



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

February 2008

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

Historic San Diego Electric Railway Track Unearthed

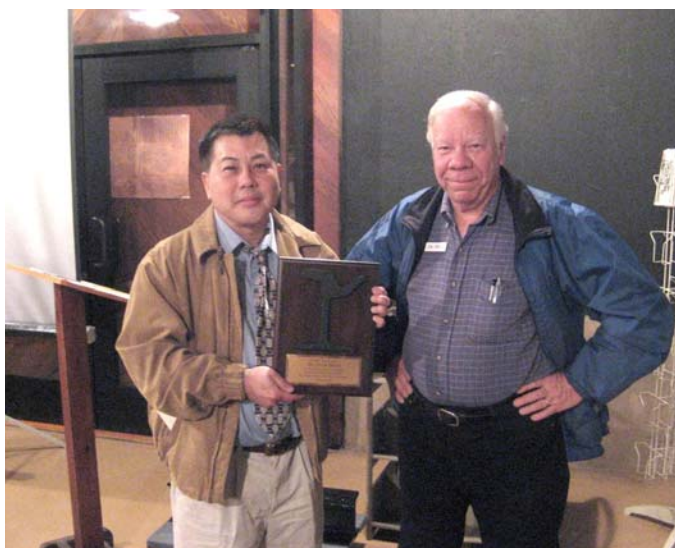
Now the rest of the story Jim Price

Discovery

This all started with an e-mail from SDERA member **Chris Chaffee** on June 12, 2007; subject: Tracks Uncovered. Chris had been out for his morning stroll along Adams Avenue and noticed that some SDERy trolley track had been exposed during the start of a construction project at the corner of Adams Ave. and Alabama St. Across the road originally from this spot was the Adams Avenue carbarn; now it's the site of Trolley Barn Park. Chris's e-mail included several photos including the one to the right.



The building contractors cut the track into pieces rather quickly – roughly 3 foot lengths. Our wheels started in motion soon after I visited the construction site. The cut-up pieces had been placed in a pile at the corner of the property. I spoke to the construction foreman and eventually to the property owner, **Dr. Collin Teguh**. Very long story short: as much of the track as we could haul away was donated to SDERA! Of note: on two of the track pieces we could easily read the date - 1922.



Dr. Collin Teguh receives a trophy from SDERA's Jim Price in recognition of his donation of the historic railroad track pieces. Dr. Teguh also received a 1-year membership to SDERA. Photo - T. Matson

So, **Kudos #1 goes to Dr. Collin Teguh** for his generosity. We presented him with a plaque at the January SDERA General Meeting, some "slices" of the track, a one-year membership to SDERA, and one of the track pieces that displays the 1922 date.

What Is This Stuff, And What Did We Do With It?

The track is called girder rail. Its unique cross-section (see photo on page 5) allowed streetcars to run on city streets that were paved. The pave-

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Psst! Wanna Know a Secret?

This newsletter is available **in color** on our website! See www.sdera.org and look on our Newsletters page. Those *red* trolleys are really something!

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.

As usual, we are making forward progress. The latest is that all the interior window panels have been re-installed, and work is underway for trim and other moldings. The truck sets for #529 are still in Pennsylvania being rebuilt, along with the traction motors. The plan is that the trucks will be done one set at a time. We can use our extra set of trucks as shop trucks, until the very last, then, they too will go to PA. We have removed the forward ceiling panel of #529 so that the Shunk series 3 pantograph can be mounted and the U bolts will attach to the main roof struts. San Diego Trolley is doing this for us and the man hours have been approved. I have put our Chief Mechanical Officer in touch with the CMO at NJ Transit, who has PCC's with this very application, and we are the plans that they have.

A considerable amount of body work has been completed. Art Aydelotte rebuilt hinges for the battery compartment on #531. We realigned the Motor Generator set door on that same car and the front skirts on #529 and #530. Metal patches have been fabricated and installed where window mechanisms had been removed. A brand new front inspection pan was made for us by Bob Recks, using a worn out one we brought back from Tucson as a pattern. The window cranks from the same source are going on as replacements.

The next thing is pulling #531 out onto the west apron (Track #3) so that all the new #2 gray standee windows can be installed by Mark Delia of CityWide Auto Glass. This takes a couple days to arrange for the move, out, and back into the barn. After this comes the project of reinstalling the reglazed windows and their channels. As reported last newsletter, I have been looking world wide for four trolley pole retrievers, and have talked with many who were referred to me through TrolleyParts.com, which is a subsidiary of ARM where membership allows access. This site has provided many donations of very scarce parts. Soon, we will get a crate from Vancouver, BC. with these four devices. As you all know, we currently have three PCC cars, so there is one

PCC Car Project Update

- Dave Slater, Project Manager

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



The guy on the ladder near Chuck Bencik, is Mark Delia, owner and donor of ALL of our new glass. He is installing green glasses in #529, and later #530. #531 will be glazed with #2 gray salvaged and donated by San Diego Trolley.
Photo—Dave Slater

for each, and an extra, as we will be buying more cars in the future. I am negotiating for 4 Johnson Model D fare boxes, and have yet to finalize this.

We still need a complete defroster blower assembly for #531. I am told that there are some derelict PCC's in the Temecula/Perris area, and I am chasing that possibility. Regtransit donated all the mirrors we need, and they have been installed. Some had to be modified and are pristine! We also need a bodyguard/catcher for the front of the cars, and we may be able to get one from Tucson. That will be used for a pattern to make two more for the cars.

Volunteers who want to work on this project are in great demand. Please contact me if you can help us "Restore The Magic" of these PCC cars. (619) 222-5442
Countless thanks to our primary workers: **Art Aydelotte, Dennis Frazier, Chuck Bencik**, and from time to time, **Mitch Kaye Ron Sutch, Tom Carnes**, and **Gary Johnson**. Thanks so much for all the things that you on the project!

Upcoming Work Party Dates: Work Sessions are now being held Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 2pm. Saturday Work Parties will be on Feb 9 & 23 and Mar 8 & 22. *Due to security requirements, please contact Dave Slater / 619-222-5442 for authorization to be on the Trolley grounds.*

President's Message

Dave Slater

There are so many things happening in our museum. Membership is on the rise, our Gift Shop is now open four days a week, Thursday, through Sunday, 9 am-5pm. All done with our volunteers! While this is great, more volunteers are needed to augment the present staff, as we sometimes have to really scramble to fill the slots. Many thanks to **Tom Matson**, **Chris Higgins**, and the crew for making these things happen!

We have discovered that with the new days and hours, there are people who prefer to work during the week as opposed to the weekends, and this is a good thing. The Depot is now a WiFi "hot spot" for those who carry laptop computers. Many thanks to Chris Higgins for his tireless work on the recent telephone and connectivity upgrades.

Please remember that we make it our business to have things available in our gift shop that are not available anywhere else! Drop by, visit, and browse. SDERA Member **Nancy Hardick** worked her magic once again with decorations for an 1880's Christmas and now with some touches in time for Valentine's Day. She and her brother, Life Member **Bobby Becker** have donated many items of great interest to our gift shop to help make it really special.

A crew comprised of **Scotty Lewis**, his friend **Matt Zacharzuk**, **Timmy Lewis**, **Bob Recks**, **Sean McColligan**, are constantly working on the motor gang car, and have it running now. Many thanks to all for all you do!

Please remember us for your giving plans, as well as for remembering us in your trusts and wills. These kinds of gifts will help keep us moving forward.

Sprinter Excursion 2007

Well, we wanted to be on the train before Revenue Service but none of us, not even North County Transit District, knew how far in advance. The Sprinter, a new passenger train from Oceanside to Escondido, was set for a late December start date but that has now been pushed off until March 2008 due to last minute safety adjustments. Our Excursion on November 4, 2007, turned out to be a great opportunity to see, first hand, the smooth ride and comfortable cars that will be used for this service. Both TRAC (Train Riders Assoc. of California) and SDERA members alike remarked on the smooth ride and open feel of the cars. Due to signal issues, we knew the trip would be slow but still well worth it! During the last stretch into Escondido, we got the train up to speed and had a taste of what will be.

Thanks to Tom Matson for arranging the trip (with the help of Walt Stringer at NCTD) and lunch in Escondido!



The new Sprinter's cab during the lunch break in Escondido. This break gave us lots of time to check out the new trains and station.



Sprinter train-set 4003 pauses for a Photo Op at the San Marcos State University station.
Photos by C. Higgins

Old Pueblo Trolley Donates PCC Parts for SDVT Project

Chuck Bencik

When Old Pueblo Trolley made their inoperative PCC trolley available for parts removal last October, four SDERA members jumped at the opportunity. Traveling to Tucson November 4th and 5th, Dave Slater, Gary Johnson, Dennis Frazier and Chuck Bencik were able to remove a huge trove of missing parts, for the restoration of the three former St. Louis / San Francisco PCCs of San Diego Vintage Trolley. The visit was topped off by a guided tour by Chairman/CEO Gene Caywood, of the Old Pueblo trolley collection, a tour of the Tucson vintage trolley line, and a visit to the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum at Tucson's former Southern Pacific / Union Pacific train station.

Dave and Chuck drove a rental truck east on the 4th, while Dennis and Gary came by jet, after participating in the Sprinter excursion the previous day. PCC 1121, from which the parts were stripped, is a former St. Louis 1700 series streetcar that was bought by San Francisco in the late 1950s, and is identical to SDVT's three trolleys being restored at the MTS yard.

The four parts prospectors were able to get two destination sign boxes, and strip 21 window cranks, missing door operating link arms, two double seats, a motor generator compartment door, innumerable fuses and replaceable resistors, passenger stop pull-cord switches, and an alarm buzzer. A further trip is planned this month for the extraction of additional parts, including the passenger catcher assembly, several window raising gear assemblies and other parts.



Chuck Bencik, Dave Slater, and Dennis Frazier stand in front of car 1121 in Tucson. Parts from this car will help the restoration efforts in San Diego. Photo - G. Johnson

Bookstore News

George Geyer

The World's Greatest Hobby On Tour Show was held in Del Mar January 12 and 13 with an incredible number of attendees. Our booth had a wide variety of items from our Gift Shop - especially items donated recently by Hancy Hardick and Bobby Becker. Thanks to several of our members for helping with staffing the booth: Jim Anderson, Scotty & Timmy Lewis, Bill Steinmetz, Tim Higgins, Dave Slater, Joe Fombon, Jason Ballard. Special thanks to Scotty Lewis, Matt Zacharzuk, and Jason Ballard for hauling much of our inventory between the fairgrounds and the Depot.

A big thanks to Scotty Lewis for bringing a caboose from the Chula Vista Live Steamers for use in the booth. While we may have been just another booth with stuff to sell, the large caboose was a real eye catcher!

Our good friend and SDERA Member Bob McMillan at Valhalla Video recently announced his release of *Surfliners 2* - featuring Santa-Barbara to San Luis Obispo on the Coast Line. We have both volumes available on DVD at the Bookstore now for \$29.95.

We will also be adding Transit Gloria Mundi videos to our stock in the next few weeks. Their popular 3-volume Pacific Electric DVDs will be available for \$39.95.

The Green Dot Special has been extended through the end of March. Just look for the Green Dots to get a 15% discount on all DVDs, calendars, and on certain books and framed photos.

Now the rest of the story



The unique profile of "girder rail" is shown in one of the slices available from the SDERA bookstore.

piece has been cleaned, painted, powder-coated, and is on display at the depot. Check it out next time you visit).

I shopped around various machine and welding shops in San Diego and eventually found Clint Precision Manufacturing who agreed to cut the rail for us and to engrave each piece. Much to our surprise, they volunteered to do the whole project as a donation!!

So, **Kudos #2 goes to Clint Precision Manufacturing** (www.clintprecision.com) on Formula Place, off Miramar Road, and especially to **Mike Gompper**. We will soon be presenting them with a plaque, and a one-year membership to SDERA. Please keep them in mind if you or your company need any kind of welding, machining, or specialized part manufacturing. These guys are good, and they certainly do their bit to help preserve San Diego's history!!

Now You Can Own A Piece Of San Diego Streetcar History!

The rail pieces have been cut, each one is engraved with "SDERY 1922," [right], and they are available for sale at the National City Depot for \$20. Each rail slice is accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity that is signed, dated, and individually numbered. We have approximately 80 track pieces – and that will be that. Get your 'slice of history', so to speak, while you still can!

Please support SDERA by purchasing a slice of rail and use it well as a paperweight, or another object of interest in your collection of railroad

(Continued from page 1)

ment came up to the edge of the track, but did not encroach inside the flange ways (the 'dip' on the top of the rail). The streetcar wheel, as well as regular railroad freight car wheels, rode in the flange way.

The streetcar line along Adams Avenue was originally built about 1905. SDERy Co started an extensive track improvement about 1923 per the book "Rails of the Silvergate" as noted by SDERy fan and SDERA member **Tom Matson**. This would account for some of the tracks found on Adams Ave being identified with the 1922 date.

After some discussion, the SDERA Board decided to cut the rail pieces into 1/2-inch "slices," engrave them, and sell them. In addition we wanted to be sure to hang onto one of the pieces with the 1922 date for display at the NC Depot museum. (That



Mike Gompper of Clint Precision Welding receives a trophy from SDERA's Jim Price in recognition of that organization's donation of the labor to cut and engrave all the historic rail pieces for our girder rail project. Clint Precision also received a 1-year membership to SDERA.



Did You Hear The Good News?? The National City Depot is now open **Thursdays through Sundays!** Thanks to bookstore manager **George Geyer** for offering to host these new days now that he has retired from his daytime job. Also, thanks to **Jody Surowiec** for helping on Thursday afternoons. Every little bit helps!



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d.b.a. **San Diego Electric Railway**
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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.

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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 7:30pm on the 2nd Saturday of the Month at the National City Depot. Join us at 5:30 for an optional no-host dinner at Keith's Restaurant—3rd and National City Blvd. Plan to arrive by 7 p.m. to chat, and peruse the bookstore, and buy Raffle tickets. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, February 9 - Gene Calman and Jim Price will present photos from a recent trip to the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, Maine. Founded in 1939, this museum claims to be the largest electric railway museum in the world.

Saturday, March 8 - "The California Southern: The Riverside Connection." Jeff Trimble will present an overview of the building dates of the entire line, and the demise of it as a through-route to San Diego. Topics also include the former main line from Highgrove to Temecula and the other

branches formed from this route including the San Jacinto and the Elsinore.

We will have a potluck at the depot at 5:30pm. This month's suggested theme is Italian!

Next Board Meetings - February 11 and March 10 at 7:00pm at the National City Depot.

SAVE THE DATE!



Saturday, July 12 - Railroad Swap Meet at the National City Depot.

For additional details, contact Dave Slater (dslater@sdera.org or 619-222-5442)

We continue to have difficulty staffing several times a month. If you can help, even if for just a few hours, please contact Tom Matson (tmatson@sdera.org) or 619-275-0216. Training is available.