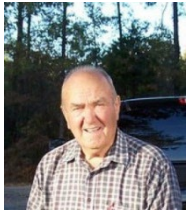


**SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER**  
**Edited by Bill Fowler**  
**July 2022**



**Willie Harold Fergusson**  
**June 15, 1929 ~ June 10, 2022**

Willie Harold Fergusson, age 92, of Sulphur Springs, Arkansas, went to be with the Lord on June 10, 2022. He had been lovingly cared for in his grandson Garrett's home, in Greenbrier, Arkansas since the passing of his wife Frances.

He was born June 15, 1929, to Laclede and Marie Raymick Fergusson.

He was a veteran of the United States Army having served during the Korean Conflict.

He retired, after forty-two years and eight months of service, from the Cotton Belt in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

He was a longtime member of Sulphur Springs Baptist Church, and a former member of the Mason's, White Sulphur Lodge.

He was preceded in death by his wife of sixty-six years, Frances Fox Fergusson, whom he married July 21, 1955, at Pine Bluff; his parents; and a brother, V. L. "Bebo" Fergusson.

He is survived by his daughter, Lisa Fergusson Henderson (Randy) of McGehee, Arkansas; a son, Jeff Fergusson of Quitman, Arkansas; a grandson, Garrett Fergusson (Gracie); granddaughters, Hadleigh Fergusson, Ainsley Fergusson; a great-grandson, Sawyer Fergusson; a great-granddaughter, Paylin

Fergusson; and many beloved nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

**David "Brother" Guidry**  
**January 10, 1938 ~ June 11, 2022**

David Guidry, age 84, passed away on June 11, 2022 in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Mr. Guidry was a native of Carencro, Louisiana and longtime resident of Lafayette. A devoted catholic, Mr. Guidry was a parishioner of St. Peter's Catholic Church. He retired from Southern Pacific after 42 years of service as a clerk. He enjoyed woodworking.

Survivors include his wife of sixty-four years, the former Maria Deanna Huval; four sons, Lonnie Guidry, M.D. and his wife, Kim of Carencro, Martin "Marty" Guidry of Scott, Louisiana, Todd Guidry and his wife, Valerie of Carencro, and Vincent Guidry and his fiancée, Sara Etherington of Atlanta, Georgia; brother, John Earl Guidry and his wife, Linda of Carencro; sisters, Evangeline "Micki" Uze and her husband, Lionel of New Iberia, Louisiana and Marie "Teenie" Reed of Duson, Louisiana; two Godchildren, Geary Broussard and his wife Pam of Carencro and Connie Brasseaux; eight grandchildren, Justin Guidry, Erin Guidry, Brandon Stakes, Brittney Guidry, Michael Guidry, Vincent Guidry, III, Abigail Burchfield, and Jimmy Guidry; and eleven great grandchildren, Maren, Charles, William, Remi, Marlee, Samuel, Lily, Ivy, Kadence, Silas, and Aiden.

He was preceded in death by his parents David Guidry, Sr. and the former Marie Agnes Latiolais; one sister, Daisey Dean Broussard and her husband Shirley; two brother in laws Harold Reed and Lee Roy Romero.

Want to find old Southern Pacific friends? Please click on the following link, for a monthly calendar of Southern Pacific-retiree breakfasts and luncheons: [www.southernpacificjourney.org/calendar](http://www.southernpacificjourney.org/calendar).

To see photos from recent Southern Pacific retirement gatherings, go to the following link: [www.southernpacificjourney.org/press](http://www.southernpacificjourney.org/press) and scroll down. For those groups that post their event pictures on social media sites such as Facebook, please send links to [billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org](mailto:billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org) and they will become available through the Southern Pacific Journey website.

If you cannot find one for your area, consider starting one which can be publicized through this newsletter by contacting [billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org](mailto:billfowler@southernpacificjourney.org).



**Gilbert 'Dean' Bennett  
June 3, 1933 ~ June 26, 2022**

Gilbert "Dean" Bennett, 89, of Hinton, West Virginia, passed away June 26, 2022, following a battle with ALS.

He was born June 3, 1933 in Hinton, he was the son of the late Mike and Ethel "Faye" Waddell Bennett. A 1951 graduate of Hinton High School, he worked as a telegraph operator for Chesapeake & Ohio in Hinton until 1955 before moving to Tucson, Arizona where he picked up his seniority with the Southern Pacific, later becoming a train dispatcher in 1963 and a local general chairman for the American Train Dispatchers Association, later rising to national vice president of the ATDA, retiring in 1995.

Preceded in death by his first wife, Phyllis A. Maddux Bennett and siblings, Atlee "Abe" Bennett, Nathan "Nate" Bennett, Doris Hamrick, Delmar "Demp" Bennett, Leola "Sis" Wiseman, and Arthur "Poob" Bennett.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Janice A. Mann; two children, Patricia "Patti" Greenleaf and Robert Dean Bennett and wife Alice; three grandchildren, Bernadette Marie McGee, Clayton A. Bennett, and Adam C. Bennett; and nine great grandchildren.

Editor's note: John Hurst writes, "In April of 1957, Dean established his seniority as a telegrapher clerk at Dragoon, Arizona. After working throughout the Tucson Division (Rillito, Redrock, Eloy, Maricopa, Estrella, Gila, Sentinel, Mohawk, Welton, Dome, Coolidge, Phoenix, Buckeye, Hyder, Hayden, and more) he became a train dispatcher in Tucson in February of 1964. He eventually attained the title of assistant chief dispatcher, while also climbing the ranks in the dispatcher's union, the ATDA. He was appointed general chairman in 1969 and in 1983 attained the full-time position of vice president. His responsibilities covered every dispatcher's office west of the Mississippi. After twelve years in that position, Dean retired in December of 1995, and subsequently returned to Hinton."

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

**Homer Burton (Burt) Foster  
November 3, 1938 ~ June 18, 2022**

Homer Burton (Burt) Foster passed away June 18, 2022, in Ogden, Utah after a valiant battle with COPD.

Burt was born November 3, 1938 in Lennox, Iowa to Dwight and Louise Foster. Being the baby of the family behind his siblings Paul and Juanita, he always fancied himself special since it only cost the family two pigs for his delivery. The family later relocated to Utah where he

attended Ogden area schools and then graduated from Davis High School in Kaysville, Utah.

After serving his country honorably in the United States Air Force for six years, he attended Weber State College, graduating with a composite major in economics and accounting. After testing the waters and succeeding in the military and his education he found his true passion with the railroad.

Burt initially signed on the with the Southern Pacific as a clerk but found his true calling on the road as a locomotive engineer. Through the years and as the Southern Pacific merged with the Union Pacific, he enjoyed every aspect of his career, he especially took great pride in representing his friends and colleagues as an officer of the United Transportation Union for twelve years. He begrudgingly retired after forty-five years of faithful service.

Burt is survived by the love of his life, and wife of 32 years Vicki; children David Foster, Tamera, George, Robert and Camala Stock, and Alice and Shane Welsh; eleven grandchildren; and thirteen great grandchildren.

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>.

Not only is the goal of the SPRHC to build and operate a world-class museum to memorialize the entire Southern Pacific System, but to digitize and organize hundreds of thousands of photos, documents, maps, drawings, and more, and to provide a searchable on-line data base to find these items quickly. Your memberships and donations will help us to finance this huge endeavor. Please keep in mind that the clock is ticking and time is of the essence.

**Jerry Spharler**  
**May 19, 1943 ~ June 27, 2022**

Jerry Spharler, 79, of the Sulphur Springs Community in Pine Bluff, Arkansas went to be with the Lord on June 27, 2022.

He was born May 19, 1943, in Pine Bluff, to Coy and Lois Kelley Spharler.

Jerry worked for Cotton Belt and Union Pacific Railroad retiring after 40 years as a Carman. Jerry was of the Baptist faith.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Joe Don Spharler.

Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Iris Moody Spharler; a daughter, Melody Spharler of Rogers; a son, Scott Spharler (Kimberly) of the Sulphur Springs Community; and a brother, Delmon Spharler (Edith) of the Sulphur Springs Community.



Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022

**Raymond Russell Park**  
 20644 IH-10 West  
 San Antonio, TX

10:30 am– 6:00pm

# All-RAILROADERS' REUNION 2022

**We need your help, folks!**

As with everything all around us, costs are escalating for this event, so much so that the two families providing the event in years past now find it necessary to ask for your help by charging \$20 per person, which includes the beautiful setting, security, and great food. The amount below was the amount paid for 2021 based on 53 confirmed RSVPs. Unfortunately, only about half of those showed up, the rest not letting us know they were not coming. Thank you to the people, who at the event, donated a total of \$250 and to NARVE for \$150 to help with the event!! We just need help from the rest.

**Cost of the 2021 Event (amounts rounded)**

- Food & related costs \$475.00
  - Park Reservation \$365.00
  - Security \$300.00
  - Decorations \$ 55.00
  - Paper Supplies \$ 45.00
  - Postage (2 mailings) \$ 80.00
- \$1,320.00

**Menus**

**Appetizers**  
 (donated by the committee)

Queso,  
 Salsa  
 Chips  
 Fruit Tray  
 Veggie Tray

**Delicious Lunch**  
 (part of your \$20)

Chicken  
 Sausage  
 Rice  
 Beans  
 Tortillas

**Desserts**  
 (donated by attendees).

Various  
 delicious rich  
 and wonderful  
 treats brought  
 by attendees

**BYOB**  
 Everyone

Bring your  
 preferred drinks –  
 whether alcohol  
 (cozies please) or  
 sodas.

## **Raymond Russell Park**

**Saturday, November 12, 2022**

**9:00** Set up (you are welcomed to come early and help set up) – we have a lot of fun!

**10:30** Event Begins

Musical Entertainment – Interesting People – Appetizers

Railroad Memorabilia Display (bring items to share if you wish)

Photos to capture the fun – Informative Quick Presentations – Laughter and Fun

Playground for Kids– Stories Abounding in Small Visiting Groups

**Noon to 1:30** LUNCH

All afternoon Chatting and Chewing the Fat with Friends

**5:30** Clean-up

**6:00** Departure

### **SPECIAL TREAT!**

**Rollin Bredenberg**, whom many of you know from his railroad career with SP, ATSF, and BNSF, and who is now a director of the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center, has graciously agreed to attend to visit with friends and to share the exciting future plans of the History Center with us!! What a special treat indeed! Read more about him and the History Center at [www.splives.org](http://www.splives.org)

**You just got to be there!!**

**(MOP, SP, MKT, ATSF, BNSF, UP, AMTRAK)**

**Please RSVP TODAY**

**or at the latest by September 30, 2022**

Send your “You Bet We’ll Be There” notice and your \$20 per person to:

**Norma Morris**

**All-Railroaders’ Reunion**

**24819 House Mountain Rd**

**San Antonio, TX 78255-2063**

**PS: Need a hotel? Consider the Courtyard Marriott San Antonio Six Flags at the Rim. If you make your reservations quickly, this Marriott has rooms available for that weekend! Request the Senior or AAA rate, which is \$120/night. Call today to reserve! Hope to see you there!!**