

RIDING RAILWAYS NEWSLETTER



Grand Scales
Quarterly

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Robinson & Associates
PO Box 8953
Red Bluff, CA 96080 USA
530-527-0141
Fax: 530-527-0420
www.grandscales.com
www.7plusrailroader.com

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Hello everyone. Can you believe that it is already nearing the end of 2006? Where has the time gone? We're making plans for 2007, starting with another trip to Arizona in January, which we're looking forward to. Our last visit to Arizona ended with a car accident - not much, just us and about 50 other cars! So we're hoping that this visit goes a bit smoother.

In this issue we have photos of yet another G-16 train that was installed this past year. These locomotives are good looking and durable. They are also proving to be a real favorite among Grand Scalers. Coming up in the printed GSQ, we have an article on a new railroad in Florida, also featuring the G-16.

The latest issue of the *7+RAILROADER* is finally in the mail. Those of you who subscribe should receive your issue any time now. Hope you enjoy it.

Regards,
Susan

HAVE YOU HEARD?

The next **GRAND SCALES CONVENTION** will be held September 14 through the 16th in 2007. (Date is tentative at this time.) Make plans to attend the convention at the home of John Wood's glorious 15" gauge railroad in Crawford County, Missouri. To learn more about the *Arborway, T. T. & Northwestern Railroad*, visit <http://www.arborwayrailroad.com/>. To learn more about the convention, check out future issues of this newsletter. We're looking forward to meeting you in Missouri!



MAN AIMS TO RESTORE TRAIN USING ONLY 19TH CENTURY TOOLS

By Matt Brown

Lodi News-Sentinel Staff Writer (Reprinted with Permission)

Stathi Pappas received his first toy train set when he was three years old. By the time he was 10, he had a sit-on-top, one-eighth scale steam engine that he would ride around his north Stockton house.

Last April, the 28-year-old finally bought the real thing. Ten days ago, Pappas moved his train, a 1909 Porter steam locomotive, from its resting place at the now closed Pollardville Amusement Center to the Central California Traction Company yard in Stockton.

Pappas, an industrial archeologist who studies technology as it relates to industrialization, said he has always been interested in rail roading.

"I've always liked steam technology," he said. "I thought it would be nice to have a full-sized locomotive."

Pappas, who bought the engine from former Pollardville owner Neil Pollard, wouldn't say how much it cost, but added that he has seen similar inoperable engines for sale for \$5,000.

He said he wants to restore the engine to working conditions, using the tools of a century ago. "I want to use the old technology," he said. "The industrial archeologist in me wants to do it the old way."

He said it could take 10 to 20 years to restore the train this way, and he plans to document the project and write a book about it.

His father, John Pappas, a retired San Joaquin Delta College English professor, said he used to work on trains with his son when he was younger.

"We've had trains around the house for awhile," he said. "It's something we do together. He took it up a notch. In that way, he's an inspiration to me."

The father and son are members of the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers club, a group of steam engine enthusiasts.

Stathi Pappas, of north Stockton, loads his recently purchased locomotive onto a truck at the Pollardville Amusement Center. (Mitchell W. Podraza/News-Sentinel)

Cynthia Stanton, Stathi Pappas' aunt, who lives in Lodi, said there have always been trains around the family house. "He's always collected trains," she said. "This one wouldn't fit into the front yard."

Stathi Pappas, who was born in Lodi and graduated from Lincoln High School in Stockton, said he had a wide-load semi truck ship the train to the rail yard.

If all goes well, Pappas will graduate this spring



Railroad enthusiast Stathi Pappas, left, of north Stockton, stands in front of his recently purchased locomotive with his father John Pappas, center, and friend Curtis Bonville at the Pollardville Amusement Center.

with a Ph.D. in anthropology with a concentration in industrial archeology from University of Nevada, Reno. He said he hopes to teach or write books on the subject.

"My nuttiness for trains started when I was three," he said. "It would be really great if I can turn it into a professional job."

POLLARDVILLE TRAIN AT A GLANCE

Type: Porter steam locomotive.

Built: 1909.

Weight: 45 tons.

History:

- Used by Santa Cruz Portland Cement Company in Davenport.
- Sold to Kaiser Gravel Company in Oroville in 1924.
- Bought by private investor in 1947.
- Bought by Pollardville owner Ray Pollard in 1967.
- Bought by Stathi Pappas of north Stockton in April, 2006.

LETTERS



It was purchased from an individual in Texas as turn key. Unfortunately that was not the case. After over a year of working out the problems, which included leaking fluid clutch, bad gears, bad brakes and a motor that had to be replaced, the train was ready for its debut.

It seemed to run flawless. Lineberger Park in Gastonia, N.C. used to have a G-16 that ran until the early 1980's and was shut down due to lack of maintenance and neglect. However the good news is they



Hi Susan and Greg,

The opening dedication for the above train was Saturday, April 1, 2006. The train was purchased by a group of benefactors who as children rode a G-16 at Linberger park years ago. They wanted to bring the train back to the park for future generations to enjoy as they had. The train runs inside a baseball diamond that is no longer used, very unique. It is also a very nice ride.

COMPLETE TRAIN FOR SALE!

Includes: 2 Plum Cove Box Electric Locomotives, 2 flat cars, 2 gondola cars, 1 box car, 1 lighted caboose, 600' track + ties, some connectors, screws.



Complete train, only \$10,900. Contact John Gilbert, 850-547-3880. Train located in North. Florida pan handle.

still have the original train and may restore it as a back up for the new one I am told. The original train, MTC # 684, was delivered to the park in August of 1953 to the Gastonia Kiwanis club.

North Carolina is becoming the MTC G-16 capitol of the U.S. as there are many private and public G-16's running in this state.

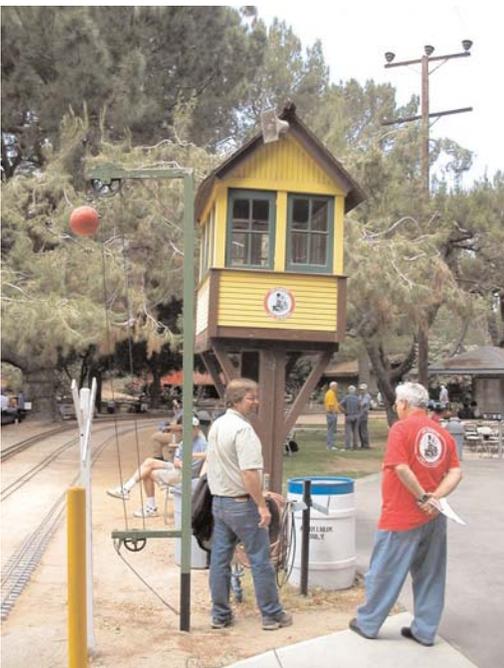
Take care,
Dan Crean

Thanks Dan. The train looks great! We wish these folks many, many years of successful running!

LALS

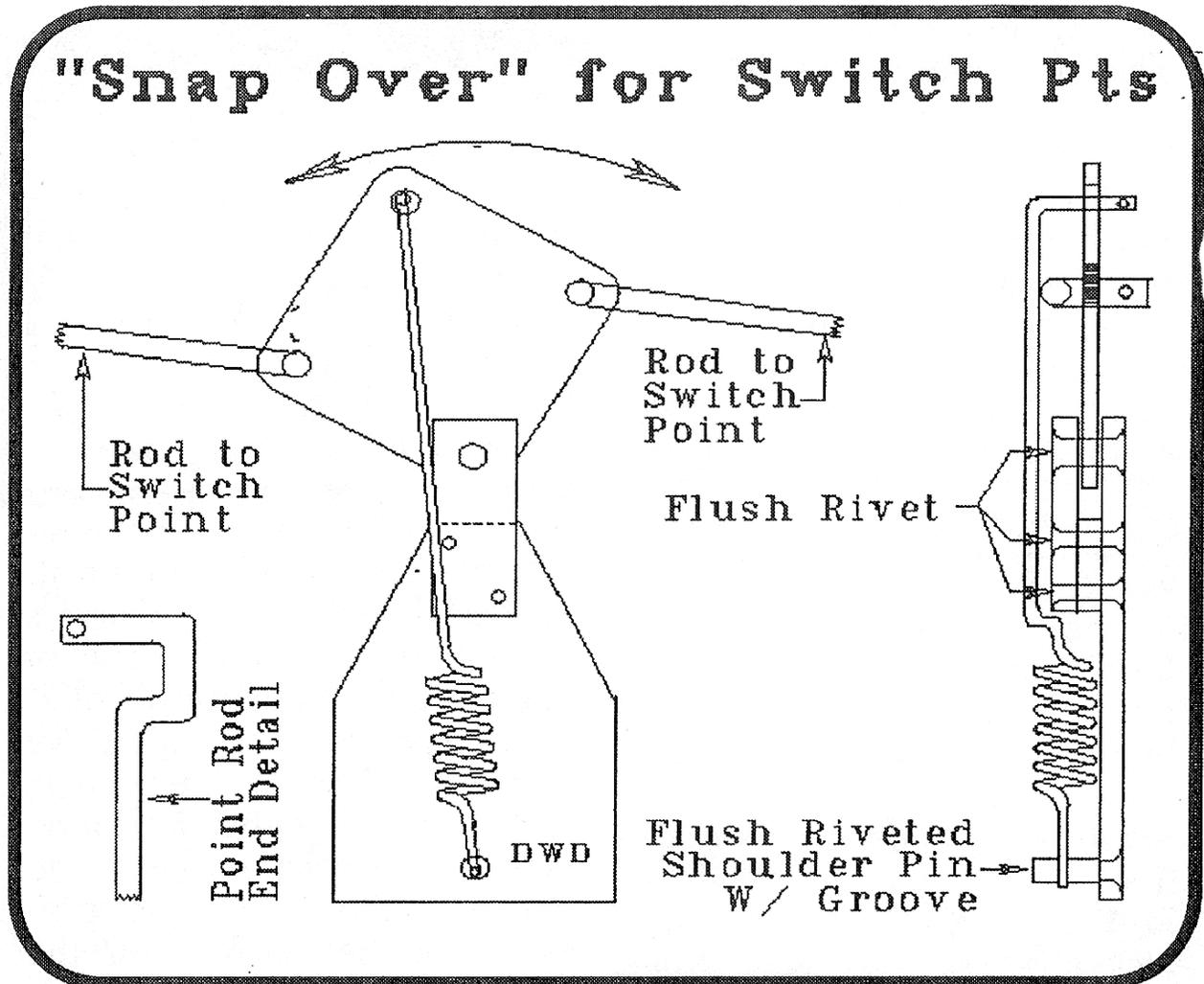


No story here. . . well, actually, lots of stories to be had. But for now, just wanted to share some photos taken at an earlier Los Angeles Live Steamers meet. By the way, we will be at their spring meet and will be producing a special 50 year anniversary DVD. Be sure to come by and introduce yourself. We would love to visit with you.



DRAWINGS FROM THE 7+ ARCHIVES

This "Snap Over" drawing come from Vol 2, No. 3 of the *7+Narrow Gauger* (the former name of the *7+RAILROADER*). We hope you find it of interest.



This handy little mechanism is as old as the hills but is possibly the easiest way to build a "Spring" switch. Which ever way the points are thrown, there is spring tension to hold the points against the rail. A train can run through it in the trailing direction from either siding or mainline. The points will snap over and stay there.

The addition of an arm

at the top will allow a rod to connect it to a lever or switch machine.

The idea can be adapted many ways. The cranked ends of the rods and spring are important to keep the diamond shaped plate from "cocking" on the pivot and jamming. The pull must be centered on the pivot pin

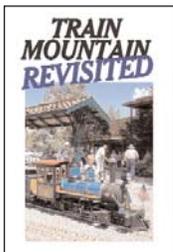


GIFT SHOP

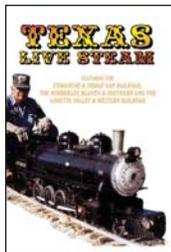
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The 2006 TM Triennial was even larger and more spectacular than in years past. This program takes us back to Train Mountain to enjoy this world class event. Surprise footage features the world record setting operations! **\$29.95**



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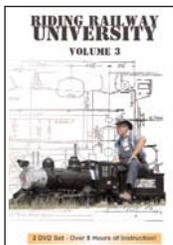
Come on y'all and visit three of the nicest 7.5" gauge railroads in the glorious state of Texas! You'll be impressed with the size and quality of Nick Edward's newly built **Wimberley**

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* RIDING RAILWAY UNIVERSITY VOL 3

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\$39.95 (2 disk set - over 5 hours of instruction)

* RIDING RAILWAY UNIVERSITY VOL 4

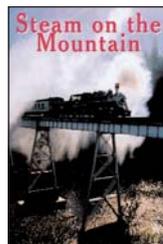
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Orders must be received by December 15, 2006

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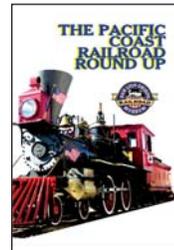
engineer describe what it's like to run a steam engine over a railroad he has worked on for decades. And there is no sound in the world like a lonesome steam whistle echoing through the pine trees.



DVD **\$19.95**
Companion Audio CD **\$9.95**

PACIFIC COAST RR ROUND UP DVD

The Pacific Coast is a private railroad on the Central California coast. It is opened to the public only once each year, as a fund raiser for the San Luis Obispo Railway Museum. This DVD takes you aboard the charming narrow gauge train. It features vintage steam engines (including the one that was in the opening shots of Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman TV show with Jane Seymour). The coaches are genuine Disney coaches - the first coaches to be used in service at Disneyland. Great for railfans, narrow gaugers, families, Disney enthusiasts and anyone else who would just enjoy a good show. Approx. 1 hour with bonus features. **\$19.95.**



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TOTAL	\$ _____

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GRAND SCALES QUARTERLY MUGS

These attractive ceramic mugs are just the thing you need! Grab a few to use while sitting around the engine and sharing railroad stories with your buddies. Maroon with a tasteful white design.
\$5 each or 4 for \$16.00 (call for shipping prices)

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Beautiful pins that are perfect for your hat (or shirt or bag or???) Choose from three styles: top, which says Grand Scales Quarterly; Middle, which features only the locomotive, or the 7+Railroader pin. Each only **\$5 or 5 for \$20**. A small gift that is appropriate for all of your train buddies! (Even the wives like these!)



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Very classy and nice looking hat. Beige with dark blue bill. The locomotive and words are embroidered. Will make anyone who wears it instantly more attractive! (Ok, maybe that can't be proved but it is very attractive!) **Only \$15** each for this high quality specimen.

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