

## **SHE'S ALIVE AND WELL IN SANTA ANA!**

For those of us that were raised here in Southern California, we all fondly remember the cute little one-third-scale train that rambled around Santa's Village in Lake Arrowhead (Skyforest), hauling us kids on a North Pole extravaganza! In case you may have misplaced her, engine #1030 and its original train were acquired by the Friends of Santa Ana Zoo in November of 1998 after the 43 year-old attraction closed to the public. The **Zoofari Express** as she is now known, was brought back to its original builder, the Hurlbut Amusement Company in Buena Park, and was completely restored.

Volunteers from the Santa Ana Fire Department were on hand in December of 1998 to level the ground and grade the right of way for the 1,300 feet of track that was to be laid around the new children's zoo. A brand new station designed by DesignARC went under construction after the final spike had been driven to the rails. The finished **Zoofari Express** attraction opened to the public in February of 1999 at the Santa Ana Zoo.

In May of 2005, the 50 year old #1030 underwent a conversion from its gasoline powered motor to a more environmentally friendly electric power source. With no more gas fumes and less noise around the animals, this project had a very positive impact at the Santa Ana Zoo. At the same time, the Friends of Santa Ana Zoo acquired another engine and train, #1036 to fill-in for #1030 during her remodel. Also electric powered from eight "golf cart" batteries, these two engines resemble the popular 1860's style locomotives with a 4-4-4 wheel configuration.

Today the Santa Ana Zoo provides both Carrousel and train rides to over **150,000** visitors every year, along with a multitude of animal adventures. The Crean Family Farm provides a perfect back drop for the meandering train, and we encourage you all to come visit this California landmark.