

SOUTHERN PACIFIC NEWSLETTER

Edited by Bill Fowler

January 2024



Joe Roy Wood
August 9, 1936 ~ October 18, 2023

Joe Wood, "Papa Joe", 87, of Ennis, Texas, went home to be with the Lord our Savior on October 18, 2023.

Joe was born in Maypearl, Texas to Cleophus Lonnie Wood and Myrtle (Henderson) Wood. Joe grew up in Alma, Texas and graduated from Ennis High School in 1956. Upon graduation, he served in the United States Army for 6 years. On May 4 1956, he married his high school sweetheart, Patricia Ann Tuley.

They were married for 42 years until her death in 1998. He worked for Ennis Business Forms until 1972, after which he was employed by Southern Pacific Railroad, retiring in 2004.

Joe and his wife made a life and forever home in Ennis, Texas. Joe loved fishing, was an avid sports fan and loved rooting for the Ennis Lions, but most of all, he loved spending time with his family. Papa Joe left an indelible mark on our hearts, and we find solace in the countless memories we shared together. From the stories he told us, to the wisdom he shared, he has shaped us into the people we are today. His kindness and love knew no bounds, and we are eternally grateful for the time we spent in his presence. Those that knew him, loved him.

Joe is survived by his daughters Cindy and husband Ed Davis, Kim and husband Gene Behne, and son Lonnie Wood and wife Rachel; seven grandchildren; and 17 great grandchildren.

Preceding him in death his wife Patricia Tuley; parents, Cleophus and Myrtle Wood; eight siblings; and granddaughter Manda Maxwell.

Editor's note: Larry Cook wrote, "Joe Roy was a conductor and brakeman for Southern Pacific mostly working in train service between Ennis and Hearne, Texas.

I wish to recognize our correspondents for 2023. They are Bill Neill, Bob Paulson, Don Bergman, Jeff Root, Joe Chidgey, Jon Hurst, Joseph Moreaux, Larry Cook, Mike Dickerson, Norma Morris, Paul Gotthardt, Pete Baumhefner, Roger Staub, Ron Goerss, Stuart Schroeder, Tom Hyatt, Virginia Rodriguez, and Yolanda Corral. Thanks to each of you for your contributions!



Daniel H. Campbell
1936 ~ 2023

Daniel H. Campbell passed on November 16, 2023 in Tucson, Arizona. Dan was born in South Carolina, graduated from the University of Arizona, and was a conductor for

Southern Pacific/Union Pacific for over 30 years. Dan called Tucson home for the majority of his long life.

Throughout his railroad career, Dan made many friends. Lake vacations, water skiing, and fish fries were a big part of he and his family's lives for many years. This camaraderie was very important to Dan, and he cherished those special times. Dan was also a proud member of the Sabbar Shriners, as he valued participating in events that helped people and their families.

Dan married his beloved Sharon Dieringer in 1968. Dan and Sharon hosted the most fantastic parties where friends and family would gather, laugh, dance, and tell stories about their adventures and good times. Traveling was one of their great passions. They traveled all over the world, but spent much of their time in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. Dan loved the ocean, often marveling at how peaceful it could be.

Dan is survived by his daughters, Heather and Heidi and their families. No words can convey the wit, charm, and wisdom that Dan Campbell possessed. We are going to miss you Dad.

Editor's note: John Hurst says, "Dan hired out on the Southern Pacific in train service in May of 1959, and took promotion in September of 1966. He retired in the late 1990s."

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



Robert W. Grassmuck
March 22, 1943 ~ December 25, 2023

Robert "Bobby" Grassmuck, of La Vernia, Texas passed away, December 25, 2023, at the age of 80. Bobby was born March 22, 1943, in San Antonio, Texas to Louis Russell Grassmuck and Helen

Annie Lorber Grassmuck, who preceded him in death.

Bobby worked at Southern Pacific/Union Pacific for 31 years and honorably volunteered to serve in the US Army Reserves. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed bowling and spending time with his family.

Bobby is survived by his wife, Lynda (Tope) Grassmuck; sons, Darren Grassmuck (Tammy) and Trent Grassmuck (Kristen); grandchildren, Scott Grassmuck, Elyse Grassmuck, Leah Grassmuck, and Kayla Grassmuck; and brother, Louis "Rusty" Russell Grassmuck, II.

Please feel free to explore the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center's new website, <https://www.splives.org/>. Also, the History Center is planning to start a program of podcasts and "Zoomcasts" this year focusing on the careers of those who worked for Southern Pacific and its subsidiary companies. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please send an email to me at billfowler@splives.org.



Lawrence Emitt Fluitt II
October 25, 1958 ~ December 22, 2023

Lawrence Emitt Fluitt II, affectionately known as "Bubba" to friends and family, passed away unexpectedly in a tragic car accident on December 22, 2023, in Panna Maria, Texas, where he resided for the last 23 years. Born to Elsie Snoga Fluitt and the late Lawrence Fluitt on October 25, 1958, in San Antonio, Texas.

Lawrence was a man of many talents and passions, leaving an indelible mark on those who were fortunate to know him. In his professional life, he dedicated himself as a locomotive engineer with the Southern Pacific/Union Pacific. After hours, Lawrence

transformed into a multi-talented musician. Not only was he a lead vocalist, but he also played the guitar, violin, mandolin, piano, and wrote his own songs. Beyond his professional and artistic pursuits, Lawrence found joy in the simple pleasures of life. He reveled in outdoor activities, especially taking his grandson fishing on the family farm. His infectious laughter and vibrant personality made him the life of every gathering, earning him a special place in the hearts of so many.

Lawrence is preceded in death by his father and namesake, Lawrence Emmitt Fluitt, and his nephew and godson, Mark Christopher Fluitt.

He is survived by his three children, Lauren Fluitt of Chicago, Illinois and Lawrence Fluitt III and Samantha Fluitt, both of San Antonio, Texas; and his beloved grandson, Lennox Marshall. He is also survived by his mother, Elsie Snoga Fluitt of San Antonio, Texas, and his older brothers, Brendan Fluitt of Boerne, Texas, and Bradley Fluitt of San Antonio, Texas. Lawrence's love of family extended to numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends, all of whom will cherish the memories and laughter they shared with him.

To the readers of the Southern Pacific Newsletter:

During 2023, I was intensely focused on the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center. It was a year of major accomplishments involving the efforts of many people. They include the following:

- The decision to change the mission of the History Center to concentrate on the establishment of an online archive, with a searchable database.
- A very successful meeting in Sparks, Nevada in May with three days of presentations mainly about the last twenty five years of Southern Pacific.
- An increase in the number of members of the History Center.

We anticipate that 2024 will be a year of continued growth for the History Center. Please watch for the expansion of the History Center's website during the coming year.

We also expect to make an important announcement about our proposed online archive during the first quarter of this year.

You can help the History Center be becoming a member (<https://splives.org/join/>) or making a donation (<https://splives.org/donate/>). In addition, the History Center is seeking volunteers to assist it and various ways. If you are interested, please email me at billfowler@splives.org.

Please keep in mind that the History Center is trying to capture as much history of the Southern Pacific as possible. If you have documents, maps, drawings, photos, and other items related to the Southern Pacific, please contact me.