

Welcome to the updated “What’s New” area of our website. We have much to share with our members and friends.

Under The Southern Pacific Story tab, one will see that many departments, sub-departments, and Southern Pacific subsidiary companies have been added. A general interest subjects page has been added as well, which currently has two subpages. In addition, the law department page has been updated and expanded. Readers will enjoy the new article in the “In Depth” area of the website about Southern Pacific’s operations in 1967 on the Coast and Saugus Lines managed by the Los Angeles Division. Included is a map showing the two lines and the stations mentioned in the article are highlighted. There are plans to add additional pages and to change additional content, so please visit the website frequently.

Again, most pages of the History Center’s website are subject to improvement. Please let us know how we can add, amend, and delete existing content. Do you have an idea for a new page? Please tell us, and we will write and publish it. This is your chance to share your knowledge of the history of Southern Pacific.

We continue to be very excited about our online archive initiative and our agreement with the St. Louis Mercantile Library, of which the Barriger Library is a part. This initiative will allow our volunteers to post Southern Pacific documents, photos, drawings, maps, and other items (Documents) on the Libraries’ servers, accessible through a robust search engine. We believe this may be the best way to memorialize the history of Southern Pacific for the long term. While we currently have only a fragment of extant Southern Pacific Documents, many of our written documents in particular are unique (many of the Southern Pacific department subsidiary company descriptions come from a rare Southern Pacific briefing book, circa 1977) because our supporters have had special access to certain collections. We have taken this approach as we know that many larger collections of Southern Pacific Documents are kept in file cabinets, boxes, and other out-of-sight places, and often are only available when the public, researchers, academics, and others travel to libraries, historical societies, and other places. We are also aware that many of these holdings have not yet been catalogued for public viewing. We are greatly concerned that when Southern Pacific Documents are out of sight, they are out of mind. In time, we believe this could lead to a loss of interest in Southern Pacific. In addition, many of those who have an interest in the history of Southern Pacific find it necessary to travel great distances or may have mobility issues.

As one might imagine, our online archive initiative will be a costly undertaking, and we are seeking financial support for various expenses, including scanning, the shipping of Documents, and an annual fee to the Libraries to help them defray the costs of providing and maintaining servers and to make available climate controlled physical archive storage for the History Center’s documents after the scanning has been completed. We have set a fundraising goal of \$100,000, and to date, we have raised more than \$57,000. We ask that if you are not a member of the History Center, please consider joining by clicking on the following link: <https://splives.org/join/>. We have recently created two new levels of membership, “Mainline” for \$500 per year and “Promontory” for a \$10,000 one-time fee lifetime membership. This membership level includes permanent website recognition, and naming rights for a page of the website. In addition, we would like for our existing members to think about increasing their current level of membership. Our existing members at the “Hopkins,” “Crocker,” “Huntington,” and “Stanford” levels will not see an increase of their existing annual fee.

In closing, we believe that we occupy a unique niche in capturing Southern Pacific’s rich history. Almost all of us here at the History Center worked for Southern Pacific, during which we made

long time friends who have furnished many Documents in the History Center's collection, and who have inspired many of the stories that many of you have read in the *Experience* and the *Bulletin*. These are activities that we will continue in our quest to present previously unpublished information about the history of Southern Pacific. We are different in that not only do we write from the perspective of insiders, but we lived the stories. Indeed, we are unique, and we can assure you that we will continue to write about many aspects of Southern Pacific that are little known. We believe that these special aspects of history should be kept in perpetuity, and we think a relationship with two respected Libraries that are an integral part of the University of Missouri – St. Louis can assure that will happen. We ask for your support.

If you have questions or have comments, please email us at administration@splives.org. Also, if you are interested in starting a discussion about any Southern Pacific topic or wish to engage in on-going discussions about Southern Pacific, please visit our Forum page by clicking on the following link: <https://splives.org/forum/>.