



February 2017

## Quarterly News for Old Pueblo Trolley

*Street Railway, Motor Bus and Museum Divisions*



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### RON DAWSON REMEMBERED

We are saddened to report that our newsletter editor, **Ron Dawson**, passed away suddenly on November 30. He took an interest in and faithfully served OPT and SATM in various capacities.

Ron was born and grew up in Las Cruces, New Mexico. As a teenager his parents let him take the train to El Paso on Saturdays to ride streetcars. He served in the Air Force, became a speech therapist serving children in El Paso school districts for about 40 years. He was married and had two daughters.

In El Paso, in addition to his classroom and clinical work, he was a key leader in El Paso's historic preservation movement and streetcar revival. The Railroad & Transportation Museum of El Paso would not exist if not for his tireless efforts. The Paso del Norte Streetcar Preservation Society, led by Ron, was instrumental in saving El Paso's PCC streetcar fleet, and for 40 years pushing the city to again use them for service in the downtown area. They are now being rehabbed, a system to run them is being built, with a target opening in late 2018 (<http://www.sunmetro.net/streetcar>). His broader railroad and preservation interests involved the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, the El Paso County Historical Society, and the El Paso County Historical Commission. In addition he enjoyed model railroading and constructed layouts wherever he lived. Ron was a historian and writer. He researched all types of transportation history, wrote history articles including a photo history of El Paso streetcars, and freely shared the information with other historians. Thus he was a friend to all who know, love and teach history.

After his wife's death he retired to Tucson. Ron immediately became active with Old Pueblo Trolley and the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum. Besides editing this newsletter, he served on the OPT Board of Directors. He was a regular twice a week volunteer with the Street Railway Division, where he became an important member of the trolley restoration team willingly doing any work needed (photo shows him in 2015 helping hydrotest an air tank for the Lisbon car restoration), and was a member of the SRD Management Committee. Likewise he served on the SATM management committee, and taped interviews for SATM's video history program. He also taped events like the SATM's annual lecture series, the dedication of OPT's new administration and transit museum building in October, and the first operation of the 1928 Twin Coach. He occasionally helped with bus restoration. We no doubt have missed other things he did. Ron's death leaves a big hole in our organization and he will be greatly missed.



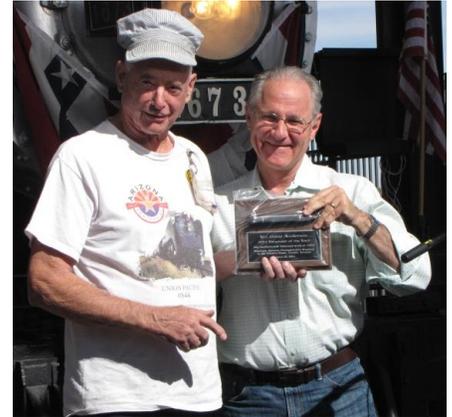
A memorial service for Ron was held in El Paso December 11. **Gene** and **Marilyn Caywood** attended representing OPT/SATM. Ron was buried next to his wife in Las Cruces after a graveside service there the next day.

Ron's family has donated his extensive collection of transportation books, magazines, historic records, model railroad equipment and supplies, etc. to OPT/SATM.

The Southern Arizona Transportation Museum Presents  
The Silver Spike Festival Celebrating  
The 137<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Railroad to Tucson  
**Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.** – Music at 9:30am

*In front of Locomotive 1673*

Mayoral Proclamation  
Display of the Original Silver Spike  
Reenactment by the descendants of 1880  
Fourth U.S. Calvary Regiment Band  
Honorees to the Silver Spike Hall of Fame  
Craft Show  
**FREE Family Fun**



414 N Toole Ave | Tucson, AZ 85701  
520-623-2223  
Tucsonhistoricdepot.org

The Southern Arizona Transportation Museum presents:  
2017 Lecture Series, Sundays 3:00 PM at the museum  
**Free Admission**

**February 12: The Golden State Limited: Michael P. Bording, Retired Conductor**

**February 19: Arizona and South Eastern RR: Richard Dick, Rail Historian**

**February 26: Soot on Laundry and Sleeping Babies: Railroad Family Life: Ms. J.J. Lamb, Vail Preservation Society Executive Director**

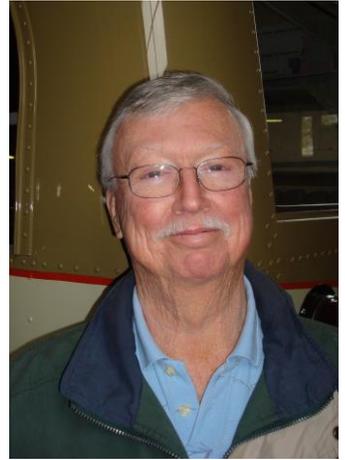
**March 19: "High in the Desert Skies" Early Arizona Aviation History: William Kalt, author President Arizona Pathfinders**

**March 26: Wagons of the Old West: Bob Stewart, Rodeo Parade Museum Chairman**

## MOTOR BUS DIVISION

### NEW LEADERSHIP

After serving as Vice President for the Motor Bus Division for about 10 years, **Roger Hobbie** (right) has resigned. He will continue volunteering as time allows, but felt it necessary to step



down due to increased business commitments. Many thanks to Roger for his time, effort and expertise which has been invaluable in contributing to the progress made on our buses.

**Bill Nelson** (left), who owns Bill Nelson Automotive, has agreed to step into the leadership role of the bus division. Bill brings over 40 years of automotive expertise to the position, and has been volunteering for several years on specific restoration and maintenance projects. All the bus volunteers look forward to working more closely with him.

### CONTINUING BUS WORK

**Bus 135, the 1960 GM:** We are pleased to announce receipt of a \$3000 grant from friends for body work and painting. Thus **Alan Walker** and **Gene Caywood** have been applying body filler and sanding. **Dave Sterle** straightened sheet metal and welded shut some unneeded holes. We aren't trying to make it look like new, but the old paint job had been touched up too many times with paint that didn't exactly match.

**Bus 8, the 1938 Yellow Coach:** **Bob Moulton** searched the internet for a special kit that fixes a design flaw in the carburetor. It had been causing the float to stick periodically and leak fuel on the manifold. Thanks to Bob the problem appears to be solved.

**Bus 100, the 1948 Aerocoach:** **Bob Moulton**, **Lou Smiley**, and our spring semester high school intern, **Gabe Gelb**, are working on the Red Diamond engine. So far no problems have been found and it appears as if the engine should start and run.

## STREET RAILWAY DIVISION

In order to accommodate moving streetcars to our new facility, **Ib P.**, **Chuck K.**, **Tom G.**, **Loretta L.** and **Skip M.** have removed the poles from cars 869 (Japanese car), 1511 (Belgium car) and 4608 (Toronto PCC). This is necessary to reduce the height when the cars are winched onto a flatbed trailer for transport.

Meanwhile, work continues on the myriad of details needed to finish the **Lisbon car, aka Prescott & Mt. Union Railway #1**. And efforts are underway to refine and complete certification paperwork required for the car to operate on the Sun Link line.

P. O. Box 1373  
Tucson, Arizona 85702



**TO:**

Newsletter Editor:  
Position Vacant

Website:  
[www.oldpueblotrolley.org](http://www.oldpueblotrolley.org)

*Quarterly Newsletter*  
*February 2017*

## MOVING AND BUILDING

Rail sorting by **Steve Hazen**, so it can be stacked and stored in some orderly fashion, is underway. A deadline of March 31 to move the remainder of our vehicles off City property at Broadway and Park has been set. That effort will be ramping up immediately.

**Jim Hardy** has finished setting up our wood shop and has been building shelves, a display cabinet and other needed things. We have had reoccurring problems with the building sewer backing up. **Dennis Gibbs** has jumped in quickly with each emergency, often with help from his girl friend **Debora**. Debora, **Mark Hart** and others have pitched in to clean up water on the floors. Dennis has added multiple cleanouts enabling easier access should a future problem occur.

**Old Pueblo Trolley is a not-for-profit operating transportation museum consisting of three divisions:**

- Tom Gorman, Vice President, Street Railway Div.
  - Bill Nelson, Vice President, Motor Bus Div.
  - Ken Karrels, Vice President, Museum Division
- CEO: Gene Caywood – email: [caywoodgm@juno.com](mailto:caywoodgm@juno.com)

Become a member of Old Pueblo Trolley  
Mail form & payment to P. O. Box 1373, Tucson 85702

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Student/Senior \$15 \_\_\_ Regular \$25 \_\_\_

Honorary Motorman \$50 \_\_\_ Contributor \$100 \_\_\_

Donor \$250 \_\_\_ Sponsor \$500 \_\_\_

Benefactor \$1000 \_\_\_ Life \$2500 \_\_\_

Division interest: Streetcar \_\_\_ Bus \_\_\_ Museum \_\_\_ All \_\_\_