

Feather River Rail Society / Western Pacific Railroad Historical Society

Report by FRRS Director Wayne Monger to the FRRS Board of Directors (June 4, 2011 Meeting) on the May 19-21, 2011 Spokane Portland & Seattle Railway Historical Society / Western Pacific Railroad Historical Society joint annual historical convention at the Riverhouse Hotel and Convention Center, Bend, Oregon.

Summary: The Western Pacific Railroad and the Spokane Portland and Seattle Railroad were all part of a larger family of railroads (including the Great Northern, the Northern Pacific and the Chicago Burlington and Quincy) controlled in the late 1920s-early 1930s by Arthur Curtis James. WP's Northern California Extension and GN's Oregon Trunk extension completed at Bieber, California in 1931 opened a vital traffic route that was key to the success of the Western Pacific until 1982, and is still used today by the BNSF.

This is the first time the FRRS/WPRRHS has participated as a partner in a joint historical convention. Thanks to the common history and synergy between the WPRRHS and SP&SRHS groups, this was by far one of the most entertaining and informative historical conventions presented for participating FRRS members by the WPRRHS. Centering on the rail operations between the WP and SP&S over the Oregon Trunk, historical presentations were both evenly balanced between WP and SP&S topics and traffic topics that were historically important to both railroads (i.e. the lumber industry in central Oregon). Presenters included Tom Lawler, Bruce Barney, George Hardy, Todd Schwenk, Duane Cramer, Wayne Monger, Norman Holmes, Tommy Holt, Kirk Baer, Ed Austin, Bill Seifert and Allen Reuter. The convention banquet featured speaker was Martin Hansen.

There were a total of 113 paid participants at the 2011 Convention. Of these, 66 were SP&SRHS members and 47 were FRRS/WPRRHS members, which included FRRS Vice President Steve Habeck and wife Mary, FRRS Founder and Board member Norman Holmes and wife Barbara, FRRS Board Member Wayne Monger, FRRS WPRRHS Archivist John Walker, WPRRHS Administrator Thom Anderson, WPRRHS Headlight magazine editor David Pires, FRRS Life members John Ryczkowski, Dave McClain, Larry Hanlon and Glen Icanberry. There were a total of 113 passengers on the Friday May 20 passenger excursion train on the City of Prineville Railroad behind the Mt. Emily Railroad Shay, with some of the convention participants electing to chase instead. Most participants stayed at the Riverhouse Hotel and Convention Center.

As per information and cost analysis provided by WPRRHS Administrator Thom Anderson, WPRRHS Convention Chairman Tom Lawler and SP&SRHS Convention Chairman Bruce Barney:

WPRRHS Income

Convention Registration, Banquet Registration	7,320.00
Raffle Ticket Sales	741.00
Banquet Auction (1 Athearn Genesis WP FP7, 2 coach seats on Aug 2011 Portola Special)	690.00
WPRRHS share of profits from May 20 City of Prineville Railroad excursion train	293.02
Vendor table rental	60.00
	Total Income = \$9,104.02

WPRRHS Expenses

Site Rental, Equipment, Banquet Cost	2,939.30
WPRRHS share of expenses for City of Prineville Railroad excursion train	2,585.00
Reimbursement for name badges to Chairman Tom Lawler	42.07
Reimbursement of 1 banquet to Vic Neves for providing microphones	46.00
	Total Expenses = \$5,612.10

Total "profit" to WPRRHS account from 2011 SP&SRHS/WPRRHS joint Convention = \$3,491.92

Total cost of the convention event cost at the Riverside Hotel & Convention Center was \$650.00 which the SP&SRHS and WPRRHS split the cost evenly. The SP&SRHS placed a \$500.00 deposit to reserve the facility. FRRS Gift Shop personnel David Epling, Vicki Epling and Bart Hansen were given complimentary entrance into the Convention event . The SP&SRHS and the WPRRHS split the cost of the complimentary convention and dinner to featured speaker Martin Hansen and wife Marie Hansen.