

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 22, 2010



Contact:

Kimberly Baker 209-984-4622

Railtown 1897 Offers Two Additional Behind-the-Scenes Shop Tours Of “Movie Star” Locomotive Restoration

Historic Sierra No. 3 Extensive Restoration Nears Completion

JAMESTOWN, Calif. – Due to popular demand, Railtown 1897 State Historic Park (SHP) will offer two additional behind-the-scenes viewing opportunities for visitors to see the restoration progress of Sierra No. 3 (known as the “Movie Star” steam locomotive) on Wednesday, March 17 and on Saturday, April 17. As part of the special viewings, Railtown staff will present a 90-minute program which will also include a shop tour for visitors. The shop tours begin at 10 a.m. each day and the cost is \$10 for the general public (\$5 for members). As space is limited, reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 209-984-3953.

Tours will consist of an overview of the project to date followed by a tour of the Tri Dam shop where much of the work is currently taking place. Restoration staff, utilizing a combination of historic and modern methods, is restoring this historic locomotive. Staff will be on hand to demonstrate the machinery and methods being used as well as to answer any questions.

Built by the Rogers Locomotive Works in New Jersey in 1891, the Sierra No. 3 spent the early years of its life in Arizona, and was brought to Jamestown in 1897, where it saw over a century of use on the short line, hauling ore, lumber, marble and other goods out of the foothills. With the advent of diesels in the middle of the 20th century, many steam locomotives were destroyed for scrap, but Sierra No. 3 found a new career in the movie industry, appearing in more than 100 films and television shows over the years.

The restoration work is being funded by a California Cultural and Historical Endowment grant, the Sonora Area Foundation, the Irving J. Symons Foundation, the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, the California State Parks Foundation, the Teichert Foundation, DuPont and others.

The popular Sierra No. 3 locomotive is expected to return to operation at Railtown 1897 SHP in late Spring 2010.

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 and Reservoir in Jamestown, reached by highways 49/108. Open Tuesday-Sunday 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

For More Information, Visit www.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict