

SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER
Edited by Bill Fowler
April 2025



Loy Dell Kaltwasser
July 31, 1931 ~ December 22, 2024

Loy Dell was born on a farm in Fayette County, Texas to Theo and Edna Kaltwasser on July 31, 1931, and was the second youngest of 11 children. At 17, he graduated from Fayetteville High School, left home and moved to Houston, where he worked at Memorial Hospital Pharmacy. There he met Jo Rita Mitchell. They married on June 10, 1950. Loy Dell worked for Southern Pacific for many years in Houston from which he eventually retired.

A man of few words, Loy Dell was known for his unwavering fairness, honesty, and strong work ethic. He dedicated himself to his family, his faith, and his community as an active member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church since 1960.

Loy Dell was a skilled craftsman who built the two homes his family lived in, and a camper for family trips throughout Texas and Arkansas, including their favorite spot at Richie's River Bend on the Frio River. He loved camping, fishing, gardening, especially growing his prized tomatoes, and dancing. A hardworking and active father and grandfather, Loy Dell taught his children and grandchildren practical life skills like budgeting, driving, and German engineering.

Loy Dell is survived by his wife, Jo Rita; his daughter, Deborah, wife of Favez Majzoub; four

grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughters, Cynthia Lappe and Judith Watson.

Loy Dell will be remembered as a man of integrity, strength, and quiet devotion to his family and faith. His legacy of hard work and dedication will live on through the lives he touched.



Robert Walter Hurley
April 9, 1948 ~
February 19, 2025

Robert Walter Hurley, a resident of Eugene, Oregon, went to be with his Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ on February 19, 2025. He was born April 9, 1948 in Tacoma, Washington to Barbara and Arthur Buzzard and was quickly followed by three more siblings, Gary, Libby, and Art. Their father left the family after Art was born and their mom was left to raise four busy, creative little ones by herself.

Bob married his wife, Marcella Hurley, in 1977, who brought her daughter, Michelle, into the family. Later, Bob and Michelle, were blessed with son, Trevor. Many years later, Marcella and Bob became proud grandparents.

Bob worked for Southern Pacific and Union Pacific for 36 years, retiring as a switchman. During, the last 10 years of his railroad career,

he also served as the UTU local chairman for switchmen, enjoying working with and being an advocate for those whom he represented.

Did you know that there is a monthly newsletter published by the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center? It is known as the *Bulletin*, and is edited by Pete Baumhefner, who was an assistant superintendent of the Los Angeles Division. Not only does it provide updates about the History Center, but includes stories by former employees of Southern Pacific about their experiences during their careers at Southern Pacific. To access all of the editions of the Bulletin, please click on the following link: <https://splives.org/sprhc-bulletin/>. You need to be a registered with the History Center's website to access the Bulletin, and prompts are provided for registration. If you encounter difficulties, please email me at billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org and assistance will be provided.

Joe S. Garcia
May 2, 1943 ~ February 7, 2025

Joe S. Garcia, 81 of Roseville, California passed away on February 7, 2025 surrounded by family. He was born on May 2, 1943, in Fowler, California and moved to Roseville as a child.

Joe was a 1962 graduate of Roseville High School and worked for the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific until his retirement.

He was a Roseville West Little League coach for over 20 years, and was an avid golfer who enjoyed playing with his brothers and many friends. He was also a huge Los Angeles Dodger fan.

Joe will be missed by his wife of 60 years, Linda; daughter Monda Leatherman (Kurt); sister Eva Marin; brothers Fred (Marti), Roy (Debbie), and Sal (Pat); sister-in-law and brother-in-law Diana and Bill Peterson; and many nieces and

nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents Ruth and Julio Martinez and brother Eddie Martinez.

He will truly be missed by many.



Kenneth (Kenny) Freeden
Naucner

November 4, 1958 ~ March 5, 2025

Kenny was born November 4, 1958, in Fontana, California, son of Philip Edwin Naucner and Lorraine Leone LaBonte Naucner.

Kenny and family lived in Indio, California until age of 7, when his family moved to Fontana, California. He attended St Joseph's Academy, Alder Junior High School, and Fontana High School (Fo Hi). Kenny started showed an interest in music at an early age and played the saxophone in junior high school. At Fo Hi, Kenny perfected his talent and love of music by playing several horn instruments in marching band, honors band, and stage band. Kenny graduated from Fontana High School in 1976.

Kenny followed in his dad's and uncle's footsteps becoming a career railroader, working first for Southern Pacific and later Union Pacific, working in various capacities, but eventually becoming a well-respected corridor manager. Kenny was well liked by rank-and-file and managers. Kenny retired from railroad service after 44 years of service due to health issues.

After retiring, Kenny married his next-door neighbor, Cindy. They became each other's true loves. Kenny formed several lasting friendships throughout his life and stayed in touch with as many as he could.

Kenny and Cindy lived life to the fullest as evidenced by travels, cooking, pool parties, restaurant hopping, family gatherings, celebrations, playing in the yard with dogs Dale, JJ, and Lady, road trips, phone calls to friends, watching Jeopardy every night and getting most of the answers right, telling stories, constantly laughing, enjoying music, going to concerts and

railroad retirement breakfasts, and genuinely enjoying life!

Kenny was preceded in death by his parents Philip and Lorraine and older brother Philip.

Kenny is survived by his stepmother Laura; beloved wife, Cindy and her children Chris and Caleb; sister Lisa, and her two children.

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

Norden sheds constructed in 1925 survived the fire. The reconstructed sheds at Norden after the fire were concrete. The fire reportedly was started by a worker's long johns left over a stove to dry.]

If you have an announcement about a Southern Pacific reunion of any kind, seeking information about anyone who may have worked for Southern Pacific, or have ideas for a Southern Pacific story, please email billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org.

The following is from the Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society's March 2025 Newsletter:

Roseville Press-Tribune, Nov. 16, 1961.
"DONNER SNOWSHED FIRE CRIPPLES SP.
Norden, Calif. — Two hundred men worked today to repair 1,250 feet of mainline Southern Pacific track wrecked by a fire which destroyed a long snowshed. T.F. Custer, SP chief dispatcher in Sacramento, said three crews were dispatched from Roseville at 8:30 this morning to begin repairing the track. He said that the fire is out ... (and) it will be midnight tonight before the tracks will be reopened to traffic. Meanwhile all freight trains are being held in Roseville... Two trains, the east and west bound City of San Francisco passenger trains, were rerouted through Marysville... The fire, just west of Donner Summit, broke out last night in the house of a section foreman and quickly spread to the shed. The shed collapsed onto the tracks and important station and interlocking equipment also was destroyed by the fire.... Three fire trains were rushed to the spot and hundreds of workers fought the fire and cleared the tracks through the night. The sheds are wooden structures designed to keep the heavy snow off the tracks." [Ed. Note: Only the experimental concrete portions of the