TOWER TALK

Volume IV, No. 4
April 2018 Edition

California High-Speed Train Renamed and Realigned

Paul Sedway

In a late night meeting last week, the State of California's High-Speed Rail Authority sold the naming rights to its train system to Salesforce Corporation for $12 billion.

The complex transaction was consummated as a logical follow-up to the recent sale of the naming rights by the Transbay Joint Powers Authority to Salesforce of the San Francisco Downtown Transit Center, now to be known as Salesforce Transit Center. It will house the high-speed rail trains in its lower level.

Continuing the trend of the private takeover of the public realm, the former CAHSR system will henceforth be named the Salesforce SailForth Train and its logo will be the iconic Salesforce cloud under which is the image of a small Toonerville Trolley-type locomotive puffing its way up a grade (suggesting the Tehachapi Mountains) with a word bubble that says "I think I can, I think I can…" It was the Board consensus that the image would elicit pride and sympathy.

At the same meeting the HSRA addressed one of its thorniest problems — the vertical alignment of the train's route on the Peninsula between San Francisco and San Jose. The many Peninsula cities — 17 in all — have differing positions on whether the trains should be placed in a tunnel, in a cut-and-covered ditch, on fenced ground-level tracks, or on a 25-foot structure just above local streets.

In a bold move, the Authority board resolved the issue by approving an innovative and perhaps controversial solution — a skyway 320 feet high for its full 50-mile length. "Out of sight, out of mind", announced SSFT Chair Ryder B. Ware. "This should satisfy all of the cities and the counties as well. No one will notice it. Not only is the right of way above normal sight lines, but it will be made of tempered glass, largely invisible to the naked eye."

The presenter, Senior Engineer Zane E. Bilder, announced that the skyway structure is to be constructed by the creators of the Fremont Street Experience in Downtown Las Vegas, and will be "nearly invisible, except when the train, with San Francisco Warriors colors in the North, gradually changing to Los Angeles Lakers colors in the South, passes through."

He went on to state, "The tempered glass is necessary in case the tall structure is hit by a plane from nearby SFO — likely a rarity because the skyway is designed to allow planes to fly under it as they wish. If it is struck, the falling glass particles will not be a hazard to pedestrians below, and cleanup will be a lot easier".

The final item on the agenda was a motion to allow all 26 cities in the system to name their stations after a hometown hero, provided the individual has not been convicted of a sex crime. The motion passed 12-1, with the dissenting vote cast in absentia from the California Correctional Facility at Corcoran.

The proceedings were confirmed by Joe Xonyu, CJO of the High Speed Rail Authority of California, and April Phoule, Executive Secretary.

Senior Watchdog Agency to Undergo Enormous Role Expansion

Many SFT residents are aware of the California Department of Social Services, the government agency overseeing CCRC's. However, in an unexpected press release, California Governor Jerry Brown announced an enormous increase in the agency's authority and oversight capacity.

The Governor explained that this government agency is herewith empowered to override proposed resident fee increases. Governor Brown said: "No senior citizen will be subject to fee increases while I remain in office." Legislative budget officials explained that the added costs of subsidizing senior centers will be paid from $12 billion in new revenues from an unnamed source.

The governor simultaneously announced a new DSS Director, someone that the governor proclaimed was widely knowledgeable and

deeply experienced regarding public housing, food, and other services for those on reduced income. Moreover, the new DSS Director is a native Californian with deep roots in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The new DSS Director's name is Orenthal James Simpson. Mr. Simpson, pictured above, has agreed to serve given that the governor has awarded him immunity from prosecution for possible past moral lapses.

ESC – Episcopal Diocesan Suit Dropped

Reprinted without permission from Legal Information Enterprise Systems (LIES)

In a surprise announcement, California Episcopal Bishop Marc Andrus and ESC Executive Director, Kevin Gerber, jointly announced that the civil suit in which their agencies have long been engaged has been settled amicably. (It is widely known that Kim Jong-un masterfully mediated the differences.)

The two parties met on an unusually cold February day at a neutral site midway between their offices, Alcatraz

In exchange for remaining within the Episcopal orbit, ESC has been granted unlimited levels of targeted NOM.

ESC CEO Kevin Gerber en route to Alcatraz meeting with Bishop Marc Andrus

---

San Francisco Towers News

Kathy Trapani (Reporter-at-Large)

At considerable expense, the San Francisco Towers was able to purchase the Ponce de Leon fountain of youth formula. After bathing in the lobby waters, residents are experiencing youthful vigor, boundless vitality, toned bodies and wrinkle-free skin. Truant officers are on premises inquiring why residents have been skipping school. Dan Porat has added 50 nubiles to his collection and Mel Flyer finally fits into his senior prom tuxedo.

A necklace made by Terry Bohrer's students will be worn by Meghan Markle in her upcoming marriage to Prince Harry.

The Fall Trunk Show will feature clothing by American designers. A stiff tariff will be levied on imported garments, even those tossed over the Wall.

Contrary to what has always been thought, our poetry club has found a word that rhymes with "orange". We are awaiting written permission to disclose this to you.

Arsenic and Old Lace is Broadway bound. For the first time in history, a production no one has yet seen has been nominated for 5 Tonys. One of the cast members will remain behind unless someone can spring him from Happy Dale Sanitarium.

> Dear Reader: The foregoing is not fake news. It is outrageously falsified news. If you think any of the foregoing could possibly be true, you are in deep trouble and should immediately schedule an interview with Rosemary McLeod.

New Monthly Feature:
Seeking Sugar's Solace

Dear Sugar:

I have had an SFT resident as a close friend for more than a decade. This individual has recently become quite embittered. Instead of the warm, understanding, compassionate, and humorous buddy I once had, I now find myself increasingly having to deal with someone who is chronically crusty, disgustingly cynical, and constantly and unjustifiably critical. I like this individual, but having any kind of continued relationship is increasingly difficult. Can you suggest anything?

Signed: Perplexed, pained, and a little peeved:

Dear Pee-Pee:

First, you have Sugar's sympathy. On a few occasions, I have seen the same thing.

At least two things come to mind. First, do not lose sight of the pleasures associated with the friendship, at least in the past. In this instance, dwell on the past, not the present.

Second, you may wish to cut the individual a little slack. As we age, some of us have micro-strokes that do sufficient brain damage as to alter our personality. When this is the case, there is little that can be done to repair the situation.

Also, Sugar knows from personal experience that the presence of chronic intense pain can also alter one's persona. When you are hurting, it takes added effort to be personable.

Whatever has triggered this unfortunate, unhappy personality, and it might be a consequence of some fundamental change in the individual's life, you can: 1) either put up with it, 2) confront the individual in the most compassionate way you know and ask what perhaps underlies the change, or 3) simply give the individual a wide berth.

Whatever you do, stay sweet.

Sugar

SFT Conservatory Acting Group

PRESENTS

Arsenic and Old Lace

June 4th, 2018

KEEP YOUNG AND ATTRACTIVE

Use a Few Boxes of

Dr. Campbell's Safe Arsenic Complexion Wafers

they produce a firm glowing skin of wondrous youthful beauty. All pimples, wrinkles, blackheads, sallowness and all facial blemishes disappear in a short time as if by magic. You may have little or no success with other things you have tried—but no matter how skeptical you may be, try Campbell's Wafers, you will not be disappointed. It is remarkable, but true, Campbell's wafers have been universally successful as thousands of users testify. Physicians recognize there is but one way to beautify the skin and complexion, that is by purifying the blood, that is exactly what Campbell's Wafers do—impure blood is the real cause of all skin troubles. 50 cents and $1.00 per box postpaid in plain cover from

RICHARD FINK CO., Dept. 93,
396 Broadway, N. Y.

Entre Nous

Sugar Caen

Austin and Van Ness (SFT 1501) are sipping their morning coffee and having a conversation over their respective newspapers, the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. Let's listen.

IT'S OK IF YOU DISAGREE WITH ME. I CAN'T FORCE YOU TO BE RIGHT.

Van: You seem unhappy today dear. I've seldom seen you in such a somber mood. Something wrong?

Aus: I feel dyspeptic. I seem to be suffering from some generalized anxiety that I cannot identify specifically. I just feel all-over worried.

Van: Really! Give me an example of something that is upsetting to you. I hope it is not something I have said or done.

Aus: The problem goes far beyond you. There just seems to be so much about today's world that is upsetting. I cannot figure out if it's me or just that I am a victim of a never ending 24-hour media rant cycle that continually pursues profits by publicizing what is problematic about the world and pandering to the worst in people.

Van: For starters, you could start watching Fox instead of CNN or MSNBC. Just kidding. Oddly I think I agree with you. For example, every day I am confronted by the threatening nuclear situation in North Korea. Who let a blithering idiot overseas dictator ever get hold of an atomic bomb in the first place?

Aus: Let's not get into that. I've heard your explanation of how Kim Jong-un's dad got a nuclear deal from Clinton. The problem is far deeper than North Korea. For example, your hero, President Trump, appears to be impulsive and erratic, and that too is worrisome. For example, where did this trade and tariff war with the rest of the world come from? Why does he continually churn his White House staff? When is he going to openly acknowledge Russia has been tampering with our elections?

Van: I am not going to take the bait and have a political argument with you. We have agreed to disagree about Trump. And, don't forget he has supported strong economic sanctions against Russia and expelled 60 Russian diplomats.

Aus: But it is not just international matters and what goes on in Washington that bothers me. What's with airlines that stuff passengers' pet puppies into overhead bins, why the never-ending mass shootings, elected officials behaving badly with porn stars and prostitutes, the out-of-control National Rifle Association, and on and on.

Van: All of this is upsetting. I agree with you. And, the list of terribles goes on. This appears to be a very coarse time in history. I'm reading a Ken Follett novel about the unceasing 16th Century wars between Catholics and Protestants. It reminds me of all the civil unrest and anxiety we have around us today. What's with sanctuary cities or California being a sanctuary state. Moreover, the Golden State Warriors have so many injuries they cannot win a game. From top to bottom, from Moscow to Main Street, the world seems to be coming apart.

Aus: Can't you see something positive in our present conditions?

Van: After the awful 16th Century and its religious wars, we had the creative and incredibly powerful 18th Century, the era that gave birth to modern democracy and science.

Aus: Historical perspective is of little help. I may succumb and start taking drugs.

Van: I've tried that. The negatives are too high. I see Tower Talk's Sugar Caen has a new advice column. Write to Sugar.

Tower Talk is a collection of opinion, anecdotes, humor, and informational items of potential interest to the San Francisco Towers' community. Tower Talk is privately published and does not carry the approval or endorsement of SFT Management, nor rely upon SFT resources. It contains no commercial content and is not intended to replace regular Towers' publications. All comments, complaints, and compliments should be directed to James Guthrie at sugarcaen00@gmail.com.