

SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER
Edited by Bill Fowler
March 2022



Claudine Shuey Minasian
November 20, 1945 ~ August 2, 2021

Claudine unexpectedly died peacefully in her sleep at her home in Belmont, California. She faced numerous medical challenges for more than ten years, but the final year was the most difficult.

Claudine started working for the Southern Pacific in 1966 and worked her entire career in the general office building in San Francisco. She worked in the law, engineering, and accounting departments and was in the last group of Southern Pacific employees to be retained in San Francisco by Union Pacific that were furloughed in 1998.

Claudine is survived by her daughter Nicolle Minasian and son Gregg Minasian. She is also survived by her sisters Claudia Lindstrom, Caren Lara, and Chuckie Ramirez.

Editor's note: This memorial was written by Caren Lara.



Glenda Lou Phipps
February 4, 1943 ~ February 13, 2022

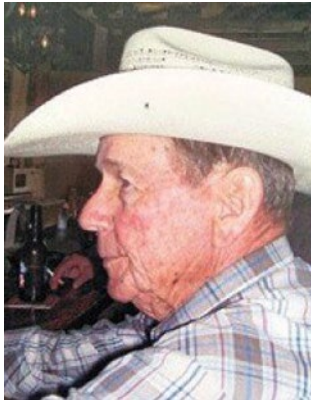
Glenda passed away at Peppi's hospice in Tucson, Arizona on February 13th three days before her 39th wedding anniversary. She was preceded in death by her parents, Rhoda and Oliver Glenn of Medford, Oregon, and her sister, Sandra and brother, Larry. She is survived by her sister, Lois Ann of Boise, Idaho and her husband of 39 years, Larry, and by nephews, Rich, Chris, Martin, and Bill, and by nieces, Lilly and Cindy. Glenda grew up in Medford, Oregon where she began her career with Southern Pacific in 1965. She remained with Southern Pacific until her retirement in 1993

where she had positions in the general claims department in Portland, Tucson, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

She loved her yard and landscaping and her many pets. She also enjoyed cruising and going to the casino. She was a beautiful person who always had a smile on her face and was a very loving wife. She was always in good health but entered the hospital on her 79th birthday for a heart operation. She died of complications of that operation. She leaves behind many friends at Forty Niner Country Club and in the many cities where she lived and worked.

Editor's note: Larry Phipps is a former Southern Pacific general manager in Southern Pacific's operating department.

Wanted: Oral histories of former Southern Pacific System employees. If you wish to contribute, or are aware of an existing oral history, please contact Bill Fowler at southernpacificjourney.org.



John Wayne Poppell
December 28, 1931 ~ February 14, 2022

John Wayne Poppell, of Wilson County, Texas born December 28, 1931, went to be with the Lord on February 14, 2022, at the age of 90. Wayne was born in Floresville, Texas, to Albert Russell and Gussie Cox Poppell.

Wayne married the love of his life, Dorris, in 1966, and moved to San Antonio, where they raised four children. He went to work for Southern Pacific Railroad at the age of 18 and was drafted into the U.S. Army at the age of 22, where he spent time in Korea. Wayne was honorably discharged from the Army at the age of 24 and returned to the Southern Pacific as a welder. He retired from Southern Pacific in 1993.

Editor's note: Paul Gotthardt says, "Wayne was a great railroad welder. In our early days, we had to frequently improvise, and the maintenance of way employees of today would never envision how we accomplished things, such as cutting rail with a chisel, bending rail to fit a frog, and running rail with a kerosene soaked rope. Wayne could do it all. He certainly will be missed. Rest in peace, Wayne."

Carol Jean (Everett) Proctor
September 20, 1944 ~ January 15, 2022

Carol Jean (Everett) Proctor was born on September 20, 1944 in Vancouver, Washington to Vernon W. and Theresa (Heltzer) Everett and died on January 15, 2022.

Carol was raised as a Catholic and graduated from Portland, Oregon's historic all female Catholic school in 1962, which became co-educational that year. After high school, Carol attended business college. Upon graduation from business college, she was employed by Southern Pacific in Eugene, Oregon. She retired from Southern Pacific with thirty-six years of service.

While working for Southern Pacific, Carol met her future husband, James Proctor and they married on August 28, 1965. James brought along with him to that marriage his three children, Deborah, Melaine, and Richard. Carol welcomed them as her own.

Carol loved camping, clamming, family get togethers, old Western movies, George Strait, Elvis Presley, Ricky Nelson, and her precious pets.

Carol was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, James Albert, and her grandparents, parents, brother Bruce Ledec, and infant grandson, Chad.

Carol is survived by daughters Deborah (husband, Jeff Williams), of Philomath, Oregon; Melaine (husband, Tony Clem), of Canby, Oregon; son, Richard Proctor of Eugene; five grandchildren and four great grandsons; and brother in law Andrew Orlando Jensen (wife Nancy Jensen) and their son, Chris of Concrete, Washington.

Carol lived in Eugene for 58 years. During the last months of her life Carol moved to Canby, Oregon to live with Tony and Melaine.

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



Harold "Bye" Comeaux
September 1, 1934 ~ December 15, 2021

Mr. Comeaux was a native of Ossun, Louisiana. He was a former resident of Shriever, Louisiana and was residing in Lafayette, Louisiana at the time of his death for over twenty years, having been a parishioner of St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church. After forty years of devoted employment, Harold retired as a clerk with Southern Pacific. A veteran of the military, Mr. Comeaux proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1956 to 1958 and was a member of the VFW Post 9822.

Survivors include two sons, Terry E. Comeaux and his wife, Alicia, of Heathsville, Virginia, and Timothy J. Comeaux of Houma, Louisiana; one grandson, Rusty Comeaux and his wife, Michelle, of South Carolina; one great grandson, Wyatt Comeaux; and one sister, Joyce "Sis" Broussard and her husband, Robley, of Ossun.

He was preceded in death by his wife of sixty-five years, Gloria Thibodeaux Comeaux; his parents, Joseph Adam Comeaux and the former Edmae Broussard both natives of Ossun; four brothers, Placide Comeaux, Stanley J. Comeaux, Irving Comeaux, and Aurellien "Corto" Comeaux; and one sister, Eunice Trahan.

Editor's note: J. C. Moreaux says that, "Harold hired out on the T&NO Railroad on December 16, 1954 and worked most of his career as agent-Telegrapher in Schriever, Louisiana. Harold spent the last part of his career as a yard office clerk in Lafayette, Louisiana.

"Harold was an outstanding employee and was a friend to everyone who knew him or who was in contact with him."

If you have an interest in the history of Southern Pacific, please consider joining the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center: <https://www.splives.org/plans-pricing>.

**Southern Pacific and Cotton Belt Reunion
April 24th through April 27th, 2022
Tucson, Arizona**



SP 8145 West at Nerska (Chicago), Illinois on October 10, 1994. Photo by Sean Graham-White.

The reunion will be held at the DESERT DIAMOND RESORT (<http://ddcaz.com/tucson/>) in Tucson from April 24, 2022 through April 27, 2022 (with checkout on April 28, 2022). Rates for the rooms will be \$99.00 per night, plus 12.5% tax and \$2.00 per day occupancy tax. Included are a \$10.00 per room food credit for each night and can be redeemed at any of the dining outlets at the hotel or casino; transportation to and from the airport; transportation to and from the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum (the cost to tour the museum is \$14.99 per person); access to the Business Center; complimentary wireless internet access; cable TV, and concierge services.

The DDR is located at 7350 S. Nogales Highway, Tucson, Arizona 85756. For reservations call 877-777-4212 or 520-342-3012. Please use group number 836213 or make reference to SPRR.

The plan is for attendees to arrive on Sunday, April 24, 2022, and depart on Thursday, April 28, 2021. DDR will provide our customary dinners for the evening of arrival and the last night (April 27, 2022) before departure. (Dinners will be \$30 per person for each of the two nights). Door prizes will be awarded during the dinners.

Of interest in the area: Old Tucson Studios (<http://oldtucson.com/>), Arizona Sonora Desert Museum (<http://desertmuseum.org/>), Saguaro National Park (<http://www.nps.gov/sagu/index.htm>), Reid Park Zoo (<http://reidparkzoo.org/>), Pima Air & Space Museum (<http://www.pimaair.org/>), and more.

For more information, please call Virginia Rodriguez at 281-487-4961 or Leon Roesler at 281-424-4307.

We hope to see you there.