

# THE CLEARBOARD

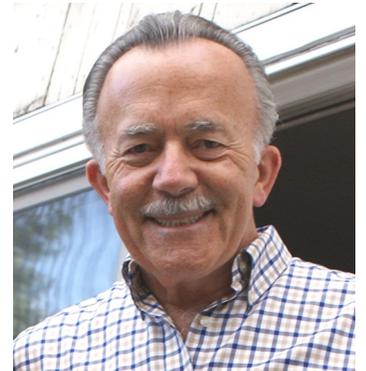
Mike Kotowski President

<http://www.ctrcc.org>

Larry Murchison, Editor



## CREW CHANGE



**It has often been said** that “all good things must come to an end”. This can be said of steam locomotive technology - replaced by diesel electric; reciprocating engine aircraft replaced by jet power, the standard gasoline and diesel powered cars and trucks are now being replaced by hybrid electric vehicles which, in the near future, will become “driverless”. Remember the horse and buggy days and the stagecoach. There were no highways back then only bumpy, muddy trails. Mail delivery took months to cross the American continent unless you paid for Pony Express (7 – 10 days) which, in later years, became the name of a passenger train on the Union Pacific Railroad. Mail by Railway Express was faster yet but then Air Mail got things really moving overnight and “second Day Delivery”, which all but disappeared thanks to e-mail.

**So then** what has all of this got to do with the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation? We are in the non-profit business of preserving railroad history which has to do with a lot of the reminders just mentioned. Our museum (CTRC) is the depository of all types of railroad equipment from heavy rail locomotives, a beautifully restored and operative trolley collection, supportive rolling stock, tools, machinery, books, video narratives and all manner of historic details. Most important, however, are the volunteers who make CTRC happen. They maintain and operate the “light rail” trolley program. They dress the dress and talk the talk and take visitors back into the history of San Jose along with the museum docents. Meanwhile, the beat goes on as the “Steam Team” locomotive volunteers continue their restoration work on Southern Pacific steam switch engine 1215, MoPac caboose and the OSH box car at History San Jose. The same team is closing in on completing Southern Pacific engine 2479, the only surviving P-10 class of high speed steam passenger locomotives from 1923. This restoration effort has been “on going” longer than any other single project in the CTRC museum program having started up in 1982 under the direction of the late Chuck Aldrich. Recent grants from Santa Clara County have pretty much guaranteed its completion over the next few years as long as CTRC has the volunteers with the “stamina” to “keep on keeping on”.

**From the beginning** (1983) CTCR's first and founding president was County Supervisor Rod Diridon, who formed the organization and kept the "rails focused on its mission of preserving the rail transportation history of the Santa Clara Valley. But, several years ago Rod informed the board of directors that he would have to step aside as president and CEO due to illness. He established a search committee that nominated a new "president & CEO" Mike Kotowski, now currently serving. However it had become necessary to alert the board at its last meeting, September 2020, that he and Claire would be retiring out of state next spring so it would be necessary that a search committee would form and recommend a new candidate who would begin on January 1, 2021. That process took place recently and will be reported out at the November board meeting. The committee has nominated Ken Middlebrook to take on those responsibilities and leadership. Both Middlebrook and Kotowski were original board members of the 2479 organization from 1982. Middlebrook currently is a vice-president in CTCR and is the Collections Manager at History San Jose. His resume will be read to the board and then voted on. For Mike Kotowski it will be the "end of the line" as an active board member of CTCR but he wishes to stay as an advisor from afar. A new corporate administrator must also be appointed at this time. Claire Kotowski has filled this position as a temporary placement having been a retired police administrator from San Jose State University.



### Sacramento Railfair 1991

Historic railroad photographers & authors, Richard Steinheimer and Guy Dunscomb with Mike Kotowski at Sacramento. Each of the three were co-curators for the Art and Photography shows at the State Railroad Museum. "Stein and Dunscomb" now deceased, left their entire collections to the museum for research and reference. CTCR and many authors have benefited over the years.



# LOCOMOTIVE NEWS

## BY ART RANDALL

We have been working on several levels:

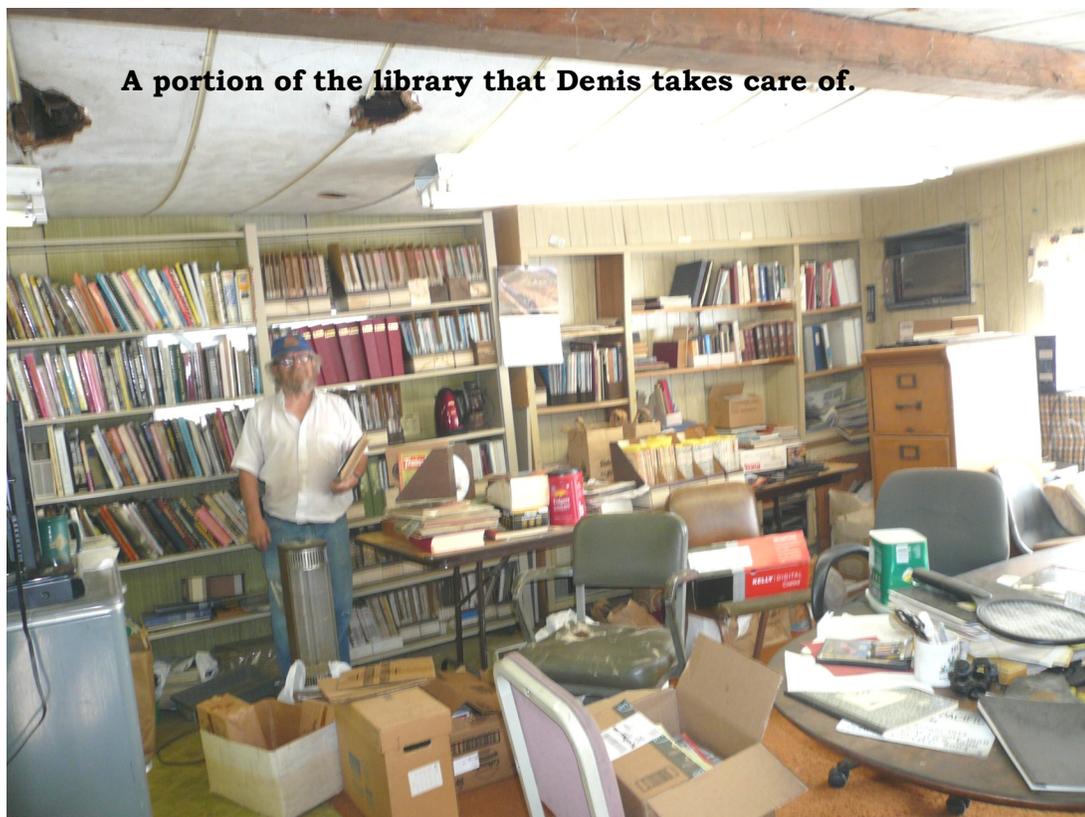
**Boiler:** We have been attempting to get ready to fill the boiler with water. This has entailed the replacement of a staybolt which was compromised, and which took a long time because we had to weld up the hole in the wrapper sheet, and we had trouble getting the hole prepared for tapping. Most recently, we worked to clean out the mud ring. There are a number of other bolts that need to be replaced because they are not hollow (drilled through), so a bolt broken at the firebox will not reveal itself from behind the firebrick. We are discussing whether to replace these bolts or wait until after the water tests.

**Cab:** We have been working to get the holes that need to be cut in both the deck plate and in the cab before re-installing the cab. That work is mostly complete at this point. Those holes and cut-puts that have not been done can mostly wait until the cab is in place. We do need to determine what piping must cross the cab wall, and prepare for them. We already have one line (the blower line) that needs to be in place before the cab can be re-mounted. We're still looking for a shop to refurbish gauges. An outfit in Pennsylvania keeps coming up as a place with qualifications, but there is the feeling that there must be someone closer. On the

other hand, Sam's speedometer shop doesn't recommend itself as a source for restoring a steam gauge whose manufacturer disappeared in the 1940s.

**Infrastructure:** We have had electrical system problems with the forklift, starting to prepare for the coming winter. That involves water hatch covers on the tender, cleaning the gutters on the shop, tarping (*that's a verb now*) the drivers and crossheads for winter protection and we have had a branch from the pepper tree fall on the trailer, which doesn't seem to have caused major damage, but we haven't tested for leaks.

We have received substantial contributions of books and magazines, which has had us sorting and identifying duplicates, challenged us for storage space, and has us worrying about leaks in our trailer's roof.



A portion of the library that Denis takes care of.

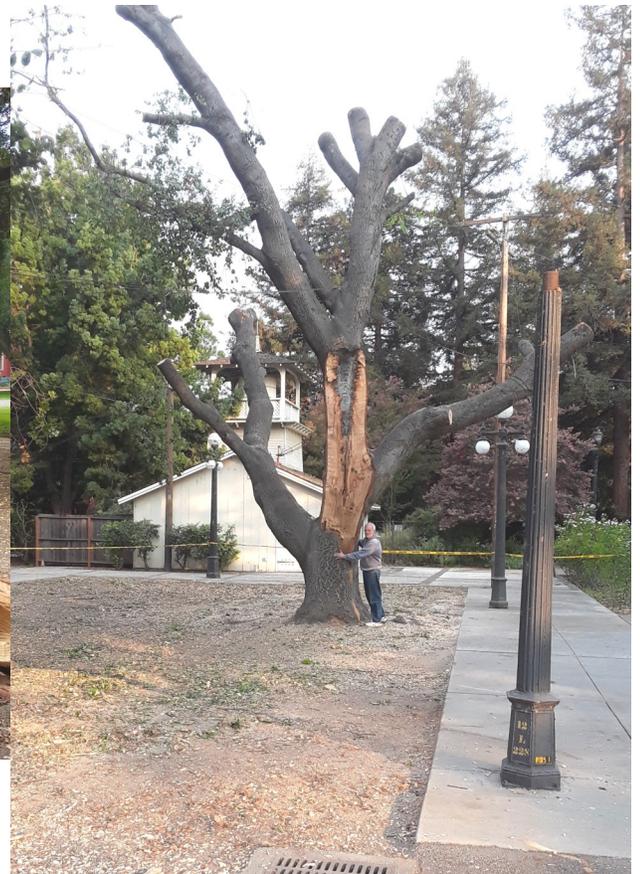
# TROLLEY BARN QUARTERLY REPORT

## FROM BOB SCHNEIDER

As expected, things have been very quiet. Or at least until mid August when a major part of the Oak in front of the Rotary House fell on our overhead wire. Fortunately the damage was limited to two broken and two bent pulloffs. On 8/25 the Facilities Team (Roger, Craig and Barry) helped Tom and I do the repairs.

The Oak broke because of a structural flaw in the main trunk and the tree was removed completely. Unfortunately, this completely eliminated the shade on the spur by the Post Office. We would also use the canopy to park the trolley during a sudden cloudburst. We could have started limited operation in early October, but we would only have had 3 weeks before the shutdown for Christmas in the Park preparation and opening on 27 November. CITP will run until 4 January 2021. During that time no trolley operations will be possible because CITP will be a drive thru by automobiles only. No pedestrians will be allowed and CITP will be held all 38 days.

Tom and I have finished the sign pole hardware for all 4 trolley stops, so the only remaining detail is content of the signs themselves.



# CALIFORNIA TROLLEY AND RAILROAD CORPORATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

ZOOM Meeting by Bill Schroh, HSJ

Thursday, August 20, 2020

**PRESENT:** Mike Kotowski, Steve Pyle, David Sylva, Bill Schroh, Bob Schneider, Jack Young, Cindy Atmore, Brandon McCracken, Rod Diridon, Rick Kitson, Art Randall, Ken Middlebrook, Larry Murchison, Claire Kotowski

**ABSENT:** Matthew Quedo, Denis Murchison, Jim Helmer, Jonathan Sieger

**CALLED TO ORDER:** President Kotowski called the meeting to order at 0907 hours

**MINUTES:** MSP Sylva/Diridon to accept the minutes of the June 18, 2020 Board of Directors' Meeting.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** General Condition of the Corporation

Donations have been received CTRC is fiscally sound. Bills have been paid including insurance through May, 2021.

The second Santa Clara County Historical Grant has been approved and paperwork has been signed. Thank you to Art Randall, David Sylva, Steve Pyle and Claire Kotowski. Thank you to Phil Reader for setting up a connection with a steam boiler specialist, Norman Comer, who can be paid from the SCCHG as a contract boiler specialist. He has been working as a boiler specialist for many years with several large engine projects in the United States. He would work in the capacity similar to Fred Bennett.

A Google grant was received in the amount of \$2,500 thanks to the work of Lynda Ramirez, Steve Pyle, Amanda Pyle and Claire Kotowski.

A grant was received from Art Lund, Trustee for the Hugh Stuart Center Charitable Trust, in the amount of \$10,000. A special thank you to Rod Diridon for soliciting this grant. Note that \$5,000 is designated for the Diridon Transportation Archives Project and \$5,000 is for CTRC operating expenses.

A grant was received from Ben Tripousis, HNTB Corporation, in the amount of \$1,000. A special thank you to Rod Diridon for soliciting this grant.

Donations have also been coming in from recipients of the CLEARBOARD publication.

**FINANCIAL REPORTING:**

A special thank you to Amanda Pyle who is helping with CTRC Bookkeeping. She and Dad Steve Pyle have been busy with managing expenses etc. for CTRC but also making the necessary bank protocols for grants and donations.

Pyle reported from Eric Heckman that CTRC investments were still in the growth mode.

MSP to accept the Treasurer's Report and Financial Reporting: Sylva/Randall

**HSJ REPORT:**

Schroh reported that HSJ has hired Monica Pelayo Lock, Director of Education, who is actively developing new on-line education programming for children. She is adapting the Peralta Adobe Education Program, and Western Ho Education Program (to name a couple of examples) to begin this process. She will be contacting members of the CTRC Board to work on new transportation-oriented programs.

Christmas In The Park is still set for November 29, 2020 to January 3, 2021. This is a drive-through event. Volunteers will start decorating for this event in late August. There will be lights and decorations on the SP 1215. One of the trolleys will be rolled out of the barn and lights installed but will not be running. The trolley will not be brought out of the barn if it is raining.

Tickets will be available on-line. Everything will be pre-sold.

Schroh also reported that he and his staff have been working with the new OSH (Outdoor Supply Hardware) who are already donating to renovate the OSH sign. He has been working with them for a donation to renovate the boxcar as well.

**NEWSLETTER**

The CTRC Newsletter *CLEARBOARD* has been emailed to 99 interested people with 289 more snail mailed. It was determined that this was one way to save money in the operating budget. Hopefully in the future there will be an increase in emailed newsletters. CTRC has received several donations from CLEARBOARD recipients. Kudos to Larry Murchison for another well done newsletter.

Murchison asked for pictures and articles of on-going work being done.

Kotowski noted that there has been activity on the CTRC Facebook page.

Karl Auerbach has not put the newsletter on the CTRC website as he and his family have been evacuated due to the fire in the Big Basin/Felton area.

Right now the *CLEARBOARD newsletter* is CTRC's primary form for communications.

**RAILROAD MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT**

Nothing new to report at this time. The pandemic has limited meetings and any forward motion.

**TROLLEY OPERATIONS**

Schneider reported that a major part of a tree by the Rotary House was downed during the major windstorm. Two pull-backs were broken free from the Trolley wiring.

Schroh is working with the City of San Jose's Parks Department's Arborist to fix the tree. CTRC will be fixing the line when it is clear. It is important to note that the VTA does not have personnel who can make these repairs.

**DIRIDON HISTORICAL COLLECTION**

Diridon reported on plans for the Trolley Barn location for the Rod Diridon Historical Transportation Collection. This will include archival materials and memorabilia. It is designated for the East Side of the barn. The wall is to be covered with barnwood which can have items hung from it. Two locked display cases are going to be procured for this project. Bam-burg is designing the project at this time. Several designated financial donations have been made and are included in the CTRC Annual budget for project as it moves forward.

**TROLLEY BARN REPAIRS**

Termite damage on the South end of the building has been identified.

**LOCOMOTIVE CREW**

Art Randall reported that the locomotive crew has been working on a preliminary hydrostatic test of the 2479 boiler. They will begin work on the cab which is included in the first part of the SCCHG.

A Quadruplex Brake dual gauge has been donated by Tom Dill, a former Southern Pacific brakeman, for use on SP 2479. The gauge is in very good condition and will be recalibrated and a glass face cover will be installed. Repair cost for these kinds of gauges which are part of the SCCHG.

Tom Rosetti has done the lettering on both sides of Engine 1215 at HSJ.

**PROCUREMENT AND CURATION**

Ken Middlebrook reported that he has contacted the Feather River Railroad group and they are closed for the rest of the year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The Coyote Depot is being considered for a possible move to HSJ. It is a small depot and would make a nice addition to the HSJ building collection. Schroh is working on how to accomplish this move.

Ken Middlebrook reported that the producers of the book of *American Depot and Roundhouses* has donated all slides of the now removed San Jose Lenzen Avenue turntable and

engine house. Middlebrook shared some of the pictures at the meeting. The San Jose's Lenzen Avenue turntable and engine house are an integral part of the CTRC collection currently being stored at the Santa Clara County Fair-grounds.

**FUND RAISING**

Schneider reported on the San Jose Rotary Grant project. The poles, benches and signs are completed but are awaiting names. When the names are com-pleted and applied to the signs, the project will be complete.

Kotowski was contacted by Supervisor Cortese's office offering another \$30,000 for the CTRC project. Another grant request packet was sent by Ko-towski to get this additional offer approved. Approval was received. This will leave a lengthy paper trail as will the first grant from Supervisor Cindy Chavez office. Middlebrook explained the process as receive a bill, pay bill, copy can-celled check to show that work is done and paid and then bill the SCCHG on a quarterly basis.

Diridon reported on the current donation of \$10,000 through Art Lund, Trustee for the Hugh Stuart Center Charitable Trust. Art Lund was an attorney for Southern Pacific Trolley Operation. The Trolley Operation was sold and the proceeds were put in this trust. The trust has contributed to CTRC for the last two years. The donation was designated as \$5,000 for the Diridon Archives Project and \$5,000 for CTRC operations. Their original donation was for \$150,000 to purchase one of CTRC's trolley.

Middlebrook is working on restoration of the caboose behind SP 1215. More to come on this as a possible donation project.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** M Kotowski announced that he and Claire Kotowski will be leaving the area in early 2021 and must resign as CEO/President and Executive Administrative Assistant to the Board of Directors effective with Feb-ruary, 2021 meeting. He asked for volunteers to server on a Selection Com-mittee to find replacements for these positions. Volunteers for this are Dave Sylva, Rod Diridon, Ken Middlebrook, Bill Schroh and Marvin Bamburg.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** President Kotowski adjourned the meeting at 1038

Respectfully submitted by: Claire Kotowski, Executive Administrative Assistant

**Were you aware** we have bonafide star among our locomotives?

In 1951, our very own Little Buttercup was used in sev-eral scenes of the movie "Santa Fe" starring Randolph Scott as a Confederate soldier who, along with his three brothers try to escape from their past by starting a new life working on the railroad in the West. In the movie, the locomotive is renumbered to "#1 the CK Holiday" and various filming Arizona and California locations were used. The movie can be found on various classic Hollywood movie channels. If Oscars were annually given out for steam locomotive performances, there is no doubt that Little Buttercup would have won in 1951.

Little Buttercup can be visited in our trolley barn at His-tory Park.



**Information**Work Schedule:

Saturday 8:30 to 3:30.

2479 Healey Avenue, San Jose

CTRC Office:

1650 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112.

Mailing Address & Phone Number:

California Trolley & Railroad Corporation

1650 Senter Road

San Jose, CA 95112

1-408-378.9157

To join please send name, address, phone number, and e-mail address if available to the mailing address above.

The CTRC is a California 501(c)(3) not for profit educational corporation established in 1982. The organization is the official support group for the Trolley Barn at San Jose History Park and the San Jose Railroad Museum Park.

CTRC's Tax ID Number is 94-28348764.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation (CTRC) is to restore and promote the legacy of rail transportation in the Santa Clara Valley.

**CTRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mike Kotowski, **President**. The **Executive Committee** is: Marv Bamburg, Chair of Museum Project, Ken Middlebrook, VP Volunteers; Larry Murchison & Rick Kitson, Co-VPs Communications; Bob Schneider, VP, Pat Buder Trolleys; Jack Young & Art Randall, Co-VPs Locomotives; David Sylva, Corp Secretary/Attorney; Steven Pyle, Treasurer. **Other Board Members** are Cindy Atmore, David Bini, Nuria Fernandez\*, Jim Helmer, Brandon McCracken, Denis Murchison, Matthew Quevedo, Johnathan Seager.

Rod Diridon, Sr., Founder/Chair Emeritus

**Board Executive Assistant** Claire Kotowski

\*ex-officio

**CTRC Staff:**

President & CEO: Michael Kotowski

VP Communications: Larry Murchison & committee Rick Kitson, Ken Middlebrook

Executive VP Museum Development: Marvin Bamburg; Consultant; Hon. Margie Matthews

VP Motive Power & Operations & Technical Director: Art Randall, committee, John Blain, Brandon McCracken & Tom Anderson

VP Trolley Operations & Restoration: Bob Schneider, Committee, Pat Butler

Corporation Secretary, Legal: David Sylva Esq.

Treasurer & Corporate Budget: Steven Pyle

Public Relations: Ken Middlebrook

Equipment Maintenance: John Zielinski

Web Site: Karl Auerbach, committee, Rick Kitson, Ken Middlebrook

Editor, Clearboard: Larry Murchison

**COMING EVENTS**

► Remember the Saturday workdays. Check with Art Randall at arandall@sonic.net for other work schedules including the 1215 beautification. All very important events. See you there.

**FIND US ON THE INTERNET**

<https://ctrc.org/>

<http://historysanjose.org/wp/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern\\_Pacific\\_1215](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Pacific_1215)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern\\_Pacific\\_2479](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Pacific_2479)

[https://www.facebook.com/Southern-Pacific-2479-Steam-  
Locomotive-159989580109/timeline/](https://www.facebook.com/Southern-Pacific-2479-Steam-Locomotive-159989580109/timeline/)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cNtjBoUH5g>

(Little Buttercup walk-around movie)

<https://www.gluseum.com/US/San-Jose/>

185593484919580/Railroads-of-California

<https://www.gluseum.com/US/San-Jose/>

114047105293462/Trolley-Barn

The next CTRC board meeting would be the annual BBQ for the volunteers and donors. Because of our friendly RNA/DNA roaming the world it is scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> as an electronic ZOOM meeting.

**California Trolley & Railroad Corporation**

1650 Senter Road  
San Jose, CA 95112

**Restoring Your Transportation Past**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**BE A FRIEND OF CTRC**

The California Trolley & Railroad Corporation strives to restore, maintain and operate the few surviving examples of our local rail history for the education and recreational benefit of current and future generations.

Like yourself, we are individuals with different backgrounds, talents, and skills who share a common interest in preserving our rail heritage. Supporters who contribute \$25 or more annually will receive our monthly announcements and our quarterly newsletter THE CLEARBOARD. Contributions of materials, equipment and skills are also welcome.



Yes, I wish to contribute to preserve our railroad heritage in the Santa Clara Valley.

ad- **THE CALIFORNIA TROLLEY AND RAILROAD CORPORATION**

Please  
dress  
check

or money order to CTRC or California Trolley & Railroad Corp.

Please accept my tax deductible gift of: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$200 \$500 \$1000 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: regular \$25, retirees and full time students \$10. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

California Trolley & Railroad Corporation  
Is a non-profit tax exempt organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of historic transportation equipment. Membership is open to all. Yearly dues help finance the Corporation goals. All donations to the corporation are tax deductible. IRS #23510C(3)