

# THE CLEARBOARD



Rod Diridon, President

<http://www.ctrc.org>

Larry Murchison, Editor

## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

From Rod Diridon

**In tribute to the best of the past as we make a better future;**

Chuck Aldrich would be so pleased to see the parts beginning to be placed back on the boiler and frame of his beloved #2479. He'd also smile at the letter sent today requesting the Manley Boiler Works to finish the job and complete the hydro certification on the boiler and would be especially pleased that the bid requests for the contract wheel work have been mailed -- then he would frown and grumble, "why'd it take so

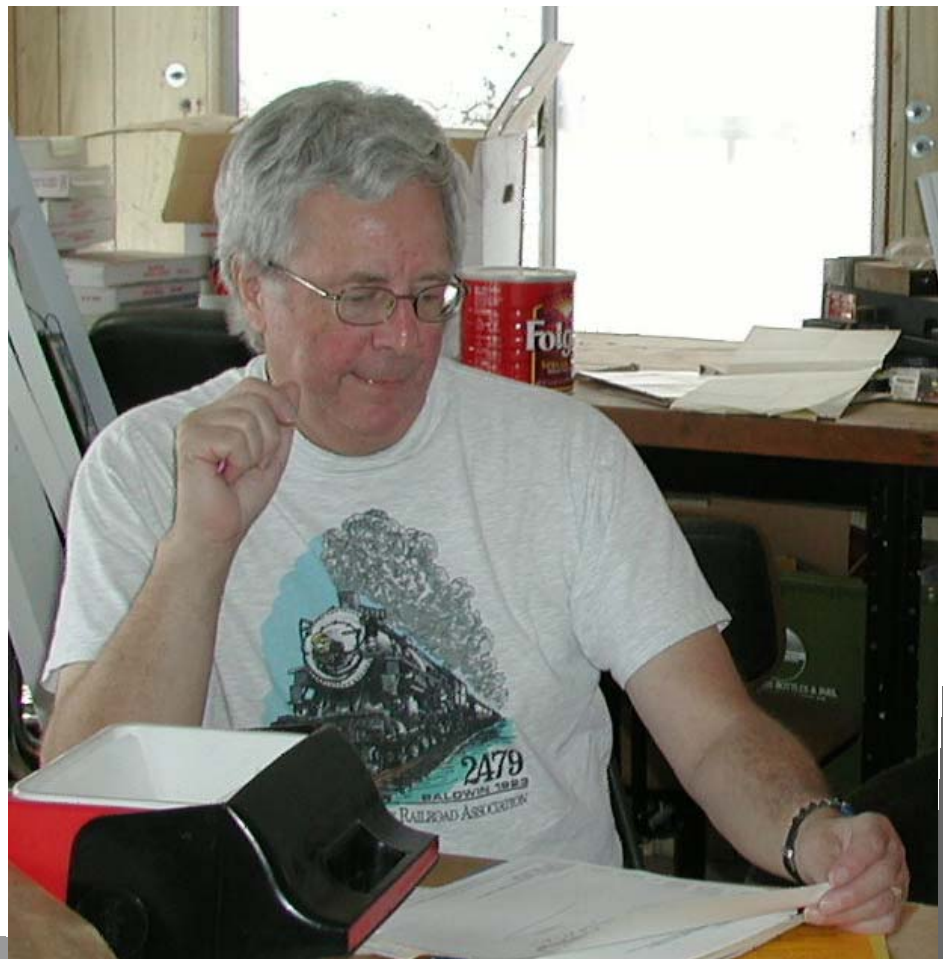
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### Special points of interest:

- This edition of the Clear-board has only one point of interest
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Charles Leland Aldrich passed away peacefully on My 11, 2002 from kidney cancer.

Charles, a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Californian, was born on April 20, 1939 in south gate and lived in Burbank until 1946 when his family moved to Richmond. In 1959 the family moved to San Jose.

At age 14, Charles decided that a life in the ministry was for him. Charles spent four years at Concordia High School and Jr. College. Later, Charles attended Sr. College in Fort Wayne, IN for a year, before deciding that the ministry was not for him.

While in Oakland, he met music professor Hugo Gehrke. Professor Gehrke taught Charles how to sing, play the organ and the piano in exchange for baby-sitting the Gehfke's children. As a member of the Concordia Choristers, he often went on tour.

Charles graduated from San Jose State University with a B.A. in English in 1963. He was drafted into the United States Army in 1964 where he served for four years in Germany and Atlanta, Georgia. He met his wife Janet while stationed in Germany. Upon his return to California he received an M.S. in cybernetics from San Jose State University in 1973, and his MBA from Pepperdine University in 1984.

Charles was the Executive Director for Pathway Society, a non-profit drug rehabilitation clinic, for 14 years. In keeping with his philosophy of "think globally, act locally," he was a member of the California Community Program Alliance (President 1979-1981); Criminal Justice Advisory Board

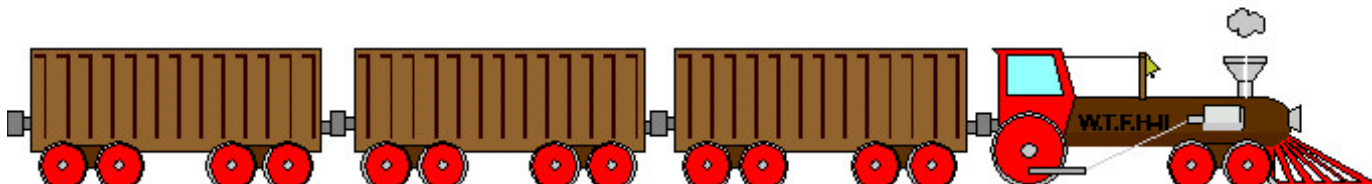
(chairperson 1987-1989); the Friends Outside Board (President 1991-1993); the Child Advocacy and Delinquency Prevention Commission; and the San Jose Chamber Orchestra Board. He belonged to the West San Jose Kiwanis club where he served as President from 1996-1997.

Charlie's interest and love of trains started at a young age. While in Burbank his dad would take him to watch the Red Cars run. His uncle Louis was a conductor for the Southern Pacific Railroad, and often made arrangements for him to ride in the cabs of various locomotives.

His passion for trains and historic preservation led Charles to establish the Santa Clara Valley Railroad Association in 1981 whose goal was the restoration of 2479 – the Southern Pacific steam locomotive at the Santa Clara Fair Grounds. This group merged with the San Jose Trolley Corporation in 1994 to form the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation.

Charles is survived by his wife of 36 years Janet and sons Sean and Patrick; mother Virginia Aldrich; sister Theresa (Tom) Ledbetter; brother Stephen (Miesje) Aldrich; nephew David (Tina and Madison) Fagundes; niece Marin Aldrich and nephew Tyson Aldrich.

*(Continued on page 3)*





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A Celebration of Life Memorial Service was held on Friday, May 17, 2002 at 4:00pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 12770 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga, CA.

Contributions are preferred in his name to either the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church or the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation P.O. Box 403 Campbell, CA 95009.

A Tribute to Chuck

From your friends at the California Trolley And Railroad Corp.

Chuck was the founding father of the Santa Clara Valley Railroad Association in 1981, which later merged with the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation (CTRC) in 1994. Chuck was a dedicated volunteer involved with the day-to-day operations as well as being a board member of the organization. His biggest dream was to see Locomotive 2479 under her own steam. In memory of

Chuck, the volunteers of the CTRC will dedicate the restoration of locomotive 2479 to his memory. The volunteers will miss you dearly. We have lost a great friend.

Jack Young

The following is from the RyPN web site. (<http://www.rypn.org/>)

### Obituary: Chuck Aldrich

Charles "Chuck" Aldrich, 63, San Jose, California, on May 11, 2002, of kidney cancer. Chuck was a founding member of the Santa Clara Valley Railroad Association, which is now a part of the **California Railroad and Trolley Corporation**. This organization set out in 1981 to restore former Southern Pacific 4-6-2 No. 2479, displayed at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds at San Jose. The engine remains there today, with the operational restoration approximately half completed. The dismantled former SP San Jose roundhouse is also stored on-site and will see eventual re-erection at the fairgrounds to house the locomotive and other equipment.



A fifth generation Californian, and long involved in community affairs, Chuck was Executive Director of the non-profit Pathway Society, a drug rehabilitation clinic, for 14 years. In recent years he operated a financial consulting business. He was a wonderful host on this writer's **Great California Adventure** with tours of the fairgrounds, Kelly Park and the Diridon and Santa Clara stations, and will be missed.

*(Bob Yarger)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

long". Chuck Aldrich was a through-back to the tough-as-nails but warm-hearted steam locomotive engineers, or "Hog Heads" as they were called, who pushed the old steamers across the plains, through the long tunnels and over the mountain grades to bind our country together over a hundred years ago. Frozen on one side, broiled on the other, breathing cinders and condemning anything that got in their way, the first to push a harder to meet the timetable and the last out of the cab when confronted by a collision. When #2479 rumbles and hisses into life again, it will be a life infused into that inert mass of metal by Chuck and the volunteers that he lead. With that job nearly done, as with Casey Jones and John Henry before him, as the songs go, "the Lord called him home". There must be a fast freight that needs to make up some time up there and we all know that Chuck's in the cab with the throttle wide open. **Clear Track, Old Friend! High Ball!!**

Rod Diridon, President, CTCRC





### A Few Word From Marv Bamberg

Many of us are not good at writing how we feel about each other, but I cannot go without being included in your special edition, since I believe that Chuck was such a special person. From the start of my recruitment into CTRC, Chuck was a constant sparkplug, urging me on. We got to know each other both socially and professionally, and I developed an immense respect for him and his abilities and his dedication to railroad history. He constantly supplied me with reading material, some articles and some books, about rail history and similar projects to our Museum. I don't know how he had time to earn a living with all the railroad contacts, writings and meetings he was involved in. He and I both worked on the ISTE A grant applications that involved many long nights. We traveled to other rail yards and museums together. He knew that I had little background in railroads, and took it upon himself to educate me. We spoke at each other's service clubs and celebrated together at numerous holiday parties. CTRC has lost a giant of a man, whose impatience and commitment spurred us all to strive even harder to reach the next level. I will see this project through to it's successful completion, because I owe it to Chuck.

-Marv Bamberg

## Information

Membership Meetings: First Monday of each month at 7:00pm at the Santa Clara Train Depot.

Work Schedule: Saturday and Wednesday after work of each week.

CTRC Office: 1600 Senter Road, San Jose, CA 95112.

Mailing Address: California Trolley & Railroad Corp, P. O. Box 403, Campbell, CA 95009.

Membership: \$25.00 regular, \$10.00 Seniors. All memberships expire December 31 yearly. To join please send dues, name, address, phone number, and e-mail address if available to CTRC, P. O. Box 403, Campbell, CA 95009.

The CTRC is a California 501(c)(3) not for profit educational corporation established in 1982. The organization is the official support group for the Trolley Barn at History San Jose and the Santa Clara County Railroad Museum currently in the early stages of development.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation (CTRC) is to restore, preserve and interpret railroad, trolley, and related equipment as it was used to serve the people in Santa Clara Valley, California.

### CTRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rod Diridon, President; Fred Bennett, David Crosson, Jack Ybarra, Marvin Bamburg, Peter Cipolla, Mac Gaddis, Charlie Wynn, Executive Committee; Dick Campisi, Carl Cookson, Sr., Brenda Davis, Mignon Gibson, Robert Kieve, Mike Kotowski, Kit Menkin, Greg Mitchell, David Niederauer, David Sylva, Chuck Toeniskoetter, Larry Pederson, Beth Wyman, Tim Starbird, Tom Collins, John Davis, Jerry Estruth, Marshall Hall, Rick Kitson, Art Lloyd, Ken Middlebrook, John Neece, Gary Ross, Steve Tedesco, Leigh Weimers, Glen Simpson, Pat Restuccia, Jack Young Board Members.

## CTRC Staff:

Motive Power: Jack Young <jyoung99@pacbell.net>  
 Electrical: Bob Paddleford <bobpadd@pacbell.net>  
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 Technical Expert: Art Randall <arandall@earthlink.net>  
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 Acquisitions: Mac Gaddis  
 Public Relations:  
     Ken Middlebrook <middlebrookk@kaisere.com>  
 Web Site: Karl Auerback <karl@cavebear.com>

## FROM THE EDITOR'S BLAST NOZZLE

This special edition of the Clearboard has been brought to you by Chuck's good friends at the CTRC.

Next month we will have an essay created by Ken Middlebrook. It is a tribute to Chuck but Ken has written far too much for this edition of the newsletter.



**California Trolley & Railroad Corporation**

P. O. Box 403  
Campbell, CA 95009

*Restoring Your Transportation Past*

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California Trolley & Railroad Corporation  
Is a non-profit tax exempt organization  
dedicated to the restoration and preserva-  
tion of historic transportation equipment.  
Membership is open to all. Yearly dues  
help finance the Corporation goals. All  
donations to the corporation are tax de-  
ductible. IRS #23510C(3)

## COMING EVENTS

- ▶ Remember the Saturday workdays and the Wednes-  
day work evenings. All very important events. See  
you there.
- ▶ The first Monday of the month 7:00pm CTRC  
meeting at the Santa Clara train depot.
- ▶ The next CTRC board meeting will be 1 JULY 02.
- ▶ CTRC BBQ will be August 15th. More info next  
month.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO:

A special thanks to  
Chuck Aldrich.

