

# SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD HISTORY CENTER

As of June 4, 2022, the Southern Pacific Railroad History Center has 235 members. Members receive many benefits, such as access to all editions of *The Southern Pacific Experience* and special content, discounts on merchandise, and advance notice of upcoming sales.

Scott Inman, president of the History Center, has written:

I would like to sincerely thank the more than two hundred members who joined the organization during our promotion of the founding membership period! Your support has helped the History Center, both financially and by establishing a strong membership presence for our upcoming capital campaign. In addition, we are working on our design for the membership cards, which will be mailed to all members this summer. We are also designing our promotional flyer and other materials such as a legacy planning guide and these will be available in the coming weeks.



*A rendering of a portion of the diorama of the Southern Pacific's Overland Route between Roseville, California and Ogden, Utah, which will be one of the central focus points in the History Center's museum. This rendering is by J. Craig Thorpe, a nationally renowned railroad artist.*

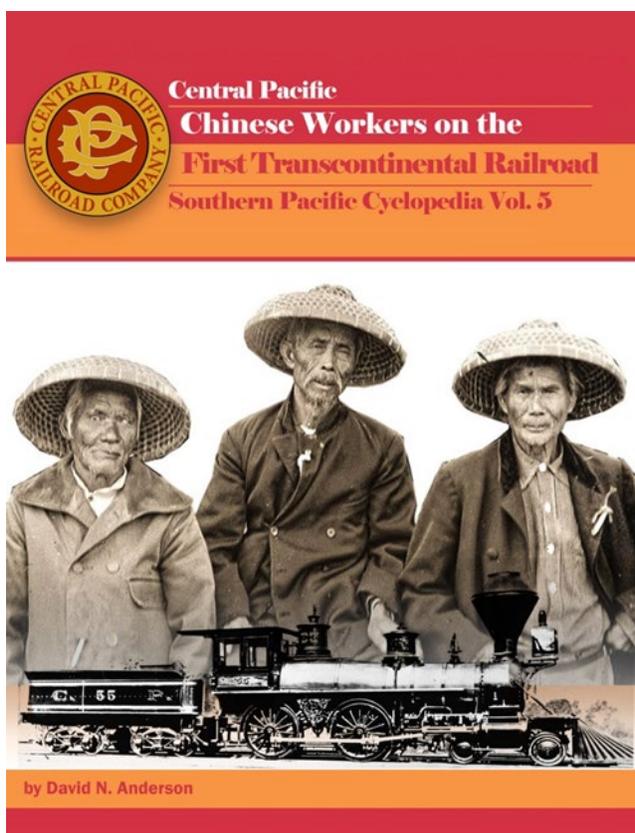
The History Center has begun the process of developing a fundraising planning committee that will hold ongoing fundraising events for the organization. We are planning two fundraising events for 2022, and these will be announced along with dates in an upcoming edition of the *Bulletin*. The main purpose for our fundraising events at this time will be to fund special exhibits that will ultimately be displayed in the museum when built, and revenue raised beyond the scope of the exhibits will be directed to the property

purchase fund. If you would like to be on our team of people who plan, organize, decorate, or prepare mailings for fundraising events, please contact me at [tighttrains@hotmail.com](mailto:tighttrains@hotmail.com).

Last fall, we received a large collection of approximately 1,400 books from the late Bill Briggs of Minneapolis, Minnesota. There were over seventy banker's boxes of surplus books that were

duplicate or not needed for our archive collection and we will continue to list these together with those from other collections for sale on our website at [www.splives.org/books](http://www.splives.org/books). We plan to list as many as one hundred books per month, and members will receive advance notice of future postings. Selling surplus books is an excellent fundraiser for our archive, and we appreciate your support. Special thanks to Doug Hodgdon, Mike Pechner, Ron Swehla, Bill Fowler, and John Ruehle for their help with this project!

For member access to *The Southern Pacific Experience* and special content, click on <https://www.splives.org/> and then on the horizontal menu, click on "The Southern Pacific Experience" and follow the prompts. If you have issues accessing the *Experience*, please email [splives@splives.org](mailto:splives@splives.org) for assistance.



The latest volume in the Southern Pacific Cyclopedia Series is now available from Aeronaut Press. Volume 5 is titled "Central Pacific Chinese Workers on the First Transcontinental Railroad" and was written by historian and former California State Railroad Museum Docent David Anderson. Dave spent many years researching the Chinese culture, work ethic, accomplishments, and adversities experienced during the four years the emigrants worked on the construction of the Central Pacific between Auburn, California and Promontory, Utah.

The book's description reads: "Between 1865 and 1869, thousands of Chinese emigrants toiled at a grueling pace and in perilous working conditions to help construct the world's first Transcontinental Railroad. The Central Pacific Railroad first employed 50 Chinese workers on a trial basis as construction progressed through Auburn, California. From there, it is estimated that during peak construction, 12,000 Chinese laborers were employed to help build 690

miles of track, bore 6,213 feet of tunnel, and construct 35 bridges and trestles for the Central Pacific. The ultimate impact of Chinese labor was the completion of Manifest Destiny and the development of the Western United States."

The book features a look into the past at the construction of the Central Pacific, led by "The Associates" and carried out in large measure by Chinese emigrants. Photographs by Alfred Hart, Thomas Houseworth, Andrew Russell, and others supplement this story. The author and publisher hope you enjoy this book, available as a print-on-demand title from Amazon.

Finally, the photo slideshow on the home page of the History Center's website has been updated with all new photos from throughout the Southern Pacific system covering a span of six decades.