



## SARHM Participates in Elmendorf Pony Express Day

by B.L. Miers



Parade float participating in Elmendorf's Pony Express, Elmendorf, TX - photo taken by Michael Stout.

The citizens of Elmendorf participated in a twenty-year South Texas tradition on December 6, 2008. Members of SARHM were there to help celebrate during the festivities. The celebration started out with a parade through town with a marching band, fire engines, police cars, decorated convertible cars and floats. Even both Santa Claus and "Choo-Choo" Claus and his wife rode in the parade. The parade concluded at the new City Park where the festivities continued with music provided by a live D.J., food booths, and other vendors were selling items that were ideal for gifts for the

upcoming holiday.

In keeping with the historical methods of the old West, a message from the Governor was delivered to Mayor Tom Hicks on horse back by a Pony Express Courier. Mayor Hicks read the Governor's Message publicly, and afterwards expressed his thanks to all of the participants and town's people who attended the celebration. Even though the weather was not as chilly as forecasted, Mike Stout and B.L. Miers sold coffee, hot chocolate, muffins, cookies and hats in the SARHM booth to benefit the Elmendorf Heritage Railroad Museum.



Classic Cars of The Sons of the Republic of Texas - Alamo Chapter - participating in Elmendorf's Pony Express, Elmendorf, TX - photo taken by Michael Stout.

### Upcoming Events:

- World's Greatest Hobby Show: February 21 (10:00 - 6:00) & 22 (10:00 - 5:00) at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
- SARHM BOD meeting: March 8, 2009 at Sunset Station at 1:00 P.M.
- Flatonia Railfan Pavilion Party: April 4 starting at 9:00 until who knows, located at MP 119.80 on the Sunset Route in Flatonia, TX (600 W North Main St.)

### Announcements and Congratulations:

- Bridell Miers: Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering

### Fun Railroad Terms:

- EOT: End of Train Device
- FRED: Flashing Rear End Device
- DPU: Distributive Power Unit

## Friends of the SP 794 Update

by Maria Rodriguez



Southern Pacific #794 located at Sunset Station, San Antonio, TX - photo taken by Michael Bongalis.

Now that Christmas is over and the decorations have been removed, work will once again begin on restoring the Southern Pacific steam locomotive Number 794. The wood deck on the tender and the wooden floor in the locomotive cab both need replacement. New letters and numbers for the locomotive and tender are also in the works. A full restoration of the number boards

has also been launched. With each improvement, SP 794 is being brought back to her former glory.

Also, located on our website at [www.sp794.org](http://www.sp794.org) is a photo gallery of our progress. Photos include the interior of the boiler and firebox. As the restoration process continues, we will be adding many more!





# San Antonio Railroad Heritage Museum



Where History and Rails are Joined Together.

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## Introducing Elmendorf Heritage & Railroad Museum's Director - Mrs. Darlene Hicks

By Darlene Hicks

I, Darlene Patricia (Piper) Hicks, was born in Del Rio, Texas at Laughlin AFB in 1956 to Charles and Virginia (Tarin/Casanova) Piper. My parents have lived in Elmendorf since 1962, where we have been members of St. Anthony's Catholic Church. I attended and graduated from East Central ISD. I received my Associates of Science degree in Dental Assisting from San Antonio College in 1976.

I married Thomas P. Hicks at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Elmendorf in 1976. We have been married 32 years. We lived in San Antonio from 1976-1989, in McAllen, TX from 1989-1995. We returned to live in Elmendorf in 1995. We have 2 sons, Thomas Douglas age 30 married to Patricia, Travis Dwayne age 27, and a God given granddaughter Cecily Dawn age 3.

I was a dental assistant for 7 years, worked as a secretary for a commercial A/C company for 5 years, and have worked for school districts in McAllen and San Antonio for the last 19 years. I have been employed from 1995 - present by East Central ISD. I have been the District Assessment Manager for 8 years.

My husband became Elmendorf's Mayor in 2002. Together we are striving to bring positive changes to the city. My goals are to assist the San Antonio Railroad Heritage Museum in gathering artifacts to commemorate the history of Elmendorf; bring to Elmendorf a library with computer labs; and a city park with a walking path.

## Fundraiser for SP 794

By Marla Rodriguez

San Antonio Railroad Heritage Museum is looking to raise \$2,500.00 for the Friends of the SP 794 to allow inspectors from the Steam Operations Corporation (SOC) to come to San Antonio to inspect the steam locomotive SP 794 located at Sunset Station. The Steam Operations Corporation is the same group of people working on the steam locomotive SP 786 located in Austin. This inspection will give SARHM the estimated cost for the rebuild on the SP 794.

Cash donations will be greatly received by one of our members either in person or by mail. Donations may also be received by PayPal by using the link located on the left side of the SARHM website ([www.sarhm.com](http://www.sarhm.com)). Just simply select a project (either SARHM General Use or SP 794 Project) and click "Make a Donation!" and the website will take you directly to PayPal. All cash donations are tax deductible of which SARHM will furnish a receipt.

## SARHM Has Joined TRTA

By Marla Rodriguez

San Antonio Railroad Heritage Museum has joined Texas Rail Tourist Alliance, an organization whose purpose is to promote railroad related organization such as museums, tourist railroads. They publish a brochure that lists its members with their information.

The complete list of members for Texas Rail Tourist Alliance is also available on the web at [www.texasrailtrail.com](http://www.texasrailtrail.com).

## SARHM's Mission

The purpose of SARHM is to inform and educate the public about the rich railroad history of San Antonio and the South Texas region, by offering a historical look at the economical and cultural impact that the operations of the railroads had on the past. Further, SARHM will look at how the railroad affects the region today and will continually look forward toward how the railroad will affect the future of our region.

## SARHM Needs Your Help! by Marla Rodriguez

How can you help?

**Membership:** By becoming a member, you can help this organization by giving your voluntary services enabling us to work as a team to preserve the railroad heritage of San Antonio and the South Texas area for all generations. This invaluable education will give future generations the history needed to expand their knowledge and understanding of how the railroad impacted our way of life as well as how it affects us currently as we move into the future. For a membership application, please visit our website at [www.sarhm.com](http://www.sarhm.com) or feel free to call or write.

**Donations:** If you choose not to become a member, but still want to help, donations are a great way to start. We are accepting both cash donations and railroad related items for donation.

Cash donations will receive a receipt for tax purposes as we are a 501(c)3, Not-For-Profit

Organization.

All non cash donations will need an appraisal presented to ensure a proper receipt is issued for tax purposes. If the non cash item is not able to be presented to a member, a photo sent with a description and the appraisal may be mailed or emailed for consideration.

**Information:** Any information you can contribute is also a wonderful way to help. The information can be historical, documentation, photos, equipment, location, or financial opportunities.

**Ideas/Suggestions:** We at SARHM are interested in your ideas and suggestions. Anything is open for discussion including ideas to improve what we are already doing. Please don't hesitate!

No matter which way you decide to help, or how much you decide to help, please know your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support!

## Board of Directors

**Chairman:** David E. Brown, II

**President/CEO:** Gary Rodriguez

**Executive Secretary:** B.L. Miers

**Treasurer:** Mike Stout

**Public Relations:** Marla Rodriguez

**Membership Coordinator:** Robert Stout



**We're on the Web!**

[www.sarhm.com](http://www.sarhm.com)

[www.sp794.org](http://www.sp794.org)