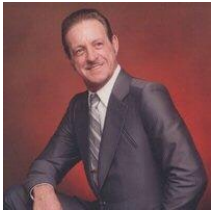


**SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER**  
**Edited by Bill Fowler**  
**February 2021**



**Paul Clayton Boudreaux**  
**Nov 17, 1938 ~ Jan 2, 2022**

Paul Clayton Boudreaux, who passed away in Lake Charles, Louisiana on January 2, 2022, was born on November 17, 1938, in Youngsville, Louisiana to Dennis and Noelee Boudreaux.

He grew up in Lake Charles, and at age nineteen he enlisted into the United States Army. He was stationed in Germany following World War II where he was involved in rebuilding military bases. He received an honorable discharge, returning home after three years of service.

He was a proud father to his three children, and he was employed with Southern Pacific as a carman at Lake Charles. He worked long hours to provide for his family, but he was ever present in their lives. Together he and his children enjoyed many camping trips to Toledo Bend, Louisiana, where he taught them how to set up camp and fish to provide for themselves, never missing a chance for a tall tale to be told around the campfire. Friday nights were reserved for family trips to Borden's Ice Cream Shop.

The character traits his family loved about him, he learned honestly from his parents. His mother gifted him the ability to tell the perfectly believable tall tale, his father the ability to make anyone laugh.

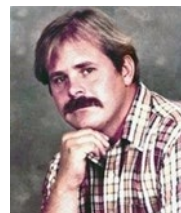
After retirement, he still enjoyed camping, he and Bonnie traveled throughout the United States to enjoy the sights and beauty provided by nature. In most recent years, he was residing at the Southwest Veterans Home, where his

shenanigans and jokes were in full supply. He always welcomed a visit from his family unless it was a Monday when he never missed a bingo game.

He was welcomed into Heaven by son, Clayton Paul Boudreaux; great granddaughter, Rita Reado; wife, Millie Boudreaux; and brother, Dennis Ray Boudreaux.

Those left to cherish his memory and continue coining his best jokes are his wife of fourteen years, Bonnie Boudreaux; two daughters, Jackie (David) Benoit and Geri Boudreaux; six grandchildren; ten great grandchildren; three great great grandchildren; two brothers, Tommy (Sarah) Boudreaux, David (Teri) Boudreaux; and a sister, Emily (Glynne) Lanier.

Do you want to know and learn more about the history of Southern Pacific and have access to articles about the Southern Pacific by former employees of the Southern Pacific? Please consider joining the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center <https://www.splives.org/plans-pricing>.



**Kenneth Otto**  
**July 11, 1951 ~ January 3, 2022**

On January 3, 2022, Kenneth was called home to his heavenly father. He was surrounded by his wife and children at home. He loved and cherished his family and friends. He will always

be remembered for his kindness, compassion, and sense of humor.

He was born in Gillette, Wyoming and later moved to South Dakota, moving again to Lewiston, California, and when in Junior High moving to Los Banos. He graduated with the class of 1969 at Los Banos Union High School, after which he attended Modesto Jr College.

After college, he went to work for Southern Pacific/Union Pacific in Fresno, California for 42 years. He was a clerk, agent, and dispatcher for 17 years, and then a yardmaster for 25 years.

He also was a heating and air conditioning contractor often not requiring payment from those he knew would have struggle to honor his invoices.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Faye and Kenneth W. Otto; in-laws James and Ruby Kizer; and brother Patrick Michael Quinn. He is survived by his wife Teresa (Kizer) Otto; his daughter Jennifer Scoyni and husband John; his sons Benjamin and wife Sarrah and Chad and wife Anna; grandchildren, Trent Scoyni, Faye Otto, and Conrad Otto; sister Terrie Van Skike; sisters-in-law Sandra Alves and Sharon Scaggs and husband Randy; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Editor's note: Paul Turney says, "He was a really great guy, and I knew him when he was the yardmaster in Fresno. He was too young to be gone."



**Eugene Travis Calk**  
**November 4, 1942 ~ January 8, 2022**

Eugene Travis Calk, 79, of Boerne, Texas, passed away on January 8, 2022, from complications with pneumonia following a two-decade battle with Parkinson's.

Eugene (Gene) was born on November 4, 1942, to Margaret (Maggie) Campbell and Travis (Joker) Marshall Calk in San Antonio. After

Eugene graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1960, he hired on with Southern Pacific before joining the Navy in 1963. He was stationed in Hawaii and served in the Vietnam War on the destroyer U.S.S. Renshaw as a gunner's mate. After the war, Eugene served in the Navy Reserves until he was honorably discharged in 1969.

On a road trip through California with friends in 1967, Eugene met the love of his life, Jo Ann, on a beach in Malibu. They married on July 12, 1968, in Canoga Park, California. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Boerne, where they bought land and a little house and started putting down life-long roots.

In 1971, he returned to the Southern Pacific working as a brakeman/conductor. In 1972, Melissa Ann was born, followed by Heather Lee in 1977. He retired from Union Pacific in 2007.

In 2021, he became a resident of Hill Top Village Nursing Care Center in Kerrville, Texas, where he resided until his passing.

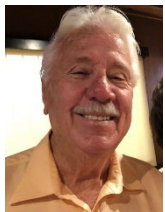
Over the years, Gene served the Boerne community in a variety of ways. He was a member of the Lions Club with his dear friends Diane and Don Backer. He was a director with the Boerne Berges Fest and a 25-year-long member of the conservation organization Ducks Unlimited.

Gene did not let Parkinson's slow him down. He was a highly skilled woodworker. He loved every part of the creation process and was always on the lookout for downed trees to be his next project. He built beautiful mantels, tables and stools that many people are lucky to have in their homes today.

He also was an avid golfer and continued to play golf until recent years. He loved the outdoors, including fishing, hunting, and boating. For thirty years, Gene and his "hunting buddies" spent a couple of weeks each year hunting in Durango, Colorado. The trips eventually involved more golfing and less hunting, but the tradition continued for many years.

Gene loved spending time driving around with his beloved dogs. He always had a soft spot for animals, often bringing them home to his daughters when he worked for Southern Pacific. While a resident at Hill Top Village, he joined the ASPCA to contribute to animal abuse awareness.

Gene was preceded in death by both of his parents, Maggie and Joker, and his younger sister, Jenny Lee Calk. He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann Calk; daughters Melissa Calk Martin and Heather Calk Smurr; their husbands, Kevin Martin and Tyler Smurr; four grandchildren; his sister, Jo Anne Glasscock; and several nieces and nephews and their children.



**William M Whaley**  
**September 12, 1942 ~ January 13, 2022**

William M Whaley, age 79, of Benson, Arizona passed away on January 13, 2022.

Editor's note: Jon Hurst said, "Bill was a Tucson Division switchman, yardmaster, and company officer. He hired out in Tucson as a switchman in March of 1964 and was promoted to yardmaster three years later. In the late 1970s, he became a company officer and was at that capacity in Yuma, Tucson, and if memory serves, El Paso."



**Claude Joseph Borel, Jr.**  
**June 26, 1955 ~ January 27, 2022**

Claude Joseph Borel was born on June 26, 1955, in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana. He died on January 27, 2022, at the age of sixty-six. He had three sons Dwayne, Claude III, and the late Jeremy Borel. To support his family, he was employed for 34 years with Southern Pacific/Union Pacific. He was track foreman and machine operator and received many awards, accolades, and certificates of recognition. He was a member of True Friends of LaPointe, Louisiana for 20 years where he

served as a board member and secretary. He was a founding member of St. Rose of Lima Knights of Peter Claver Council No. 242 and served for 15 years. He served as a secretary/treasurer of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees.

When Mr. Claude's health noticeably declined, we later learned that his brain was accommodating dementia. Over the years, he progressively lost some of his speech, movement, and his memory. However, Claude never lost his sense of humor.

He maintained his sense of dignity and respect and would address his guests and care providers by sir and ma'am.

Most importantly, he kept his love for his family. He still had memories of his late beloved son Jeremy. We know many others have their own special memories of Mr. Claude Borel. May your fond memories never fade.

He is survived by his two sons, Dwayne Borel (Marcella) and Claude Borel, III (Rekeisha Thomas, fiancée); two brothers, Michael Borel and Scotty Borel (Rachael) both of Breaux Bridge; two sisters, Debra Johnson (Curtis) and Carleen Matthews (Alonza) both of Lake Charles, LA; his grandchild, Dylan Borel; and the mother of his children, Mary Jane Calais Borel.



**Michael L. Burke**  
**February 5, 1944 ~ January 12, 2022**

Michael L. Burke, 77, of Naples, Florida, passed away on January 12, 2022 after a two-week fierce fight with MRSA sepsis.

Michael was born on February 5, 1944, in Los Angeles, California. After Michael graduated from South Gate High School in South Gate, California, he pursued a degree in history at Long Beach State University.

He married the love of his life, Carol J. Burke, on September 2, 1966 in Long Beach,

California. Michael and Carol raised two children, Lisa and Sean.

Michael served in the United States Navy from July 15, 1967 through November 17, 1971.

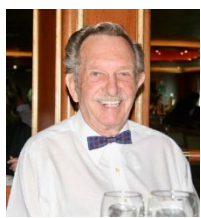
Michael worked in the railroad industry for over 40 years beginning as a switchman and rising quickly to the executive ranks. He remained passionate about the industry even in retirement. His railroad career took him to many places including California, Texas, and Swaziland.

Michael retired in 2010 to enjoy time with his wife, Carol, and spend time pursuing his favorite hobbies: golf, entertainment, and friends. Michael was a proud member of the Naples Yacht Club and Naples Grande Country Club. In addition, he loved spending time at Artis-Naples for shows with Carol.

Michael is survived by his wife, Carol (York) Burke of Naples; daughter, Lisa Gray (Tyler) of The Woodlands, Texas; son, Sean Burke (Christina) of Gilbert, Arizona; and six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Editor's note: Mike Mohan said, "I played a major role in getting him promoted from Links yardmaster in Los Angeles to assistant trainmaster. That turned out to be to the great benefit of Southern Pacific and the entire industry. He was one of the best."

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



**Jerry Wayne Richins**  
**April 2, 1939 ~ January 1, 2022**

Jerry Wayne Richins died home in Syracuse, Utah on January 1, 2022 after a full and happy life. He was the son of Wayne and Dora Richins, born on April 2, 1939. He grew up in

Ogden, Utah and graduated from Ben Lomond High School in 1957. He served in the Army, then joined his grandpa and father working for the Southern Pacific in Ogden.

He was married to DeeAnn Nelson Richins for 56 years. They raised a family in San Jose California from 1970-1999. Upon retirement he and his family moved to Syracuse, Utah.

He left a large family that loved him dearly. He left his friends and family with so many cherished memories. He was always full of fun, teasing, singing little songs, telling stories, seeing the humor in situations, and enjoying his family and all their activities.

He was a good man with a big heart and he was a notable example of generosity and caring.

He will be missed so much; our lives will never be the same without him.



**Eugenia E. Traverso**  
**January 5, 1936 ~ December 19, 2021**

Eugenia lived her entire life in Richmond, California and graduating from Richmond Union High School in 1954. Soon after, she began her career with Southern Pacific and retired after 42 years of service.

She was the devoted daughter of the late Annie and Lorenzo Traverso; her father was an Italian immigrant and she was immensely proud of her Genoese heritage.

Eugenia passed away surrounded by those who loved and cared for her. She is survived by her caring cousin, Margaret Accornero Baker, Ben Baker, and Joan and Gene Traverso. Eugenia also left behind good friends Mark and Beth Rietdorf and Cathy Blanchard, as well as her wonderful caregivers, Rosa, Ben, and Emily. She loved to drive and take road trips throughout the western states, including visits to see family in Plymouth in Amador County, California considering it her second home. She was an excellent baker and enjoyed sharing her



tasty treats with friends, especially during the holidays. Eugenia was a very giving person and always appreciated phone calls and visits. She was a member of the Richmond Galileo Auxiliary, ICF and was a Eucharistic minister for many years at St. Cornelius Church.



**Arthur W. Nichols**  
**1938 ~ 2021**

Arthur "Art" William Nichols, age 83, of Roseville, California passed away on December 30, 2021.

He was a graduate of Roseville high school in 1957. Art was a conductor for Southern Pacific and worked for it for 25 years, retiring in September 1986. He was a veteran of the United States Army. Art was a quiet guy, had a great sense of humor, liked to watch the grandkids and family play sports, and took pride in his yardwork and pool. He enjoyed family gatherings at the house, enjoyed time with his wife, his son, his grandkids and family.

He was a beloved husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather, uncle, and friend. Art was preceded in death by his mother, Irene Nichols, his father Art Nichols Sr, and brother Jon Nichols. He is survived by his loving wife Patricia "Pat" Nichols of 51 years; his son Mitchell Nichols, his wife and their two children, Madison and Tyler Nichols; his stepson Steve Brock, his wife and his two children Nikki Sutton and Kyle Brock; two great grandchildren Braeden and Mathew Sutton; his brother Ken Nichols; and many nieces and nephews.



**Michael Edward Gillivan**  
**March 31, 1942 ~**  
**September 12, 2021**

Michael Edward Gillivan, a longtime resident of Flagstaff, Arizona, died of cancer and COPD on September 12, 2021 in Encinitas, California.

He was born on March 31, 1942 in Cincinnati, Ohio, to John and Kitty Gillivan. He was raised in Orinda, California, and was a proud graduate

of Miramonte High School's second class in 1960. He also attended Pasadena City College and Los Angeles State University. He was a veteran of the US Air Force, serving in Arizona, and in Florida and Europe during the Cuban missile crisis. After his discharge, he went to work for Southern Pacific, and for nearly 40 years was a locomotive engineer.

Mike loved the 49ers, his cats, his trains, and his family. He was a world-wide traveler, going everywhere except the Antarctic. He is survived by sisters Mari Alper (Craig) of Hendersonville, North Carolina; Patricia Pollock (Robert) of Encinitas, California; brothers James (Judy) of Walnut Creek, California and Richard (Kathy) of San Clemente, California; numerous nieces and nephews; wonderful friends; and "Jinxie."

We love you and miss you, Engineer Mike!  
Clear track ahead - highball!

**Wanted: Oral histories of former Southern Pacific System employees. If you wish to contribute, please contact Bill Fowler at [billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org](mailto:billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org).**