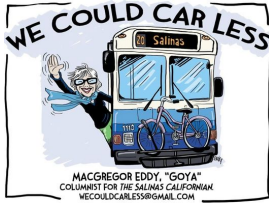


# Hage still sees Salinas as a tourist destination by rail

MACGREGOR EDDY 11:04 a.m. PDT September 9, 2016

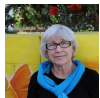


(Photo: Provided)

Jim Hage arrived in California as a boy, when his family fled the dust bowl in 1937. "It was so green," Hage said. "It had not rained in the midwest for years."

Hage, now an energetic 91, loves Salinas and loves to travel by train. Hage has taken trains in places all over the world.

"I went from Vancouver to Nova Scotia through the Canadian Rockies" he said, "and from Jo'burg to Capetown in South Africa. Amazing trips."



THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

We Could Car Less: Rail, bus rides you may not know about

(<http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/local/2014/08/03/car-less-rail-bus-rides-may-now-know/13553767/>)

Hage is dedicated to promoting tourism to Salinas and wants to show the world that it is a good city to visit.

"I wish that the people who come through Salinas by train did not have to see trash and junk," said Hage, referring to the view of Salinas that Amtrak passengers get from the train windows. "Can we get the businesses to remove the old tires? I have spoken to the city about this problem."

Unfortunately, the industrial lots along the tracks are privately owned and not subject to city jurisdiction. Since no one wants railroad tracks in the residential areas, many views of cities from the train are not pretty.

Hage worked on the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce's Tourism Task Force with chair Trish Triumpho-Sullivan, a project that resulted in the Salinas Welcome Center.

"I admire Jim Hage," said Jim Pia, Salinas assistant city manager, "and I commend his dedication to making Salinas a tourist attraction."

Danny Mendez, 18, is a senior at North Salinas High and is one of the volunteers organizing the Salinas Ciclovía that will be held Oct. 9. Mendez participated in last year's Ciclovía, an event that closes East Alisal Street to vehicle traffic for one day of non-motorized activities. Salinas is the only city in Monterey County to hold this car-free festival, which is becoming popular all over the world.

Mendez has an Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) bus pass and loves it.

"I can go anywhere," Mendez said, "and the timing is pretty good. I don't need to have a ride to get around, I just get on the bus."

Mendez advocates bicycles and buses as inexpensive alternatives to cars for youth.

These two seniors (Hage is a senior citizen and Mendez is a high school senior) are both active in civic affairs and concerned about the future of Salinas. Hage is an advocate for train travel and Mendez supports using the bus. With almost three quarters of a century difference in age, Danny Mendez and Jim Hage set a good example for the rest of us.



THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

Stanford is a hop, skip, train ride away

(<http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/2016/07/07/stanford-hop-skip-train-ride-away/86821348/>)

**Bike safety classes:** Only 5 people have signed up for the bicycle safety and skills training offered this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at CSU Monterey Bay. Another five are enrolled in the Sept. 24 class at Hartnell College. Sign up for a class online at <http://bit.ly/bikeSAFE> (<http://bit.ly/bikeSAFE>) or call 831-775-0903. The bike skills class is a prerequisite to becoming a League of American Bicyclists Cycling Instructor, or LCI. LCI's can teach children and adults how to ride their bikes safely and legally. An LCI seminar will be held at CSU Monterey Bay on October 21-23. To register go to :[bit.ly/bikeSAFE](http://bit.ly/bikeSAFE) (<http://tamcmonterey.us12.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=2fa191952304ac4fcbe79f738&id=760be55e16&e=2470ddfb9d>) . or call 831-775-0903; online go to: [www.tamcmonterey.org](http://www.tamcmonterey.org) (<http://www.tamcmonterey.org>).

**Electric car day:** From noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 17, electric vehicles will be on display in celebration of National Drive Electric Day at the Del Monte Shopping Center in Monterey. There will be a test drive area and a model electric car parade featuring local children. This event is sponsored by Monterey Bay Electric Vehicle Alliance and Ecology Action. Call 883-7576 or go to [mbeva.org](http://mbeva.org) (<http://mbeva.org>).



THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

Monterey-Salinas Transit trolley service extends to the weekends and holidays

(<http://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/local/2016/09/08/monterey-salinas-transit-trolley-service-extends-weekends-and-holidays/89985212/>)

**Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) board meeting:** Sept. 19 at 10:00 a.m., note the new address at 19 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Monterey; agenda at [mst.org](http://mst.org) (<http://mst.org>)

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