



SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER

Edited by Bill Fowler

August 2024

A Special Appeal

As some of you know, the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center has entered into a long-term partnership with the Barriger Library of St. Louis, Missouri. As a part of this relationship, the Barriger Library has established a digital Southern Pacific Railroad History Center Collection. The following link: <https://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/umsl/islandora/object/umsl%3A371198> will provide access to the Collection. We are just beginning to post items to the Collection, but as you can see, to date there are photos, a booklet, and a schematic. This is merely the beginning of much more to come. The Barriger Library's system can also accommodate audio and video recordings.

In addition, the St. Louis Mercantile Library, of which the Barriger Library is a part, was founded in 1846, and is the oldest library west of the Mississippi River. Both Libraries are a part of the University of Missouri System, which means that the long term preservation of the History Center's digital is very bright. The History Center is very much aware of its great fortune to have such a home for its digital collection, which will be growing daily.

You can contribute to Southern Pacific's incredible legacy by donating your Southern Pacific related items to the History Center. Documents, photos, drawings, and more can be converted to digital formats and the same can be accomplished for almost any audio or video recordings. The History Center has scanners to convert slides to digital photos and to copy books, brochures, and more. We can also convert maps, drawings, and schematics up 20" wide by 14.5" high. In those instances where we do not have the ability to perform any of this work, we will contract to have it done. What is more, is after scanning and conversion takes place, all materials will find their way to the Library's climate control storage, where they will be curated by specially trained personnel.

So, what are you waiting for? If you can make a donation of the items mentioned above, please send an email to Bill Fowler at wefowler@pm.me with the details, and I will make contact with you as soon as possible. What if you do not have Southern Pacific items to donate? In that case, please consider making a tax deductible donation by clicking on the following link: <https://splives.org/donate/>.



William (Bill) Boutte'
1938 ~ 2024

William Bill Boutte' was born and raised in New Iberia, Louisiana. His parents were Paul Boutte', and Josephine

Darnell.

He joined the United States Navy in 1955, and would later move to Jamaica Queens, New York. There, he owned a successful air-conditioning business as well as worked for the New York Transit Authority.

Bill subsequently left New York to pursue a career with Southern Pacific in Houston, Texas. It was there that he met his wife, Mary Louise Johnson of South Carolina. They would become the parents of four sons.

He created a homestead in Tamina, Texas with his wife and sons. He served as a pillar to his community and steward of the town's water supply for two decades. Bill retired in 2005 with 32 years of service for Southern Pacific/Union Pacific. He was a signal maintainer.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Theresa Deshotel; sister; and two sons, Michael and Paul.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Boutte'; sons Howard and William; sister, Linda Montgomery; four grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He spoke his mind and lived life on his terms. Rest in peace, Bill, as your memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew you.



Carol Ann Harris
December 7, 1957 ~ April 24, 2024

Carol Ann Harris, daughter of Cyril Walter Harris and Louise Stewart (Menary)

Harris was born in southern California on

December 7, 1957. The Harris's had immigrated from Montreal, Canada with Carol's sister Barbara in 1954 and became citizens of the United States in 1962.

The family migrated north to Elk Grove, California in 1966 where Carol graduated from Elk Grove High School and then from Sawyer Business College. In 1976, Carol Ann met Rick Lightle and they were married shortly thereafter. From that union a son, Ryan Lightle was born and four years later daughter Jamie Lightle arrived. In 1978, she was employed by as a clerk by Southern Pacific in Sacramento, California. From her clerical seniority position she moved to the Southern Pacific's general claims department where she advanced to manager.

Carol's career at Southern Pacific/Union Pacific railroad did not deter her from being a dutiful mother and ultimately a devoted grandmother. While she and husband Rick had separated, the children and grandchildren's welfare remained paramount. They enjoyed spending family Christmas holidays in Tahoe and at other gatherings. Additionally, after Carol retired in 2019, she enjoyed traveling with her sister and friends and, of course, she made numerous trips to visit her grandchildren in Texas.

A celebration of life was held June 22, 2024, in Roseville, California and numerous family, co-workers, and friends had an opportunity to share memories of experiences and their love for Carol Ann. She will be greatly missed.

Editor's request: When changing email addresses, please send your new address to billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org.



Clarence Herbert Minix
December 26, 1958 ~ February 28, 2024

Clarence Minix, age 65 of Pearland, Texas, passed

from this life into the next on February 28, 2024. He was born on December 26, 1958 in Louisville, Kentucky and attended J. Frank Dobie High School in Houston, Texas, class of 1978. Clarence was retired from Southern Pacific/Union Pacific after 40 years of service as a signal maintainer. He attended Calvary Church in Friendswood, Texas.

Clarence enjoyed cooking, entertaining his many friends and family, and traveling (preferably to the beach!). He also enjoyed riding his motorcycle with his friends, going to Galveston and fishing, and spending time with his dachshund, Sammy Jo. Clarence was fun loving and beloved by a host of friends and family. It is not possible to describe Clarence's life and the impact he had on others in a few words.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Kathy Minix; his parents, Ruth Minix and Thomas Jesse Minix; his sisters, Deanna Lynn Trombley and Susan Schulte and her husband Greg; and and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

He is survived by his sons, Christopher Minix, Michael Minix and wife Emily, and their mother Susan Minix; step children, Heather Guerra and her husband Brian, Stacie Thames and her husband Jeremy, Colby Jones and his wife Cristina; grandchildren, Foster Minix and Lila Minix; and step-grandchildren, Blake Guerra, Faith Thames, Jordan Thames, Lola Jones and Michael Mejia.



Michael John Nowatzki
December 29, 1951 ~ February 17, 2024

Michael John Nowatzki, beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother passed away at his cabin in Drasco, Arkansas on February 17, 2024. Mike or M.J., as he was later known by his railroad coworkers, was the third child born to Charles and Madeline Nowatzki. He was born on December 29, 1951 in Northwood, North Dakota. He started school in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The family moved to Bakersfield, California when he was still in the first grade.

He acclimated himself to the hot weather by swimming in the canal adjacent his home and while fishing for crawdads.

He learned the value of the dollar at an early age by getting his first paper route when he was nine years old. More importantly, he learned skills early on that would serve him the rest of his life. He never tired of relating a story about his latest "great deal!"

Mike attended local schools in Bakersfield prior to moving with his parents to Monterey County, California in 1968 and he graduated from Gonzales, California High School in 1969. He married in 1970 and in 1971 welcomed his first daughter, Chelsea, followed by son, Chas, in 1976 and Rose in 1979.

Mike was always known as a hard worker in providing for his family. In 1974, he had the opportunity to be employed by Southern Pacific in Watsonville, California. In the early years, when there were frequent train service crew layoffs, he became an apprentice and then a journeymen electrician so that he would have stable employment.

In 1999, then working for Union Pacific, Mike returned to Bakersfield to be closer to his extended family. Throughout his tenure within the railroad industry, Mike was always a loyal, supportive member of the United Transportation Union. In Bakersfield, he became very active in United Transportation Union Local 835, representing other members with union issues. He won widespread respect for his successes in these endeavors. As testament to his invaluable efforts serving his fellow members, Mike held several important union positions including vice local chairman and president.

Mike married Georgene Travali on his birthday in 1994. In her, he had truly found his soul mate and someone who brought him so much serenity and comfort. Through their mutual love of music, particularly the "Blues," they enjoyed attending many local venues and counted many local musicians as friends. Mike retired in 2011,

with 38-years of service with Southern Pacific and Union Pacific.

Mike truly loved his family, friends and celebrating all the gatherings and family events. He will be missed deeply and remembered by all those who knew his integrity, loyalty, generosity, kindness, humble heart, humor, quick wit, and his famous barbecued ribs!

He leaves behind his loving wife, Georgene Nowatzki, who was deep in the trenches with him during his last months. He also leaves his son, Chas Nowatzki; daughter, Rose (Rob) Thulin; son, Cody Brazeal; ten grandchildren; brother Stephen (Kay) Nowatzki; sister Cindy Gill; and many nieces and nephews.

Mike was predeceased by his eldest daughter, Chelsea Larkin and his parents.



Douglas George Rice
December 1, 1941 ~ June 15, 2024

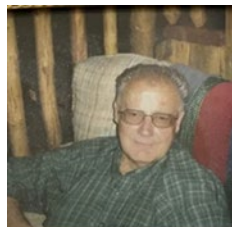
Douglas Rice, passed away in Eugene, Oregon on June 15, 2024, at the age of 82.

Doug was born on December 1, 1941, to George and Thelma Rice. He grew up in Eugene, Myrtle Creek, and Springfield, Oregon. He graduated from Springfield High School and enlisted in the Air Force, where he served proudly, and was stationed in Turkey for two years. After returning to Oregon, Doug dedicated over 30 years of his life to the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific.

In 1965, Doug married Mary Irene Ellison, with whom he shared 57 wonderful years until her passing in December 2022. He is survived by his three daughters: Anne, Lisa, and Jennifer; three grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

Doug and Mary cherished their weekend trips to the Oregon coast. He could often be found cheering on his favorite teams from the comfort of his home or one of his favorite local taverns.

Never one to know a stranger, Doug had a joke for every occasion.



Thomas Wayne Swaim
Hune 1, 1942 ~ June 28, 2024

Thomas Wayne Swaim passed away in Eugene, Oregon, at age 82 on June 28, 2024 surrounded by his loving family.

He was born June 1, 1942 to Horace and Loveda Swaim in Tucson, Arizona, and he graduated from Lebanon, Oregon High School in 1960. He then moved to Eugene, Oregon and was hired by Southern Pacific. He retired as a locomotive engineer after 41 years of Southern/Union Pacific service. He was an avid hunter and he loved to fish.

Tom leaves behind his wife Carolyn of 23 years; four daughters Celene, Carmen, Cheryl, and Crysta; two stepsons Keith and Eric; ten grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

Victor (Vic) Dains, Jr.
1942 ~ 2024

Editor's note: Jon Hurst wrote, "Southern Pacific/Union Pacific switchman, brakeman, and conductor, Victor J (Vic) Dains, Jr, passed on July 14, 2024 in Tucson, Arizona. He was 81. Vic was employed by Southern Pacific in Tucson as a switchman in February, 1966. After working primarily in the Tucson Yard for many years, he was promoted to conductor with a seniority date of July of 1986. He retired around 2000.

If you have any information or suggestions for the Southern Pacific Journey website, <https://www.southernpacificjourney.org/>, please send an email to me at billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org.