

News Release



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Railroad Museum to Debut Imaginative New Exhibit Titled “Welded Workers and Fused Faces” Opens November 8

Exhibit to Showcase Sculptures Created from Scrap Metal by Fairfield Artist

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California State Parks and the California State Railroad Museum are excited to debut a playful new exhibit titled “Welded Workers and Fused Faces: The Sawmill and Railroad Sculptures of Ray Carrington” on November 8, 2013. The all-new exhibit will showcase approximately three dozen sculptures made from scrap metal over a 45-year period and created by Ray Carrington, an artist from Fairfield, California. The prized pieces featured in the exhibition are drawn from the University of California at Berkeley Center for Forestry’s “Carrington Sawmill and Railroad Sculpture Collection,” which contains 235 of Carrington’s metal sculptures.

For the sawmill pieces, Carrington used materials and objects from three Northern California sawmills – Mount Shasta Pine Lumber Co., Mount Shasta; Long Bell Lumber Co., Weed; and McCloud Lumber Co., McCloud – and formed them into sculpture intended to catch the experience, energy, force, and spirit of bygone lumbering days. Each piece is a simple assemblage preserving the identities of the original tools and parts from which they are fashioned.

The materials used in Carrington's "Railroad Worker" series were obtained from various railroad lines in northern California, including the Sacramento Northern (an electric railway which once stretched from Oakland to Chico via Sacramento); Southern Pacific (once the state's largest railroad and transportation company); McCloud River; and Fruit Growers' Supply (Hilt). Many of the railroad spikes, track plates, and tools are worn, pitted and ravaged by time and use. Some even still bear the markings of their original use.

Since 1966, exhibits of Carrington’s imaginative sculptures have been in held in galleries from the San Francisco Bay area to Washington, D.C., Chicago, Illinois, and Portland. The “Welded Workers and Fused Faces” exhibit will be located in the Lobby Gallery near the entrance of the Railroad Museum and will remain on display through October 2014. For more information about the California State Railroad Museum, please visit www.csrnf.org or call 916-445-6645.

About the California State Railroad Museum

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.csrnf.org or call (916) 445-6645.

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