



02

Trains of Thought
Victoria Olton

Handwritten text in white ink on a reddish-brown background. The text is arranged in several lines and includes a large, stylized symbol at the top, followed by a circled symbol, and the words "WOODLAND" and "CA" below. There are also some faint, illegible markings on the left side.

Large, stylized white markings at the bottom of the page, possibly representing a signature or a large graphic element. The markings are thick and somewhat abstract, with some internal texture.

Welcome to Woodland
a town of 59,000 and
counting grounded on the
train system that gave it
its start and the rich
history it's known for.
The people of Woodland
live parallel to the
tracks yet I question how
people still interact
with the trains running
through our city. This
zine will dive into the
way self-expression and
communication have given
the train system in
Woodland, California new
importance.



"When the Historic Woodland Train Depot was built in 1911, trains were the primary form of long distance transportation, women were organizing to get the vote, Woodland City Trustees voted to close the city's saloons, and automobiles were still a novelty. Mark Twain had died just a year earlier and the Titanic sank a year later. Woodland was a growing city with the new train depot as its main point of entry and connection to the outside world." (Adams)

Trains of Thought
Victoria Olton

2021
Woodland, California

02



Table of Contents

Chapter #1 An Overview of the Train System.....	Page 12
Chapter #2 Text me Back.....	Page 22
Chapter #3 Woodland is Bold.....	Page 32
Chapter #4 Traveling Art.....	Page 40
Chapter #5 Making a Mark With Tags.....	Page 60
Chapter #6 Conclusion.....	Page 76
Works Cited.....	Page 80



CBTX

CAPITOL

TKO

EXPO



2 INCH

IX 784792

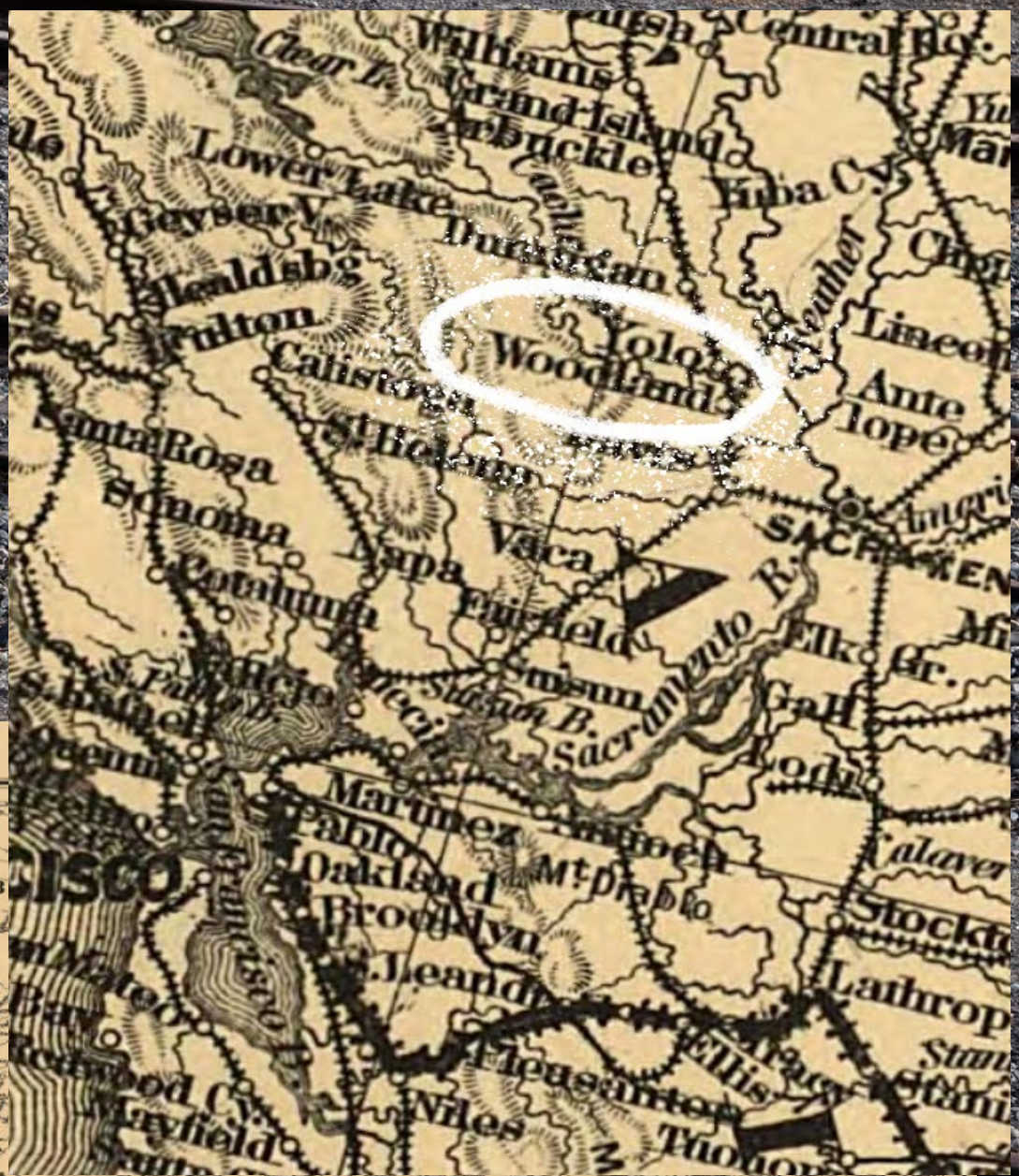
GATX

An Overview of the Train System

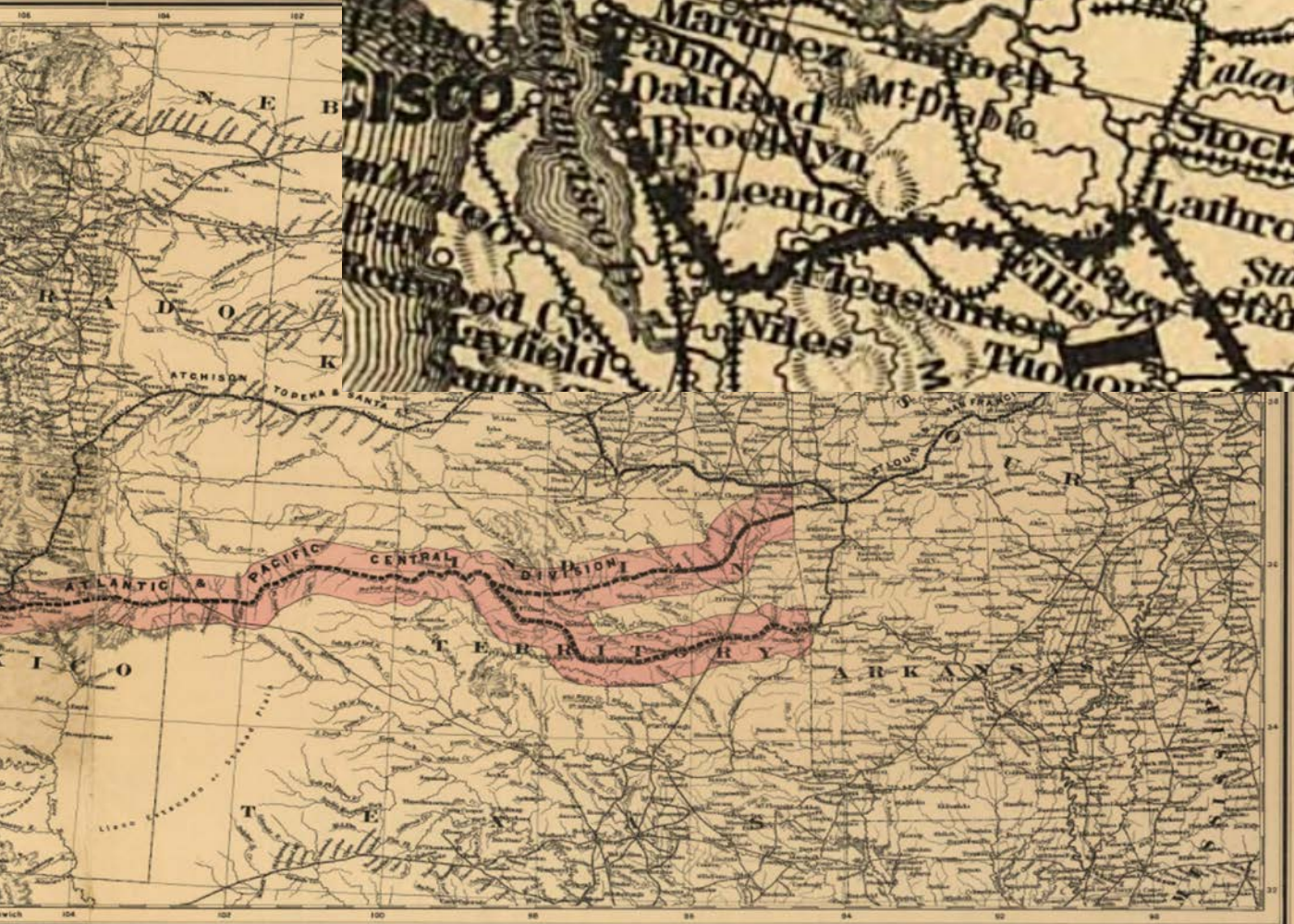


"In 1869, when the California Pacific Railroad built a branch rail line from Davis to Yuba City through Woodland. The tracks were laid west of the center of town along College Street which was then known as Railroad Avenue..." A train depot was created in 1911 and became a hub for passengers using it as a connection to the outside world. The train system was integral to Woodland life. (Adams)





WORKER HANDELS-ZEITUNG.



D LOCK
EFORE
CAR

Informa
172935
26%HB 060

















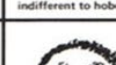



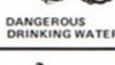




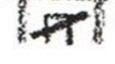

















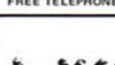
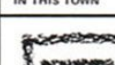
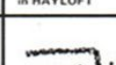




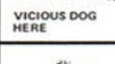








Sc

100005177

← SECURITY DEVICE

As time progressed the train system still kept its role of transporting goods through Woodland. However, less and less people used it as transportation with the increase in cars. When I moved to Woodland two years ago I realized how many spaces the trains took up but I also found myself uninterested in their actual purpose. What caught my attention was the bright words painted across the surface. Railroad Graffiti.

Railroad Graffiti started to gain popularity in 1865 when American migratory workers began to mark trains with messages to one another by using a multitude of symbols often signing their work with a pseudonym that could be a name or a symbol.
(Lettenberger)

 NO USE GOING THIS DIRECTION	 THIS WAY	 OR 	 GOOD ROAD to FOLLOW	 ROAD SPOILED, full of other hobos	
 DOUBTFUL	 HALT	 THIS IS THE PLACE	 DANGEROUS NEIGHBORHOOD	 THIS COMMUNITY indifferent to hobos	 NOTHING to be GAINED HERE
 YOU CAN CAMP HERE	 FRESH WATER, SAFE CAMPSITE	 DANGEROUS DRINKING WATER	 O. K., ALL RIGHT	 GOOD PLACE for a HANDOUT	 ILL-TEMPERED MAN LIVES HERE
 OR 	 THE OWNER IS IN	 THE OWNER IS OUT	 A GENTLEMAN LIVES HERE	 THESE PEOPLE ARE RICH	
 KIND LADY LIVES HERE	 KIND WOMAN, tell pitiful story	 OR 	 RELIGIOUS TALK gets FREE MEAL		
 IF YOU ARE SICK, they'll care for you	 DOCTOR HERE, WON'T CHARGE	 FREE TELEPHONE	 ALCOHOL IN THIS TOWN	 OR  YOU CAN SLEEP in HAYLOFT	
 KEEP QUIET	 HOLD YOUR TONGUE	 BARKING DOG HERE	 VICIOUS DOG HERE	 BEWARE of FOUR DOGS	 EASY MARK, SUCKER
 THE SKY is the LIMIT	 TROLLEY STOP	 GOOD PLACE to CATCH a TRAIN	 THIS IS NOT A SAFE PLACE	 MAN with a GUN LIVES HERE	 BE PREPARED to DEFEND YOURSELF
 DISHONEST PERSON LIVES HERE	 COWARDS, will give, to get rid of you	 YOU'LL BE CURSED OUT	 A BEATING AWAITS YOU HERE	 POLICE HERE FROWN on HOBOS	 AUTHORITIES HERE ARE ALERT
 THERE ARE THIEVES ABOUT	 CRIME COMMITTED, not safe for strangers	 JUDGE LIVES HERE	 COURTHOUSE, PRECINCT STATION	 OFFICER of LAW LIVES HERE	 JAIL



Modern graffiti, is thought to have been started by a teenager who referred to himself as "Cornbread". In 1967, Cornbread, began "tagging" his nickname all over Philadelphia. Graffiti then popularized in New York during the 1970s as "TAKI 183" and "Tracy 168" would tag subway cars spreading the art form of graffiti throughout the territory the train traveled. Artists and aficionados now applaud graffiti artists yet property owners and law enforcement view it as vandalism and crime. (Lettenberger)

The people of Woodland may not travel by train but they use it as a locomotive of expression. Migratory Worker tags, modern graffiti, humorous relief from life, grief, celebration, communication, etc.. the Train is not just a thing of the past it is serving a purpose to those in this city.



next
load

ROOF-SEALED
KCRP
4-16

EXN 10-8 H 14-11
EXN 10-0 H 14-11
50-6
9-6
H-0
CUT 5-17

BLUC

BL

10

|||
H B K S



Text Me Back

2

- BIKINI ♡
"IF IT WASNT
FOR YOU, I'D BE
IN A CUBAN
PRISON FOR A
LONG TIME TO
COME. I CANT EXPRESS
HOW LUCKY I AM ~~TO~~ HAVE A
GIRL LIKE YOU IN MY LIFE. YOU'RE
THE DOWNEST GIRL I'LL EVER COME
ACROSS IN MY LIFE. THANK YOU! ♡

LIC

Canada - call CANUTEC (collect)
613-996-6666
For Chemical Emergency
Spill, Leak, Fire, Exposure or Accident
800-424-9300
USA & Mexico - Call CHEMTREC

0.5 IN CERAMIC FIBER

PAT. NO. US 7806,058

PAINT: WILLIAMS-HAYWARD
62-6527CIT
GNM 09-2015
LOT: R50760

*
"GEM"
"TRAIL"
"SLAYER"
*3XFC

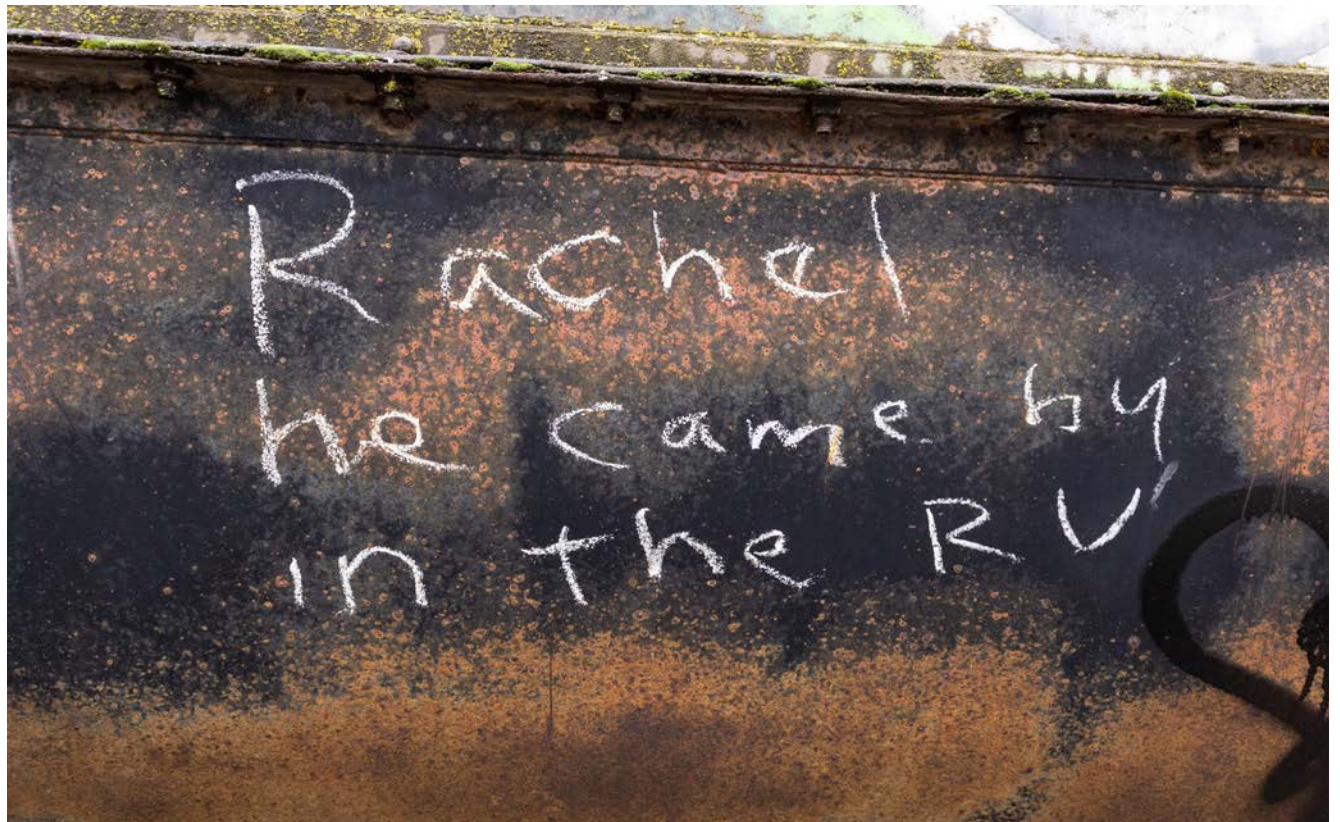
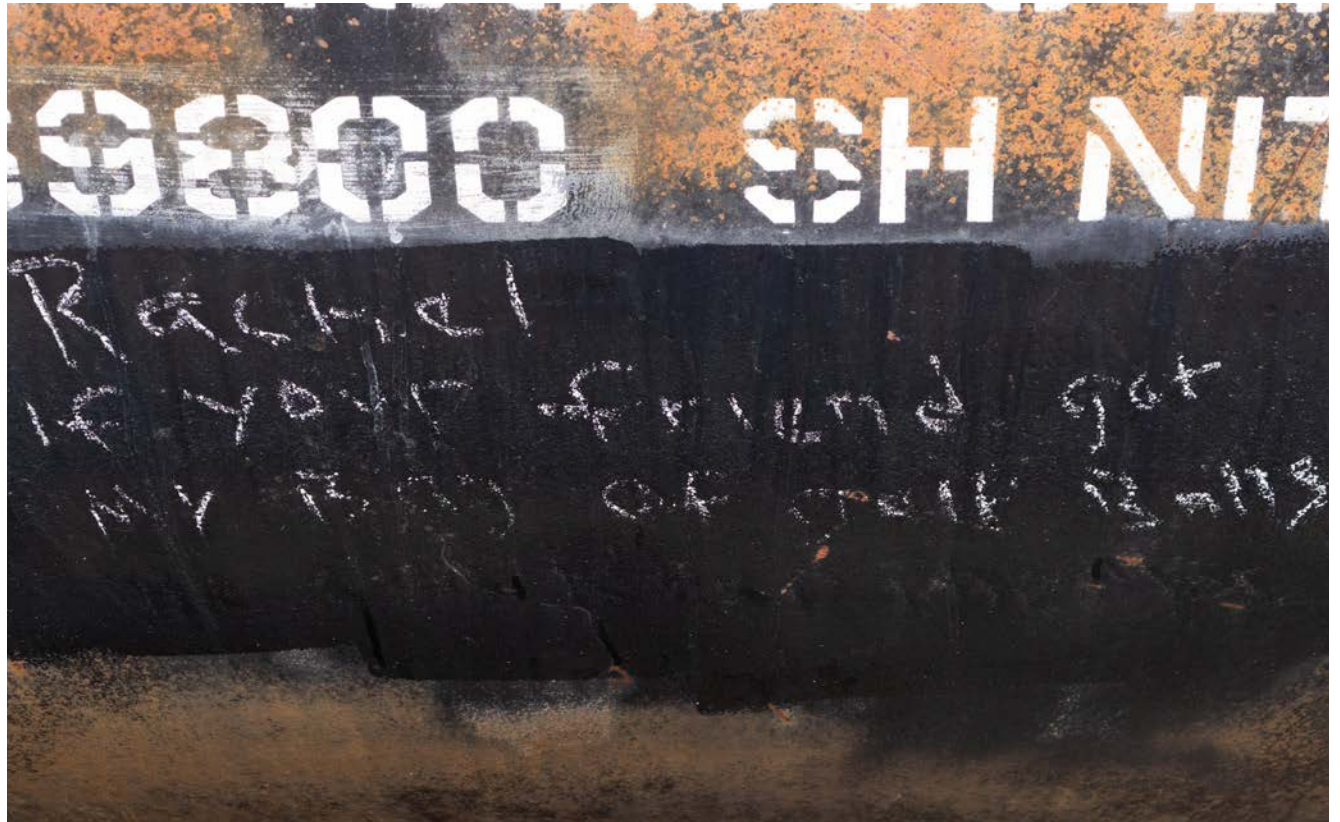


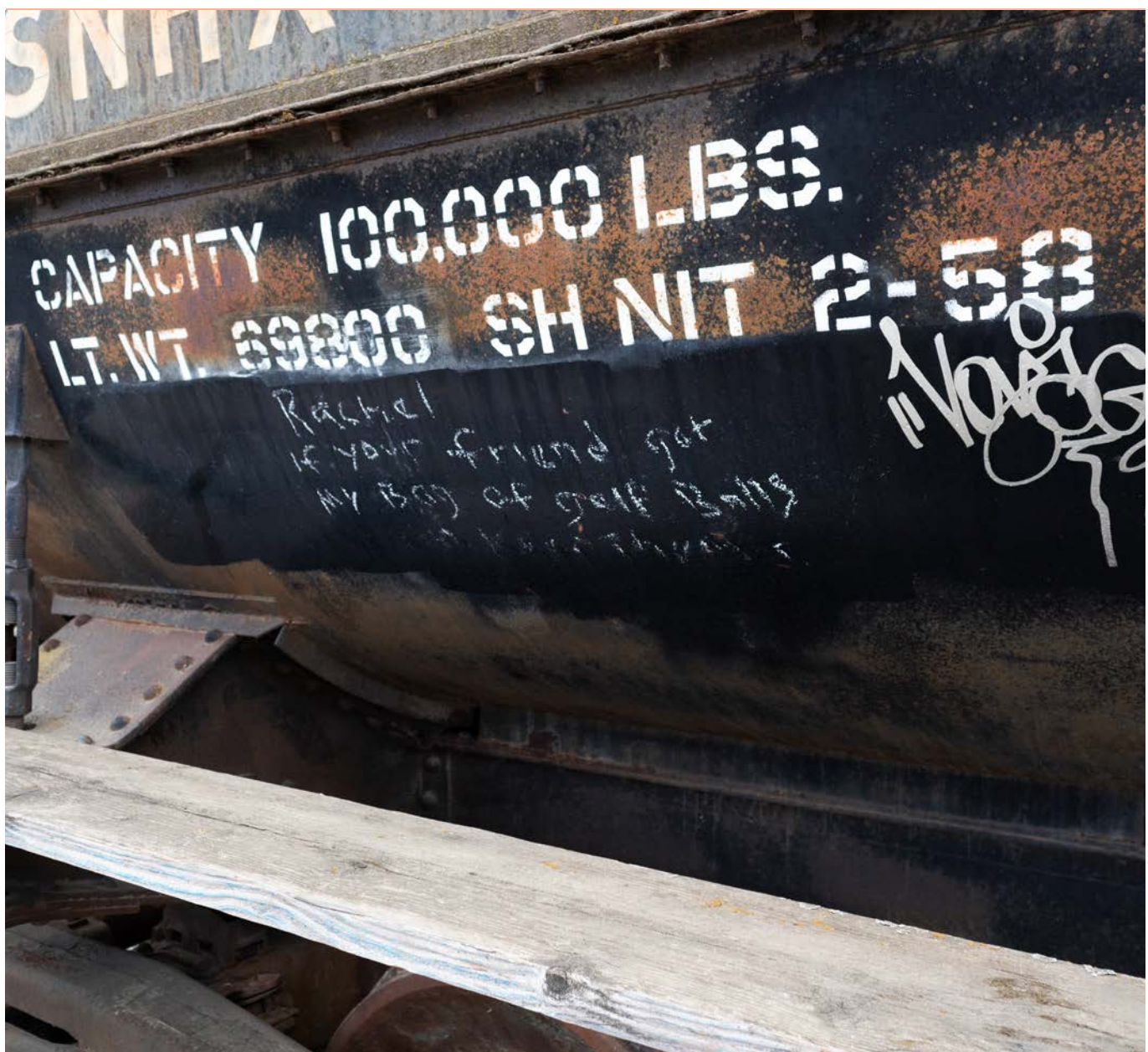
1000000

- BIKINI ♡
"IF IT WASNT
FOR YOU, I'D BE
IN A CUBAN
PRISON FOR A
LONG TIME TO
COME. I CANT EXPRESS
HOW LUCKY I AM TO HAVE A
GIRL LIKE YOU IN MY LIFE, YOU'RE
THE DOWNEST GIRL I'LL EVER COME
ACROSS IN MY LIFE. THANK YOU! ♡

LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS
NON- ODORIZED

17 1/2 INCH DIAMETER
2 INCH HIF COMP SH. ES





CAPACITY 100,000 LBS.

LT. WT. 69800 SH NIT 2-58

Rachel
If your friend got
my bag of golf balls

11/10/08



NO INLET OR OUTLET
PIPE CAPS REQ

"Haven't Loved Since"

Hey, we should vacation in Mexico

Sand fun?

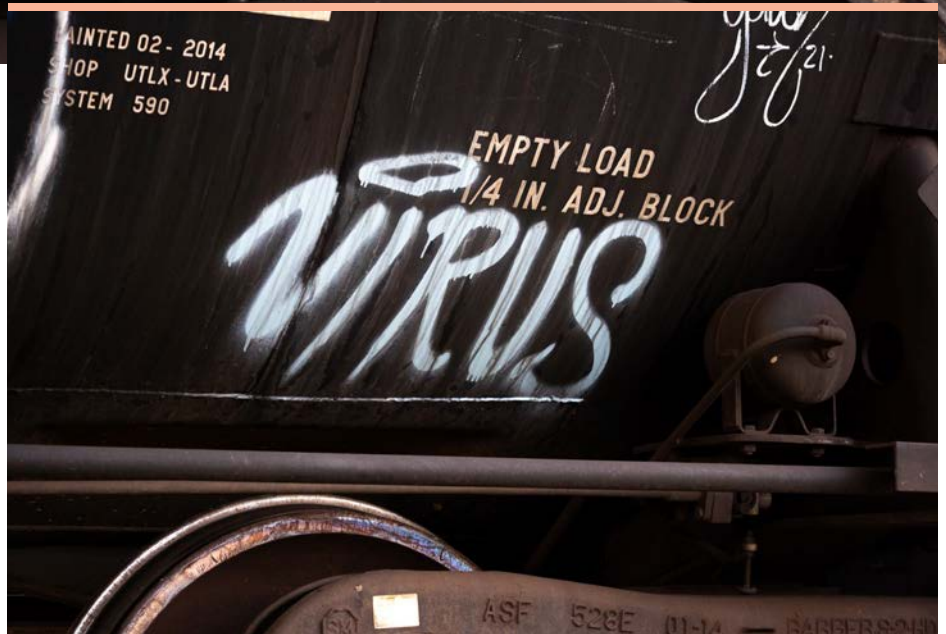
Love Always,
Brandon Aquilera

Talking
in reason
is just as
effective



Woodland is Bold

3





54% of 18-24 year olds hold a negative view concerning capitalism.
(SurveyMonkey)





XFF 20

About 2,428 households in Woodland
depend on Food Stamps to eat.
(Statistical Atlas)





Traveling Art

4



Like other art forms graffiti has progressed to have very skilled artists behind the work. Artists in Woodland use the trains that are either permanently retired here or the ever traveling ones to create masterpieces.



Whether its color, composition, concept, graffiti artists here make technical decisions that make their murals pop.

CMONSTER
2014



MONSTERS

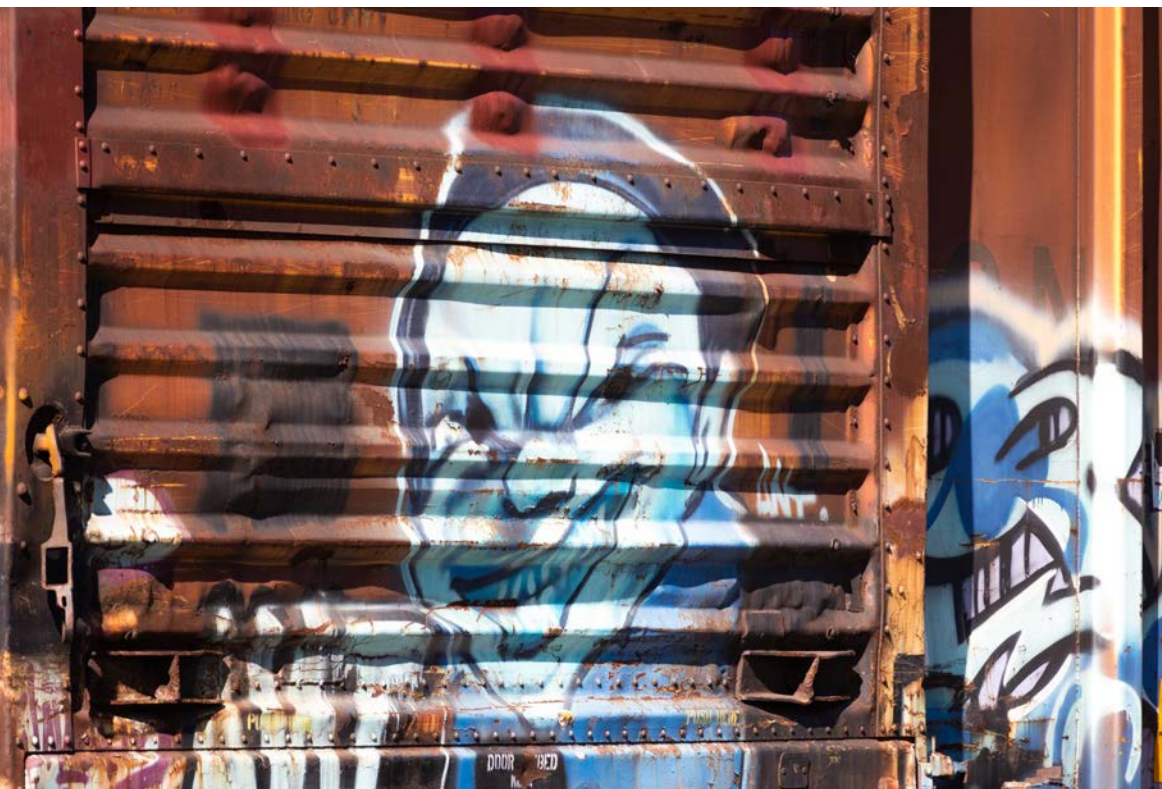
KCAR 1000

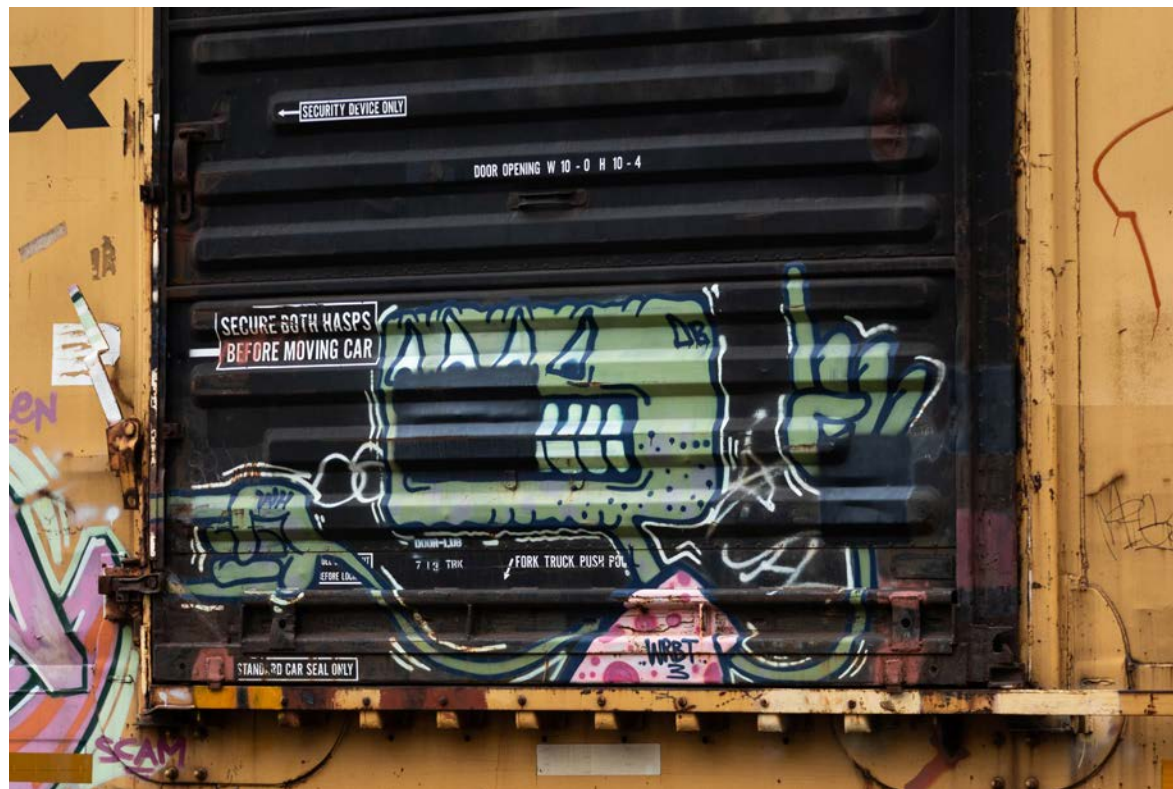


any road



I'd be an unreliable narrator if I said I knew that all these graffiti artworks were made by Woodland artists; the trains are traveling throughout the whole country. However, what's beautiful is that train art is made knowing the purpose of traveling to another place. Woodland residents not only get to see work from local urban artists but also get to enjoy and wonder about the artists hundreds of miles away.



















DOORS
LUBED 11-2013

FORK TRUCK PU
↓

R SEAL ONLY

WASH POCKETS



Dr. Pube 3/15
SR "THUNDER ROAD"
Handwritten graffiti with decorative flourishes.

WMS.
Handwritten graffiti in white paint.

WURP
VISITORS BEWARE
TO HURT YOU
S/K
J/C
15
Handwritten graffiti with a warning message.

Handwritten graffiti in white paint, including stylized letters and symbols.

Handwritten graffiti in white paint, including stylized letters and symbols.



VIRGINIA
AD 3/16
H 17
KE
-NE TOUR-

Making a Mark With Tags

5







NORTH
BY
NORTHWEST



FT. WORTH, TEXAS 3/14

KTK



FAT GUY 2/19

FIX 3354.0

162900 LBS 73 900 KG

100100 LBS 45 400 KG







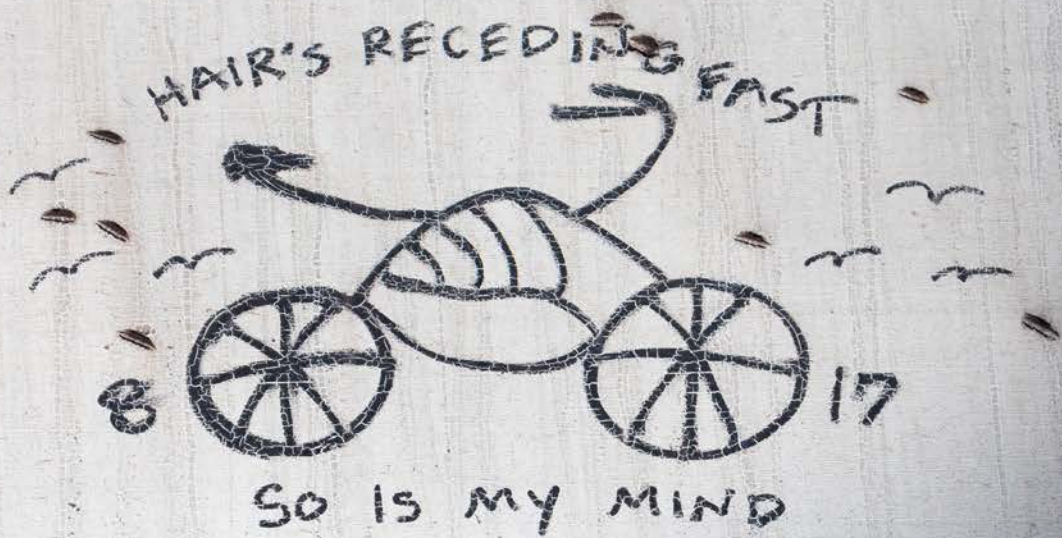




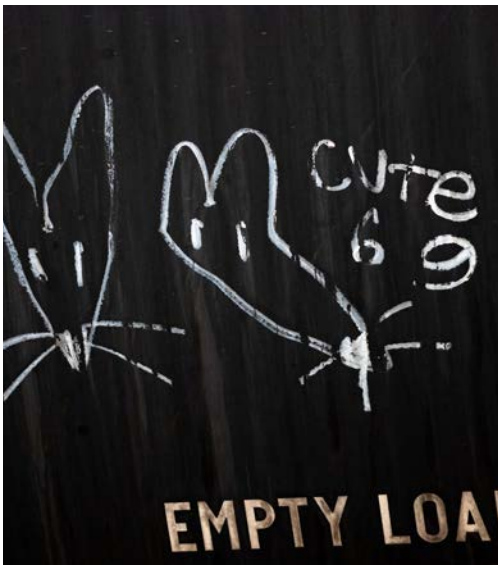
4

DINE
20

ANNE
FLBH



on holiday







SC 88934

BIKE
LIVES
MATTER

REST
IN
ETAGE

STC
SIB



SS 1

Conclusion

6

After walking the tracks and taking hundreds of photographs I found myself not connected to the trains themselves but instead the people whose thoughts were poured over them. The emotions poured out by those writing to friends or someone who may never even see their words; the beautifully fun art made; the humorous and fascinating tags have created a relationship between me and the trains of Woodland in 2021.



MS HAYWARD THERMALBOND EXTERIOR
PARAGOULD 09-2008

EXW 10-8 H 8-4
EW 8-0 H 15-0
CU FT 5200

LIFT
HERE

JACK
HERE

2 INCH HF
COMP SHOES

LIFT AND
JACK HERE

PULL

ATKINS



Works Cited

Adams, Michael "Woodland Southern Pacific Depot." SVHR, <http://www.svhr.org/depot/depot.htm>.

"Atlantic and Pacific Railroad." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 19 Dec. 2020, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantic_and_Pacific_Railroad#/media/File:Atlantic_&_Pacific_Railroad_Map.jpg.

"Axios: Momentive Poll: Capitalism and Socialism." SurveyMonkey, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/curiosity/axios-capitalism-update/>.

Dan Kunda, et al. "Hobo Signs and Symbols, Code for the Road." Logo Design Love, 27 Sept. 2021, <https://www.logodesignlove.com/hobo-signs-and-symbols>.

"Food Stamps in Woodland Joint Unified School District, California (Unified School District)." The Demographic Statistical Atlas of the United States - Statistical Atlas, <https://statisticalatlas.com/school-district/California/Woodland-Joint-Unified-School-District/Food-Stamps>.

Lettenberger, Bob "Railroad Graffiti." National Railroad Museum, <https://nationalrrmuseum.org/blog/from-boxcars-to-big-boy-the-story-of-railroad-graffiti/>.

Visual Art Virtual Learning Art 1 - Sites.isdschools.org. http://sites.isdschools.org/mselectives_art/useruploads/visualarts1/Art1_Bown_5_4.pdf.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to take the time to thank my professors and classmates for their help with this project. I'd also like to appreciate my grandparents for supporting my education. Lastly, thank you to the artists of Woodland.



Rust-Oleum
Self-Bluing Enamel

Maximum Performance
Fast-Dry
500 ml (16.9 fl. oz.)

Welcome to Woodland a town of 59,000 and counting grounded on the train system that gave it its start and the rich history it's known for. The people of Woodland live parallel to the tracks yet I question how people still interact with the trains running through our city. This zine will dive into the way self-expression and communication have given the train system in Woodland, California new importance.

