

**FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY
AGENDA REPORT**

DATE: September 17, 2023

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Kerry Cochran

MEETING: October 14, 2023

ITEM: New Business 2

SUBJECT: Proposed FRC Canyon Photo Book Jim Lekas materials

Earlier this year Eugene Vicknair was contacted by Jim Lekas about the FRRS taking on a project of producing a photo book of the Western Pacific Railroad between Oroville and Intake.

Eugene shared with me all the materials that Jim Lekas sent to him. (Photos and Documents)

I contacted Jim Lekas and through some exchange of email this is what I have uncovered with him.

My thought for a picture book is to start at Oroville and go as far as Intake on the OLD LINE. Most of my pictures were taken between Isaiah & Intake.

I sent them all Eugene Vicknair to show him what I have. When he sends my pictures back, I will enlarge them to 8x10 and will write captions for the pictures that need them. The book should be 11x8 1/2. I want 10 copies and the FRRS can have the rest to sell.

For years friends have told me to write a book, but obviously I haven't done anything about it until now.

I hope the FRRS can help me with this project. The first time that I went to David was in 1948 when I was 11 years old. We rode No. 40 leaving Oakland in the evening. Had I known then what I know now, I would have taken pictures of Big Mallets, 2-8-0's & 2-8-2's. By 1950, the only steam running in Canyon was on Nos. 95 & 96. I did see engine No. 2 on a work train in 1950. Several WPRR Books that I have engine No. 2 being scrapped in 1949, which is an error.

Sincerely,
Jim Lekas

I am now brining this up to the Board of Directors to see if we want to proceed with exploring this idea and what support the board will give to the project.

Kerry

Additional notes from Eugene Vicknair:

Jim talked to me about doing a similar arrangement as we had for Jeff Asay's "Track and Time", where the society acted as publisher and paid for the printing to be reimbursed from sales. However, all Jim is asking in return is 10 copies of the book. The rest will be for the FRRS to sell and profit from.

I spoke with Dale Sanders and he expressed (and I agree) that there is a strong possibility that while this is an interesting subject, it may be too esoteric to attract much attention and sell books. His suggestion was to explore on demand publishing if we publish just the line change story.

As Dale and I talked more, we developed an idea of a book following Jim's idea of a lot of photos with historical data but expanding it to encompass all the railroads impacted by Lake Oroville, ie: the WP, Feather River Railway, SN and the Oro Dam Constructors. This would have broader appeal and likely sell much better. We already have unpublished manuscript / research from Kent Stephens in our archives that covers FRRy and Oro Dam. Dale has Oro Dam info and we can obtain more photos to fill this out. Frank Brehm also has info to supplement Jim Lekas' info. For reference, I dubbed this concept "Lost Beneath the Waters". Dale is interested either way and asked to be kept in the loop to help with this. We are exploring cost estimates for both versions of this idea.

I am playing phone tag with Jim to discuss this idea with him.

- Eugene

ACTION: Review this meeting, and approve