

FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY – AGENDA REPORT

DATE: January 9, 2014
FROM: Eugene Vicknair - Director
ITEM: New Business 1 – California Zephyr Sleeper Car

We have been offered a chance to acquire the former California Zephyr 10-6 sleeper car “Silver Glacier”, which was DRGW 1134. It is currently at the railroad museum in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico and is privately owned.

The car is the last surviving 10-6 sleeper from the Rio Grande. As can be seen from the included photos, the car is in rough condition, but does retain its skirts and reportedly has good wheels and brakes. Many parts are in place or in the car, but it is missing several items, including all windows. Reportedly they have all the bedroom doors in storage along with other bedroom components. The car has been painted blue, but I have been told no surface prep was done that would damage the stainless

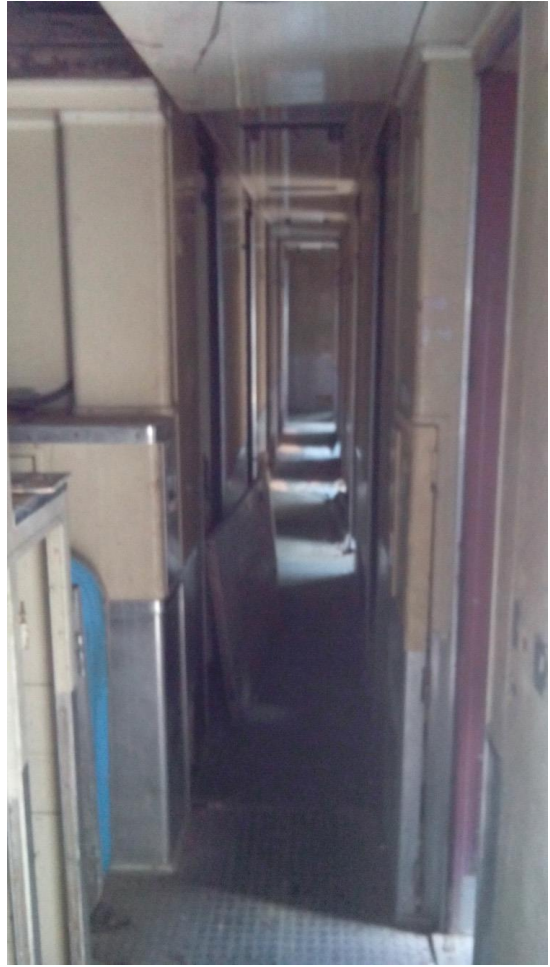
The car is being offered for sale, but I have no price information. The owner is asking for an offer. I have done research and found that it would cost us a minimum of \$17,000 to move the car, with movement charges and AAR border inspection. We would also need to send a team to Merida to closely assess the car and make any needed interchange repairs. This would likely cost a minimum of \$3000 with airfare and expenses, not including any parts, etc. Therefore, before even cost of the car itself, we are looking at about \$20,000 if not more.

In light of this cost and the condition of the car, I need to recommend against this acquisition. If we are going to acquire a CZ sleeper, the ex-WP Silver Canyon is a much better candidate. It is currently for sale for \$65,000 but is in excellent condition with beautiful bedrooms, full skirts, undercar generators and weather tight.

Photos:









RECOMMENDATION:

Decline the offer of the CZ sleeper "Silver Glacier".

NOTE ON NEW BUSINESS ITEM 2:

It now looks like I will be unable to attend the meeting due to work travel. Thus I will be ineligible to vote on any items, but I would like to comment on the Collections Committee Item.

I would STRONGLY disagree with any of the Western Pacific items on the list being placed for deaccession. In particular, I would like to point out that the WP Burro Crane has been useful for years in our track repair. Also, WP MW90, an Industrial Brownhoist DE-50 crane, is possibly the last of the IB DE model cranes in existence. I spoke a couple years ago with a gentleman working on a history of the Brownhoist company and he was surprised we had a DE, which was a later IB model and one that did not sell many units. Even if there are others, this is a rare crane and only 4 WP cranes still exist, 3 of them at our museum and all of different types. The weed burner is a unique MW item that is little seen any more and could make for a fantastic display with minor effort.

Also, I would like to point out that the Board has recently entertained a proposal to permanently display FR&W 1 that met with some positive notice.