



# News Release

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## **Railroad Museum Selected as Venue for Center for Railroad Photography & Art's First-Ever "Conversations West 2018" Regional Conference** *Event Coincides with Debut of Exhibition Titled "Beebe & Clegg: Their Enduring Photographic Legacy"*

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – In partnership with California State Parks and the California State Railroad Museum & Foundation, the Center for Railroad Photography & Art will hold their first-ever western regional conference -- Conversations West 2018 -- at the Railroad Museum on September 21-22, 2018. The conference will offer a full day of presentations about railroad photography and art focusing specifically on the American West. The conference will also serve as a kick-off event for the Center's new exhibition titled *Beebe & Clegg: Their Enduring Photographic Legacy*, as well as for festivities surrounding the upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the nation's first transcontinental railroad.

Registration for Conversations West 2018 is open to the public for \$95, with a student rate of \$50. Those interested in supporting the Center's mission to preserve and present significant images of railroading can register as a patron for a slightly higher fee. This additional support helps offset travel costs for presenters and other operational fees relating to programming. Registration is available online by visiting: <http://www.railphoto-art.org/conferences>.

Event activities will begin the evening of Friday, September 21, with an opening reception to highlight the debut of the photography exhibition that showcases Lucius Beebe (1902-1966) and Charles Clegg (1916-1979) who were instrumental in introducing railroad photography and the world of railroading to a wide audience. The opening for *Beebe & Clegg: Their Enduring Photographic Legacy* is free and open to the public from 6 to 8 p.m. with appetizers, refreshments and a cash bar for those interested.



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After the opening reception of the exhibition, the conference will officially begin on Saturday, September 22. With registration and refreshments at 8 a.m., the conference will start at 9 a.m. Following the last presentation that ends at 5:45 p.m., the Center will host a reception in the Museum's Roundhouse Gallery from 6 to 8 p.m. Included with the registration package, appetizers, refreshments, and a cash bar will be available to conference attendees.

Saturday features an exciting roster of dynamic presenters, including:

- Sacramento resident Shirley Burman Steinheimer will showcase the Southern Pacific Railroad through her own photography as well as that of her late husband, Richard Steinheimer, often referred to as "the Ansel Adams of railroad photography"
- Ted Benson and Tom Taylor will share stories and captivating black-and-white photography from their early days of exploring California's railroads together in the 1960s and 1970s
- Artist J. Craig Thorpe will present his paintings and thoughts on the role of railroad art in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- John Gruber and John Ryan will discuss their new book about the lives and photography of Lucius Beebe and Charles Clegg
- John Signor will showcase his spectacular paintings of the American rail industry, with a focus on western lines
- Richard Koenig will introduce the Center's *After Promontory* transcontinental railroad project through his recent photography

After the conference, the *Beebe & Clegg: Their Enduring Photographic Legacy* exhibition will remain on display in the Museum's Transcontinental Gallery at least through December 31, 2018. More information about the Center for Railroad Photography & Art can be found at [www.railphoto-art.org](http://www.railphoto-art.org), and more information about the California State Railroad is available by calling 916-323-9280 or visiting [www.californiarailroad.museum](http://www.californiarailroad.museum).

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#### **California State Parks Mission**

*To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.*

#### **About the California State Railroad Museum Foundation**

*The mission of the California State Railroad Museum Foundation (CSRMF) is to generate revenue and awareness on behalf of its destinations, while supporting the preservation, interpretation and promotion of our railroad heritage. The Foundation provides funding for ongoing support of numerous programs, both at the museum's Old Sacramento location and at the historic park in Jamestown, Calif. The Foundation and its board of directors is currently laying groundwork for a future California Railroad Technology Museum capital campaign proposed as part of the downtown Sacramento railyard development project. For more information, please visit [www.californiarailroad.museum](http://www.californiarailroad.museum)*

#### **About the Center for Railroad Photography & Art**

*The Center, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit arts and education organization, achieves its mission through exhibitions, conferences, and publications that spring from its core commitment to collect, preserve, and then make widely available imagery that portrays the nearly 200-year history of railroads. While based in Madison, Wisconsin, the Center does not maintain a museum space or large facilities, but instead collaborates on its many projects with individuals and institutions ranging from museums and universities to libraries and historical societies. This approach allows the Center to focus on railroad imagery and the profound and moving stories it can tell.*

