



# LMIT

Newsletter for employees of Barstow  
Locomotive Maintenance & Inspection Terminal

March 2004



The Most Improved Bell is displayed in Building 18.

## Moncreary nominated for Hammond Award

The shop congratulates Larry Moncreary, machinist, nominated for the Harold F. Hammond Award.

The award is presented each year to a railroad employee who has compiled a record of outstanding safety accomplishments.

Moncreary qualifies.

In his nine years of service at Barstow, Moncreary has grown to become a positive influence in the locomotive maintenance building. He takes time every day to scour the shop for potential hazards. He coordinates safety meetings for second shift.



Larry Moncreary

Moncreary is always willing to help. If a new employee needs training in a particular area, whether or not it relates to safety, he is first to step forward. If the area is not of his expertise, he will work with supervisors to train that person correctly.

Most importantly, Moncreary has become a safety liaison. People throughout LMIT approach him with their suggestions. He has consistently demonstrated a positive, personable attitude that attracts such feedback.

Paul Hensley, general foreman who nominated Moncreary, is most impressed by Moncreary's friendly demeanor and his ability to relate to others.

"Larry is liked and respected by all," Hensley said.

In spite of the recognition that comes with the nomination, Moncreary remains humble. It is the satisfaction that

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## Three Bells!

The Barstow LMIT scored all three System Safety Bells for 2003 performance.

LMIT received Most Improved and tied for the Best Frequency and Best Severity bells.

Greg Stengem, vice president, Safety, Training and Operations Support, commended Barstow and the other winners for their commitment to safety.

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Brandon Mabry, LMIT superintendent, addresses employees in Building 18.



Employees partake in a delicious meal celebrating safety success.

## Rochelle a 'Woman of Continuous Service'

Martha Rochelle doesn't seek out the limelight.

"I've always tried to help my fellow employees find recognition," she says. "When it comes to the service events I am involved in, I'm always just one of many."

Whether she sought it or not, Rochelle, labor foreman, found the spotlight when she was awarded the 2003 Woman of Continuous Service by the Barstow Area Chamber of Commerce. The annual award recognizes a Barstow resident whose actions have consistently demon-

strated a commitment to service in the community.

The award for Rochelle marks the culmination of 13 years of service. Her involvement in the Barstow community began in 1991 when she volunteered to help with the newly-created Santa Fe Christmas Train, an annual event that she continues to help coordinate.

Peggy Teal, director of the Mojave Valley United Way and a longtime observer of Rochelle's commitment to Barstow, said the award went to a worthy candidate. "She's tireless," Teal said, "She's just everywhere."

Rochelle has participated in a variety of groups and programs that have helped area families.

She is a member of the board at the Mojave Valley United Way and at New Hope Village, a transitional housing program for those who were homeless.

She has also worked at the yearly "Caring and Sharing" Homeless Care Faire, which is coordinated by Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County and High Desert Community Coalitions.

Asked to reflect on what is now well more than a decade of community involvement, Rochelle goes back to 1998 and a little girl named Carisa Barnes. Carisa, then just nine years old, suffered from Cystic fibrosis. The disease was progressing rapidly and doctors said she didn't have much longer to live.

Rochelle heard Carisa's story from her godfather, retired LMIT machinist Charles Macias. As a last wish,



Martha Rochelle

Carisa's family had asked the Make-a-Wish Foundation for a computer and a big party for Carisa and her friends. While the foundation was able to provide her with the computer, it did not have the funds necessary for the party.

To aid the family in granting Carisa's wish, Rochelle organized a fund-raising drive.

She posted a flyer advertising the cause to each of the three shifts. In a few days, Rochelle's project managed to raise more than \$1,200 in donations. The money was enough to grant Carisa's wish, and Martha drove to Mentone to attend Carisa's party.

According to Rochelle, helping people like Carisa is the true measure of success, not the awards themselves. "I am so happy that I had the opportunity to help make that party happen," she said. "Granting her wish was a wonderful experience."

### Rochelle invited to leadership forum

Barstow's Martha Rochelle was invited to speak March 17 at the Third Annual Women's Leadership Forum in Memphis, Tenn.

The forum was presented by the Memphis Terminal Diversity Council.

The event's purpose was to promote awareness of women working and succeeding in non-traditional female occupations. Each of the invited speakers shared some of her unique experiences and challenges with the other participants.

The event was held in observance of both National Women's History Month and St. Patrick's Day.

Women from both the BNSF family and the Memphis business community were in attendance.

## Group receives GE Remote Control System training

Five employees traveled to BNSF Technical Training Center in Overland Park, Kan., in March. They participated in training on General Electric Remote Control Systems.

Ron Presley, foreman, led the group that included Greg Ledington and Dan Russell.

They will take responsibility for ensuring proper operation

of Barstow's RCL equipment.

Training focused on testing, maintenance and repair of GE base units applied to remote control locomotives. GE RCL in Barstow is applied to EMD locomotives or yard switchers. No GE locomotive at Barstow currently operates as an RCL unit.

# Searight nominated for environmental award

Congratulations Rodney Searight, Barstow LMIT labor foreman, nominated as Employee of the Year for Environmental Excellence.

Searight takes a proactive stance on environmental issues. He monitors hazardous waste storage at Barstow and oversees a weekly program that regulates use and disposal of hazards such as oil absorbents and petroleum. Also he is involved in the cardboard recycling program.

Working with state, county, and local officials and inspectors, Rodney

corrects potential threats to the environment. Since the inception of his audit program, Barstow has not received a violation or fine.



Rodney Searight

Given by the Association of American Railroads, the Employee of the Year award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated the leader-

ship and service necessary for improving the quality of the environment. The ideal candidate demonstrates significant and consistent leadership in environmental activities, as well as exemplary environmental awareness. The individual also assists fellow employees with environmental matters, according to award criteria.

If selected, Rodney will represent BNSF in Washington, D.C. in April during an Earth Day celebration. The AAR's John Chafee will present the award.

# Barstow welcomes five new hires

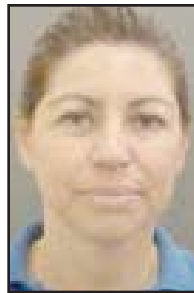
Five people recently began work at Barstow LMIT. Four are new hires.

Alejandra Sanchez, electronic technician, transferred from telecommunications where she installed and maintained telecommunication systems. She has impressed many people with her willingness to take on new responsibilities, said Scott Wilson, communications.

Frederick Kegyulics began recently as a laborer. Due to his experience, he has been promoted to a journeyman



Frederick Kegyulics



Alejandra Sanchez



Nicholas Estes



Arthur Dado



James Meugniot

machinist.

Other new hires include Arthur Dado, Nicholas Estes, James Meugniot. Each begins his railroad career as a laborer.

## Aiming for 500

April 10 will make 500 days without an injury for Barstow LMIT.

Shop Superintendent Brandon Mabry is already planning a celebration to mark the occasion. Although the date of the event has yet to be determined, plans call for a barbecue as well as what Mabry terms "a special surprise."

500 injury free days is a milestone, especially for a shop as productive as Barstow. While he is quick to celebrate the shop's success, Mabry has not lost sight of its fragility. Vigilance remains imperative.

"Let's continue to practice a safety-first attitude," Mabry said.

## Moncreary a Hammond nominee

Continued from Page 1

comes with a job well done that is truly important to him.

"I do things around here because I like doing them, not because I expect anything in return," Moncreary said.

## What is the Hammond Award?

The Harold F. Hammond Award was established in 1986 and is awarded to an individual railroad employee who has demonstrated outstanding safety achievement during the preceding year.

It is named after the late Harold F. Hammond, former president of the Transportation Association of America. Hammond served for years as chairman of the Harriman Awards selection committee.

Railroad companies select an individual each year to represent them for the award.

A selection committee names winners of this and other awards.

# Natural Work Teams debut

Barstow LMIT has adopted a cutting-edge team concept.

Natural Work Teams will be composed of employees working together as a team to accomplish goals. Preliminary meetings will be held to create a foundation for each team. Shop Superintendent Brandon Mabry will personally attend the meetings to help get things started.

“Natural Work Teams will allow us to be the leaders in employee involvement, management-union communication, and will set the standard for locomotive maintenance performance,” Mabry said.

The teams will focus on granting employees ownership of their work areas. Each team will be responsible for setting the goals for safety, quality, productivity, and responsiveness.

The key goal of each work group is to take the energy, knowledge, and creativity of every employee and utilize it to make each work area a better place, Mabry said. The adoption of the program represents Barstow’s continued commitment to creating a production environment that is both fun and safe.

Each group will be assigned a general foreman, or “team champion,” who will help conduct monthly group meetings.

## Team Champion Assignments

Diesel Fueling and Service Facility - Aaron Adams

Locomotive Maintenance Building - Chris Riley

Running Repair Building - Paul Hensley

Material - Martin Terry

Outbound/Through Freight - Henry Villalobos

# Robert Garcia welcomed back to LMIT

A familiar face has returned to Barstow. Robert Garcia, machinist, transferred from Argentine-Murray where he was equipment supervisor.

As many Barstow employees know, Garcia comes from a family with a deep connection to the railroad. His father, grandfather, and uncles are all former or current railroaders. Garcia takes great pride in his family’s affiliation with the railroad.

“I got my work ethic from watching my father,” Garcia said. “When I come home and look in the mirror, I always want be satisfied about the work I’ve done. I’d do anything for the railroad.”

Garcia’s main



Robert Garcia

interest is motor sports. He owns a Honda CBR 600RR dirt bike and recently purchased a Honda TRX 450R four-wheeler, on which he plans to explore the desert.

Garcia has come home to Barstow to be with his ailing mother, who suffers from multiple sclerosis.

He would like to thank his co-workers for their support during this difficult period.

# Air brakes tested at Barstow

Bill Kirk, California Public Utility Commission inspector, was in Barstow March 12 to check flow meter calibrations on locomotive air braking systems.

Kirk’s trip was part of a larger effort on the part of the Federal Railroad Administration and PUC to establish the safety compliance of locomotive shops throughout the state.

Kirk was quick to compliment Barstow’s General Electric and BNSF personnel for their outstanding cooperation. He thanked Lead Technical Director Pete Parlette and Machinist Mike Garcia for their assistance during the audit.

Kirk was especially impressed by the technical support of Rubén Anguiano, whom he called “the air brake guru of the entire system.”

“Rubén has the best technical mind in the business,”



Mike Garcia, Pete Parlette and Bill Kirk discuss the findings of calibration tests.

Kirk said. “Every railroad in this country wants to pick his brain.”

# Shop mourns loss of Gene Garcia

His friends and loved ones mourn the loss of Gene Garcia who died January 11.

Garcia, 57, worked as a machinist for 39 years. He was also an officer in the International Association of Machinist and Aerospace Workers.

His brother, Mike Garcia, described him as a good partner and good brother. According to Mike, Gene was known in the LMIT shops for his troubleshooting abilities.

"I and others will miss his smile and his expertise," Mike said.

Garcia's son, Robert, called his father "a walking maintenance

manual."

"Everyone came to my dad for advice," Robert said. "He taught me everything I know about the railroad, and about being a man, too."

Gene's interests included dune buggy and motorcycle riding. He was a great sports fan and was for years a stalwart member of the Santa Fe softball team.

He traveled throughout the United States and Mexico, making yearly trips to Crawley Lake in the Sierra Nevada.

Garcia also had a talent for construction that he put to use by building

his own home.

Garcia is survived by wife, Dorothy Garcia; son, Robert Garcia, Barstow; daughter, Mary Beth and her husband, Robert Rodriguez, Barstow. Other survivors include his mother, Leonore Garcia, Barstow; brothers, Michael and his wife, Annabelle Garcia, Barstow; Joe and his wife, Josie, Barstow.



Gene Garcia

# Friends will miss Clofias Chavez

Clofias Chavez, 59, a railroad employee of 39 years, died March 2 at Loma Linda University Medical Center where he awaited a liver transplant.

Chavez started with the railroad as a laborer, became an electrician, lead foreman, and equipment supervisor.

According to Mike Hughes, foreman locomotives, Chavez possessed a great deal of technical knowledge and was excellent at repairing equipment.

He also enjoyed construction work.

"Clofias was a highly respected, hard-working, family man," Hughes said. "He was a good friend, and I was proud to be named one of his."

Chavez loved



Clofias Chavez

to fish and hunt. He and friend Paul Draper, a former co-worker at BNSF, enjoyed deer hunting on annual trips to Colorado.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Chavez of Barstow; daughters, Elizabeth Ramirez and Eileen Chavez of Barstow; sons, Anthony Chavez and his wife, Rosa, of Hesperia, and Albert Chavez of Barstow; mother, Elvira Chavez of New Mexico.

# Donato Massimini, retired car foreman, dies

Barstow LMIT mourns the loss of Donato Massimini, retired car foreman, who died Feb. 7.

Massimini, 67, served his country in the U.S. Army prior to his 32 years on the railroad.

Upon retirement, Massimini found the time to pursue a wide array of hobbies. He enjoyed gardening, woodworking, and watching westerns. His most prized diversion however was perhaps solitaire. He always said he did his best thinking

while playing the card game on his computer.

Survivors include wife Jacqueline; their children, Diana Massimini; Danny Massimini Sr. and his wife Lucinda; Michael Massimini and his wife Linda; grandchildren Robert Harris, Danny Massimini Jr., Phillip Harris, Brian Massimini, Cassandra Massimini, Christopher Massimini, Breanna Massimini, and Andrew Massimini.

This is your newsletter. If there is a story you would like to see in the Barstow LMIT newsletter, call us. In addition to on-the-job items of interest (safety achievements, service anniversaries, new technology, retirements, new hires, promotions, etc.), tell us about human interest stories as well (community activism, hobbies, travel, marriages, births, deaths, things your kids do that makes you proud, etc.). For coverage, call Jon Lundeen at the newsletter office at (BNSF) 458-7342; (bell) 402-475-6397; fax 402-475-6398; mail information to 339 South 9th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508; or e-mail [jon@newslinkinc.com](mailto:jon@newslinkinc.com). We'll write the stories from your information, any photos you can provide will help.

# Harvey House a piece of railroad history

Barstow's Casa Del Desierto Harvey House and train depot represents a bygone era in railroad history.

The structure, designed by Francis Wilson, was completed in 1911. Beautifully restored in 1996, the building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

To understand the historical significance the house possesses, one must first understand the historical developments behind it.

In a January article printed in the Peoria Journal Star, reporter John O'Connell writes of the Harvey House's history.

According to O'Connell, in the 19th century, passenger trains in the West did not serve meals, leaving passengers at the mercy of station cafes along the way. They were served bad food at high prices.

"Most experienced travelers were not as afraid of Indians as they were of contracting an agonizing case of food poisoning that would complicate or end their journey, or even kill them," wrote Judy Morris in her book, "The Harvey Girls - The Women Who Civilized the West."

An Englishman named Fred Har-

vey changed things for the better. In 1876, he convinced the manager of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad that he could provide quality food in a fine restaurant inside railroad stations along the line. That year, he opened his first restaurant, O'Connell writes.

Harvey's most enduring legacy may have been his Harvey Girls. O'Connell writes that to recruit reliable help, Harvey placed ads in newspapers throughout the East and Midwest, seeking women "between 18 to 30 years of age, of good character, attractive, and intelligent."

"In the 19th century, women had few options for jobs," Morris wrote. "They could teach school, clerk in a grocery store or dime store, work in a factory, or become a dressmaker or a servant. In the East and Midwest, there were more women than men, so husbands were even harder to find than jobs. Harvey's ad was a breath of fresh air to many single women."

The Harvey Girl Historical Society estimates that more than 100,000 women worked for Harvey House restaurants and hotels over the years. Of those, some 20,000 married regular customers according to O'Connell.

The Harvey Girls wore black-and-



white uniforms that gave them a nun-like appearance, perhaps interfering with some of the girls' marital ambitions. As part of the job, they were given lodging in a dormitory with an older Harvey Girl serving as house mother. They earned tips and a small salary that amounted to about \$8 to \$10 a week, according to O'Connell.

O'Connell writes that at the time of Harvey's death in 1901, he had established 47 Harvey House restaurants and 15 hotels. He also developed the dining car system for railroads.

At its zenith in 1917, six years after the completion of the Barstow house, the Fred Harvey Co. had about 100 restaurants ranging from Chicago south to Galveston, Texas, and west to California.

The company faded from the popular landscape in the 1960s.

# LMIT welcomes three Bell awards

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"The work teams receiving the Safety Bell Trophy were safety leaders in a year marked by many outstanding safety performances," Stengem said.

Safety bells are awarded annually to the groups and divisions that demonstrate the highest safety performance. In addition to the mechanical category, in which only work groups are eligible, there is a transportation bell that goes to the highest performing division and an engineering bell that goes to the highest performing work group.

The Most Improved Bell is housed in Barstow and the two other bells will arrive this summer.

Members of BNSF's operations leadership team visited Barstow in February as part of a safety celebration.



Pictured with the bell are, from left: Ralph Hunt, general foreman, Barstow; Warren Cross, Chief Mechanical Officer Central Division; B.J. Ryan, Chief Mechanical Officer South Division; Ron Hennessey, Director Safety; Craig Hill, Vice President Mechanical and Value Engineering; Tom Moschetti, Chief Mechanical Officer, North; Brandon Mabry, LMIT superintendent.

# BNSF supports United Way

Barstow BNSF employees demonstrated their generosity again in 2003.

This year's United Way banquet was yet another testament to BNSF's importance to the Barstow community.

"BNSF is awesome," Peggy Teal, United Way director, said. "They are my biggest givers by far. If everyone were as generous, my job would be a lot easier."

BNSF donated an assortment of items to fund the annual banquet. Jackets, afghans, luggage, mugs and candy dishes were auctioned and raffled off during the event. The proceeds of the auction and raffle were used to pay banquet expenses.

Three employees were recognized during the banquet for making donations in 2003 that exceeded \$500. They were Keith Clifford, Vincent Sanchez, and Martha Rochelle. Teal was quick to highlight the generosity of these

employees. She was especially appreciative of assistance she received from Rochelle.

"Martha is a driving force," Teal said. "She is everywhere. There's no grass under that woman's feet."

Overall donations from BNSF were up this year, according to Teal. 2003 BNSF corporate donations totaled \$10,000 and the employees gave \$21,000. In 2002, BNSF put forth \$10,000, while Barstow BNSF employee contributions amounted to \$17,000.

Partnering with the United Way has become an effective way to create lasting community change. United Way ranks as the most accepted, tried and proven way to meet the health and human services needs in Barstow.

The organizers give a voice to those unable to reach out for help, Teal said. United Way facilitates teamwork to ensure needs are addressed in the com-

munity. It provides education, information and referral to the community at large.

Barstow's United Way holds administrative expenses to a minimum. Of each dollar contributed, 86 cents promotes health, welfare and ensures a good quality of life for Barstow citizens, she said.

United Way works with 19 member agencies. They include Barstow Judo Club, Barstow Literacy, Barstow Pregnancy Center, B.E.S.T. Opportunities, the Boy Scouts, the Boys and Girls Club, Desert Manna Ministries, Desert Sanctuary/Haley House, High Desert Community Coalition, High Desert Meals on Wheels, the Humane Society, Mojave Valley Volunteer Hospice, New Hope Village, Oasis Counseling, the Red Cross, the senior citizen centers in Hinkley and Mojave Valley, Sheriff's Rescue Line Unit, and the Visiting Nurse Association.



## New sign appears

A new sign greets employees and visitors to Barstow LMIT. It emphasizes the new name for Barstow operations, Jewel of the Desert.

Updates, such as the status of the LMIT injury-free production streak, are placed daily. Daily information indicating the status of shop locomotives is also displayed. As employees celebrate birthdays, their names are placed on the signs.

## Tourney benefits girl

Samantha Peralta, niece of machinist Larry Peralta, has been selected to visit to Australia as a student ambassador this June.

To help fund the trip, her father, Steve Peralta, organized a co-ed softball tournament the weekend of March 13 at Robert A. Sessions Sports Park in Barstow.

A team of BNSF employees and their family members competed in the event. Led by Larry Peralta, the players included Jason Bogart, carman, Adam Britt, electrical apprentice, Mike Carrol, machinist, Mike Marin, machinist, and Loni Yslas, machinist. Corina Zamora and Jessica Marquez, daughters of machinists Rudy Zamora and Louie Marquez were also members of the squad.

The team finished in third place.

Larry Peralta was pleased with the performance.

"Everyone pulled their weight and then some," Peralta said. "The team played well, and they did it for a good cause."

The tournament wasn't without a celebrity appearance. Former professional baseball player Danny Norman competed on another team. Norman was an outfielder for the New York Mets from 1977 to 1980 and the Montreal Expos from 1981 to 1982.

The event was a success, as the Peralta family managed to raise a significant portion of the funds necessary for the Australia trip. Donations are still being accepted. Interested parties may contact Steve at 760-256-6429.

# Safety Team Focus challenge

BNSF kicked off a “Safety Team Focus” challenge March 15. The challenge focuses on the critical work practices that drive the injuries that are occurring throughout the company.

From March 15 to June 27, field supervisors are asked to lead detailed job safety briefings on critical work activities. Three weeks will be spent on each critical work topic.

The challenge represents an excellent opportunity for LMIT to improve on an already stellar safety record. If one learns anything from studying safety numbers throughout the company, it is that records like Barstow’s are quite rare and highly fragile.

Such a lesson can be found in the words of Greg Stengem, vice president, Safety, Training and Operations Support.

“Many work teams have outstanding safety performances so far this year, including several large teams working injury free,” he said. “Still, a commitment to this safety challenge will help BNSF achieve its safety goals for the entire year and, more important, will help ensure an injury-free spring for our BNSF work teams.”

### Weeks 1-3

Mar. 15-April 4

Mechanical & Engineering: Pinch Points  
Transportation: Walking

### Weeks 4-6

April 5-April 25

Mechanical: Overexertion  
Engineering: Movement of Equipment  
Transportation: Operating Switches & Derails

### Weeks 7-9

April 26-May 16

Mechanical: Hand Tools  
Engineering: Crane Safety  
Transportation: Riding Equipment

### Weeks 10-12

May 17-June 6

Mechanical: Walking  
Engineering: Overexertion  
Transportation: Fouling Track

### Weeks 13-15

June 7-June 27

Mechanical & Engineering: Fouling Track  
Transportation: Getting On & Off Equipment



**BARSTOW LMIT NEWS** appears under the direction of the Superintendent, Barstow Locomotive Maintenance and Inspection Terminal, Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway, with headquarters at 200 North Ave. H, Barstow, CA 92311. This publication invites the input, comments and questions from all BNSF employees. For coverage of events, call Jon Lundeen at the newsletter office, BNSF ext. 458-7342 or (402) 475-6397, fax (402) 475-6398, mail to 339 S. 9th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, or email jon@newslinkinc.com

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# Locomotives to receive new electronic bells

Locomotives assigned to Barstow soon will be equipped with electronic bells.

Employed to alert people to locomotive movement, existing brass bells are wearing thin from use with increased switching.

Electronic bells are more durable and longer lasting.

The new bells can be programmed to ring with the full tone associated with the classic brass bell.

Mike Hughes, equipment supervi-



Photo courtesy David Hawk

Electronic bells replace brass bells on locomotives at Barstow. They can be activated by a switch in the locomotive cab.

sor, and electricians Greg Ledington and Chris Bradley have been responsible for the LMIT installations.