

SAGEBRUSH HEADLIGHT

VOL. 22, NO. 2, 81st Edit. NEWSLETTER OF THE NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

FALL 2001

NSRM at Kids Fair 2001



Fred Jakolat instructs a young railfan on the finer points of Gandydancing (above). The captivating smile of this young lady (right) is universal to all who rode the handcar at the Northern Nevada Kids Fair



AROUND THE MUSEUM

This spring, the Nevada State Railroad Museum provided handcar rides, rubbings, gold panning and steam toy demonstrations at the Northern Nevada Kids Fair. NSRM partnered with the Division of Museums and History, the Carson City Children's Museum, the Pyramid Lake Visitor's Center, the National Automobile Museum, and *Raley's* supermarkets to provide three fun-filled educational days over the April 6-9 weekend. The event was held at

the Reno-Sparks Convention Center and nearly 30,000 people attended. Museum Row was the busiest area in the center.

Huge infusions of volunteer labor made the event possible. No strangers to taking the museum to the people, NSRM's volunteers assisted the staff in set-up, maintenance, and break down of the event. The can-do spirit of our volunteers spread as they assisted the other museums during the event.

The Restoration Shop re-gearred the handcar to a slower pace and painted it to match current safety equipment. The shop also created 100 feet of snap track making it possible to take the handcar rides "on the road."

The event was so successful that NSRM was invited to bring the same outreach to the Sparks Farmer's Market in July and August.

- Continued on page 3

Sagebrush Headlight newsletter is published by the Nevada State Railroad Museum and the Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum and distributed to the membership as part of their annual dues.

The Nevada State Railroad Museum is an agency of the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs

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<http://www.nsrp-friends.org>

Open Daily 8:30 to 4:30
Admission \$2
Children under 18 FREE

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Carson City, Nevada

**Railroads and Photography:
150 Years of Great Images**



**An Exhibition at the
Nevada State Railroad Museum
Carson City
September 1, 2001 to January 6, 2002**

**NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM
2001 OPERATING SCHEDULE**

STEAM UPS

October 20 & 21 (Saturday & Sunday) Symposium
October 27 (Saturday) Nevada Day Parade
December 8 & 9 (Saturday & Sunday) Santa Train
May 18, 2002 (Saturday).....Armed Forces Day

Steam Train operates 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Fares: Adults, \$2.50, Children 6-11, \$1.00, 5 and under FREE
SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends-

It's hard to believe that autumn is here. There are many new happenings going on around the museum. There are new exhibits under construction, and the staff has many more responsibilities that take them away from their ability to produce this quarterly newsletter. John Ballweber and Daniel Thielen have requested assistance from the Friends in producing the Sagebrush Headlight. Therefore, all interested parties who would like to assist with writing for this publication, please contact John, Dan or myself.

We are looking for persons interested in writing articles that would appeal to the general membership and historians alike. The articles can be historic in nature, or of current events. We want to keep the Sagebrush Headlight at the same great level of documented articles, which has become legendary over the years. However, please don't be concerned that expert writing skills are mandatory. This is not the case, as museum staff will still be able to edit the text as they have always done. I will be forming a committee of interested parties who respond. And remember, with current technology and email, this is a great opportunity for some of our long-distance members to participate.

I also want to request that every member assist in our attempts to increase membership. As the museum grows, Friends involvement also grows. We need to enlarge our roster of members, local and long distance, active and passive. Remember, the largest portion of current financial support for the museum comes from the membership through dues. Therefore, it is most important that we increase our membership to keep up with the growth at the museum. And it's easier than you think. If every member signs up just one new member, our membership will double. You will be hearing more on this subject in the coming months, but please contact your friends and neighbors who are not currently members and provide them with a member application form. If you need applications, there are plenty available at the museum. If you know someone who would like a copy of the Sagebrush Headlight, let us know. If you are outside the area, please contact the museum and we will mail the forms to you. Thank you for all your help in achieving the goals outlined above.

Finally, the symposium has been postponed until October 2002, due to a variety of circumstances. The Friends leadership and museum staff remain dedicated to presenting a quality symposium program, and we look forward to seeing you in Carson City in 2002.

- Ron Allen, President.

- from page 1

MUSEUM ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The Nevada State Railroad Museum took the first step on the journey toward national accreditation this year with the Museum Assessment Program I (MAP I) process. The Museum Assessment Program evaluates a museum in every facet of its operation, and is administered through the American Association of Museums (AAM). NSRM began the MAP over a year ago and is scheduled to receive the final report in October 2001.

The process began with a successful grant application followed by an extensive and detailed self-assessment. The assessment took almost six-months to complete. Every staff member participated,

and several volunteers assisted the museum in evaluating individual programs, funding, governance, collections, and the facilities. The second element of the MAP involved a site visit by a qualified museum professional. Allan Palmer, Director of the San Diego Aerospace Museum, spent three days at the railroad museum meeting with staff, volunteers, and members of the museum board. His report will be coupled with the self-assessment to complete the MAP I report. This report will guide the museum and the board as accreditation is pursued.

Two and possibly three more assessments will be required before final accreditation is granted. Future museum assessments will focus specifically on collections, public programming, and

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends Board Meeting
October 19.....6:00p.m.

Handcar Races
October 28.....TBA

Wednesday Evening Program
November 14
Railroads and Photography: 100
Years of Great Images
John Gruber
7:00 pm

Wednesday Evening Program
December 12
Western Nevada Railroads and
Mining Camps
Stanley Paher
7:00 pm

Santa Train
December 8-9.....9am-4pm

Wednesday Evening Program
January 9
Kimball Car and Carriage
Manufacturing Co.
Randy Hees
7:00 pm

Wednesday Evening Program
February 13
Railroad Dining Cars
Bob Nysten
7:00 pm

governance. Each of these will ensure NSRM is a stronger museum, meeting or exceeding all established AAM national professional standards, and fully capable of handling Nevada's history well into the millennium.

"The railroad museum is committed to the professional standards set by AAM," said John Ballweber, Curator. "Being accredited by AAM is proof that those standards are being met."

Three of the six museums in the Nevada Division of Museums and History are already accredited; the Nevada Historical Society, Reno; the Nevada State Museum, Carson City; and the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas. It will take several years for the Nevada State Railroad Museum to achieve accreditation.

- from page 3

Railroads and Photography: 150 Years of Great Images

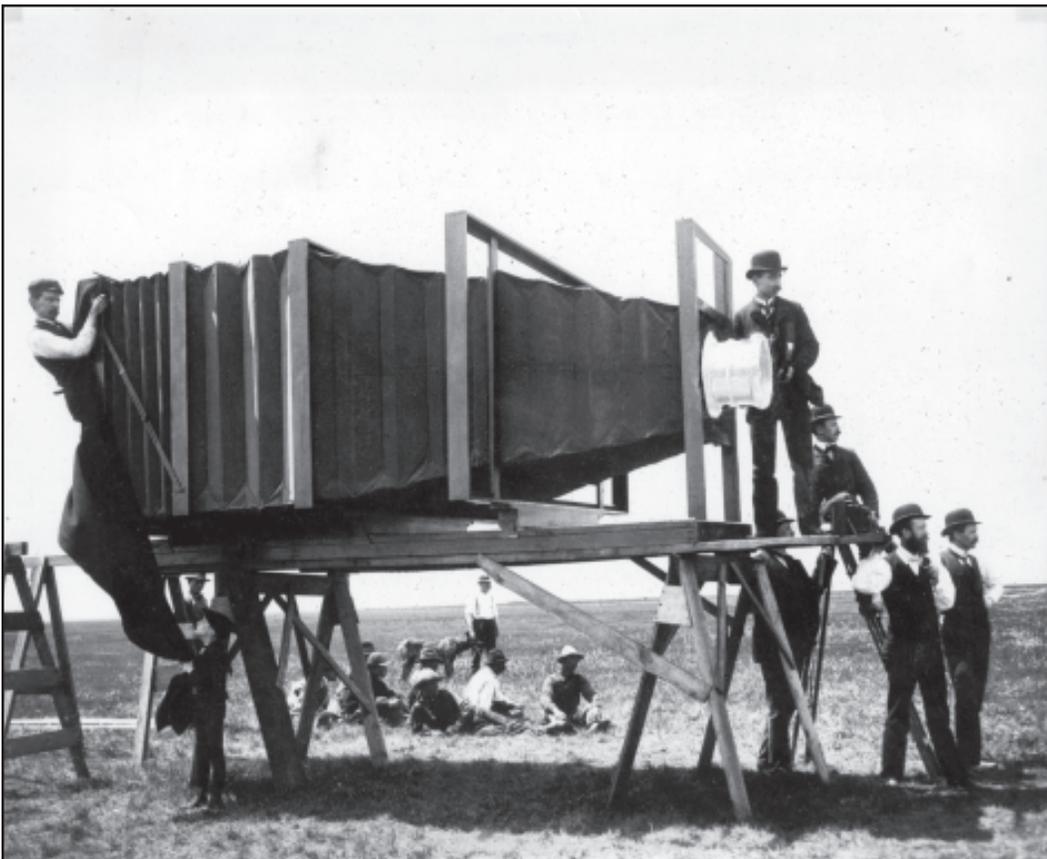
A traveling exhibition titled "Railroads and Photography: 150 Years of Great Images," is on display at the Nevada State Railroad Museum until January 2002.

The show comes from the Center for Railroad Photography and Art, of Madison, Wisconsin, a nonprofit organization established to preserve and display the visual heritage of railroading. Included among the nearly five-dozen photographs are five Nevada images that date from about 1876 to 1971.

provides a wonderful opportunity for the people of northern Nevada and nearby areas to see world-class imagery that recalls a century and a half of railroading," said John Ballweber, Curator of the Nevada State Railroad Museum. "The exhibition will be of interest to historians, preservationists, photography enthusiasts and many others," Ballweber continued. "You certainly don't have to be a railroad fan to appreciate the artistry displayed in these photographs. The museum is privileged to host this fine show."

"This impressive display

According to John Gruber, the



Center's founder, "Artists and photographers over the years have produced many visual images that capture the importance and excitement of American railroading. We believe that this cultural heritage should be preserved and shown to a wide range of people." In 1994, Gruber received a national award from the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society for lifetime achievement in railroad photography.

"For the exhibition, we have selected examples of how railroading inspired photographic creativity through 150 years, showing outstanding images that focus on this important national industry. Too often, the cultural impact of railroading is ignored.

Through this exhibition, and later art exhibitions, we hope to show the public a lesser-known but significant contribution of railroading," Gruber said.

Photographs taken in Nevada included work by Carlton Watkins, Ted Wurm, Al Phelps, and Richard Steinheimer.

"This is a great opportunity to see some of the excellent work that has been done in Nevada," said Daniel Thielen, curator of history at the Nevada State Railroad Museum.

The Wisconsin-based Center, publisher of the quarterly Railroad Heritage, is creating an archive of rail-related art and photography; when possible, it also uses other collections in its exhibits, publications, and web site (www.railphoto-art.org).

Earlier, this exhibition appeared at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, for the State's sesquicentennial; the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Altoona, Pennsylvania; the Madison Club, Madison, Wisconsin; Lake Forest (Illinois) College; the Illinois Terminal Building, Champaign, Illinois; and the John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library at the St. Louis Mercantile Library.

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Photo Credits

Page 4 top: Central Vermont Railway at St. Albans, Vermont.--Jim Shaughnessy, 1956. (Center for Railroad Photography and Art)

Page 4 bottom: The George R. Lawrence Company, Chicago, built the world's largest camera to photograph the Alton Limited. (Arthur Dubin Collection, Donnelley Library, Lake Forest College)

Page 5: Howard Earl Day made "Lonely Traveler" at St. Louis Union Station in the 1940s. A Pennsylvania Railroad train with streamlined and standard equipment is at the left, while the Baltimore & Ohio's Diplomat is in the right foreground. (St Louis Mercantile Library)



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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

(Renewable Annually)

INDIVIDUAL/GENERAL:

Certificate, membership card, voting privileges, SAGEBRUSH HEADLIGHT newsletter, Nevada State Museum newsletter, Historical Society Quarterly (all members over \$25), free Museum admission, 15% discount in Museum Store.

Check one:

- Senior & Student \$15
- Single \$25
- Family \$40
- Sustaining \$50
- Contributing \$100

CORPORATE: (Same as above with special framed certificate.)

- Regular \$100
- Fireman's Roster \$250
- Engineer's Roster \$500
- Conductor's Roster - \$1,000

FRIENDS OF THE NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____ AGE _____

SPOUSE, if family application _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

OCCUPATION _____ PHONE (____) _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Check here if renewal

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

FRIENDS OF THE NSRM

P.O. BOX 1330, CARSON CITY, NV 89702

Thank you for your membership. You will be receiving your membership packet in the mail. (Not included with renewals)

In addition to memberships, the FRIENDS accepts tax deductible contributions towards the furthering of Museum activities and goals.