

SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER
Edited by Bill Fowler
May 2023



Harold Ernest Garrelts
November 11, 1936 ~ March 3, 2022

Son of John M. and Freda K. (Best) Garrelts, passed away in Springfield, Oregon at the age of eighty-five.

Harold was the husband of Shirley A. (Clayton) Garrelts, whom he married on June 20th 1959.

He was father to Cynthia (Mike), Mickey (Cindy), and Greg (Sheila); seven grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; and his pup, Prince.

Harold is also survived by one brother and two sisters.

He had lived in Springfield since moving from Nebraska with his family in 1947. He graduated from Springfield High School in 1955.

Harold was employed by Southern Pacific and retired 1996.

He loved his family and always wanted what was best for them; he enjoyed camping; and traveling with his grandchildren when they were young.

Harold loved home improvement projects and working with wood. He was an avid Nebraska Corn Husker fan.

Gone ahead to greet him were his parents; four brothers; two sisters; his beloved son Mickey; and his pup Princess.

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



Jimmie Ray Hern
December 27, 1926 ~ March 29, 2023

Jimmie Ray Hern, 96, a resident of Sheridan, California, passed away March 29th, 2023, in the comfort of his home with his loving family surrounding him. Born on December 27th, 1926 in Bengal, Oklahoma, the son of late George Stanley and Vesta (Hill) Hern.

He was joined in holy matrimony to his beloved wife, Leona Maxine (Janway) in Reno, Nevada on September 19, 1951 and celebrated 71 years of blessed marriage. Jimmie is preceded in death by his sisters Billie Elledge and Lindell Sullivan; brothers Jerry, John, and Leon Hern; and half-brother Vance Hern. He is survived by his wife Leona Maxine Hern; daughter Pam (Hern) and husband Marty Jones; sons Keith, Kent, and Kevin Hern; eleven grandchildren; twenty great grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

Jimmie experienced firsthand the devastating and crippling effects of The Great Depression. Leaving Callington, Oklahoma on September 15, 1935, the journey was made with his family, making their way to the southern California area and eventually finding their way to Sheridan. Though that was a trying time, he became more determined and responsible because of it. Jimmie worked many years of hard labor to help provide for his entire family as a young man until May 29, 1950, when he was hired as laborer at Southern Pacific in Roseville, California. He eventually made his way to the electrical department as a journeyman electrician and proudly worked for forty years for Southern Pacific.

His dedication to his work and humble path to success are some of his many qualities. Jimmie was a person of good character and one who always

thought of others before himself. He demonstrated the traits of citizenship, selflessness, and compassion on a regular basis.



Carroll Dee (Butch) Kelly, Sr.
September 17, 1945 ~ April 28, 2023

Carroll Dee (Butch) Kelley, Sr. was born September 17, 1945, in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to Lee Alexander and Pansy Domon Kelley. Following graduation from Quincy High School, he enlisted in the United States Army, serving in the Vietnam War. After being honorably discharged from the Army, he began working for the Cotton Belt, later retiring from Union Pacific as a mechanical superintendent.

Carroll was a fan of the Arkansas Razorbacks and the St. Louis Cardinals. He enjoyed camping, fishing, and watching wrestling or western movies. A member of Bethany Missionary Baptist Church in White Hall, he loved the Lord and always loved to hear his favorite song, "Amazing Grace." Carroll was a devoted husband and father who loved joking around and making people smile.

Carroll passed away on Friday, April 28, 2023, in Bartlett, Tennessee. He was preceded in death by his parents; his sisters, Mildred Erickson and Connie Mackleit; and his brothers, Kenneth Kelley and Tommy Kelley.

Survivors include his wife of fifty-five years, Barbara A. Funderburg Kelley; his son, Carroll D. (Beau) Kelley, Jr. and his wife, Katherine of Sheridan, Arkansas; his daughter, Carrie D. Barnes of Bartlett; a sister, Mira Huffman and husband, Eddie, of Moses Lake, Washington; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren; and a number of nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Please feel free to explore the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center's website: <https://www.splives.org/>. 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 the website, send your comments or content to splives@splives.org.