

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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More Pioneer Trains

The spring tour edition of "Golden Notes," edited by Raymond M. Momboisse, tells the story in child's language of "Our Little Old Lady," the bright little locomotive that stands in front of the big Southern Pacific depot in Sacramento. The name C. P. Huntington is gayly painted on its side. She had a twin sister, and the name of J. D. Judah was printed on her cab. A bit of the sisters' history is as follows:

"I am one of the twins. My twin sister and I were alike as two peas in a pod. To begin with, we were born, or as you would say, we were built at the works of Danforth, Cooke and Company in the City of Patterson, New Jersey. In the final days of January 1863, we were finished and went into the paint shop where some artists worked on us for days. We finally stood forth with glistening red paint, gold stripes and polished brass, and with the lettering L.I.R.R. on our ranks. We felt gay in our beautiful new dresses.

"Then for some reason or another, I think it was on account of the folks for whom we were built not having the money to pay for us, we were run out and left under a shed. It had only a roof, no sides. It was so drafty and so very cold. Snow would drift in under the roof. We were quite miserable, especially as we heard some of the men say we were dead heads on the hands of the firm. This made us very sad, as we did not want to be dead heads."

The authors of the story are Davis L. Joslyn and Jon F. Davis Sr., and the whimsical true story is illustrated by Mrs. Robert Capron. Although there is no announcement, I imagine the Sacramento County Historical Society would sell copies. Try it!