



San Diego Electric Railway Association  
 PO Box 89068  
 San Diego, CA 92138  
 (619) 699-8690  
 February 2005

Check us out at our web site:  
[www.sdera.org](http://www.sdera.org)

## Sam Judd buys Old Spaghetti Factory's Birney Car, Gives to SDERA — Move to NC expected Feb 11th



The 1917 Birney Car as she looked before Old Spaghetti Factory closed down and auctioned off their properties. Once a Bellingham, WA trolley, only parts left of Car 357's original St. Louis Car Co. parts are the body shell and one power switch. Move out of the restaurant to the National City Historic Depot starts Friday February 11.

### Inside this issue:

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• **PRES SEZ: A full year ahead, with new SDERA ideas and event plans**

### San Diego Electric Railway Association

- Jim Price, President
- Mike Reading, Vice President
- Chuck Bencik-Secretary
- Tom Matson, Treasurer
- Directors: Gene Calman, Gary Johnson, Stuart Rudick
- Chris Higgins, Webmaster
- George Geyer, Bookstore
- Chuck Bencik, Editor

### THE PREZ SEZ, By Jim Price

First, a Happy 2005 to all! Hopefully the Holidays were as good to you as they were to me and my family. We have a number of hot items, so here we go.

Old Spaghetti Factory Birney Car. In case you haven't heard, Sam Judd, one of our members and our legal counsel, bought the Birney Car during the Old Spaghetti Factory (OSF) auction on January 10! And Sam has indicated that he will donate the car to SDERA. As of this writing, the car is scheduled to be removed from OSF on Friday, Feb. 11 and to be delivered to the NC depot. This will be an interesting opportunity for SDERA.

Please plan to help. Standby for some serious fund-raising activities! All of us who are railroad and streetcar enthusiasts thank Sam for his contribution to electric railroad history preservation.

Membership Surveys and Open Forum. Thanks to those of you who have returned membership surveys. I say to the rest of you: please DO return your surveys as soon as you read this reminder. We spent considerable money on self-addressed stamped envelopes to facilitate the return of the forms. Please use them!

Thanks also to the 20 or so of you who braved the rain and attended the Open Forum meeting on January 8 at the depot. We had some spirited discussions and began to develop a real "way ahead" for SDERA.

Two consistent themes emerged from the surveys and the open forum: we need something operational, i.e. something that moves on rails, and we want to remain a separate organization – but with links to any number of like-minded organizations.

In addition, many of you had some great ideas. For example:

- Develop a traveling exhibit that we can set up at various events around Southern California.
  - Show old-time movies on the south side of the depot on Summer evenings.
  - Lay some track on the depot grounds and operate handcars and/or speeders.
  - Partner with North Park
- [continued on page 8]**

## Train Show Sales Promote SDERA

By George Geyer

We staffed the Great American Train Show (GATS) at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on December 4 and 5, 2004. We did very well up there selling books, videos, DVDs, and other items. We took in about \$765.

Thanks to the following staff members who took part:

**Chris Higgins, George Geyer, Gary Johnson, Charles Smith, Herb Yaklin, and especially Jim Anderson** for taking all the gift shop items up there and back to National City Depot.

## Jones will match \$3500 for non-member gifts for Birney car renewal

Member Art Jones has offered to match up to \$3,500 of non-member contributions to the Birney Car restoration project. Jones is a very dedicated world-wide trolley fan, a benefactor of trolley projects such as Old Pueblo Trolley in Tucson, and our Volkswagen Trolley "Herbie" at the National City Depot.

Art is a video cinematographer who has videotaped SDERA events at such events as the luncheon honoring SDERy employees about 10 years ago. He'll give a program on Canadian and Tampa, FL, rail transit on March 12th.

## Tax Deductible Gifts Help SDERA restore Trolleys, educate Public on Rail History

Restoration of the Birney Car from the Spaghetti Factory and the Vienna Cars soon to follow aren't the only urgent needs your Electric Railway Association has right now.

SDERA will no longer have access to the Power Point projector that we've been using (it belongs to the San Diego DX Club). We will have to rent one when we need it, but we should probably start looking around for either buying one, or getting a donation

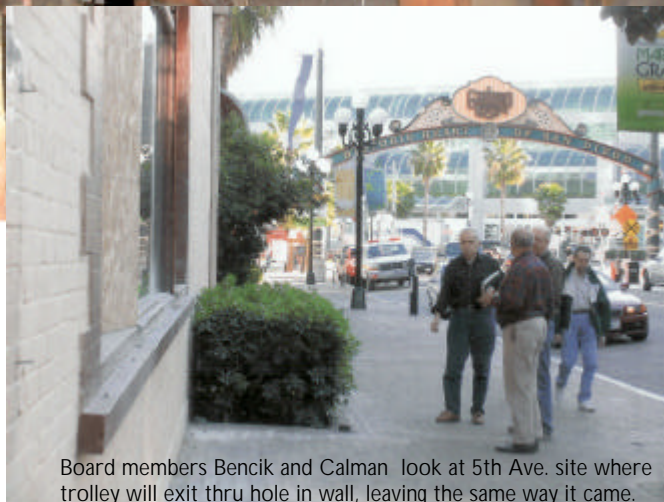
of a video projector. We could buy one for \$1000, but it's possible a decent one could be found on the used market for about half that price. We also need a good carousel slide projector, and movie projectors for older original films, both 16mm and 8 mm.

Donations to SDERA of money, securities, equipment and materials may be used as basis for tax deductions, at their fair market values.

**Please Donate today!**



Photos by Stuart Rudick



Board members Bencik and Calman look at 5th Ave. site where trolley will exit thru hole in wall, leaving the same way it came.





# Hamilton: Met Half his Treasury Goals , SDERA'S Value Deteriorating, Bank Balance fell \$4105 in 2004, Urgent Need to Bolster our Income

By Richard Hamilton

I took over as Treasurer in January of 2004 with a goal in mind. That was to get SDERA in a position to know where it is financially and to help plan for the future. I feel I have been successful in half the goal.

SDERA has had its financials on Quick Books for several years but had not had the 'books' monitored or organized or audited in any manner. Shortly after the first of the year we froze the books and had an experienced bookkeeper go through all the years' information and bring the information for 2003 in line and in balance so we could start 2004 correctly and have good valid records. This is a brief summary of the 'year at a glance' for 2004.

Our Balance Sheet bottom line at the end of 2003 was \$34,504.38 and at the end of 2004 we are at \$30,399.19, which is to say that the bottom line for SDERA is \$4,105.19 less at the end of 2004 than when the year started. **(NOTE: our bottom line as of 25 January 05 is \$28,648.64)** Gross Profit for 2004 was \$11,805.26 while Total 2004 Expenses were \$14,716.42.

Another way to look at this is that not only did SDERA spend every nickel it took in but it also spent \$4,105 of saved

money.

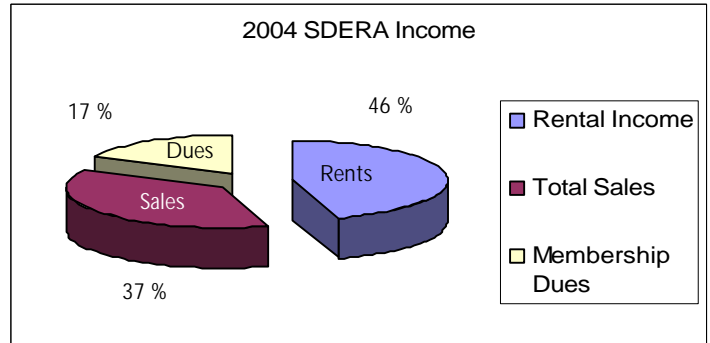
The 3 leading Income categories for both 2003 and 2004 were (in order of amounts for 2003/2004: Rental Income (\$5688/\$5,925), Total Sales (\$3961/\$4,879) and Membership Dues (\$3812/\$2,260).

The 3 leading categories for Expenses for 2003 were: Cost of Goods Sold (\$3,119.93), Utilities (\$2,374.98) and Insurance (\$1,517). For 2004 the categories were: Utilities (\$3,179.19), Cost of Good Sold (\$2,590.48) and Insurance (2,562.19). The leading categories stayed the same; only the order changed.

Total Income for 2004 was down \$450 from 2003. Total Expense for 2004 was \$6,328 more than for 2003.

The gift shop continues to be the main financial anchor for SDERA. In 2003 SDERA showed a 22% profit between Sales and the Cost of Sales. 2004 shows just at 100% profit.

Per Article X, Section 3 of the SDERA By-Laws, SDERA accounts have been adjusted and



audited through December 31, 2004. The best of my knowledge says that this is a first for this Association.

This is a very wide view of SDERA's financial status. Basically it shows how the value of SDERA is deteriorating and the financial stability continues to be Sales.

As Treasurer I have made numerous attempts to make the Board of Directors aware of what is happening to the finances, sometimes making the members quite aggravated

at me, but I have persisted. Just ask any of the Directors.

I have also made every attempt to make raising money by any means a high priority and have failed at that also. This includes my raising this

point at the last 'planning meeting' of the BoD on January 22, 2005.

Unfortunately, as the old saying goes, you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink.

As I said in the first paragraph, I feel I only succeeded in half of my goal. This among other reasons is why I decided to withdraw as Treasurer effective the end of January 2005. If I cannot be productive and helpful to SDERA then I should not waste either of our times.

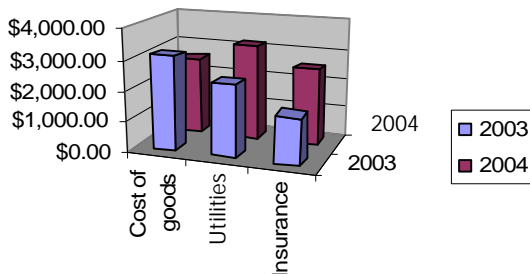
As Treasurer I have exclaimed very strongly over this last year how we are putting our efforts into spending money, and little to no effort into creating the income we need to support SDERA at the level it needs to be supported.

Respectively Submitted,

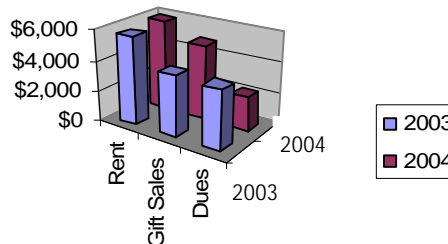
Richard Hamilton, Treasurer, SDERA 26Jan05

***"...we are putting all our efforts into spending money, and little to no effort into creating the income we need to support SDERA at the level it needs to be supported."***

EXPENSE TRENDS



Income Trends 2003-2004



## Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

Normally 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, 7 p.m. at Richard Hamilton's office. Call 858-836-0106 for directions and any changes in dates. The schedule is: **February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14**



## Librarian says we need Railroad & Trolley Books, Photos, Slides, Timetables, Maps, Scale Trolley Models ... plus ...

*You can help build out library at the Depot, by donating books, maps, post cards, photographs and other material. Valuable items can be deducted from your taxes as donations to our organization.*

*Allen Copeland,, author of several books on California urban transit, rail and traction history, has taken over as Librarian for SDERA. He recently wrote to Treasurer (former Secretary) Tom Matson as follows:*

16 October 2004

Mr. Tom Matson

San Diego Electric Railway Ass'n.

Dear Tom:

I enjoyed meeting you last month for lunch with some of the other Board members of SDERA and appreciate the tour and showing me around the depot.

I have put in about 15 hours at the Depot sorting through the materials in the library. There is not a lot of books, but [I] think what is there is an excellent start that we can build on. I have written up a sheet listing publications, periodicals and other things that I would like to advertise for, and would ask if it is OK, could this be published in the newsletter. Materials can be left at the Depot, or we can make arrangements to have it picked up. [I] will also send a copy of this list to Jim Price so that he will know I am doing some work in the library.

There is much extraneous material that does not fit in our library, and [I] am sure we will find more as the sorting and sifting continues. [I] am just about finished with the books, and then will start on the periodicals to see what is there so we can ask for donations to fill in the holes and dispose of things that don't belong. For instance, I noted there were a lot of magazines devoted to trucks.

Now that the lease has been extended, would it be improper to call Jim Papulas and ask for the Eric Sanders negatives [to] be moved to the library? [I] had forgotten about these, but Ellen Sanders called me the other day to say that she had not been able to contact Jim because of recent medical problems. I said not to worry, we will take care of it. She thought there is more material in her basement that she would like to see go to SDERA, and I told her I would get back with her when the negatives and photo-

graphs are under control

Thanks for your help and hope things are going well with you.

Best Regards, Allen Copeland

### SAN DIEGO ELECTRIC RAILWAY ASSOCIATION LIBRARY PUBLICATION WANT LIST

- Books and Published Materials on Electric Railway Topics
- Books and Published Materials on Western Railroad Topics
- Photographs, Slides, Memorabilia, Timetables on San Diego Electric Ry., Pacific Electric, Glendale & Montrose, Los Angeles Ry./Los Angeles Transit Lines and other California/Western electric railways
- Photographs, maps, timetables, memorabilia on other electric railway topics in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.
- Central Electric Railfans Associations, Bulletins and Specials
- *Bay Area Electric Railway Review*
- Boston Street Railway Association publications
- Electric Railroaders Association pubs, ERA *Headlights* and specials. Electric RY. Historical Society of Southern Calif. *Timepoints* and other pubs, *Interurban News Letter* and *Interurbans Specials*
- National Railway Historical Society Chapter Publications on electric railways Motor Bus Society, Motor Coach Age and specials
- Pacific Railway Society/Railway Boosters publications
- Railway Historical Society of San Diego publications
- Western Railroader
- HO and O-Scale Models of Electric Railway Equipment (especially PE, SDERy, and Los Angeles) for display and demonstration purposes Financial contributions for purchase of photographic storage materials, including slides, albums, and negatives.
- Filing cabinets and library furniture
- Note: we do not presently need popular rail oriented magazines like *Railroader*, *TRAINS*, *Railfan*, *Railroad*, *NMRA Bulletins*, *Model*, *Model Railroad Craftsman*, etc.

## Making Tracks: Who knows? It's a beginning

By Stuart Rudick

The rain has stopped. The flooded streets have dried and the sun has come out. To quote the sage, Mr Rogers, "It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood."

We have returned our surveys, and discussed them at a general brainstorming meeting and at the following board meeting. We discussed the future of the SDERA and where we want to go now, next year, and several years down the line.

Where do we go from here? The first item on most people's list was a burning desire to see something running on track. Well, here we go. Clang, Clang

The board is proposing taking some of our stored snap track and building a short run from the edge of the main gate to the southern-most border of our property. Mike Reading is taking charge of the project and he wants to run the track close to the western fence, level it with fill and some ballast. Then we can bring SDERA's speeder and excursion car down from Doc Dunn's back yard and get the things running. We can run them and Bob Recks' velocipede and hand car for short rides.

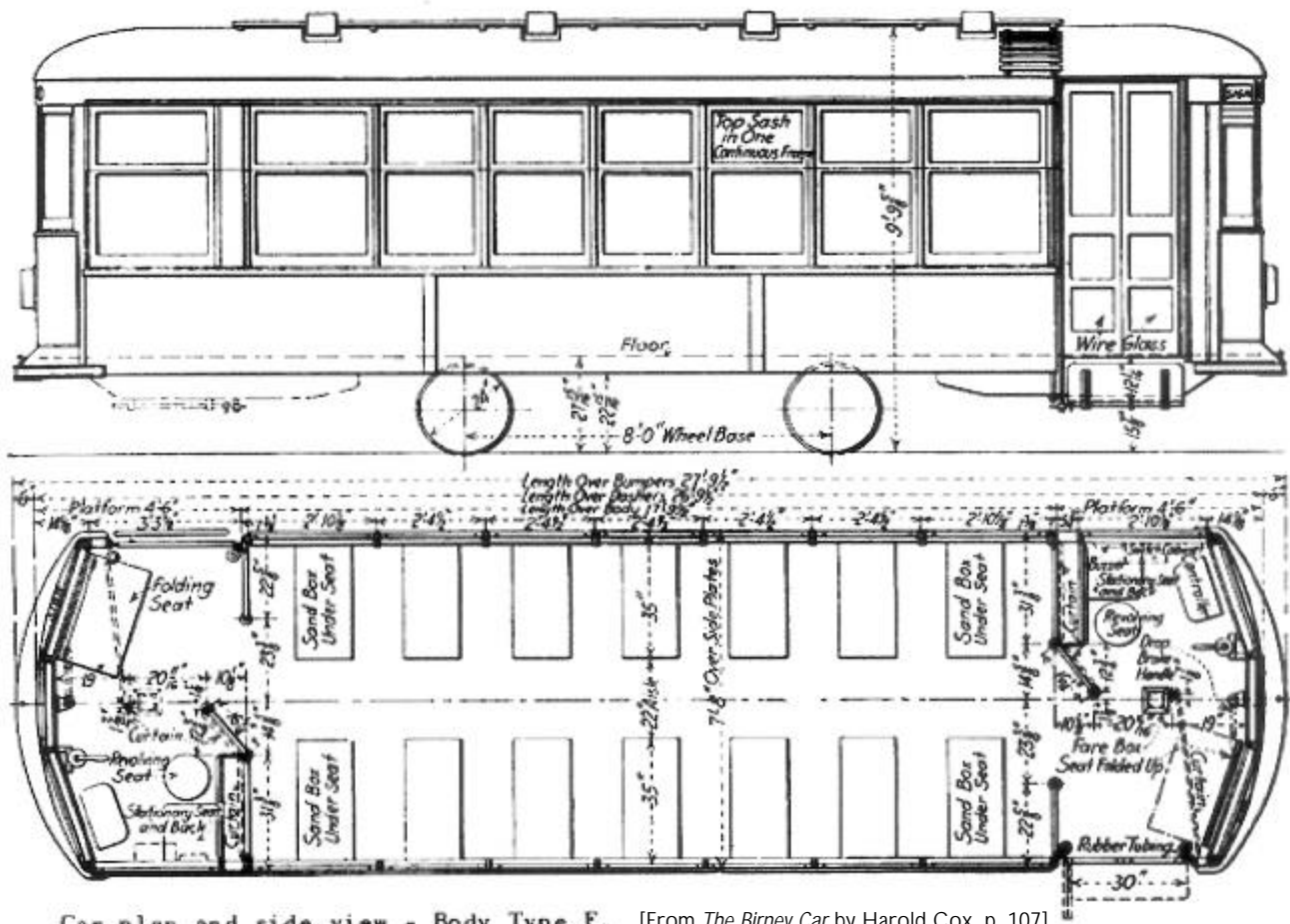
The track will also give us room for the Vienna cars when they are delivered. We, SDERA, will finally have track and the ability to prove "WE CAN DO IT" for all to see. Where to, from there? Funny you should ask. A short jump across the road and.... Who knows? It's a beginning.

Because of our never-ending problems with renewing the lease on the Depot, we have to limit ourselves to things we can pick up and move. This project should give us room to work on restoring one of the Vienna cars, have some fun, and come out into the bright sunshine. We will be a little closer to coming alive and becoming a sightseeing destination for San Diego and National City.

**Contributions for the Library can be left at the National City Depot or arrangements can be made to pick up larger donations. For further information, please contact the Librarian, Allen Copeland (619) 442-3870 or any SDERA Officer.**



## Facts you'll need to know when you spend a "Weekend at Birney's"



Car plan and side view - Body Type F. [From *The Birney Car* by Harold Cox, p. 107]

By Chuck Bencik and Allen Copeland

When times got hard after World War I for the San Diego Electric Railway Co., the Railroad Commission ordered running small, one-man cars on short headways, instead of larger cars on long headways. American Car Company sold 35 type H and J Birney Safety cars to SDERy. These were delivered in two orders in 1920 and 1922. The small, one-man, single truck cars weighed in at 18,200 lbs (Dodge, *Rails of the Silver Gate*), and carried up to 32 customers. They had better air brakes, dead man controls, and other safety features. They were put on routes 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8. But they were uncomfortable, and had a significant number of accidents. So they were sold off from 1923 thru 1934. Several went to the Sacramento Northern. One, number 62, in nearly complete SDERy equipment, can be seen today at the Western Railway Museum in Rio Vista, CA.

The San Diego Birneys, unlike the Spaghetti Factory Bellingham car – a type F – were types H and J. These were a little longer (28' 1/2") over the bumpers than the type F cars (27' 9 1/2"). The H and J cars (16,600 lbs) were heavier than the F cars (15,400 lbs.). Otherwise, the two types had the same dimensions: 26' 9 1/2" over the dash, 7' 8" width over the side sheets, 26" diameter wheels, 9' 9 5/8" from the rail to over the roof, 15 7/8" from track to step, 12 1/16" from step to floor. Front doors were both 30" wide, enclosed by a 2-leaf door. Rear doors were both 30" wide. Both types had 5 side windows 28 1/2" wide and 2 side windows 34 1/8" wide, a total of 7 plus a 34 1/8" back platform window on the right side of the car. The anticlimbers of the F cars extended 6 inches beyond the dash, and 7 1/2" for the type H cars.

The Birney of the San Diego Old Spaghetti Factory is believed to be car 357 from Bellingham, WA. From the classic

book, "The Birney Car" by Harold Cox we know that she's a type F Birney, a double-ender, with single-folding two-leaf front door. She was originally constructed for the Brockton & Plymouth St. Railway Co., of Massachusetts by St. Louis Car Co., order #1117 of 1917. The cars were delivered by the builder to the Puget Sound Traction Light & Power Co. (Puget Sound Power & Light after 1920) where the cars kept the 353-360 numbers. Her electrical equipment was probably from General Electric. Total type weight of the type F double-ender was 15,400 lbs. While built with various trucks, the Bellingham series had St. Louis Car. Co. type 79E1 trucks. Trolley service was abandoned in Bellingham 12/31/1938. Probably the bodies of the cars were stripped and sold.

Cox's book shows the side and floor plan of a type F on page 107. A Seattle Municipal car, type F, is shown on page 89.

([www.telcen.com/streetcars/107.html](http://www.telcen.com/streetcars/107.html))



## Now you can order your Rail and Trolley Videos by Mail, and Help SDERA build a great Rail and Trolley Museum

### CLOTHING

**SDERA polo shirt**, heavy woven 100% cotton, white, short sleeve, embroidered trolley above pocket, **\$21.00** each.

**SDERA T-shirt**, cream, SDERy logo imprint on front, green/cream trolley imprinted on back, **\$12.00** each

**Railroad engineer's caps**, grey/white pinstripes, **\$4.95** each.

**SDERA T-shirt**, white, green/cream trolley imprinted on back, **\$10.00**

### BOOKS

**The San Diego Trolley**, by Gena Holle. History of the Red Trolleys, beginning 1990s. B&W and color photos, 104 pp. **\$24.95**

#### **Pacific Electric Railway**

Vol. 4, Western Div: 137 pp, B&W photos. **\$39.95**

Vol. 1, Northern Div., **\$29.95**

Vol. 2, Eastern Div., **\$32.95**

Vol. 3, Southern Div., **\$39.95**

**Streetcar Scenes of the 1950s in Color**, by LeRoy O. King, Jr. In color: 128 pp. of trolleys in 24 cities across the US. Great gift for the trolley fan. **\$54.95**

**Santa Fe: The Railroad Gateway to the California West**, by Donald Duke. Vol One, 288 pp, Chicago-Los Angeles-San Diego, loaded with B&W photos. **\$59.95**

**Tourist Trains** (38<sup>th</sup> Annual Guide to Tourist Railroads and Museums). 482 pp., illustrated. **\$9.95**

**Southern Pacific in Transition**, by Bill Shippen and Joe Shine. 160 pp., mostly color, tons & tons of freight locomotives, scenic pictures and data, c. 1996(?) **\$49.95**

**Old Trolley Cards**. Ed.: K. P. Fletcher & John Rossman. 24 full color vintage postcard reproductions; serrated, can be cut out and mailed to your trolley fan friends (limited supply) **\$4.95**

#### **Electric railways Around San Francisco Bay**, comp. Donald Duke

Vol. One: BART, East Bay Transit, Key System, SP Interurbans. 71 pp., B&W photos: **\$24.95**

Vol. Two: Market St. Railway, Municipal Rwy of SF, Northwestern Pacific RR., Petaluma & Santa Rosa RR, Sacramento Northern RR, SF Napa & Calistoga RR, Shipyard Railway: **\$24.95**

**Pioneers of Electric railroading: Their Story in Words & Pictures**, ed. by John R. Stevens. 221 pp., illus. Earliest electric railway systems, inventors, trials & triumphs, many technical illustrations. Valuable

historic work. **\$29.95**

**Coast Lines Depots – Los Angeles Division**, by Lee Gustafson & Phil Serpico. B&W photos. C. 1992, much illustr, some depot plans. 232 pp. **\$49.95**

**San Diego & Arizona – The Impossible Railroad**, by Robert M. Hanft. 140 pp, **\$99.95**

**The Railroad Book**, story & pictures by Boyd Smith. 55pp. Children's picture book. Reproduction issue of 1913 illustrated: "Bob and Betty learn about trains when the railroad opens up a line behind their garden fence." **\$15.95.**

**Trains**, by Julian Holland,. Large, color illustrated, picture mini-encyclopedia history, old to modern trains, futuristic railroads the world over, from A to Z for the young at heart. 40 pp. **12.95**

### VIDEOS

**California Electric Trilogy** (Key System, Sacramento Northern, Pacific Electric). Pentrax #CAL3, 38 min. **\$29.95**

**Muni's F Line**. 2001 Survey of San Francisco Streetcar collection, 80 min, + previews, [Highball Productions], **\$29.95**

**Los Angeles Streetcars, the Final Years**. W & S Lines, Yellow. Cars of the 1950s. Pentrex LA-Transit. 35 min. **\$29.95**

**Pacific Electric – Remembering the Red Cars**. Vol. 1. 70 min. Catenary Video 10-PE. **\$39.50**

**Santa Fe Vintage Diesels**. New Mexico, Kansas & Illinois in the 1960s and 1970s. 50 min. Pentrex #FFS01. **\$19.95**

**Santa Fe: The Diesel Locomotive**. Its servicing, maintenance & repair. Sacramento, Barstow and Winslow Santa Fe shops servicing in the 1950s. Pentrex #SFDIESEL. 25 min. **\$19.95**

**Union Pacific: Vintage West**. Charles Smiley, A-120. The WP-UP merger, 1960 to 1980. 38 min. **\$28.50**

**Steam to Los Angeles – UP 8444, SP 4449**. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal. Cheyenne to LA rail trip. Pentrex, 75 min. **\$24.95**

### PHOTOS:

**SDERy PCCs 528, 525, 510** on San Diego Streets. 524 at the Santa Fe Station. **Cars 447, 405** on the 7 & 11 lines, Park Blvd, University Ave. B&W 8"x10", excellent quality. **\$5.00** each, 3 for **\$13.00**

### AUDIO CDS

**Thunder on the Steel**: HS 951. Railroad Songs. **\$14.98**

**Diesel Power: Sounds of diesels on SP, UP, and AMTRAC**, 1995-



2001. HS 22. \$ 14.98

**UP Challenger:** *World's Largest Operating Steam Locomotive.* \$ 14.95

**Track Talk.** Sounds of train cars on pre-welded-rail, various cars. \$ 14.95

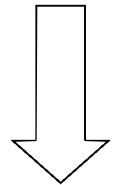
**TAPE CASSETTE:** *Night Train - Classic RR songs.* Rounder C1144. \$9.95

**MAGAZINES/JOURNALS:**

**Rail Fan and Railroad Magazine.** Back issues, 2004 available \$4.99 ea.

... and there's lots more merchandise to choose from, at your SDERA Book and Gift Store. Call and ask about our many other titles and merchandise. Call the Depot at **619-474-4400**. All four credit cards accepted [DISCOVERY, VISA, MASTER CHARGE, AMERICAN EXPRESS]. California residents:

**add 7.75% sales tax.** (Multiply total item prices by 1.0775. Then add on Shipping and Handling charges: add **\$5.00**, for first item, each additional item: **\$1**. Order today!



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**SDERA Depot Doings for February and March**

**Membership Meetings** are usually held on Second Saturdays, National City depot, [2 blocks west of Interstate 5 and Bay Marine Drive] 7:30 P.M. Optional: dinner at Keith's Restaurant, 3rd and Ntinal City Blvd., National City, at 5:00 P.M.

**February 12:** Harry Mathis, MTS board member, past chairman of the San Diego Trolley Board for 9 years, and former San Diego city councilman, will give us a power point presentation on the **San Francisco Market Street Railway** and San Francisco Municipal Railway. He will also outline his proposed plans for a historic trolley to run in San Diego using two PCC cars and existing Trolley Tracks in a downtown loop using C St., 12th and the Harbor Drive tracks.

**March 12:** member Art Jones will give a

program of videos from recent trips, including The **Tampa & Ybor City Street Railway Society, Inc.** with a small part of it on Tampa's restored Birney Car; also trolley scenes from the park in Calgary, Alberta, Canada; scenes from the Edmonton Alberta light rail.

**April 9:** To be announced.

**Special Events ...**

**February 11:** OSF's **Birney car** moves to the NC Depot.

**February 20:** **South Bay Cruisers auto club** special visit, 10-15 cars to Depot.

**March 4-5:** **Congress of History's annual conference**, at the San Diego Historical Society. SDERA member will talk on the importance of streetcars and electric railways to the development of the San Diego area.



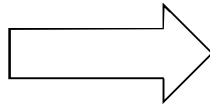
**Interior of restored Tampa & Ybor City Street Railway Society Birney car 167. Tampa's project saw success after 10 years and \$150,000 costs.**



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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 every Sat. and Sun., 12 noon - 4 PM. Depot phone: call 619 474-4400

We're on the  
Web:  
[www.sdera.org](http://www.sdera.org)



Return Service Requested

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Permit No. 2606

**Attention Members: Please look carefully at the mailing label above. 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.**

[continued from page 1] Main Street which is still planning to run trolley cars on University Avenue.

- Make fund raising our #1 priority.
- Get Boy Scouts involved with some of our restoration projects.

And many others.

Out of all this, we will develop a specific plan and make it known to the membership and other relevant organizations. But it IS the case that we are still dedicated to acquiring and operating an historic streetcar.

VW "Streetcar on Wheels". Gene Calman et al purchased and assembled a portable garage for "Herbie." Unfortunately it blew off its mounts during that horrendous wind on Dec. 28. But Gene and crew reassembled the garage on Jan. 16, and all is well again. Back at Gene's place, "Herbie's" got clutch problems, but now 2 doors work on power, and repairs have been done to 4 steps, interior wiring, doorway panels, and wheel well seats. Special thanks for Tom Jenkins' work.

NOTE: very soon we need someone to step forward and take over the operation of

Herbie so that it will be kept in proper mechanical operation at all times, be driven to events for publicity, and so on. If you're willing, please contact Jim Price or Gene Calman.

Upcoming Events. Here are a few activities in which we've been invited to participate:

**March 4-5: Congress of History's** annual conference, at the San Diego Historical Society. We've been asked to do a talk on the importance of streetcars and electric railways to the development of the San Diego area.

**March 5: Orange Empire's Spring Railroadiana** in Perris. If any of you are planning to set up a booth there, would you also consider representing SDERA? If so, please contact Jim Price at 619-286-3255.

**Apr 30 - May 1: Cinco de Mayo** celebration in Old Town. We've been asked to put together an exhibit that kids would enjoy. So we're thinking about "Herbie," and a modest model RR layout. We'll need help with this.

**May 18: Presentation to the National City Chamber of Commerce monthly breakfast** meeting. We will have about 20 minutes to do a talk about who we are, what we're doing, what's going on at the depot, our plans

for a streetcar, etc. We'll also include some National City streetcar history.

**May 26: National City Chamber "Sundowner" at the NC Depot.** We will host members of the NC Chamber at the Depot from 5 to 7 p.m. for a social event and networking opportunity. We did this in October of 2003, and it's time to get our fellow Chamber members down to the depot again. We will need help from many of you to make this event a memorable one for attendees.

**June/July TBD: Inaugural run of the Mission Valley extension of the San Diego Trolley.**

**July 4: Coronado Parade** - partnering with the Coronado Lions Club (via our member Jim Roamer)

**August 7: National City Parade and Car Show.** We may want to consider some kind of railroadiana event at the depot for that same weekend.

No shortage of things to do! Stay involved if you are; get involved if you're not. Thanks.