



WHEELS MUSEUM

Newsletter

Winter 2021

Events, Community Gatherings and New Exhibits

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

We are gratified to be fulfilling our mission by inviting so many community groups to see WHEELS and learn about the history of the Steam Locomotive Shops, past, present and our plans for the future. As you read this newsletter you will see some of the activities lately and this is really picking up steam with school groups, corporate groups, churches and clubs. If you have a group of up to fifty members please come and visit us. **Letter continued on page 6**

Coming Event April 15-17: Fabulous Amtrak Trip to the La Posada Hotel in Winslow, Arizona



Enjoy two nights at this restored historic landmark. A world-renowned American treasure, this special place is one of the last of the great trackside Harvey Hotels. **Details on Page 2**

Winslow Trip Details

Built in 1929, at the time it was the finest hotel constructed by the Santa Fe Railroad. The restoration has brought the hotel back to its former comfort and grandeur. The trip will include:

- *Social get-together prior to the trip to meet your fellow travelers

- *Two nights lodging at La Posada

- *Private tour of the hotel to learn about the history and view historic artifacts

- *Roundtrip train transportation

- *Saturday breakfast and dinner

- *Hotel gratuities

- *Visit to the Old Trails Museum/Winslow Historical Society and the former Hubbell Trading Post.



“Standin on a corner”

You will also have the opportunity to take pictures at the site of the Eagles first hit single, Take It Easy. The song has the lyric “Standin’ on a corner in Winslow Arizona, such a fine site to see, it’s a girl my lord in a flatbed Ford, slowin’ down to take a look at me.”

Tour cost: \$1000 for two people sharing a room, \$650 for a single

Contact: Donna Pedace at pedaceabq@aol.com or 505-349-8850 to book your space.

“Don’t let the sound of your own wheels drive you crazy.”

The community is discovering that WHEELS is an exciting place to meet, learn and entertain.

WHEELS in the Movies!



Railcar interior

Activity in October was buzzing as set designers and a film crew came to use WHEELS as a backdrop for filming a western movie, set in the 1880's about young Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

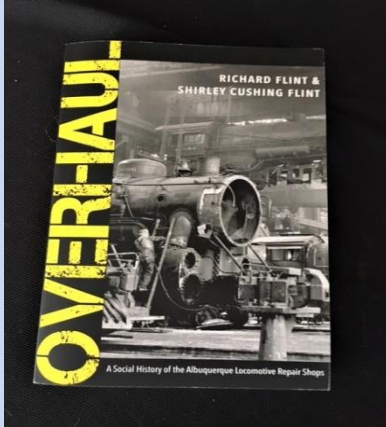
They built a model of a vintage rail car for filming and the car was donated to WHEELS to keep on permanent exhibit. Come and see and take pictures of yourself and family in the railcar.

Would you like to name our new railcar? Be a sponsor for \$5,000 to have the name you choose memorialized in script on the side of the car and a plaque indicating your name or company name as the railcar sponsor.



Railcar Exterior

If you are interested in being a sponsor, for more information contact Leba Freed at phone 505-243-6269



Overhaul Book presentation.

In September, three standing room only crowds of 50 people attended authors **Richard Flint and Shirley Cushing Flint** discussion of their book --a history of the Railyards. The book is on sale at WHEELS for \$20.00.



Railyard Workers History.

Historian **Cecelia Navarette** presented a fascinating talk in September to another SRO crowd at WHEELS about the workers and families who transformed Albuquerque from the 1880's to the 1950's.



An Afternoon of Jazz at WHEELS on December 11.

A former “Raelette” with the legendary Ray Charles, **Tracey Whitney** began performing at age 11 with her family group, The Whitney Family. After touring with “Brotha’ Ray”, she spent 5 years singing solo in Japan. Since relocating to Albuquerque in 2012, she’s been thrilling audiences throughout the city with her unique brand of classic jazz and sophisticated soul.



A variety of Model Trains of all gauges continues to delight visitors at WHEELS.



Rail Heritage Workshop.

On October 14, nationally known consultant **Sam Gennawey** facilitated a workshop audience discussion about the group's vision for developing the south end of the Albuquerque Railyards. Participants included representatives of the city and state government, neighborhood representatives, **the New Mexico Steam Locomotive and Railroad Historical Society (NMSL&RHS)**, as well as many others interested in developing the area in which WHEELS is an anchor. The workshop information will form the basis of a strategic plan going forward.

Speaking of the NMSL&RHS, their **Santa Fe locomotive 2926**,

the beautiful dream machine, is now running after years of work. They will be collaborating with WHEELS to bring 2926 "home" to the railyards with access to the main line and the irreplaceable turntable that is located just east of the museum. The ultimate goal is to develop a true rail heritage park that will include tourist trips with the locomotive pulling historic passenger cars including WHEEL's **Silver Iris 1952 sleeper/lounge car**.



Santa Fe 2926



The Silver Iris

Local Car Clubs are meeting and touring WHEELS.

WHEELS is very pleased to host a variety of Car Clubs for meetings and museum tours.

- The **Corvette Club** came to visit on November 13.
- The **BMW Club** visited and toured on September 18.
- The **Jaguar Club** will be visiting on November 20.



Corvette Club on tour of WHEELS

More Community Groups are Coming to WHEELS for Events

Oasis Albuquerque-A Lifelong Adventure will be coming to WHEELS for a program on February 8.

SmartSpider.net, A group of business professionals will hold their annual Holiday Mixer at WHEELS on December 1.

Letter from the President continued...

You will hear and see the fascinating stories of the development of Albuquerque and the people that made it happen; the years of disuse and the years of coming back. You will see how the substantial investments by the city and the state as well as WHEELS Museum are creating a centerpiece for Albuquerque and New Mexico with Rail heritage tourism, auto displays, airplane models, model train layouts, and so much more to inspire about the journeys of our lives.

Love to all of you,

Leba

If would like to visit, help or donate please let us know:

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