

# CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

## MS 793 WALTER P. GRAY III PAPERS

1968-2007. 6 boxes

This collection of documents related to the activities of Walter Patton Gray III, a well-known railroad historian, preservationist, and train buff includes texts and drafts of selected speeches and writings, correspondence, employment and membership rosters, reports, brochures, minutes, management practice guidelines, histories, sources and outlines of the building of the Transcontinental Railroad.

They are arranged into two series:

1. SUBJECT FILES
2. WRITINGS

PROVENANCE Gift of Mary Helmich (387-1879), 2007.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION Walter Patton Gray III was born and grew up in Falmouth, Massachusetts. He lived in Southern California before moving to Sacramento in 1970. He received a bachelor's degree in history from California State University, Sacramento in 1976 and completed graduate work in history, collections management, museum studies and administration. In 1993, he graduated from the Virginia Management Institute program in museum management, University of Virginia.

In 1980 he married Mary Helmich and they settled in East Sacramento.

Mr. Gray was involved with the planning, development and opening of the California State Railroad Museum. He began his 20+ year career with the California State Railroad Museum by joining the staff in February of 1977 as a restoration researcher. He became the CSRM Library Archivist in 1981, the Curator of Railroad Operations in 1985 and was named Director of the California State Railroad Museum on October 1, 1990. In April 1998 he left CSRM to become California State Archivist and Chief, Archives & Museum Division in the California Secretary of State's office in Sacramento. In 2004, he became Chief of the Archaeology, History, and Museums Division of California State Parks.

Throughout his career, Mr. Gray was actively involved with promoting railroad history and preservation. He wrote articles, gave speeches and interviews, helped write scripts for (and appeared) on television programs and in videos expounding on railroads and railroad preservation.

Mr. Gray joined the Sacramento Model Railroad Club in 1970 and served as its Secretary from 1971 to 1974 and President from 1976 to 1977. He belonged to numerous historical organizations including the Sacramento County Historical Society, the Knight Foundry Corporation, the California State Historical Records Advisory Board, and was an honorary founding member of the Los Angeles Railroad Heritage Foundation.

Mr. Gray died on May 8, 2007 at age 54.

Walter P. Gray's publications include:

STEAM TRAIN TO SACRAMENTO: WALNUT GROVE BRANCH ACQUISITION FEASIBILITY STUDY. Prepared for the California State Railroad Museum by Walter P. Gray III and Michael V. Speer. California State Railroad Museum: Sacramento, California, 1980.

OFFICIAL GUIDEBOOK: CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM. Written by Stephen E. Drew and Walter P. Gray III, 1981.

ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAILWAY EXHIBITION CARS NOS. 2 AND 3: RESTORATION FEASIBILITY INVESTIGATION. Prepared for the Kansas State Historical Society by Stephen E. Drew and Walter P. Gray III. Sacramento, Calif.: s.n., 1984.

"It isn't right if it doesn't run: Railway 'Preservation'." In RISKS AND REWARDS: PERSPECTIVES ON OPERATING MECHANICAL ARTIFACTS, 14-19. Wilmington, Delaware: Hagley Museum and Library, 1991.

"Too many railroad museums." A short article based on comments to the annual V&T symposium, Carson City, Nevada, October 24, 1992.

RAILS ACROSS AMERICA: A HISTORY OF RAILROADS IN NORTH AMERICA, 1993.

PICTORIAL HISTORY OF NORTH AMERICAN RAILROADS. Consultants and contributing writers, Walter P. Gray III and John P. Hankey, contributing writers Paul Hammond, Jim Wrinn, Karl Zimmermann. Lincolnwood, Illinois: Publications International, 1996.

AMERICA'S RAILROADS: THE STEAM TRAIN LEGACY. Written by Walter P. Gray and Don DeNevi. Video. Eugene, Oregon: Entertainment Distributing; [S.l.]: Dastar Corp.: Marathon Music and Video, 2001.

"We are all in this together." Banquet comments to the 2nd joint annual meeting of the Association of Railway Museums / Tourist Railway Association, Inc., Sacramento, California, November 11, 2006, in TRAINLINE, Vol. 29, No. 3, June, 2007.

AMERICA'S RAILROADS: THE STEAM TRAIN LEGACY. Written by Walter P. Gray and Don DeNevi. Video. Eugene,

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Oregon: Timeless Media Group, 2009.

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**MS 793 WALTER P. GRAY III PAPERS**

1968-2007. 5 boxes

1. Subject Files

The subject files in this collection range in date from 1969 when he joined the Sacramento Model Railroad Club until his death in 2007. They include files that pertain to his job as the Director of the California State Railroad Museum from 1990 to 1998 and California State Archivist from 1998-2004 on such subjects as: management practices, management gimmicks and clippings files, rosters of the CSRM Directors, staff, and docents, the Americans with Disability Act, docent train schedules and memorials. Includes a file about the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society arbitration with the California State Railroad Museum.

Railfair '99, California State Archives exhibit and Sacramento History Days files are from his tenure as California State Archivist. The Los Angeles Museum of Railroading, Steamtown National Historic Site, and Indiana Dunes National Seashore files document Mr. Gray's work as a museum consultant. There are files documenting Mr. Gray's contributions to LOCOMOTIVE AND RAILWAY PRESERVATION and MAINLINE MODELER magazines, and several folders of reference material about the transcontinental railroad include his building objections to the Stephen J. Ambrose book, NOTHING LIKE IT IN THE WORLD.

BOX LIST

Box 1 Folder 1 Americans with Disabilities Act Issues, 1994  
Box 1 Folder 2 Career announcements, 1989-1998  
Box 1 Folder 3 Citizens for Rail California, 1980  
Box 1 Folder 4 Docent training schedule, Fall, 2001  
Box 1 Folder 5 FRA steam locomotive inspection rules, 1999-2000  
Box 1 Folders 6-7 Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, 2001-2003  
Box 1 Folder 8 Leadership of Sacramento History Day plans, 2001-2005

Box 2 Folders 1-10 LOCOMOTIVE AND RAILWAY PRESERVATION, 1986-1996

Box 3 Folders 1-2 Los Angeles Museum of Railroading, 1998-2005  
Box 3 Folder 3 Los Angeles Railroad Heritage Foundation, 2004  
Box 3 Folders 4-5 Management gimmicks and clippings, 1968-1993  
Box 3 Folders 6-8 Management practices, 1980-1997  
Box 3 Folder 9 Memo book/drawing, 1988-1990  
Box 3 Folder 10 Memorial for Fred Stindt, 1992  
Box 3 Folder 11 Memorial for Joe Passantino, 2001  
Box 3 Folder 12 Memorials and honoraria for Walter P. Gray, 1993-2007  
Box 3 Folder 13 MAINLINE MODELER, 1979-1982  
Box 3 Folder 14 Organization and collection policies of other museums, 1992-2000

Box 4 Folder 1 Old Sacramento SHP, 1986  
Box 4 Folders 2-3 Proposition 12 of March 2000, 1999-2000  
Box 4 Folder 4 Railfair '99, California State Archives exhibit, 1999  
Box 4 Folder 5 Railway & Locomotive Historical Society arbitration with the California State Railroad Museum, 1994-2000  
Box 4 Folder 6 RAILWAY PRESERVATION magazine, 1992-1993  
Box 4 Folder 7 Rosters of the CSRM Directors and staff, 1990-1998  
Box 4 Folder 8 Rosters of the CSRM docents and docent memo, 1990-1994  
Box 4 Folders 9-10 Sacramento Model Railroad Club, 1969-1974  
Box 4 Folders 11-14 Steamtown National Historic Site collection management, 1987-2001

Box 5 Folders 1-2 Steamtown National Board of Advisors, 1995-1996  
Box 5 Folders 3-4 Steamtown National Historical Society, 1991-1996

Transcontinental Railroad:

Box 5 Folder 5 Chinese articles and sources on, 1999-2002  
Box 5 Folder 6 Cape Horn myths, 2000-2002  
Box 5 Folder 7 History, sources, outlines, 2000-2001  
Box 5 Folders 8-10 NOTHING LIKE IT IN THE WORLD by Stephen J. Ambrose, correspondence about, 2000-2002  
Box 5 Folder 11 NOTHING LIKE IT IN THE WORLD by Stephen J. Ambrose, preview copy, 2000  
Box 5 Folder 12 Transition curves, 1999-2000

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**MS 793 WALTER P. GRAY III PAPERS**

1987-2001. 1 box

Subject 2. Writings

Speeches, articles, and drafts written by Walter P. Gray, III between 1987 to 2001.

**BOX LIST**

Writings and speeches:

Box 6 Folder 1 "Preservation's future: Lighting the fire," July/August 1987

Box 6 Folder 2 California State Railroad Museum management and organization, 1989-1992

Box 6 Folder 3 "If it isn't right, then it doesn't run," February 22, 1991

Box 6 Folder 4 "Sharing the wonder: The next challenge in railroad preservation," November 2, 1991

Box 6 Folder 5 "Too many railroad museums," October 24, 1992

Box 6 Folder 6 Review of RAILROAD CROSSING: CALIFORNIANS AND THE RAILROAD, 1850-1910, by William F. Deverell, LEXINGTON QUARTERLY, 1993.

Box 6 Folder 7 "Rails West!," 1993

Box 6 Folder 8 "Renewing old railroad ties: Railroad heritage tourism in North America," February 26, 1996

Box 6 Folder 9 "California's heritage" handwritten notes for talk, January 31, 2000

Box 6 Folder 10 "The abbreviated Pacific Railroad: Most of what you need to know about the building of the first railroad across North America," October 12, 2000

Box 6 Folder 11 "A station for Sacramento: Where will we catch the train in 2010?" March 15, 2001

Box 6 Folder 12 "The Transcontinental Railroad: The greatest story never accurately told," May 10, 2001

Box 6 Folder 13 "Comments on the manuscript of the Edson Strobridge article "The myth at Cape Horn in the building of the Transcontinental Railroad." August 2001.

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