

News Release



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Contacts:
Kimberly Baker at 209-984-4622
Traci Rockefeller Cusack
916-213-4373

Special Holiday Opportunity to Ride Sierra No. 3 With Santa at Railtown 1897 -- One Weekend Only! *Plus, Park Visitors Can Find Unique Holiday Gifts Perfect for Kids & Rail Enthusiasts*

JAMESTOWN, Calif. -- Santa is taking some time out of his busy schedule to make special daytime appearances at Railtown 1897 State Historic Park (SHP) this holiday season. Train rides with Santa will operate the weekend before Christmas (December 18 & 19), pulled by the "Movie Star Locomotive" Sierra No. 3.

Trains pulled by Sierra No. 3 depart on December 18 & 19, hourly from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Santa will be on board to greet visitors and will be accompanied by Railtown's "Roving Fiddler" Dave Rainwater. Ticket prices are \$13 for adults, \$6 for youth, and free for children 5 and under. Widely known as the "Movie Star Locomotive," the famed Sierra No. 3 returned to the rails over the 4th of July weekend this year following an extensive restoration effort.

Tapping into America's love affair with Westerns, the iconic Sierra No. 3 became known as the "Movie Star Locomotive" after starring in more than 100 Hollywood movies and television productions alongside world-famous celebrities beginning in the early 1900s. In addition to numerous television programs, Sierra No. 3 has appeared in movies such as *The Virginian* with Gary Cooper in 1929, *High Noon* with Gary Cooper and Grace Kelley in 1952, *Back to the Future III* with Michael J. Fox in 1990 and *Unforgiven* with Clint Eastwood in 1992, to name just a few.

Before or after the train ride, Park visitors are encouraged to stop by the Railtown 1897 Depot Store that is packed with an extensive selection of Thomas the Tank Engine brand wooden train sets, books, t-shirts and a great selection of gifts for train fans of all ages.

About Railtown 1897 State Historic Park

Operated by California State Parks with assistance from the nonprofit California State Railroad Museum Foundation, Railtown 1897 State Historic Park offers year-round tours plus train rides weekends April-October (selected dates only November-December). Known as "The Movie Railroad," the Park and its trains have been featured in hundreds of feature films, TV shows, and commercials. The Park is located at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Reservoir Road in Jamestown, reached by highways 49/108. Open daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day, the Park's operating hours vary by season: April-October, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; November-March, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, call Railtown 1897 State Historic Park at (209) 984-3953, or visit our Web site at www.railtown1897.org

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