

## Second Section

Member Charles G. Seims writes; I enjoyed Ralph Cantos' article on trolleys in Hollywood motion pictures. While Ralph dealt mainly with short comedies, I'd like to point out that there are many traction scenes in the early full length features, and due to the proliferation of cable TV channels such as TNT and AMC, films are being shown that have not been out of the can for fifty years or more. Worthy of mention are the following three "traction classics" because they have all been on American Movie Classics in the last few months and are likely to be repeated:

CAUGHT PLASTERED, Wheeler & Woolsey (1931)-- The stars are a vaudeville comedy team that are usually hilarious in a corny sort of way. In this early talkie they befriend an old lady and save her drugstore from being taken over by bootlegging gangsters. A fun plot and a long sequence shot inside an LARy car on West Pico Boulevard makes this a film to stay up late for.

MUSIC IS MAGIC, Alice Faye, (1935)--There's only one thing to recommend this turkey of a musical-- one of many coming-to-Hollywood films of the thirties. *Alice Faye turns in her usual lackluster performance, and unfortunately there's not a memorable song in the whole film.* Comic relief, such as it is, is provided by the team of Mitchell and Durant (I don't know if this is a play on the names of the General Motors' executives). When they can't get a job in motion pictures (not surprising given their obvious lack of talent) the boys take a job with the Pacific Electric, and naturally make a mess of things. In a sequence lasting four or five minutes, they manage to run wooden car #863 off the end of single track right-of-way in the San Fernando valley. Surely this is the only sound motion picture ever made of the Benmar Hills line in Burbank.

UNION STATION, William Holden, Nancy Olson (1950)— Nowhere as good as Sunset Boulevard, this is still a suspenseful and entertaining film about a kidnapping ransom payoff at Chicago's Union Station. Paramount sent a second unit to shoot a few exterior scenes in Chicago, but all of the interiors are filmed at Union Station in Los Angeles. There's some stock footage of a Chicago elevated train, but the interiors are shot with a PE 950 class car (fitted with folding doors) on the viaduct over Los Angeles Street. The climax and shoot-out takes place in the little freight subway that flooded and caused so much damage last year.

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Incidentally, the tri-crested mountain peak looming over City Hall on the January cover of TIMEPOINTS is none other than Mount Lowe. The entire Mount Lowe Railway site was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There will be a number of celebrations and festivities scheduled in July to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the inclined railway to Echo Mountain.

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Member Dr. John W. Marchildon asks... There is a Charlie Chaplin film with a seeming rural setting, a few houses and a lot of space in the background. Into this scene comes a streetcar on a single track, perhaps along the side of the road, with a dash sign "Commonwealth Avenue."?

Wouldn't it would be a great idea if all these sequences could be gathered into one video?

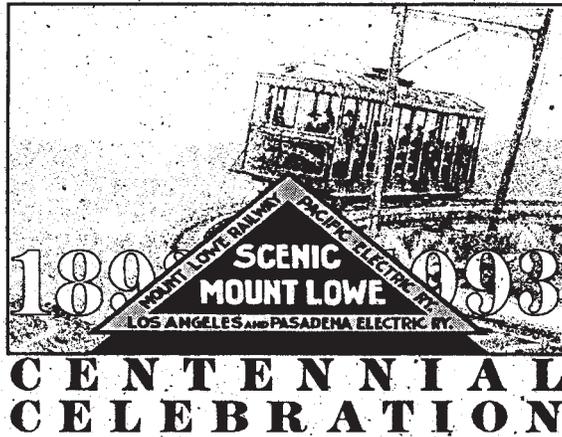
*(ERHA has been thinking of doing just that! Editor)*

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Member Yorkman Lowe answers Ralph's question... Safety Last features Lloyd hanging onto the May Co. department store building, Broadway & 9th, which still stands.

**Save the Date!**  
 Sunday, July 4, 1993  
 Centennial Celebration  
 and Picnic  
 100th Anniversary of the  
 Opening of the Historic  
 Mount Lowe Railway  
*Sponsored by Altadena  
 Heritage*



**Volunteers Needed!**  
 Call Mike @ (818) 791-8354 or Astrid @ (818) 797-1234 or write to  
 Mount Lowe Railway  
 Centennial Celebration  
 Committee  
 PO Box 6493  
 Altadena, CA 91003

**In Memorium**  
**Jan Ward**  
 wife of ERHA member Paul Ward  
 February 1, 1993

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS REGION XII  
 1993 ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE**

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting for Region XII (California, Nevada, and Hawaii) of the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP). The meeting will be held on Saturday, March 20th, 9:30 AM to Noon, at the Los Angeles Hilton, 930 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, adjacent to the 7th Street/Metro Center station on the Red (subway) and Blue (Light Rail) lines. A breakfast buffet will be served at 10:00 AM.

Eugene K. Skoropowski, AIA, NARP Vice-President, will report on national rail developments. Leif Erik Lange NARP executive committee member, will report on California rail developments. The charge for the meeting and breakfast buffet is \$25 per person.

**SPECIAL ADDED ATTRACTION**

Following the meeting, a special NARP-chartered Metrolink train will bring NARP members, spouses, and guests to the Metrolink yard for a narrated tour, and whisk the group over the 79 mph line to a stop at the Santa Clarita station. The train will then operate to the new Montclair station and return to Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal on the East line. The charge for the charter train is \$40.

**BONUS**

For buffet, meeting, and charter trip, the EARLY BIRD (no later than a **March 5** postmark) charge is \$55 per person. If any reservations are available after March 5, the charge for the buffet, meeting, and trip will be \$60.

REGISTRATION	Buffet and Meeting:	\$25 per person
	Special Charter Train Only:	\$40 per person
	EARLY BIRD Combination (before March 5);	\$55 per person
	Combination (after March 5);	\$60 per person

Questions?, Please contact Bob Lawrence at (O) (310) 331-6340 or (H) (310) 372- 8245 or Ed Von Nordeck at (909) 787-8350

Mail your check to: NARP Region XII c/o Robert Ramsay PO Box 385, Arcadia, CA 91066  
*Please make checks payable to NARP Region XII*

PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF- ADDRESSED, STAMPED #9 OR #10 ENVELOPE  
 Tickets and information will be returned in the mail

**In Memorium**  
**David E. Gillespie**  
 former ERHA member, Pacific Electric motorman  
 and long-time railfan  
 January 17, 1993