

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 16, 2010



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## **North America's Most Popular Railroad Museum Offers Lots To Do Inside & Out During Gold Rush Days!**

***Highlights Include Special Visit by "Appetite for America" Author Stephen Fried & Two "The Harvey Girls" Classic Film Showings on September 4 & 5***

**SACRAMENTO** – Old Sacramento is alive with action this Labor Day weekend with Gold Rush Days in high gear, the popular Old Sacramento Underground tour program in full swing, and lots of indoor and outdoor activities offered by the California State Railroad Museum. In fact, Railroad Museum visitors will enjoy two viewing opportunities of the classic 1946 classic MGM musical *The Harvey Girls*; a special visit, lectures and book signings by award-winning journalist and author Stephen Fried; popular excursion train rides and even discounted 2-for-1 museum pricing specials.

### **The Harvey Girls Classic Film Viewings**

Visitors to Old Sacramento and the California State Railroad Museum are in for a treat when the 1946 classic musical *The Harvey Girls* -- starring Judy Garland and Angela Lansbury -- is shown inside the Museum's big-screen East Theater. Two special screenings will be available on Saturday at 4 p.m. and Sunday at noon. Of special note to fans of the film: vintage memorabilia related to *The Harvey Girls* is part of an all-new exhibit "Rails & Reels: Hollywood, Trains and the Making of Motion Pictures" currently on display at the Museum.

### **Special Visit, Lectures & Book Signings With Author Stephen Fried**

Award-winning journalist Stephen Fried is making a special visit to the California State Railroad Museum for two days of programs inspired by his acclaimed new historical biography *Appetite for America: How Visionary Businessman Fred Harvey Built a Railroad Hospitality Empire that Civilized the Wild West*. Fried will speak both Saturday and Sunday and share the fascinating history of Fred Harvey and his famous waitresses known as the Harvey Girls. In fact, immediately following *The Harvey Girls* screening on Saturday, Fried will provide fascinating perspective about how the classic film incorporates both fact and fiction, and describe some of the behind-the-scenes drama during its filming. Then on Sunday at noon, Fried will introduce the second screening of *The Harvey Girls*. Afterward, he will give an illustrated lecture, highlighting the legendary life and entrepreneurial vision of Fred Harvey and explaining how he helped shape American culture and history. After speaking on both days, Fried will be available to sign copies of his new book that chronicles how Harvey's family business--running

restaurants and hotels along the Sante Fe railroad between Chicago and California starting in the 1870s--changed the way we eat, drink, travel and even the way we see America today.

### *Railroad Museum Activities During Gold Rush Days - Continued*

#### **Steam-Powered Excursion Train Rides**

The California State Railroad Museum's popular excursion railroad -- the Sacramento Southern Railroad -- is in full operation with popular steam-powered train rides offered hourly on Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Interested guests are treated to a scenic six-mile, 40-minute roundtrip excursion along the levees of the Sacramento River. Regular excursion train tickets are \$9 adults, \$4 youths (ages 6-17), ages 5 and under ride free. Tickets for excursion train rides (including first-class upgrades to ride on the beautifully restored *El Dorado* observation car) are available on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 10:30 a.m. at the Sacramento Southern Railroad ticket office, located on Front Street between "J" and "K" Streets.

#### **2-For-1 Museum Pricing Specials**

During the extended Labor Day weekend (Friday through Monday), guests can enjoy a Gold Rush-era value with entrances to two popular museums – the California State Railroad Museum and the adjacent Sacramento History Museum – for the price of one! Given the focus of The Sacramento History Museum is to explore, interpret and display the region's history from the days before the Gold Rush to the present, it's a great starting point to help understand how the area developed and grew to the vibrant community it is today. Special 2-for-1 museum cost is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children 6-17 years of age with children 5 and under free.

During Gold Rush Days, the California State Railroad Museum will remain open as usual each day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no additional charge for the special film screenings of *The Harvey Girls* and lectures by Stephen Fried as these activities are part of the 2-for-1 admission pricing over the holiday weekend. Copies of *Appetite for America* are available from the Railroad Museum Store in advance (in person or online at [www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org/store](http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org/store)) or in person on Saturday and Sunday, September 4 and 5.

Operated by California State Parks with financial assistance from the non-profit California State Railroad Museum Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Widely regarded as North America's finest and most popular railroad museum, the complex of facilities includes the 100,000-square foot Railroad History Museum plus the reconstructed Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station and Freight Depot, 1849 Eagle Theatre, and Big Four and Dingley Spice Mill commercial buildings in Old Sacramento. For 24-hour information, visit [www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org](http://www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org) or call (916) 445-6645.

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