

SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER
Edited by Bill Fowler
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Sellar Nugent
August 7, 1947 - September 8, 2022

On September 8, 2022, Sellar Bullard Nugent, loving husband and father, passed away at home at Eagle Point, Oregon at the age of 75 with his wife and four daughters by his side.

Sellar was born in 1947 in Highland Park, Illinois to Carol Bullard and Richard Nugent, and spent his formative years in Ross, California as well as many summers at his family's ranch in Goleta, California.

After an honorable discharge from the Army, he began his career and passion as a locomotive engineer with Southern Pacific in San Luis Obispo, California in 1969, later settling in Atascadero, California in 1972. That path took him to Mount Shasta, California in 1984 with short stops in Goldendale, Washington and Chiloquin, Oregon before his final stop in 2002 in Eagle Point where he lived throughout his retirement.

Sellar was on the Legislative Board of the Oregon Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and spent time in Live Steamer Clubs where he worked on his home-built steam and electric trains for 7 ½ inch scale tracks, including the ones he had constructed around his homes.

Sellar is survived by his beloved wife of thirty-four years, Donna Nugent; his daughters Erin (Nugent) Nagle, Kristen (Nugent) Langager, Rene Lott, and Lisa Koopmeiners; three sons-

in-law; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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



Juanita V. Bernal
February 26, 1926 ~ September 4, 2022

Juanita V. Bernal 96 years old, born February 26, 1926, passed away on September 4, 2022 in Tucson, Arizona in her home surrounded by her family. She leaves behind her children Monica Bainum (Lee), Raymond Bernal Jr. (Cherie), Ricardo Bernal, Irma Bernal (David), as well as many grandchildren, great, and great-great grandchildren.

Mother was an extremely strong woman, years ahead of her time and had a very good and long career with Southern Pacific. Her career began at the early age of 17 when she passed the telegrapher operator exam. She retired when she was 60 years old. On July 18, 1943, mother took the No. 5 passenger train out of El Paso, Texas and was off to Bosque, Arizona for her first day as a telegrapher operator. She moved around for two years until 1945, when she was awarded her first position of duration in Sentinel, Arizona. Many telegraph operators would quit because of the frequent relocations that required constant packing and unpacking of belongings. She was alone; it was just her

and the 3 x 5 metal chest Southern Pacific had given her when she was employed. So, she would pack and unpack to go and be where they needed her to be. It was in Sentinel where she would meet the Romero family and eventually our father Raymond V. Bernal. They were married in July of 1945. At the time he was a foreman for Southern Pacific and it provided the couple an outfit car. It consisted of one bedroom, a small kitchen with a wood stove for cooking and heating. They would live in cars like this from 1945 to 1952. In 1952, they moved to Hyder, Arizona for a new position father received along with their first company housing. They lived there until 1957, when they moved to Tucson and built their first home and raised their family.

**George Martin Taylor III
September 11, 1937 ~ June 18, 2021**

George Taylor, age 83 of Redding, California, passed away at home June 18, 2021.

George Martin Taylor III was born September 11, 1937 at the Dunsmuir Hospital which was then located on Mountain Avenue in Dunsmuir, California. His father, 25-year-old George Martin Taylor II worked for Southern Pacific as a brakeman and his mother, 18-year-old Martha Gladys (King) "Jackie" Taylor was a housewife. His grandfather George Martin Taylor also worked for Southern Pacific in Dunsmuir as a civil engineer

George was educated in Dunsmuir and graduated high school in 1955. His favorite sport was football, which he played in high school and junior college. He entered the U.S. Army in June 1957. After a tour in France, George was given an honorable discharge in May 1959.

After the military, George was long employed with Southern Pacific where he worked as a brakeman, conductor, and locomotive engineer. In 1997, he retired from the railroad and began a career in real estate and lending which he enjoyed for the rest of his life.

While working for Southern Pacific, he was twice married and had three children. In 1974, his third marriage was to the love of his life, Norma Pillard. In 2021, they celebrated 47 years of marriage.

George enjoyed sports, especially football, hunting, do-it-yourself home projects, and spending time with his many friends. He and Norma traveled around the United States and South Africa where George hunted. He loved telling hunting stories.

George is survived by wife Norma; brother Alan and Alan's wife, Vicki of Rocklin, California; son Stewart of Redding, California; two daughters; eight grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and two nieces and their families.



**Maureen Wilson
1927 ~ 2022**

Maureen passed away peacefully in the San Francisco Bay Area at age 95 with family around her.

She was born to Irish immigrants in Butte, Montana, and a longtime resident of San Francisco and the East Bay. Maureen was the beloved mother of Kathleen Carr, Mickey Lagger, and the late Patrick Sullivan and mother-in-law of Wayne Lagger; loving grandmother of Sabrina, Stephen, Andrea Nicole, and Rachelle; great-grandmother of eleven; and great-great grandmother of five. She was retired from Southern Pacific. Maureen's passion was ballroom dancing. She loved spending time with family, reading, and crafting.



**Patrick C. Reams
February 10, 1951 ~ August 28, 2022**

We are celebrating Patrick Clarence Reams' life. Patrick was born on February 10, 1951 and he marched into heaven's gates like the soldier he was born to be.

Over 50 years ago, when America needed him, a 17-year old young man chose to join the front lines of an active war in Vietnam. Patrick returned home from the Marines and soon after that he married the love of his life, Davina. The song that brought them together was, "I Think I Love You." And they were right. Patrick and Davina just celebrated 50 years of marriage and had a deep understanding of what love is. He worked for Southern Pacific for a better part of his life. Rebuilding engines, lawnmowers, fishing, and most of all Vegas were just a few of Patrick's pastimes. These gifts poured out to many people who experienced abundant warmth and turned into some lifelong friendships. He was a man on whom you could depend. Patrick knew no stranger. He was a man of his word and walked in integrity. Patrick had a deep love for his parents, siblings, wife, children, and grandchildren. He consistently worked and dedicated himself to his family and friends.

On August 28th as the sun was rising, hand in hand with his best friend, he passed in peace. We remember him laughing even when no one else was. His laughter was contagious. If you were blessed enough to know Patrick, then he probably addressed you with one of his ridiculous nicknames, Bud, Pancho, or Conocho. We all look forward to spending eternity with him.

Patrick is survived by his wife Davina; daughters Wendy and Jennifer; grandchildren Sydney, Brinkley, Lulah, Lovely, Patrick, and Violet; sister Pamela; sister-in-law Susan; and Aunt Edna. He will be greatly missed by all.



Jay Havlik Espitallier
1952 ~ 2022

Jay Havlik Espitallier, 70, of Concord, California, passed away unexpectedly on August 17, 2022. He passed away in his home due to a chronic medical condition.

Jay was born and raised in Fresno, California moving to the San Francisco Bay Area while in his twenties. He proudly worked as a brakeman,

conductor, and union representative with Southern Pacific Railroad and Amtrak for many years. Jay retired from the Castro Valley Unified School District in 2019 and while there enjoyed a stint as California School Employee Association (CSEA), Chapter 52 president.

Jay loved coaching youth baseball, playing and watching golf, pruning his roses, fishing for sturgeon, camping with the family, photography (winning several awards), cruising to Alaska, playing his guitar, and had hoped one day to hike the Pacific Crest Trail.

Jay is survived by son Michael Espitallier and wife Ashley and son Andrew Fischer-Espitallier; brother Dean Espitallier; sisters Rene Mertens and Leah Quinonez; nieces Elan and Desten Mertens; nephew James Espitallier; and former spouse Nancy Espitallier. He was predeceased by parents Robert Havlik, John Espitallier, Adelaide Engineer, and brother Neal Espitallier

Lee Edward Foreman
June 13, 1939 ~ September 17, 2022

Lee Edward Foreman, 83, of Keith, Texas, formerly of Houston, Texas, passed away on September 17, 2022. Lee retired from Southern Pacific/Union Pacific after thirty-four years of service.



Robert Herschel Reed
1930 ~ 2022

It is with great sadness that we must announce the passing away of our father Robert Herschel Reed in Brentwood, California on September 9, 2022. He was 92 years young. He was surrounded by family as he peacefully slipped away and we are heartbroken to lose him.

He is survived by his sons Robert Keith and Gary Von and their wives Karen and Suzy; grandchildren, Robert James, Courtney, William, and Alex; sisters Frances and Kathy; and his long-term companion Lynda Oliver, who will all miss him dearly.

He was predeceased by his wife of forty years Willa Rae; his parents Oscar Newton and Lillie Mae; his brother Oscar Shelby; and his sisters Bernice, Jo Anne, Betty, and Dorothy.

Robert built his home in Brentwood from the ground up during 1971 through 1973, where he lived for the remainder of his life.

He was a long-term member of the Diablo A's serving as president and had driven his 1931 Model A Ford coupe all throughout the United States and Canada after doing a complete restoration in the early 1970s.

Robert was a Marine Corps combat veteran having served in Korea and Japan between 1950 and 1952. He was also a long term and very proud member of the Delta Diablo Detachment of the Marine Corps League, serving in many positions over the years.

He worked for the Southern Pacific as a fireman and then as a switchman from 1955 until his retirement in about 1992.

Editor's note: Bob Paulson commented, "Bobby hired out with Southern Pacific in engine service firing steam engines. In 1964, he opted to transfer to switching when the position of fireman was eliminated. He found a "home" at Ozol Yard and worked at that location until his retirement. Bobby restored a Model A Ford coupe and toured all over in it with his partner in crime, Lynda Oliver, who he met while playing bocce ball and they became lifetime partners."

Want to learn more about the history of Southern Pacific and support the efforts of the Southern Pacific History Center? If so, please consider joining the organization. It is easy to do. Just click on the following link and choose your membership level: <https://www.splives.org/join>.

