

## FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY – AGENDA REPORT

DATE: July 30, 2014  
FROM: Eugene Vicknair - Director  
ITEM: New Business Item 1  
SUBJECT: **Budget to Create New Equipment Information Signs**

I have been pushing on on-going effort to create simple, inexpensive information signs for our equipment for many years. To date, all previous versions have been less than successful for a variety of reasons, some due to materials that do not do well outdoors, to signs that require being moved independent of equipment, to poor workmanship by vendors.

I have now found a new sign vendor as well as a company that supplies stainless steel encased outdoor magnets. As a test, I funded the creation of 4 signs, 2 each for the WP FP7 805-A and the WP GP7 707. One sign has been placed on each locomotive and overall comments have been positive. These are fairly large signs, 30" wide by 18" high. They are printed on a material called "dibond" which is two sheets of aluminum sandwiching an outdoor grade plastic. When sealed with a UV spray coating they should last 5-7 years. As they are placed with four 20 pound pull force magnets, they take some force to remove, but can be removed if needed without tools. While there is some chance of leaving impressions in the paint, these should not trap water or debris and the magnets will not rust and corrode the metal.

I have enough text to create signs for 12 additional pieces of equipment, plus some signs with supplemental information for certain pieces. I am proposing creating 2 copies of 16 different signs, for a total of 32, so that we can place one on each side of a locomotive or car. The cost of these new signs, with tax and shipping factored in, is about \$62.00 each.

The proposed signs are:

WP SW1 501 +supplemental sign "Other Events in 1939"  
WP caboose 484 +supplemental sign "Other Events in 1980"  
WP GP20 2001 +supplemental sign "Other Events in 1959"  
WP steel gon 6424 +supplemental sign "Other Events in 1953"  
WP business car "Charles O. Sweetwood"  
WP baggage / MOW car 123  
WP caboose 428  
WP NW2u 608  
WP / CZ dining car "Silver Plate"  
UP DDA40X 6946  
Pullman Troop Sleeper 8300  
SP Rotary Snowplow MW208

Plus the already created signs for WP GP7 707 and WP FP7 805-A. There is not any particular reason for these pieces except that, over the years, I have already created the text for them.

Here are some examples of how they would look:

Western Pacific Railroad 805-A

California Zephyr Passenger Locomotive

This unit, affectionately called a "covered wagon" was purchased to power Western Pacific's California Zephyr less than one year after the train began on March 20, 1949. This cab unit, typically joined by two cabled "B" units, hauled the train between Oakland, California and Salt Lake City, Utah from 1950 until March 22, 1970, when the CZ ended. The 805-A was then placed into freight service.

In 1972, WP purchased 15 General Electric U23B locomotives and turned in the 805-A for credit toward their purchase. GE sold the unit to the Wellsville, Addison and Galeton Railroad in Pennsylvania. After that railroad was abandoned in 1977, the 805-A was transferred to the Louisiana and Northwestern Railroad in Louisiana.

The Feather River Rail Society wanted this locomotive for its Western Pacific Railroad collection as it had become the last WP California Zephyr locomotive in existence. Arrangements were made to purchase the locomotive in 1987 with the cost shared between members Steve Habeck, Larry Hanlon and John Ryczkowski. FRRS joined as the fourth partner in the purchase.

The 805-A was cosmetically restored by Bill Evans and David Dewey. With this work completed a rededication ceremony was held on May 27, 1995.

In early 2000, the FRRS launched the Zephyr Project to raise money for a complete mechanical restoration of the 805-A and restoration of the CZ dome car "Silver Hostel". The 805-A is the last, intact locomotive built specifically for the CZ.

**builder**  
Electro-Motive Division  
of General Motors

**built**  
January, 1950

**type**  
FP7

**horsepower**  
1500

**serial number**  
9004

**operating weight**  
252,800 lbs

**acquisition**  
purchased by FRRS  
and members

Western Pacific Railroad 501

This locomotive was built in **1939**. Other events from that year...

- The Hewlett-Packard Company is founded.
- Golden Gate International Exposition opens in San Francisco, California.
- Students at Harvard University demonstrate the new tradition of swallowing goldfish to reporters.
- World War II begins when Germany invades Poland.
- Spanish Civil War comes to an end.
- John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath* is published.
- Howard Carter, British archaeologist known for discovering King Tut's tomb, dies.
- New York World's Fair opens.
- Batman, created by Bob Kane and Bill Finger, makes his first appearance in a comic book.
- American baseball player Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees announces he has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), now known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.
- Mike Farrell, American actor best known for playing B. J. Honeycutt on "M\*A\*S\*H", is born.
- Pan-American Airways begins trans-Atlantic mail service with the inaugural flight of its Yankee Clipper from Port Washington, New York.
- The First World Science Fiction Convention opens in New York City, NY.
- John Cleese, member of "Monty Python's Flying Circus" and actor / writer of films and television, including "A Fish Called Wanda" and "Fawlty Towers", is born.
- The Great Depression, while nearing its end, will continue for several more years.

- MGM's musical film version of *The Wizard of Oz* premieres at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, California.
- A Heinkel 178, the first turbojet-powered aircraft, makes its first flight.
- Sigmund Freud, famous developer of psychoanalysis, dies.
- Marvin Gaye, American singer known as the "Prince of Motown" and famous for songs like "How Sweet It Is" and "What's Goin' On", is born.
- Nylon stockings are introduced to the public at a store in Wilmington, Delaware.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt lays the cornerstone of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington DC.
- Gangster Al Capone is released from Alcatraz
- American film director Francis Ford Coppola is born.
- *Gone with the Wind* premieres at Loew's Grand Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia.
- La Guardia Airport opens for business in New York City, New York.
- General Motors introduces the Hydra-Matic drive, the first mass-produced, fully automatic transmission. It is an option on 1940 model year Oldsmobiles.
- Albert Einstein writes a letter to President Franklin Roosevelt about developing an Atomic Bomb. This led to the creation of the Manhattan Project.
- While a form of television was developed 11 years earlier, the United States has no commercial television networks or broadcasting. Radio is the popular method of home entertainment. Commercial television service will not begin in the US until 1941.
- The Western Pacific Railroad introduces the "Exposition Flyer" passenger train, replacing its premier "Scenic Limited" train.

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Approve Director Vicknair to proceed in getting the signs printed and acquiring mounting hardware with a budget of \$2200 from line item TBD. We may be able to have them delivered by Railroad Days.