

Bartlett's News Briefs

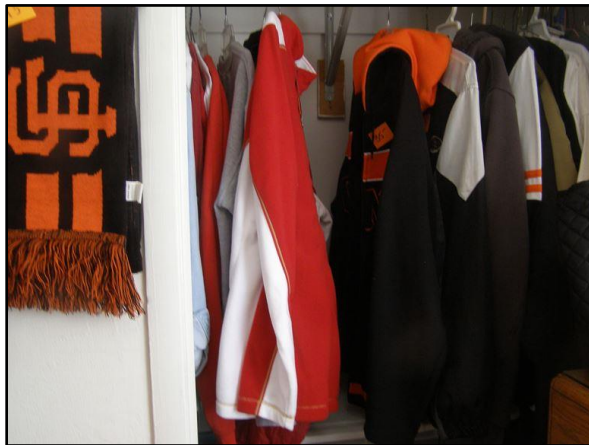
March 3, 2021

Bring on the customers!

Great finds to help save the RR car that helped build Pacifica
March 5-7 and March 12-14 fundraising estate sale

BY JEAN BARTLETT

Have you ever wished you could go through a closet full of San Francisco Giants and 49ers jackets on sale for fabulous prices? Or what about a room full of unbelievably priced Giants and 49ers memorabilia, including collectible sports bobbleheads?



What about a Southern Belle, vintage Victorian, pink glass electric lamp? Is there that perfect spot in your home that has been waiting for this for so very long? Your wishes are about to come true at the March 5-7 and March 12-14, 604 Moana Way Estate Sale which runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.



I was given an early pre-sale, walk-through of all the estate items generously donated by the Cannon family—a longtime Pacifica family—to the Pacifica Historical Society to help fund several PHS projects. It was, quite simply, a "wow" experience. Below is a list of a few of the finds, PLUS, the Pacifica Historical Society will have on hand their mouth watering Pacifica Jack cheese, \$8 a pound. (*This is California's original jack cheese and it was hand-crafted right here in Pacifica at the Mori Point Inn in 1888. That same 1888 recipe is still used today to create this proudly made local cheese.*)



1940s Waterfall bedroom set

Vintage highchair

Solid wood armoire with mirror

Red Hat Figurine collection

Beautiful wood hall tree throne with a mirror and seat storage

Stained glass light house suncatcher

Gorgeous jewelry

Large china closet

An oak, bow front dresser with a custom glass top

Secretary desk



Roll top desk

Vintage chest of drawers

Round dinette table with chairs and a table leaf

Dressmaker form

Sewing materials

Patterns

Quilts

Vintage military storage trunk, green flat top foot locker, with World War II medals and other memorabilia

Throw pillows

An unbelievable assortment of collectibles

But wait, what are **some** of the finds in the kitchen and in the front yard?



Pyrex bake and serve dish

Pressure cooker

Oval crockpot

Crystal tall-stemmed glasses

Food slicer

17-inch open roaster

A refrigerator

Some of the garden finds? A garden shed brimming with gardening tools, a bird bath, and enough potted plants and other gardening items to create one's own Eden.



The money raised at this estate sale helps most especially two Pacifica Historical Society projects: the Pacifica Coastside Museum at the Little Brown Church and Car 1409, the last passenger car of the Ocean Shore Railroad.

Located at 1850 Francisco Boulevard, the Little Brown Church stands just 100 feet from the now long-gone Ocean Shore Railroad. The 1910-built Presbyterian Church was a welcome stop to the Coastside's early farming communities as well as to San Francisco travelers brought down to the coast by passenger train. Yet by the beginning of this century, the building was in such a state of disrepair the City considered leveling it and selling the land. But the all-volunteer, not-for-profit Pacifica Historical Society put a halt to that by spearheading a successful ballot measure which stopped all thoughts of tearing it

down, moving it or encumbering it. Then they raised the \$500,000 needed to renovate the building and in 2015, opened its doors to a Museum which offers permanent exhibits, changing exhibits, historic talks, Pacifica Jack Cheese contests—and a space for the community to rent. Of course, there were many naysayers. "It could never be done." "How can a bunch of volunteers organize to do all that?" But with help from a Pacifica community that loves its history, the impossible happened.

As to Ocean Shore Railroad Car 1409, its rescue is just as impossible – or at least almost as impossible as the railroad that ran it. The following excerpt is from a *Pacifica Tribune* story I wrote in July of 2017. It offers a bit of the history of the dream coastal railway.

More than 100 years ago, local business magnates invested thousands and thousands of dollars in the Ocean Shore Railroad, née Railway. From 1907 to 1920, the Railroad took passengers coastside from San Francisco through today's Pacifica and on towards Santa Cruz. It was billed as, "70 miles of the grandest, most magnificent railway in the world." Some of those investors included: E.S. Pillsbury of Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro; J.A. Folger, Jr. of J.A. Folger Co.; and A. & W. Haas of Haas Brothers Wholesale Groceries.

The railroad's gone now. It was derailed by the automobile, the unpredictability of its cliffside route and insurmountable financial hurdles. But it's not forgotten at all in Pacifica thanks to the Pacifica Historical Society. They saved the Railroad's last known passenger car, Car 1409.

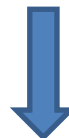


This is a turn-of-the-last century advertisement for the Ocean Shore Railroad, courtesy of Manning's Prints Old & Rare, located here in Pacifica.

To say that Car 1409 was nearly lost to the ravages of being abandoned is no exaggeration. Yet when it ran, it brought passengers to and through the area of what is today's Pacifica, many of them experiencing this part of the coast for the first time. Because of what they saw right here, from their passenger window aboard Car 1409, like the rest of us, they fell in love – and so they began the building of our community.

Of course this century's naysayers weighed in when they saw the old car: "Chop it up and use it for kindling." "What could possibly be worth saving?"

Thankfully members of the Pacifica Historical Society are made of the same grit that once laid railroad tracks across this country. Behind the faded shell, they saw the grandeur of the old 1909, San Francisco-built Holman passenger car. There were remnants of the interior's Spanish cedar and ceiling birds-eye maple veneering. The outside sills of the bottom frame were made of heavy I-beams, filled with seasoned Oregon pine. These were in pretty good condition. But there has been no denying, it's quite a project. It's expensive, master artisan renovation work happens through Historical Society fundraisers, such as rummage sales and in this case, an Estate Sale event. And there's a plan for this car but it could use your voice with the City, especially because the City is currently in discussions regarding a Pacifica Civic Center Conceptual Design.



The hope is that Car 1409—which is currently undergoing renovation work in a space behind the Vallemar Station Restaurant and next to Guerrero's Taqueria (near the intersection of Reina del Mar Avenue and Highway 1)—will be placed as depicted in the following artist rendering by Pacifican and PHS member John Meria.



The vision is that the train car and the Museum will serve as the key to open the door to Pacifica's Sharp Park shopping and hiking experiences. It is well-known that any town that celebrates its railway experience with a train car exhibit becomes, by the very nature of Americans love of rail travel and rail history, a tourist destination. Along with our sweeping ocean vistas and grand mountainous terrain, this will be among the first visuals for travelers heading south down the coastal highway from San Francisco and Daly City. Hard to beat this dream of the Pacifica Historical Society – but the dream needs voices along with train car renovation funds.

So come and enjoy the Pacifica Historical Society's 604 Moana Way Estate Sale in Sharp Park. There is so much to be discovered and you may yet save a train. Two weekends: March 5-7 and March 12-14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Masks will be required and the number of shoppers will be restricted indoors for social distancing.



Jean Bartlett is a longtime Bay Area features writer: Pacifica Tribune, Oakland Tribune, San Jose Mercury, San Mateo Times, Portraits & Roots, Marin Independent Journal, Twin City Times, Ross Valley Reporter, Peninsula Progress, Coastal Connections, Contra Costa County Times, Bay Area Business Woman and Catholic San Francisco. Website: Bartlett's Biographies.