

ORANGE COUNTY MODEL ENGINEERS WEBSITE: www.ocmetrains.org

OCME 2010 Board of Directors



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Mike Getscher, V.P. Operations



Jim Ferguson, President



Paul Hammond, Treasurer



Larry Ogle, Secretary

O.C.M.E., P.O. Box 3216, Costa Mesa, CA 92628-3216, (949) 54-TRAIN. Editor and Publisher: Bill Pemberton. bill.pemberton@ca.rr.com; 2944 Redwood Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3741. Our railroad is located in Fairview Park, 2480 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA.



A FIRST CLASS RAILROAD

BY

President Jim Ferguson

Good Ideas or No Ideas

A few people are afraid of good ideas, ideas that make a difference or contribute in some way. Good ideas bring change, that's frightening to many people. They are on the path of why we can't do something as opposed to how do we figure something out.

Many people are petrified of bad ideas. Ideas that make us look stupid or waste time, money or create some sort of backlash.

The problem is that you can't have good ideas unless you're willing to generate a lot of bad ones.

Painters, musicians, entrepreneurs and writers fail far more than they succeed. We fail at closing a sale, catching the wind wrong or playing a note. We make a series of mistakes before we learn the right way to do something. But we succeed far more often than people who have no ideas or don't try something different.

Someone asked me where I get all my ideas, explaining that it takes him a month or two to come up with just one. I asked him how many bad ideas he has every month. He paused and said, "none." And there, you see, is the problem.

We have thought about building a ticket booth and requiring people to pick up a ticket to ride the train on run days. This is not a novel idea. Have you ever tried to get on any train without a ticket? Of course not! We want to ask for a suggested donation of \$1.00 per person or \$3.00 per family. This is not a new idea and it isn't even mine. LA Live Steamers did this a few years ago and doubled their income over night. I am all for this idea because I want to see our railroad grow, and to do this we need to generate additional income. Just to clarify, this is a suggested donation. If a family can only afford \$3.00 or no dollars, they get tickets.

{See President, Page 3}

2010 O.C.M.E. Board of Directors

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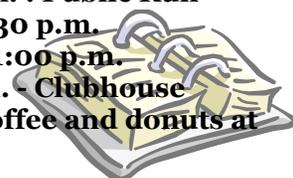
- #### Appointed Officers:
- #### Mackerel Flats Mercantile Store Co-Mgrs:
- Betty Cummings.....*82(714) 979-9390
 - Janet Trom.....(714) 546-4721

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 6th Sat.: Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.
General Meeting 9:00 a.m. - Clubhouse
followed by Work Day. Coffee and donuts at
meeting -- Lunch at noon

February 20th & 21st Sat. & Sun. : Public Run
Weekend 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

March 6th Sat.: Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.
General Meeting 9:00 a.m. - Clubhouse
followed by Work Day. Coffee and donuts at
meeting -- Lunch at noon



THE WAY FREIGHT is published by **ORANGE COUNTY MODEL ENGINEERS, INC. (OCME)**, a non-profit California Corporation which has created **THE MACKEREL FLATS & GOAT HILL JCT. RAILROAD** in Fairview Park, Costa Mesa, California. It is the intent of OCME to educate and enlighten people of all ages in the rich railroad heritage of the United States of America and other parts of the world. As a qualified non-profit organization, all donations are fully tax deductible under IRS ruling 501 (C) (3). Views and opinions expressed in **THE WAY FREIGHT** are not necessarily those of **OCME**. Material for **THE WAY FREIGHT** may be submitted to Bill Pemberton, 2944 Redwood Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92626-3741 or bill.pemberton@ca.rr.com.



Mike Getscher

Trains have been a consistent part of Mike's life starting with a Lionel set under the Christmas tree in 1964. Although he never had a chance to build a traditional model railroad layout, his interest was fed through the years by Model Railroader magazines and the occasional visit to museums and layouts.

After growing up in Long Beach, an early career as a diesel mechanic gave way to a mechanical engineering degree and an interest in sea-going work on research vessels at Cal State Long Beach and USC. He worked for the latter for 5 years as Port Engineer and gained an engineering license in the Merchant Marine. Following this, a twist of fate (driven by the expectation of his first child) dropped him at the Santa Fe Railroad as switchman/brakemen in the Los Angeles subdivision. He took an early promotion opportunity and became Engine Foreman and ran a switch crew on the midnight shift while switching industry or building trains in the heart of LA. Several trips up Cajon were also a highlight during his time with the railroad. Further opportunity presented itself within the Santa Fe engineering department in Topeka but this was ultimately lost when the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe decided to merge into one company including their respective engineering groups.

About that time, a fortuitous call came in offering employment at sea. Thus began a 3 year stint working for SAIC as vessel engineer on a survey vessel in various places throughout the world. This included a year in the Mediterranean and another in the Gulf of Mexico. Several trans-Atlantic trips and some time as Chief Engineer extended his experience. During this time, he was fortunate to have opportunities to work on both ALCO and EMD railroad diesel engines which are used extensively in the maritime industry.

He came home from the sea to operate the engineering plant at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach late in 1998, staying almost 6 years before moving on to broader facilities management work and a role in a consulting firm. He now directs field operations for Ice Energy which is a thermal storage and air conditioning company.

Somewhere in all of this he found the live steam hobby and began to follow the local clubs on a regular basis. Multiple visits to LALS fed his interest and it wasn't long before construction of a steam engine was begun. Now ten years in process, progress has been slow as machinery and expertise are acquired. Additional interruptions include locomotive repair projects for friends including two 3/4" scale steam engines and the unique Clishay engine which you may have seen at the club last year. Mike now has anywhere from 3 to 5 locomotives in the garage on any given day under various stages of repair and operability. His main passion for the hobby is building and refurbishing engines of all types.

Mike joined OCME almost two years ago from Garden Grove where he lives with wife Ann and boys Chris (14) and Tim (12). Tim is a youth member and can be seen running his battery powered Mack switcher or the Clishay on the track. Tim and his dad are also heavily involved in Boy Scouts where Tim is working successfully towards the rank of Eagle. Their older boy, Chris, is an autistic child who loves all things involving trains and especially Thomas the Tank Engine.

{Ed. Note} Mike is one of the newest members of our Club's Board of Directors serving as the Vice President - Operations.

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