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Galveston Railroad Museum Opens New Exhibit Santa Fe Car #22 American Flyer

GALVESTON, TX – The Center for Transportation and Commerce, Galveston Railroad Museum, recently opened a new immersive experience. Visitors are invited to walk through a beautiful example of a 1939 private business car, now connected to a concourse of trains that allows for a continuous excursion from one car to the next.

Built by Pullman in 1939 as a private business car, the car was pristinely restored in 1999 by its former owner, an avid model train enthusiast, who nicknamed the car, “American Flyer”. Visiting the Galveston Railroad Museum in 2008, the car was engulfed by fourteen feet of flood waters brought on by Hurricane Ike, causing severe damage to the beautifully appointed interior. The force of the flood tossed around large engines and railcars at the museum as though they were model trains. After years of recovery and renovation, it is hard to imagine that the entire museum was underwater!

Opening the car to visitors is possible because of the quality materials used by Pullman in construction and the professional restoration by the previous owner that enabled the car to survive the devastating storm.

Now, a part of the museum’s permanent collection of rolling stock, the museum allows for the train to be on exhibit while renovation plans are in process. David Robertson, Executive Director, stated “We want to preserve history by bringing the car back to its previous splendor, and want to share as we proceed. Galveston Renovation plans, now underway, call for a complete interior and exterior restoration, which includes the original rust color exterior, to bring her back to her glory days. Visitors will see that she has cleaned up fairly well, and we were able to retain the original furnishings that reflect what a beautiful car she is. We invite everyone to visit, walk through and to follow our progress.”

As with any museum project, funds must be committed to complete the restoration. Anyone interested in participating either as a donor or volunteer is urged to contact Robertson. A non-profit organization, the Galveston Railroad Museum is supported by membership, donations, grants, special events and museum admission.

Located at 2602 Santa Fe Place, the museum is open daily 10 am- 5 pm. Admission is Adults \$12, students and seniors \$9, 4 & Under free. Members and Active Military are free. Groups and student field trips are welcome. Docents available upon request. Complimentary parking with museum admission. ###

Photo: American Flyer