

SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER
Edited by Bill Fowler
December 2022



Some of you may have noticed that the newsletter has recently been published later than in the past. There is a reason for that. Many of my duties at the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center have required immediate attention.

One important initiative I am involved with is collecting Southern Pacific documents, photos, slides, drawings, and more for preservation and sharing those with as many people as possible who have an interest in Southern Pacific's rich history.

This is literally a race against time and I ask for your support in two ways so that we can publish as much of this material as possible on the History Center's website <https://www.splives.org/> during 2023 and beyond.

First, you can become a member of the History Center by clicking on the following link: <https://www.splives.org/join>. You can sign up with just a few key strokes, or you can download an application, complete it, and send it to the History Center by snail mail. Or if you wish to merely donate to the History Center, click on the following link: <https://www.splives.org/donate>.

You can also donate your Southern Pacific related items to the History Center. If you wish to do this, please send an email to splives@splives.org with information about your collection and we will respond promptly.

Willard "Bill" Tatum
April 23, 1927 ~ November 2, 2022

Willard "Bill" Lovell Tatum, aged 95, passed away on November 2, 2022 in Elk Grove, California.

He was born in Oakland, California, and is survived by his wife Joan Banner Tatum; children, Jennie Nitta (Mark), Elizabeth Hill (Tony); bonus children David Hill (Christie), Becky Alexander (Richard), Melissa Hill, and Sheri Berger (Jeff); nine grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

Bill served in the United States Army during WWII and worked for the Southern Pacific and Amtrak as a locomotive engineer. In retirement, he volunteered as a locomotive engineer at the California State Railroad Museum for many years; was a Third Degree Master Mason; and a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.



Normie Lee Taylor
January 10, 1947 ~
November 14, 2022

Normie Lee Taylor, son of Glen Wyatt Taylor and Bertha Mae Taylor, passed away in Houston, Texas on November 14, 2022.

He was valedictorian of the Aldine, Texas High School class of 1964 and was an electrical engineering major at the University of Houston. He was a locomotive engineer for

Southern Pacific and subsequently Union Pacific.

He avidly enjoyed Bible study, gardening, fishing, boating, and swimming activities.

Normie was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by a “family of childhood friends,” Raymond and Mary Frances Matthews, Orian and Rhonda Woodyard, James Rogerson, Gerald Wesbrook, and Patricia LeBlanc, as well as John P, Jennifer, John R, and Kaitlyn Ogden.

eliminated, especially at the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility in Long Beach.

Barney will always be remembered for his sharp sense of humor, his opinions, and for his love of life.

Editor’s note: This memorial was written by Pete Baumhefner, a former assistant superintendent of the Los Angeles Division.

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

Remembering Ronald (Barney) Zittsman

Former Southern Pacific Railroad locomotive engineer, Barney Zittsman, passed away recently after a brief and sudden illness.

Barney worked on Southern Pacific’s Los Angeles Division and was well liked by his fellow crew members. His is most remembered for not putting up with any nonsense, especially when it came to efficiency testing by Division officers. When stopped for an efficiency test and officers came into the cab of the locomotive, Barney was always ready with timetable, rule book and railroad approved watch. If Barney sensed one of the officers didn’t really know what they were doing, he would “turn the tables” and start questioning the intent of the particular rule that was in discussion.

Barney was chosen to participate as an “on the ground” expert in a joint Southern Pacific/American President Lines (APL) quality process team formed to improve the reliability of APL’s double stack trains operating on Southern Pacific. His input was extremely valuable to the team, giving it insight into areas where delays could be reduced and/or