



Willie Wilhelm, 96, Passes; Leaves 39-Year Legacy

By Diana Manchester



Willie is best known for his involvement in the steam plant and with the documentation of the underground utilities around the Club.

But his fingerprints can be found on many items around the Club. From the development of the steam plant, to the Club's air and water systems, to renovating our full-sized railroad cars, to landscaping, to building trestles, to expanding the Club westward, Willie would see a need, volunteer his time and then figure out how to build, renovate or repair it.

He was adept at involving other members on a project, and if the project had aspects outside his area of expertise, he was not shy about contacting the best in the appropriate industry for instruction or assistance. Willie served as president of the Club in 1990-1991, which was a tumultuous time for LALS with the steam train tourist line through our facility being contemplated by the City. He was also our Facilities Superintendent for a number of years, as well as the Roster and newsletter editor.

Manhattan Project, Apollo Program, Space Shuttle

Willie had a Ph.D in engineering and worked for Rocketdyne for much of his career. He was involved on many significant rocket projects, including chief engineer for the Thor intermediate range missile in the late 1950's. He was the project engineer of the J2 liquid-fuel cryogenic engines used in the second and third stages of the Saturn, which took men to the moon in the Apollo program. He was the lead engineer for the design and development proposal for the Space Shuttle. Prior to Rocketdyne he worked for Westinghouse on the Manhattan project.

Steam Plant

Willie was the consummate engineer. He built nothing without plan-

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Your 2019 Board of Directors

Public Service

December

23,30 Public Rides

January

6, 13 Public Rides

20 Public Rides; Disney Barn
Open/Steam Plant
Operating

27 — Public Rides

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD



By Christie Edinger, Secretary

The final Board meeting of 2018 was called to order by President Peter Fuad at 6:57 pm. 33 members and seven Board members were in attendance. Diana Manchester was attending to a family matter out of state.

Fred Lack acknowledged a Christmas card and letter from Ginny Berg, which included a donation to the Club. He then went over financials for the month, which included proceeds from Ghost Train and Boney Island.

Peter explained a survey that was to go to voting members to address concerns about our Ghost Train fundraiser. He, with John Garcia and Sara Morris developed a Power Point presentation showing our financials with and without Ghost Train. The survey was intended to be informational only, so we know how the Club feels about Ghost Train before moving forward. It will most likely be done electronically using Survey Monkey or Google forms.

Membership Chairman Wayne Crabb congratulated Carolyn Chang and Daniel Lai on completing their probation. Nels

Membership Renewals

Look for your 2019 Membership Renewal packet in early January and maybe sooner. It will contain the 2019 Level 1 Safety test for pulling public. This is an open book test, and it must be completed and returned to the Club for you to be recertified. When your packet comes, please send your renewal form back – WITH ANY CORRECTIONS NEEDED (– and with YOUR PAYMENT – right away before you FORGET. You are assured of being listed in the Roster if you get it in by February 1st. Even if you owe no dues, send the form back anyway so we know your information is current. *Wilbur Dong, LALSRRM Database*

Nelson asked for a two-month extension to complete his probation, which was granted.

Superintendent Ted Merchant gave us a rundown on the upcoming tree trimming project. 50 trees are being affected. Ted, Andrew Chaves and Peter toured the property and looked at every tree to see what needs to be done.

On a Sunday they took the tour again including some Board members. Trees with a red ribbon will be cut down and those with a yellow ribbon will be trimmed. Many of those marked for removal are dying and are being removed due to safety.

Another project soon to begin is replacement of the water wheel bridge on the mountain. While the bridge is out, we will route traffic to the west end through the Disney Tunnel, but first there are sections of track on the Disney loop in need of repair.

Ted pointed out that we need propane storage since several members were cited for storing propane in the storage sheds. The Board agreed on purchasing a new larger propane storage cabinet that will sit on the concrete pad next to the large propane tank. The new cabinet will hold at least 16 tanks of propane.

Alex O'Donnell gave a short presentation on his plan to resurrect the Sherwood Logging Company atop the mountain by replacing the flats with miniature buildings. He has one in place temporarily to see how it will look and is building several more.

Tim announced that the permit for the electrical panel has finally been issued, so that project will soon be underway.

Gary Baker and Jason Thompson put up the beautiful decorations on Sherwood Station for Christmas. There is a sign on the station dedicating the decorations to the memory of Barbara Fuad. Gary presented Peter Fuad with a copy of the sign at the conclusion of the meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank all the membership for the honor and privilege of serving on your Board for the past two years. Happy Holidays to all!

From the SUPER



By
Ted
Merchant

Hello Train-Fans!

Fall is ending. The air is cold. Rain caused the usual landslides, and an impressive number of hardy souls came out December 8 to clean up the mess. Our workday, December 15, saw the usual leaf cleaning crews. The track laying crew replaced defective panels east of the Nelson Tunnel. And the signal crew made sure we move in the right direction.

We have an active year-end schedule: Special Tree Service will start tree removal and pruning Monday, December 17. Later that week Jeremy Steinert will disconnect the power supplies spanning the Nelson Summit Bridge. Saturday we plan to remove that bridge. December 26th, Isabel De Los Santos, Inc. will replace the rotting footings with reinforced concrete. We will powder coat the bridge while it is removed. Expect the Mountain Division to be shut down for about four weeks. Stay tuned to blast emails regarding this project. We will need your help.

This is my last Superintendent Column for the Booster. I will be leaving my post to assume a new assignment. Jeremy Steinert generously VOLUNTEERED to take over my responsibilities. I thank each of you for helping me do this job for the last five years. I ask that you to provide Jeremy with the same enthusiastic assistance. I am sure you will. Remember, this is our Club. It is only as good as we make it.

Once again, we thank all who help at the Club every day. Many of you are recognized in "Who's Been Working on the Railroad", but we, regretfully, miss many.

Your feedback is always welcome.
EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com.

Camera! Lights! Trains! Alex's Train on TV

On Wednesday, December 12, "The Goldbergs", a popular sitcom on ABC about a suburban family and their colorful antics, featured a working 1" train belonging to Alex O'Donnell. The show is loosely based on [program creator] Adam Goldberg's 1980's childhood, during which he videotaped events, many of which are reenacted throughout the program.

The TV son "Barry" is thrilled he gets to celebrate Christmas now that he is engaged to "Lainey." Barry exuberantly rides Alex's train through the dining room while his mother "Beverly" whips up crazier and crazier Hanukkah celebrations. See it on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jNba5pwOZE

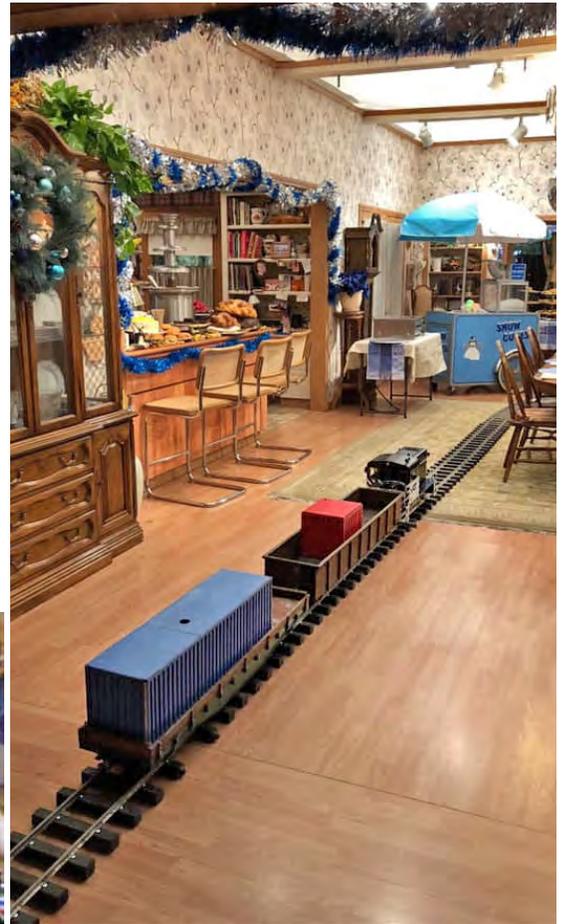
The back story: In September the Club received an email from the show's set decorator, looking for a live steam train that could run through the dining room of the show's set, much like the train from the 1980's show, "Silver Spoons". Diana Manchester called Alex O'Donnell who had two trains that could possibly be used, as well as track.

We sent photos and descriptions, the decorator liked them, and soon

Alex was coordinating with the producer. They chose his Santa Fe 471 switcher and two cars. He took them to Sony Pictures Studios and assembled it all on the set for filming with the stars of the show. (Photo far left)

Alex says this gig was not his first time his trains have appeared on television. His LE Atlantic steam locomotive was featured in a promo for the Oscars earlier this year with SNL star Molly Shannon. The spot was used to illustrate the tricks of Special Effects. See it here: <https://globalnews.ca/video/3981706/oscars-2018-film-editing>.

Alex is a Mechanical Design Engineer at Skanska USA, working on the Purple Line.



President's Message



By Peter Fuad, President

Willie and the Greatest Generation

The passing of Willie Wilhelm reminds us that the group of members comprising the Club's "Greatest Generation" continues to shrink.

Willie, like others of his generation who founded the Club or became members early on, was a bright, talented aerospace engineer who loved the hobby and devoted many, many hours to promoting and *protecting* the Club. The list of Willie's accomplishments alone, as set forth in the adjoining story of his passing, is remarkable and unlikely to be repeated.

I say "protecting" because the wellbeing and collegiality of the Club doesn't just happen—it must be constantly sustained and reaffirmed by individual members in their dealings with the Club and other members.

Sometimes, members may actually have to check their own egos and/or personal agendas at the door and act for the betterment of the Club. Willie understood that and acted accordingly.

A memorial service will be held for Willie on December 27 at 10:00 am, at Oakwood Memorial Park and Cemetery in Chatsworth.

Thanks

This is my last missive as president of the Club. I have learned a lot about how the Club works—or doesn't. I am frustrated about not completing more projects, but I think the approval process for new projects that I helped implement will benefit the Club. I am very happy that Sara Morris is our new bookkeeper. She brings an outsider's perspective and expertise to help make our financial records accurate and transparent.

As many of know, 2018 was a difficult year for me personally, as my wife of 33 years, Barbara, died of cancer on November 7, at age 66. Her husband liked iron horses, she liked real ones. Your condolences and kindness, and the remembrance of her amid the Christmas decorations on New Sherwood Station are appreciated.



Barbara

Willie Wilhelm, 96, Passes

(Continued from page 1)

ning and detailed drawings. When he and Dan O'Brien took over renovation of the Club's old steam plant, Dan O'Brien would've just jumped into action with the basic ideas in his head, but Willie insisted on developing plans.

They downsized the old plant to half its size, re-installed it in its present location, and over time, expanded it. The current plant has one large 10 hp boiler, operating at 145 psi, which powers seven vintage engines. Willie intended that the steam plant be used for educational purposes: to train interested members in steam plant operation, and demonstrate how steam was used to provide power before electricity was widely used. It is a crowd pleaser on the third Sunday of each month.

Restored UP Coaches

When the Club received the two UP coaches from the railroad, they both had aluminum corrosion. He took on the restoration project even though he had no idea how to repair this type of metal. Wasting no time, he contacted the Navy and found a shipbuilding engineer who provided the consultation needed for Willie to successfully repair the affected areas.

Willie had a well-equipped machine shop at home where he loved to build things. He decided to build an Allen ten-wheeler steam locomotive. He took a welding class and made his own stainless steel boiler. When it proved too tricky to weld himself, he got his instructor from Pierce College to do the work for him. The finished locomotive ran beautifully and provided many years of service to the Club. It is now owned by a member at Riverside Live Steamers and still runs well.

Cared for Club

Willie cared about the Club and its needs, even when it didn't directly benefit him. An example was the Phil West Barn. He stored no equipment there, but he still did not want anyone's equipment damaged during a north-south moving earthquake,

which would rock the storage tracks sideways and rip the bolts from the floor. He got a Rocketdyne engineer to advise how to better secure the racks to the floor, then he drew up the plans and the members implemented it.



Willie rebuilt our rotting wooden steaming bays with metal in time for our 1980 IBLS Meet. He helped design the Club's air compressor system and the compressor house. He determined the need for our "super trains" with bench seats after a weeks-long study where our various trains were timed how long it took them to empty the Station. Larry Sacks remembers being on "stopwatch duty" during that study. The result was larger, safer trains that could carry many more people and keep the lines moving.

And who remembers the infamous

"Willie's Picks" letter which circulated prior to Club elections each year?

Procured Trees

A non-mechanical project Willie took on was working with Lew Soibelman in the planting of trees and shrubbery around the Club. Matt Swain shares that "Willie worked a wholesale deal of some kind with Boething's Tree Farm out in the west valley which kept us busy planting stuff for months (and me scrambling to get sprinklers installed after the fact.) The results are very gratifying today."

Dave Clark remembers meeting Willie 20 years ago when he talked him into working at the Steam Plant. "He never ran out of projects," Dave said. Bill Schirmer remembers, "He was friendly and always willing to help; we helped each other. He had wit and was like a breath of fresh air."

Alex O'Donnell shared, "Willie was really kind and full of knowledge when it came to all things mechanical and steam-related. He will be missed sorely." Roger Williams writes, "I'm really going to really miss his witty humor, his friendship, and his relentless pursuit to better our live steam club."

Born in 1922

Willie was born on September 29, 1922. He met his first wife, Arliss at the University of Washington. She was very involved in Club activities and a good friend to the other members. They shared a love for ballroom dancing, and Willie was also a ham radio operator.

The couple lived in Calabasas with their son and daughter in a home Willie designed and built. When Arliss contracted Alzheimer's disease, Willie cared for her at home as long as he could; she passed away when Willie was in his early 60's.

Later, he was introduced to his second wife Flora, who also loved dancing. It was great to see them on the dance floor at Spring Meets while The Esquires played.

Services December 27

Willie quietly passed away in his sleep on Tuesday, December 11. A memorial service will be held December 27, 10:00 am, at Oakwood Memorial Park and Cemetery in Chatsworth.

Holidays at the Club



Clockwise from left top: Sherwood Station decorated; Santa at Disney Barn December 16; Memorial to Barbara Fuad, Peter Fuad's wife; Christmas Banquet. (Diane Manchester and John Garcia Photos)



Rain Damage and Cleanup

By Christie Edinger

The rains of December 5 and 6 caused flooding in our maintenance bay. On Friday, Bill Schirmer found about two feet of leaves clogging the drains to the sump pumps, and cleaned them out. A plastic bucket of used motor oil had overturned

and mixed with the water and soggy leaves. After most of the leaves were removed, Zak Holman used Dawn dish detergent to break down the oils in the water, and then power washed the bay after the water pumped out. The maintenance bay was then ready for working on trains for

the weekend. The Phil West Barn did not get any flooding. We experienced some landslides along the Crystal Springs track. On Saturday a number of members worked on clearing the wet DG, debris and rocks, including Doug Young, John DePhilip, Ted Merchant, Les Kovacs, Don Kallgren and Joe Clow.

Above: ◀ Maintenance bay (Bill Schirmer photo) and ▲ hillside track. (Christie Edinger photos)

Observation Car



▲ Colin Marsden, Sheryl Bovi and Doug Pickard. (All photos this page Diana Manchester)

Doug and Sheryl are live steamers from Tehachapi. Sheryl runs the Tehachapi Railroad Depot Museum and gift shop. Colin is a friend of the Pickards and is visiting from Devon, England. He is a professional photographer of full-size trains for a train magazine. They wanted an interesting place to visit with their friend and came to our Club on Sunday, December 16. Fred Lack took them on a tour of our facility and hosted them at the Disney Barn.

A number of years ago, Doug bought a locomotive from an old-time LALS member named William Cox. Included with the train was a packet of materials, including historic photos of LALS and a number of pristine Rosters dating all the way back to 1956, plus a copy of our By-laws from 1956. He donated these to our library.

Conductors Course

The next conductors course will be held January 20, 2019 at 10:30 am. Meet in the Kountry Kitchen.

Please call Fred Lack at (310) 213-0722 or email me at: atlantis90230@yahoo.com to confirm attendance.

Please bring a radio (tuned to 8.2) Bring a whistle with a cork in it (police type).

▶ Roger Caiazza (*right*) operating his 1" doodlebug, the "Weehawken Hoboken & Troy" at our Club December 16 and 17. Photo by Christie Edinger.

Roger is visiting southern California for a week from the Syracuse area of New York. He is a member of the Finger Lakes Live Steamers, and serves as their president and newsletter editor. He introduced himself at our General Meeting and invited us all to their 50th anniversary meet in August 2019. More info at: <https://fingerlakeslivesteamers.org/>

▼ Joe Clow, certified Level 1 engineer, and his Santa Fe, hauling the public for the first time on Sunday, December 16.



▼ Wayne Crabb welcomes Carolyn Chang and Daniel Lai as full members at the December Board Meeting. (Glen Manchester photo)

▼ Children's Hospital Toy Drive Box at New Sherwood Station (John Garcia photo)



Who's been Working on the Railroad

Aaron Emmer	Larry Tighe
Alex O'Donnell	Mark Vreeken
Andrew Chaves	Matt Yoder-Hall
Bill Schirmer	Les Kovacs
Bill Walker	Mel Bresee
Brenda Garcia	Miles Kristman
Charles Rhoades	Ray Burden
Christie Edinger	Roderick Fritz
Diana Manchester	Ron Nelson
Don Donaldson	Ross Harper
Don Kallgren	Steve Rodstein
Doug Young	Ted Merchant
Frances Barnes	Mike Stockton
Glen Manchester	John Hoffman
Jack Streit	Harrison Hitchcock
Jay Hawver	Richard Mallery
Jeremy Steinert	Patty Mo
Jim Baker	Josh Garcia
John Garcia	Brandon Ruiz
Joseph Clow	Les Kovacs.
Stevo Brock	

Working on the Railroad: Bill Schirmer, Les Kovacs, John DePhillip, Doug Young, Miles Kristman and others lay new track panels on the mainline near Disney Junction.

SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD November

Engineers and Conductors

Francis Barnes	Mark Vreeken
Christie Edinger	Daryll Payne
Peter Fuad	Joseph Clow
Bear Mustoe	Scott Hoagland
John Garcia	Nels Nelsen
Tom Crue	Jay Hawver
Larry Mitchell	Paul Liu
Michael Mahan	

Safety Coordinators

Michael Murphy, Wayne Crabb, Jim Cammarata

Ridership

Nov. 4	579	Nov. 18	753
Nov. 11	349	Nov. 25	559
Total November 2018 — 2244			
Total 2018 — 29,797			
Total 2017 — 29,742			

Souvenirs and Tickets

Brenda Garcia, Larry Mitchell, Larry Tighe

Station Masters

Larry Mitchell, Don Donaldson, Robert Guzman, Greg Pschaida, Tom Crue, Jim DeBiasio, Glen Manchester, Mark Vreeken



Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

In Griffith Park
Mailing Address—PO Box 2156,
Toluca Lake, CA 91610
Phone (323) 661-8958

2018 Officers and Directors

President	Peter Fuad
Vice President	Doug Young
Secretary	Christie Edinger
Treasurer	Fred Lack
Directors	
Wayne Crabb	Christie Edinger
John Garcia	Peter Fuad
Andrew LaGaly	Fred Lack
Diana Manchester	Doug Young



Member Schedule

December

23 Public Rides
30 Public Rides

January

6 Public Rides
7 BOD Meeting 7:00 p.m.
12 **Change Directions**
13 Public Rides
19 Work Day/Member Meeting
20 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant Operating
26 **Safety Inspection:**
9 am Club Riding Cars
2 pm Member Equipment
27 Public Rides **Marathon 6 am to noon: Enter Griffith Park via Los Feliz entrance**



The Club's Holiday Banquet was again celebrated at the Smoke House on the first Saturday of December this year.

Approximately 34 members and guests enjoyed prime rib, chicken buena vista and pasta primavera with carrot cake for dessert. Because we had a smaller group than usual, we were seated in the smaller banquet room at the front of the restaurant.

The cash raffle netted \$310 and was won by Garibalde Figueroa. Two additional raffle presents were also awarded: a bottle of champagne to Mary Lou Obbink, and a wrench kit (donated by Larry Fisher) to Garibalde's friend, Brandon. A gift of \$300 was raised for our chef, Jaimy Ayon, which Peter surprised him with on Sunday. *(Photo, below right.)*

Peter gave a short speech, thanking everyone for coming and expressing gratitude to the Club for the opportunity to serve this past year.

Tables packed with smiling members at this year's Holiday Banquet. Table at immediate right was known as the "outcasts table," not because its diners weren't welcome, but because the table was outside next to the foyer. They made up for it, *(Photos by John Garcia and Christie Edinger photos)*

