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)
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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)
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)
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.
- *Bikini* ❤️

"If it wasn't for you, I'd be in a Cuban prison for a long time to come. I can't 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! 😘"
Rachel
if your friend got
my boy of jail 12-113

Rachel
he came by
in the RV
CAPACITY 100,000 LBS.
LT. WGT. 69800  SH NIT 2-58

Rachel
If your friend got
my bag of golf balls
thanks.
"Haven't loved since"
Hey, we should vacation in Mexico.

Sound fun?

Love always,

Evan Acevedo
Talking in person is just as effective.
Woodland is Bold
CORONA VIRUS
54% of 18-24 year olds hold a negative view concerning capitalism.
(SurveyMonkey)
About 2,428 households in Woodland depend on Food Stamps to eat. (Statistical Atlas)
Traveling Art
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.
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.
Licietur ma eaquodis solupturia solorumet est volorro tem ea nullibus. Hillupta quia qui dolendita eatisqu atatur aut officiis dolupta doluptatur atum nonem. Unt qui cupta quidist untur ati con cus sus et lacessus excea commosandero mincid modipsapiet am, opta si audae iuntotatur saunt aut am denda conseque.
Making a Mark With Tags
FIX 33540
162,900 LBS 73,900 KG
100,100 LBS 45,400 KG
HAIR'S RECEIVING FAST

8

SO IS MY MIND

17

ON HOLIDAY
...No longer

giving away


(thavehnt been
laid in y-ars)

THE NEW YORK

TOMATO

1413

Cute

69

EMPTY LOA
Conclusion
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.
Works Cited


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.
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.