

SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER
Edited by Bill Fowler
September 2021



Ralph Tony Cloud Sr.
November 22, 1937 ~ August 17, 2021

Ralph Tony Cloud, Sr. "Apa," of El Paso, Texas was born on November 22, 1937. On August 17, 2021 after 83 beautiful years of life, he went to be reunited with his father Ralph Isaac Cloud, mother Guadalupe Telles Cloud, brother Roy D. Cloud, and sisters Katherine Cloud and Frances Debrhu. Ralph is survived by his wife of 63 years Romie S. Cloud; six children, Eddie, Ralph "Güero," Bryan Jeffery, Curtis J., Sandra Jean, and Martin; 13 grandchildren, six great grandchildren; and sister Olga Deguire. Not only was Ralph a dedicated family man and hard worker but he was also a leader in his community.

Ralph was a graduate of Jefferson High School in El Paso, served eight years in the U.S. Army National Guard, and retired from Southern Pacific/Union Pacific after 36 years of service. Throughout his life he coached softball, basketball, and baseball in the community and was president of the Yucca Neighborhood Association. He always kept the kids' best interests at heart and was a selfless and caring man to anyone he crossed paths with, and he always showed support and had faith in everyone. Not only did he love to help others, but he was a man who loved to tell jokes and was deeply passionate about the future of his community and always made sure to lead by example.

Annual Old Rails Dinner
Smith's Landing foot of L Street, Antioch,
California
Noon, Sunday October 17th 2021

A return to our annual dinner will take place at Smith's Landing Restaurant and Grill. We'll be gathering for a meet and greet at noon while enjoying plates of hors d'oeuvres, free non-alcoholic beverages, and a cash only no-host bar. Dinner will be served at 1:00 pm starting with salad or soup, an entrée, and dessert. We are honoring our widowed community and all widows will eat free! For all others the dinner will be \$40.00 which includes tax and gratuity.

We'll start with a salad of strawberries, arcadian field greens, crumbled goat cheese, candied pecans, crisp prosciutto and brown sugar balsamic vinaigrette, or New England-style clam chowder with clams, potatoes and bacon.

You'll pick an entrée from:

Salmon Provençal: a pan seared then oven roasted Canadian King Salmon topped with sun dried tomato pesto cream served with au gratin potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Rib Eye Steak: a 12-ounce rib eye simply grilled with a zesty house seasoning mix, topped with bleu cheese compound butter and a side of veal demi-glaze and au gratin potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Parmesan Crusted Pork Chop (the other white meat): a double cut bone-in Duroc pork chop crusted with Italian spices, Parmesan cheese

and Panko breading, flash-fried and oven roasted, and served in a pool of roasted garlic Asiago cream sauce includes au gratin potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Eggplant Parmesan: fresh eggplant breaded with Italian breadcrumbs with a blend of Parmesan and Mozzarella cheeses and topped with marinara sauce and garnished with fresh Parmesan.

Dessert will consist of Chocolate Decadence: a dense chocolate flourless cake with raspberry sauce.

If you're not satisfied, I'll be armed with coupons for Kentucky Fried Chicken!

Note: The no-host bar is a cash only bar. No credit cards or checks.

To reserve your place, send a check for \$40.00 per plate (except widows) made out to "Old Rails Club" and mail to: Bob Paulson, 2969 Putnam Blvd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-4969. Please include a note with your choice of soup or salad and entrée and note the wellness if you select the steak as R, MR, M, MW, or W for rare, medium rare, medium, medium well, and well done.

Additionally, there is an Amtrak "Depot" about 100 yards east of the Marina where the restaurant is. I'll post schedules when our date come near in case of schedule changes for those who can ride.

Call any widows with whom you are in contact and invite them to join us. The Old Rails Club is earnest about making our widows welcome at our functions, including our monthly luncheon and breakfast. I would appreciate the telephone number of all widows so we can offer a personal invitation.

Bad Order Bob Paulson S/T Old Rails Club

925-935-5527

Badorderbob4@gmail.com



Bill Stevens
1944 ~ 2021

Bill was born in 1944 in Detroit, Michigan. Bill faced many challenges and adversities through his childhood, and upon completing high school, he joined the United States Army. After training by the Army, Bill became an IS radio operator.

In 1965, Bill started his employment with Southern Pacific. Bill worked in many different areas, including in the operating department in Los Angeles and as a senior manager in the accounts receivable department in San Francisco. Bill had a major involvement with the TOPS system and the planning for its transition as a part of the proposed Southern Pacific – Santa Fe merger. Although that initiative did not receive regulatory approval, during the coordinating discussions, he met his wife Carol, who, at the time, worked for the Santa Fe, and they did have a successful merger!

In 1989, after much consideration, Bill decided to embark on a new journey. Bill became a successful mortgage lender until 2009 when diagnosed with cancer. Although treatments were not successful, he continued to live a full and active life up to the last couple months of his life.

Bill loved his career with the Southern Pacific and looked forward to reunions when he could visit and reminisce with friends he had the privilege to work with.

Editor's note: This memorial was written by Carol Stevens.

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



Jack E. Kellam
September 21, 1948 ~
August 9, 2021

Jack E. Kellam went to be with the Lord on August 9, 2021 in Corpus Christi,

Texas at the age of 72 after a lengthy illness. He was born Robstown, Texas on September 21, 1948 to Bruce and Jackie Kellam.

Jack grew up in Taft, Texas and attended schools there until the family moved to Yuma, Arizona in 1966. He graduated from Yuma High School in 1968 and went to work for Southern Pacific/Union Pacific from which he retired as a conductor in 2004.

Jack was an avid golfer, a volunteer golf coach, a little league coach, and a fisherman in his spare time. A true Texan, he was a faithful University of Texas Longhorn fan. Jack and his wife attended Real Life Fellowship in Corpus Christi where they developed many wonderful friendships.

He will be greatly missed and is survived by his wife Raili; sons William (Tonya) and Robert (Christy) of Tucson, Arizona; daughter Rebecca of Corpus Christi; step-son Brian of Corpus Christi; brother Bruce Jr. of Sacramento, California; nine grandchildren, and numerous friends and relatives.

Editor’s note: Jon Hurst said, “He hired out in June of 1968, and primarily worked out of Yuma for decades. Jack retired in Tucson in March of 2004, and had two sons who are also railroaders.

Bob Paulson, organizer of group events for retirees of the Western Division, recently provided his comments about a source alleging the taxability of Railroad Retirement benefits by states:

“It has come to my attention that some are circulating an article appearing in PocketSense, an online financial rag, that claims Railroad Retirement Benefits are taxable in some states, including California. Rest assured this is

erroneous, misleading, and alarming to say the least. Section 14 (45 US Code section 231m) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 provides that railroad retirement annuities are not taxable for individual State income tax purposes. The source of the misunderstanding lies in a misinterpretation by the state Franchise Tax Board of California that has long since been declared moot as it conflicted with Federal Law. If you have received this misinformation, please reply immediately to whoever sent the link and correct the source of the email.

“I have tried to contact PocketSense, but have run up against its firewall of protection for everyone involved with the rag. They have no credibility as far as I can tell and cite no source for their claims. “Retirement is NOT taxable by ANY state in the Union!”



Glenn L. Albarado
1942 ~ 2021

Glenn L. Albarado, 79, of Lafayette, Louisiana, died on August 19, 2021.

Survivors include his loving wife of 48 years, Nancy Degeyter Albarado of Lafayette; one daughter, Amy Alexandria Albarado of Lafayette; four sons, Troy Anthony Albarado of Scott, Blake Jude Albarado and his wife, Ronette of Conroe, Texas, Shane Louis Albarado and his wife Dana of Mandeville, Louisiana, and Corey James Albarado and his wife, Lecy of Lafayette; two step daughters, Julie Rae Jernigan and her husband, Bryan of Arlington, Virginia and Jill Marie Guilbeau of Lafayette; six grandchildren, Kip Albarado, Marti Albarado, Chase Albarado, Joshua Albarado, Mason Guilbeau, and Peyton Jernigan; one great granddaughter, Mercy Albarado, and two nephews, Charlie Albarado and Patrick Albarado.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ludovic Albarado and Amy Latour Albarado and one brother, Titus "TuTu" Ward Albarado.

Glenn was a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He worked for Southern/Union Pacific for 40 years.

He drove a school bus for the Lafayette Parish School Board for 10 years. Glenn's passion was watching horse racing and playing bouree'.



The above postcard image is from the collection of Jim Wood, courtesy of the Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society.

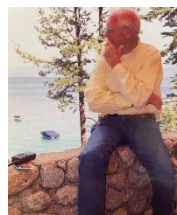
Prominent in the distance in the photo above are the snowsheds east of Tunnel 8 near Donner Summit. These original Central Pacific tracks became Track 1 when the summit tunnel 41 was completed. The paved road in the foreground is the original Highway 40 over Donner Summit, now Donner Pass Road. Railroad tracks were removed from these sheds in the 1990s, and this section of Highway 40 was bypassed by I-80 in the late 1950s.

As some of you know, the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center has recently introduced a new website: <https://www.splives.org/>. Please take time to explore it, as it is full of content, and it is the intent of the History Center team to keep the site updated, particularly the slide show on the Home page. If you believe any content is inaccurate, missing, or requires expansion, or if you have Southern Pacific-related photos, videos, or documents for posting on website, send your comments or content to splives@splives.org. Finally, please note that the site has a Forum area. This has been created to allow readers to exchange ideas about the history of the Southern Pacific System.

Clark Stewart 1940 ~ 2021

Trevor and Jason Stewart wrote, "It is with great sadness to inform everyone that our father, Clark Stewart passed away on August 26, 2021. Since his stroke in December 2019, he has been living in El Sobrante, California with his wife, enjoying retired life. Even with his speech and body not at 100%, his love for trains was with him until the end. Dad spoke often about the "Highballers" and all of his train friends. Dad definitely missed seeing all of you. Bob Paulson added, "Clark was a switchman for Southern Pacific at West Oakland when he hired out in 1972. He went into engine service in April, 1977 and was in the same Western Division class with me. He transferred to Amtrak in 1986. He took a Railroad Retirement disability annuity about 20 years ago or so after a freight train collided into his stopped Amtrak train at Sacramento Depot. Clark was 81."

Southern Pacific retiree groups are again meeting for breakfast and lunch, and in recognition of these events, the Calendar page on the Southern Pacific Journey website is being updated as information is received. If your organization should be included, please advise Bill Fowler at billfowler@southernpacifictourism.org.



James Birdsall Dobbas January 12, 1931 ~ July 31, 2021

James "Jim" Birdsall Dobbas passed away on July 31, 2021, in Sattley, California in the comfort of his home with his surrounding family. His cause of death was cancer.

Jim was raised in Auburn, California at Aeolia Heights with his mother Blair and father Dorman 'Big Jim' Dobbas. Dorman would instill the love of running cattle and driving trucks from ranch to ranch in his son Jimmy. Beyond life on the

ranch, some of Jim's fondest childhood memories were the summers spent in Meeks Bay, Lake Tahoe at the family cabin. During his teenage years, it was at Placer High School that he would listen to logging trucks run-up and down Lincoln Way, anxiously waiting to get out of class to get back in the truck and grab gears. It was there he met his girlfriend Barbara MacKenzie and the high school sweethearts would marry in 1952; in time they welcomed their two children Denny and Donny.

Jim lived an extraordinary life. As a young man he read every truck and equipment magazine he could get his hands on. "At the time, I thought I was the only one so obsessed with loud motors and diesel smoke," he told *Wheels of Time Magazine*.

His experience with trucks would land him a job with Cal Ida hauling logs. In 1968, he would take his Peterbilt truck and launch his own business in trucking transportation, under his namesake Jim Dobbas, Inc. "I formed the business on April 1st, 1968, April Fool's Day, [as] I figured it was a good day because I didn't think the company would make it anyway." He chuckled. Jim Dobbas, Inc. started in the living-room of the family's home, and the house line remained the same phone number for the business for 53 years.

On the morning of April 28, 1973, Jim's trucking career would change forever. He was startled by the sound of bombs going off at the Southern Pacific's rail yard in Roseville, California. Jim jumped in his truck and hustled to find utter chaos. It was there that his 'clean-up work' launched for Southern Pacific developed into railroad derailment services company throughout Northern California, Nevada, Utah, and Southern Oregon. Jim would spend nearly the next thirty years (on call) 24 hours a day re-railing trains for multiple railroad companies in the Western Region of the United States. He was a fearless entrepreneur. No task or job was ever too large. If Jim wasn't out there himself doing the job, rest assured one of his many trusted employees of the company were, a career that could only be described as hell on wheels.

In 1990, Jim proudly entrusted the business to his son Don, who he knew would expand the company's reputation in the railroad industry. Jim found his happy place in a little town called Sierraville north of Truckee, California. For the next 30 years, Jim spent his life on the ranch running cows in the Sierras. Raising cattle and conserving our Western Heritage was Jim's way of life. He and his wife Carol thrived together in their passion for their Angus-based commercial cow herd, all while exhibiting the true importance of land stewardship. Jim held a soft spot in his heart and a great deal of respect for livestock.

Jim was a long-time member of the California Cattlemen's Association. He was thoroughly committed to supporting the local 4-H, FFA and the Junior Livestock Auction programs.

Of all the passions that Jim had throughout his life, one predominantly captivated his whole being: the love for antique trucks. He was an avid antique truck owner and collector. The deep passion he had for scouting trucks from miles away was extraordinary. Anything from a logging truck, fire truck, to an army truck, he saw a piece of gold in each.

We remember a man who lived every single day with purpose and passion and who had great love for his Auburn and Sierraville communities. He was a man of fearless devotion to his craft. A man that left his mark on many lives. A man whose legacy will live on forever. Jim is survived by his wife Carol, beloved dog George, stepfamily, daughter Kacie (Jace), grandson Lathan, niece Amy; his children Denny and Don (Linda) and grandchildren Heather, Hannah, Farrah (Mark), Dillon (Madison); and great grandchildren Coleman, Allie, Dane, and Grant. Jim also now joins hands with his granddaughter Brittany in heaven.

Editor's note: Jim Dobbas had a long-time relationship with Southern Pacific, and he was viewed by many as very dependable and professional.

2021 Railroaders' Reunion In San Antonio



SSW 7657 West, MBSMF, traveling through San Antonio on August 28, 1982. Photo by Stuart Schroeder.

Saturday, November 13, 2021
10:30 am – 6:00 pm
Raymond Russell Park
20644 IH-10 W
San Antonio, Texas
Pre-lunch snacks and lunch provided
BYOB and bring your favorite dessert if you'd like

RSVP by **September 30, 2021** to Norma Morris at 210-854-6559 (text or voice message, please)
or by email to nloumors@aol.com.

**Southern Pacific and Cotton Belt Reunion
April 24th through April 27th, 2022
Tucson, Arizona**



SP 8145 West at Nerska (Chicago), Illinois on October 10, 1994. Photo by Sean Graham-White.

The reunion will be held at the DESERT DIAMOND RESORT (<http://ddcaz.com/tucson/>) in Tucson from April 24, 2022 through April 27, 2022 (with checkout on April 28, 2022). Rates for the rooms will be \$99.00 per night, plus 12.5% tax and \$2.00 per day occupancy tax. Included are a \$10.00 per room food credit for each night and can be redeemed at any of the dining outlets at the hotel or casino; transportation to and from the airport; transportation to and from the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum (the cost to tour the museum is \$14.99 per person); access to the Business Center; complimentary wireless internet access; cable TV, and concierge services.

The DDR is located at 7350 S. Nogales Highway, Tucson, Arizona 85756. For reservations call 877-777-4212 or 520-342-3012. Please use group number 836213 or make reference to SPRR.

The plan is for attendees to arrive on Sunday, April 24, 2022, and depart on Thursday, April 28, 2022. DDR will provide our customary dinners for the evening of arrival and the last night (April 27, 2022) before departure. (Dinners will be \$30 per person for each of the two nights). Door prizes will be awarded during the dinners.

Of interest in the area: Old Tucson Studios (<http://oldtucson.com/>), Arizona Sonora Desert Museum (<http://desertmuseum.org/>), Saguaro National Park (<http://www.nps.gov/sagu/index.htm>), Reid Park Zoo (<http://reidparkzoo.org/>), Pima Air & Space Museum (<http://www.pimaair.org/>), and more.

For more information, please call Virginia Rodriguez at 281-487-4961 or Leon Roesler at 281-424-4307.

We hope to see you there.