

Ron Kukendall Leaves Bequest to Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation

By Charlie Getz, Former Executive Director



In 2022, Charter Member Ron Kuykendall of Tucson, Arizona passed away, leaving a sizeable bequest to the Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation. I have known Ron for decades and always admired his excellent modeling. Primarily a fan of the Southern Pacific, Ron was a prolific modeler with two large layouts in his home, one in a specially-built outbuilding. Ron also favored the D&RGW including the narrow gauge lines. He never married and when he died, had no close living relatives.

When the NGPF formed with me as Executive Director, Ron expressed an interest in supporting its efforts. Over many years and visits, I worked with Ron to transform that interest into a sizeable bequest well in excess of \$750,000. He was pleased to help support an organization he saw as uniquely effective. He became one of our first members. Over many visits and weekly phone calls, I kept Ron updated on our efforts.

Rick Wheeler, his longtime friend and executor worked with me and current Executive Director, Allen Pollock to liquidate the estate and ensure Ron's wishes were carried out. Rick's monumental dedication and hard work deserve praise. I am sure Ron would have been pleased that he will make a difference and his legacy will be put to good use, as he intended.

The Board will be setting up an endowment fund that works only off the interest generated from the investment that will be used for future projects. We would like to encourage our membership to consider naming the NGPF in your estate plans. By doing so you would become part of the effort in establishing and building the endowment fund. If you are interested in including the NGPF in your estate planning please contact our Executive Director or one of the Board members.



Meet our Board Member W. Lindsey Raley, Jr.

I'm a Florida native with a lifelong fascination with trains. I guess the seed was planted by my father who bought me an HO train set when I was four. He set the oval track on a piece plywood in my bedroom with absolutely no scenery. The F unit and three or four cars was all I had, but it was the greatest thing in the world to me. He later built a larger layout based on Kalmbach Publishing's book, "The HO Railroad that Grows". Our home was near the Seaboard Airline Railway's Jacksonville to Miami mainline and as I got older I would spend time at the local depot watching trains.

My interest in Narrow Gauge trains began when I attended the University of Colorado. I have always been interested in history and really enjoyed learning the history of Colorado narrow gauge railroads. I would spend many weekends hiking old right of ways and exploring abandon mines all over Colorado. Obviously, after visits to the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic RR and the Durango & Silverton RR, I was completely bitten by the narrow gauge bug.

I am getting ready to start a Sn3 layout based on the D&RGW's Crested Butte branch. I am also building a 2.5" scale live steam engine of C-21 #360. I have a deep interest in historic preservation. I am a member the Friends of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, the National Model Railroad Association and Florida Live Steamers. My wife Michelle and I live in Lakeland, Fl. where I manage my family's citrus growing operations.

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Thank You For Helping Preserve Narrow Gauge



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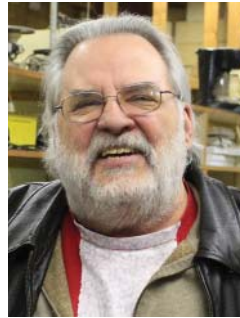
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From the Executive Director

Allen Pollock

In the last issue I talked about Ron Kuykendal leaving us part of his estate. In this issue we are pleased to have an article from our former Executive Director Charlie Getz providing a little more background on Ron who has certainly provided the NGPF with the means to further carry on our mission. It also very clearly points out another avenue to help the NGPF to boldly be a more driving force to save the history and artifacts of our beloved narrow gauge. Please consider remembering the NGPF when setting up your endowment plans.

This issue of the newsletter is being prepared to be a handout at the National Narrow Gauge Convention being held in Denver. If you are not a member of Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation and have seen our past activities and accomplishments, please consider joining us for a mere forty five dollars yearly dues. Despite the large donation described in these pages, every little bit of participation helps us to further preserve our beloved narrow gauge's history and artifacts, from the tiniest rail spike to the steam engines of yesteryear.

We are also preparing a new handout brochure explaining our NGPF as well as listing projects that we have participated in over the years. The work of gathering the data and pictures of all these projects for the brochure will enable us to also put this information and pictures on our website, to create a power point presentation for clinics and civic groups, and to be able to show this power point at our booth for shows like the narrow gauge convention. Things are happening with the NGPF, and we invite you to come join us!

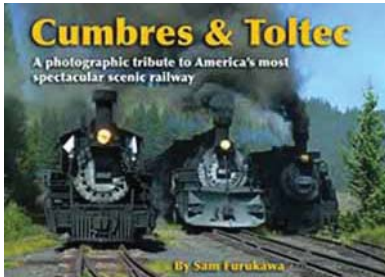


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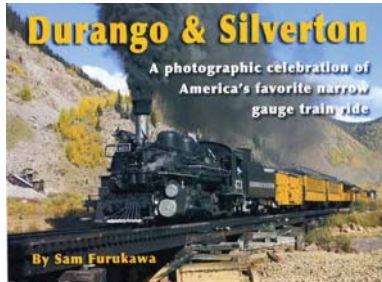
Book Discounts for Members

Bob Hayden is offering a members only discount of the three book published by Sam Furukawa. Buy one title and receive a 25% discount off retail; buy two and receive a 35% discount off retail and if you buy all three books receive a 50% discount off retail.

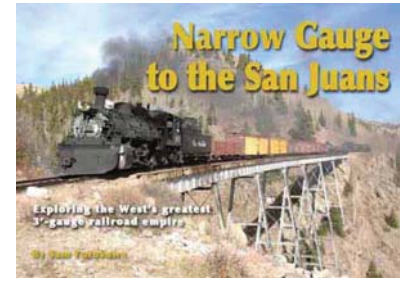
The books can be ordered from Bob Hayden at www.bobhayden.com; Please mention the discount and provide your NGPF membership number. Titles include:



Cumbres and Toltec.....\$49.95



Durango and Silverton.....\$49.95



Narrow Gauge to the San Juan.....\$53.95

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Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation

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WHO WE ARE – WHAT WE DO – HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation (NGPF) was first established as the Narrow Gauge Trust in 2000. It was the dream of one of our Board members to help preserve Narrow Gauge in both prototype and model form. In 2002, the Narrow Gauge Trust Fund was incorporated as the Narrow Gauge Preservation Foundation and acquired non-profit status both within the State of California and as recognized by the Federal government. As a non-profit public benefit corporation, our mission is to establish interactive exhibits where the public can learn of the significant history of Narrow Gauge railroading as well as to support preservation activities and projects wherever possible.

A Board of Directors, who do not receive compensation, administers the foundation. The NGPF is proud that less than ten percent of its funds are spent on administrative cost. Thus, ninety plus percent of the funds raised go toward preservation efforts.

Our primary function is the creation of interactive exhibits where the public can be told the story of Narrow Gauge, such as the one formerly at Chama. As with the Chama exhibit, future exhibits will include interactive video presentations and models as well as dioramas, photographs, and other graphics to explain the significance of the Narrow Gauge railroading experience. As a secondary function, the NGPF assists Narrow Gauge preservation efforts across North America. These efforts to date have exceeded over one million dollars and in some cases have made the difference between preservation and loss of significant artifacts.

The foundation is also unique in supporting the efforts of Narrow Gauge Preservation projects throughout the United States rather than concentrating on one area or one project. To date, the organization has supported projects on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, Ardenwood Park in California, Friends of Denver and Rio Grande Engine #169, the Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge Railroad Foundation, The Colorado Railroad Museum, the Southeast Narrow Gauge and Short Line Museum in North Carolina and the Durango Railroad Historical Society, among others. In addition, we have preserved the collections of prominent Narrow Gauge modelers, extensive libraries of books as well as important art pieces depicting Narrow Gauge scenes.

One of the unique aspects of the NGPF is the use of matching grants to encourage the receiving parties to reach out to the public for support. Many of our grants require that the receiving agency establish within a set time frame, an equal number of individual donations from members of the public, which not only shows support for the project, but also provides new sources of funding for the organization. As a result of this policy, organizations receiving our grants have reported increased donations. Donations to the NGPF are tax-deductible, acknowledged and appreciated. By donating, you support a variety of worthwhile projects and thereby enhance preservation of Narrow Gauge