamp, Hubert Jansen, Jeff Trimble, Jim Price, and Dave Slater. If I have left anyone out, please forgive me, it was not intentional.

As many of you know, it has been my intention to have items in our Gift Shop that are not available anywhere else and this is really succeeding!

Roger Showley, an editor for the San Diego Union-Tribune, called me about July 9th to say that if I got him a copy of our new DVD, he will write an article about it in the paper. I took a copy to the Post Office for immediate delivery.....

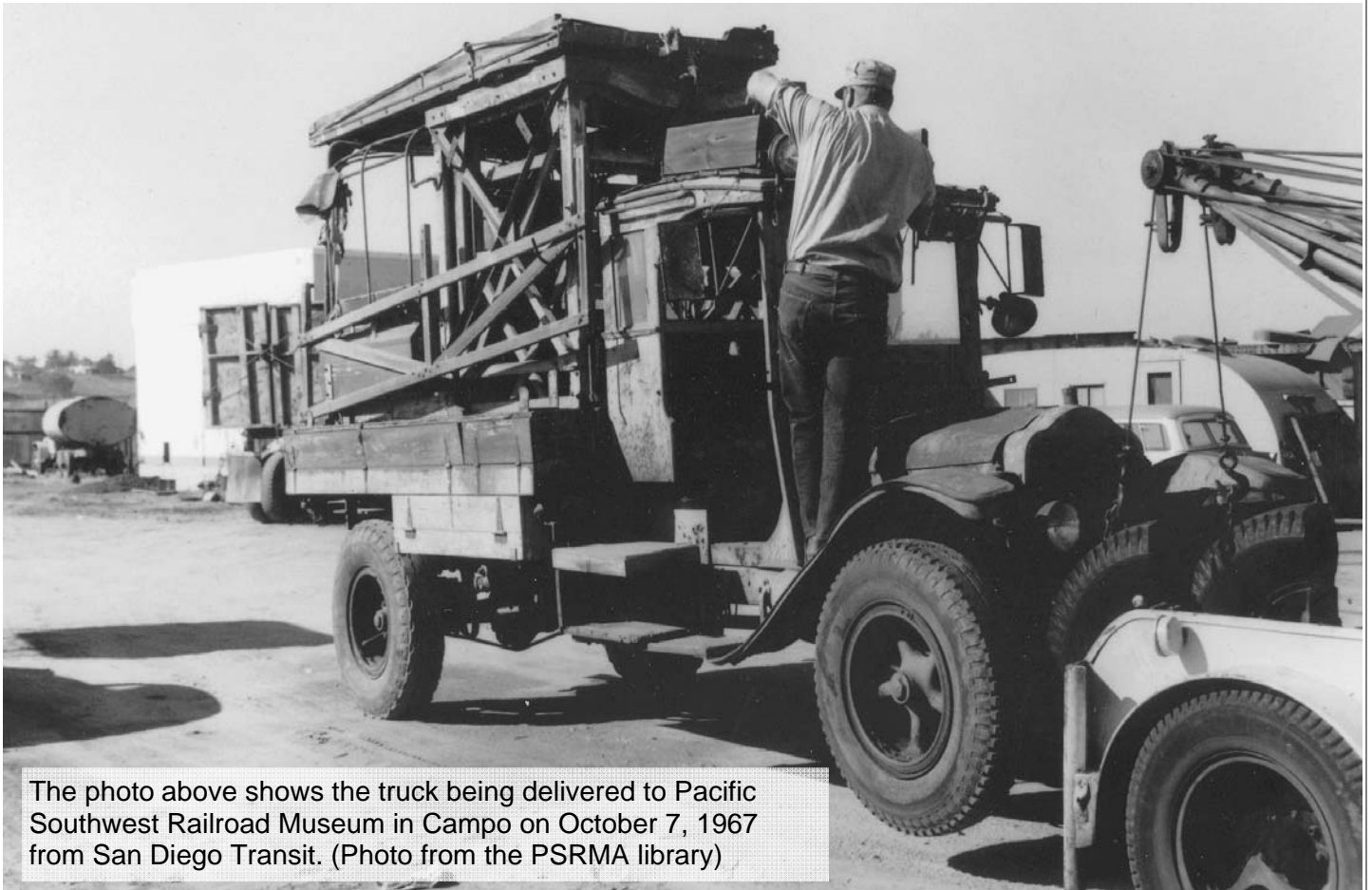
Many thanks to all for your various methods of participating in YOUR Museum! We are growing by leaps and bounds! Please, keep up the good work, and remember: we are open 9-5 Thursday through Sunday, and other times by special arrangement.

For Sale—Series 5 Fareboxes! - Dave Slater

FOR SALE: Three Cleveland series 5 fare boxes, with stands and cash vaults! I recently saw one of these on www.ebay.com for \$299.95 without the cash vault or the stand! Each of these fare boxes are priced to sell at only \$100.00 each. We have cleaned and oiled them. There are no keys; however, GRAH Safe and Lock of San Diego is THE railroad locksmith for San Diego for over 100 years, and they can make keys for them. The price is right and they are going fast. I had 5 originally and had planned to use them in our PCC cars, until it was brought to my attention that SDERy ONLY used Johnson Model D's, both electric and mechanical. Being the Museum people that we are with a penchant for absolute authenticity, we must be historically accurate - which is our pledge to all the people of San Diego who will enjoy these PCC cars for many years to come. Every serious collector should have one of these pieces of our street car history. They were originally used on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority or commonly abbreviated by railfans as LAMTA. To get your very own fare box, please contact me at: (619) 222-5442 or dslater@sdera.org. This sale is a fund raiser for San Diego Vintage Trolley General Fund.

Did You Know? San Diego Vintage Trolley has a "Yahoo Groups" site where updates are mailed to subscribers. Thanks to Jeff Trimble for taking over the role as moderator. You can join by sending a message to sdvintagerolley-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or go to sdera.org for the link.

Is this our Next Restoration Project After the PCC cars?



The photo above shows the truck being delivered to Pacific Southwest Railroad Museum in Campo on October 7, 1967 from San Diego Transit. (Photo from the PSRMA library)

While we finish the Vintage Trolleys, we like to collect history, information, photos, parts, or donations. Two recent new photo acquisitions, one from the PSRMA library, include a photo of the 1923 San Diego Electric Railway White Line Truck as it was being delivered to Pacific Southwest Railroad Museum in Campo in 1967. That same truck is now sitting, partially restored, on the north side of the NC Depot lot.



Another photo from the San Diego Historical Society's Tior Collection shows a San Diego Electric Railway Company horse drawn tower wagon of the 1890s. While the vehicle to the left is not quite the same thing, the horse-drawn line wagon has a similar platform to the one on the White Line Truck.

Know someone who worked for SDG&E, or who's interested in antique truck restoration? They're in for a treat, when they volunteer for what may be our next best project.



OWN A PIECE OF SAN DIEGO ELECTRIC RAILWAY HISTORY, HELP FUND SDERA PROJECTS!

As many of you know, in June 2007 Chris Chaffee, a member of SDERA, was out for his morning stroll along Adams Avenue. He noticed that some original San Diego Electric Railway (SDERY) trolley track had been exposed during the start of a construction project at the corner of Adams Ave. and Alabama St. The Adams Avenue streetcar barn originally stood across the road from this spot. The building contractors cut the track into pieces and placed them in a pile at the corner of the property. The property owner is Dr. Collin Teguh who agreed to donate pieces of the track to SDERA.

This type of track is called girder rail. Its unique cross-section (see photo below) allowed streetcars to run on city streets that were paved. The pavement came up to the edge of the track, and the trolley wheels rode in the 'dip' on the top of the rail.

The streetcar line along Adams Avenue was originally built about 1905. However, the whole trolley system was upgraded in 1923. Two pieces of the unearthed track were dated 1922. SDERA and Dr. Teguh each have one of those pieces; ours is on display in the National City depot to the left of the trackside doors in the Freight room.



The rest of the track pieces have been cut into 1/2-inch "slices," painted, and engraved with "SDERY 1922." They are being sold by SDERA as a fund-raising project, made possible by the generosity of Dr. Teguh and Clint Precision, a machining company, whose owners donated the time and effort to cut the rail into slices. Each slice is accompanied by a numbered certificate of authenticity. They are only \$20 each, and are available at the National City Depot. Please add this to your railroad memorabilia collection, and help SDERA toward its goal of becoming a "major league" railroad museum!



- Jim Price

Vintage Trolley Project Still Needs Your Help!

The San Diego Vintage Trolley effort has come a long way and is nearing the finish line. However, as we published in last month's Trolley Lines, they need to replace the wheels on all three cars so they will run on San Diego Trolley's rail profile. Donations are urgently needed to purchase proper wheels to run on Class 1 railroads and the deadline is fast approaching! After all of the hard work the Volunteers have done, there are beautiful PCC cars ready to roll but nothing to roll on!

Please consider contributing to this important need. One of the missions of both San Diego Electric Railway Association and San Diego Vintage Trolley is the preservation of our streetcar past. We have a perfect opportunity to bring PCC cars back to San Diego's downtown but we need your help to make this happen. Several donors have already stepped up but the wheels cost \$4,500 each. Any size donation is welcome!

Please send tax deductible donations to:

The San Diego Vintage Trolleys, Inc.
ATTN.: Harry Mathis, Chairman of the Board
1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101-7490

Register Now!

October 6 to 8 - American Public Transportation Association (APTA) EXPO at the San Diego Convention Center. This is the reason for the rush to finish the Vintage PCC cars! Register for free at www.apta.com/expo2008. You can't get in without a badge.



San Diego Electric Railway Association
d.b.a. San Diego Electric Railway
PO Box 89068
San Diego, CA 92138
(619) 474-4400

SDERA is at the historic National City Depot,
off I-5 at Mile of Cars Way — take Bay Marina
Drive West to Marina Way, then right.

Open Thursday through Sunday, 9 AM — 5 PM.

Depot phone: call (619) 474-4400

Visit us on the Web! www.sdera.org

To submit items to the Newsletter, contact Chris Higgins
via e-mail (webmaster@sdera.org) or phone (858-538-
9743). Items need to be submitted by the 18th of the
month prior to publication.

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Diego, CA
Permit No. 2606

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Attention Members: Please look carefully at the mailing label. If your membership has expired, or will expire soon, please send your dues, and your tax deductible contribution, to SDERA, PO Box 89068, San Diego, CA 92138-9068. Thank you.
Life: \$400, Regular \$25, Family \$35 (please include names), Regular \$25, Senior (60 +) \$15, and Juniors 17 and below \$15.

Upcoming Events

Monthly meetings are normally held at 7:30 PM on the 2nd Saturday night at the National City Depot. We normally have an optional no host dinner at Keith's restaurant at 3rd and National City Blvd at 5:30. (In Mar, June, Sept, & Dec, we have potlucks at the depot.) Plan to arrive at 7pm to see the bookstore, chat, and buy raffle tickets. The raffle starts at 7:15 PM.

Saturday, August 9 - Over approx. 160 Key System slides will be shown by fellow SDERA member Don Brown. Most of the slides are of the Key System local streetcar lines in the East Bay area from the 1940's originally shot by the late Bob McVay. Don will also show slides shot by him in the 1950's of the trans-bay lines that ran from the San Francisco's East Bay Terminal across the Oakland Bay Bridge to Oakland and surrounding cities such as Richmond. We will meet at Keiths this time at 5:30pm. (Please note that new

mosquito abatement efforts will be in place for this meeting.)

Saturday, September 13 - Jim Price presents "Enjoying Some Rocky Mountain Railroad History Today." Topics to include: Touring the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden, the Georgetown Loop tourist RR, the abandoned grade over Boreas Pass between Breckenridge and Como, visiting the Como roundhouse and former depot, touring South Park City, the western portal of the Moffat Tunnel, and touring the former DSP&P depot in Leadville.

This meeting also will be our quarterly potluck (Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec, for potlucks) with a Greek/American theme for the potluck. To help make sure that we have a good variety of items, if your last name starts with: A-G, Please bring a Salad; H-M, Main Dish; N-S, Vegetable(s); and T-Z, Desert for dinner and refreshments for the break

If you have any questions, give Tom Matson a call at 619 275-0216.