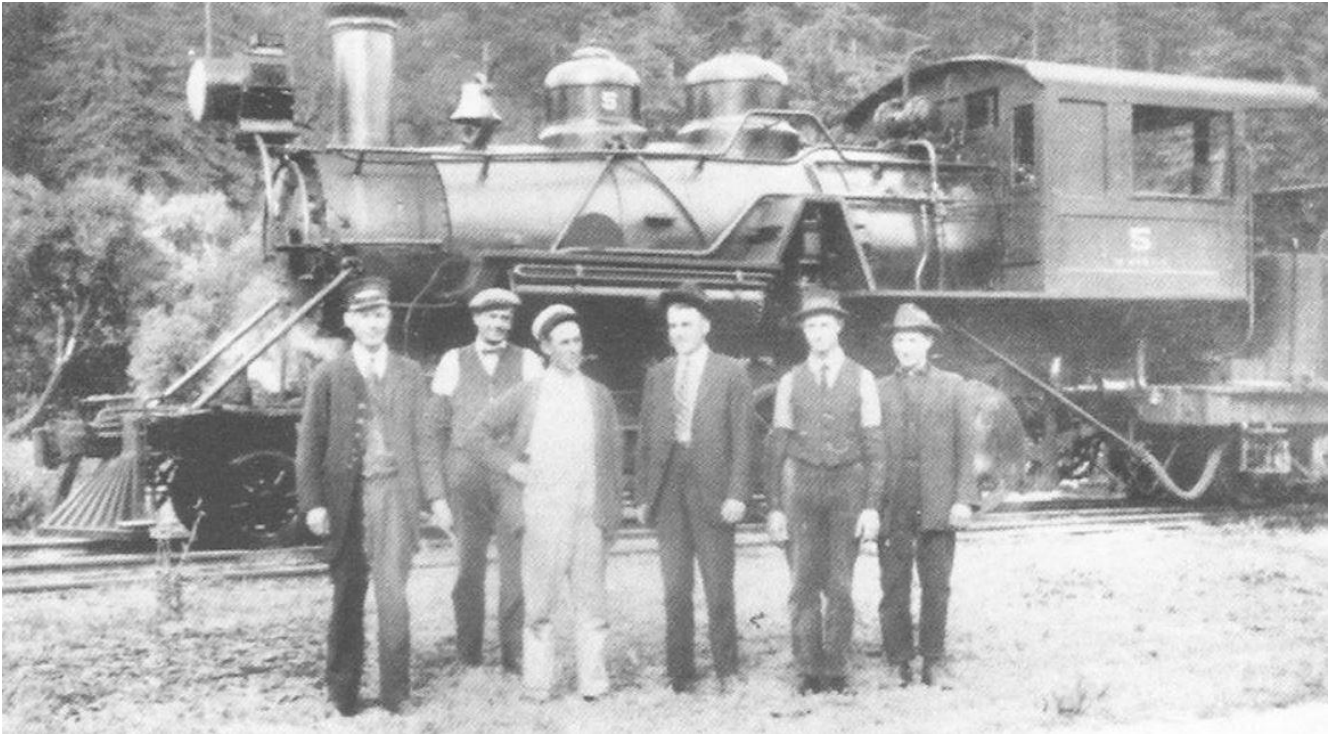


Pacifica Tribune



A group of engineers and crew pose next to Ocean Shore Locomotive No. 5 near the southern part of the railroad system. (The photo is from "Images of Rail: Ocean Shore Railroad" by Chris Hunter, Arcadia Publishing, 2004.)

All aboard the train to Pacifica's history FAMILY TRAIN DAY AT THE MUSEUM

By **Jean Bartlett**
Tribune Writer

This Saturday afternoon, the Pacifica Historical Society is hosting Family Train Day at the Pacifica Coastside Museum. They've got movies to show on Ocean Shore Railroad Car 1409, train-time storytelling and a bandana-wrapped hobo lunch – and that's just a sampling of the day's ride. Not sure of the history on OSRR Car 1409?

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.

Found abandoned in 2004 and nearly beyond restoration hope, Car 1409 was brought home by the dedicated members of the PHS. This was not done so that the passenger car could live out its final days in the community that it helped build. No.

It was brought home to be restored anew, a living example of how saving the past can define our present and teach future generations just what we are made of. It is an extraordinary work in progress.



photo by Deidra Crow

PHS crew Karen Bates, Paul Cowan, Scott Lindner and John Meria paint a protective primer on Car 1409 in the fall of 2017. In the end the Car's top coat will be deep burgundy with gold leaf trim.

The PHS Car 1409 Committee is conducting the event, and that is: Kathleen Manning, Co-Chair; Shirlee Gibbs, Restoration Chair; Deidra Crow, Co-Chair; members Rob Wullenjohn, Jack Coats, Robert Twigg, Jerry Crow, additional PHS volunteers; and Restoration Project Leader Scott Lindner.

Deidra Crow, who grew up in Pacifica, first learned about the OSRR from her dad, Everett Kennedy.

"My dad would take us on various hikes including walking all the way around from Rockaway Beach to North Linda Mar Beach when the ledge was still open to do that," Crow recalled. "Now it has all crumbed into the sea, but in those days, you could look down and see the remnants of the old railroad tracks in the rocks. My dad had a real penchant for history and he told us about the Ocean Shore Railroad."

Crow said from as far back as she could remember she loved trains. There was Caltrain on the Peninsula and her family used to ride the Southern Pacific to "Grandma's in Nebraska." Later in adulthood, she saved her money to be a passenger on the Venice Simplon-Orient Express, riding from Milan to Paris. "Worth every single penny," she stated. And the fact that her hometown once had its own railroad – that impressed her as a kid and still impresses her. When she returned to Pacifica after 45 years of living her life all over the country, she signed on with the all-volunteer Pacifica Historical Society.

A Terra Nova graduate and the eldest of her parents' six kids, Crow said she joined the PHS because "I was and am interested in preserving history in Pacifica. So much of it has been torn down or built over. I remember the Wander Inn,

White Field (ball fields for local youths, now the site of Pacific Bay Christian School), Tic Tock Burgers, the old Seavue Theater and so much more. I wanted to give back to this city that I love."

Crow has become famous for providing homemade delicacies for PHS events. Those sought-after savories include: cheesecake, key lime bars, a replica of Blum's famous Coffee Crunch Cake, and Crab Rangoon made with Pacifica Jack (California's original jack cheese).

At the upcoming Family Train Day, visitors will come face-to-face with a Deidra Crow original, "Ocean Shore Choo Choo," an oatmeal cookie highlighted by the perfect amount of coconut.

"And wait till folks try the Hobo Lunch," the legendary chef exclaimed. A nominal fee will get you this bandana-wrapped Pacifica Jack cheese sandwich, baked beans, fruit skewers and a thirst quencher.

The event's "menu" also includes a paint-by-number mural, created by Dave Alonzo and Anthony Taganap, of the old train parked in front of the former Salada OSRR Station.

"This is for all ages to work on, it will be done outside and it has a place for every artist to sign." The community-created mural will then be a part of every event possible, including the upcoming Pacific Coast Fog Fest Parade.

Train-time storytelling, paint-by-number train mural (the wearing of old clothes advised), movies on Car 1409 and a silent auction are just the ticket to fun at this free Family Train Day at the Pacifica Coastside Museum. "Hobo Lunch" available for purchase. Saturday, July 20, 12-3 p.m., 1850 Francisco Blvd. Contact: 650-359-5462 or 650-303-1670 for information. Visit: www.pacificahistory.org or <http://www.oceanshorerailroad.org/>.

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