



## PRESS RELEASE

(501C3 NON-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION)

GROWING HEALTHY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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### Six Gun Territory Steam Locomotive Returns to Florida

Williston, Florida, December 26, 2019, Kirby Family Farm received exciting news the day after Christmas when it became official one of the original locomotives from the Six Gun Territory Theme park was coming home and joining the Kirby Family Railroad roster at Kirby Family Farm. Six Gun Territory was a theme park located in Silver Springs, Florida from 1962-1984. It had been operating at the Historic Jefferson Railway in Jefferson, Texas since it left Six Gun Territory in the mid 80's.

The locomotive, a 1962 Crown Metal Products 4-4-0 Steam Locomotive and Tender, recognized as #7, the Robert E. Lee, ran at Six Gun Territory from the first day the park opened in 1962 until the very last day, carrying the last passengers to ever ride the rails at Six Gun.

Mr. Kirby states, "Adding this locomotive is unbelievable, and truly a boyhood dream come true. I tried to buy this locomotive when I was just a kid but my Mom wasn't having it! Tracy and I were able to meet Diamond Don and Francene, the owners of the Historic Jefferson Railway in 2014. They invited us out to see the old locomotive that meant so much to me as a child. It was comforting seeing the pride taken to preserve #7 all these years. We stayed in contact over the years and on September 27, 2019 I got a call that blew us away. They were ready to see him come home. Tracy and I, our board, and all of our volunteers, cannot express our gratitude enough, nor describe what this means to us. Their generosity to ensure this could be possible is overwhelming."

The owners of the Historic Jefferson Railway released this statement, Francene and Diamond Don Rainey are very pleased to announce that Kirby Family Farm, Inc., a 501(c)3, is now the proud owner of the Robert E. Lee Steam Train. The train was moved from Six Gun Territory in Ocala Florida to Jefferson, in 1984 and has now found its way back to Florida. Kirby Family Farm is an entertaining, educating destination providing fun for all ages. Daryl and Tracy Kirby have the energy and resources to put the steam train back on the track. They already have several trains, so this steam train will be a good addition to their Family Farm attraction.

Don and Francene bought the train in 2002. After 17 years, the couple is ready to head into semi-retirement and wanted to find a home for the train where families could enjoy the ride. Daryl Kirby has wanted to own this train since he was ten years old. He and wife, Tracy, first started talking to the Rainey's in 2014. It is a perfect match for this 1962 Crown Metal Products 4-4-0 Steam Train as Kirby Family Farm's mission is "Helping children stay on track, or get back on track in life! Growing healthy children and families". It's all about the children, says Don and Francene. Their foundation, Jefferson Railway and Wetlands Foundation, supports affordable family-fun adventures, preserving railroading for generations to come and protecting the wildlife.

Historic Jefferson Railway plans to continue running their gas-powered locomotive on weekends and for special events

#7 joins a robust train collection at Kirby Family Farm and is reunited with #4, Sam Houston, another Crown Metal Products locomotive that also ran at Six Gun Territory. The Kirby collection includes 8 locomotives, 6 narrow gauge, and 2 standard gauge, along with several railcars including the largest intact display of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus Train in the world.

Kirby Family Farm in Williston, Florida was founded by Daryl and Tracy Kirby as a 501c3 educational organization and museum that has a full-size operating railroad. Part of the reason Mr. Kirby wanted a railroad to be a part of the organization was the memories of the Six Gun Steam trains he had as a child. Kirby Family Farm's mission is to educate and assist children to get back on track, or stay on track in life through teaching, encouragement, and most of all, love, with a focus on at-risk, special needs, and foster children.

If you would like more information or to set up an interview, please call Daryl Kirby at 352-812-5661 or email at [daryl@kirbyfarm.com](mailto:daryl@kirbyfarm.com)