

The Case of the Missing Headlight

When the Feather River Rail Society was first formed in 1983, dues were \$10 per year. A year later the dues were raised to \$15 per year. In 1985 a "Life Membership" category was made available at \$300. This money was to be placed in a special savings account with the interest to pay membership costs (Train Sheet, membership renewal and cards, etc.). We now have over 150 Life Members and over \$50,000 in the Life account. We have let the interest accumulate and compound so as to have a capital reserve.

In 1987 we changed from an annual membership renewal to a periodic renewal date to make it fair to anyone joining during the year. This also spreads out our membership income throughout the year. At this time a change in membership classes was established. Associate @ \$15, Active @ \$25, Family @ \$30 and Life @ \$300. During the fall of 1989 the first issue of the "Headlight" appeared as an added benefit to Active, Family and Life members.

Due to a number of reasons including increased postage rates, printing costs and general operating costs, a dues increase of \$5 was added to Active and Family categories. A new Sustaining category was established @ \$75.

What has this to do with the "Headlight?" It was our original intent to publish the "Headlight" on a quarterly basis to include WP historical and modeling information and leave museum activities to be included in the bi-monthly Train Sheet. As they say "the road to ---- is paved with good intentions." Due to one thing or another publication of the "Headlight" fell farther and farther behind its original quarterly goal. With 36 plus pages in each issue, the time demands involved in publishing it are immense. We have now reached a point where if we are going to continue to publish the "Headlight" we will have to have a paid editor. Past issues have been very popular with our membership, some fifty hobby shops were selling over 500 copies of each issue and our gift shop continues to sell available back issues.

The last "Headlight," No. 10, was published February, 1994. The FRRS, to help compensate for the delay in getting out the "Headlight," sent out nice 1993 pocket calendars to all of our members who receive the "Headlight," then sent out in 1994 and 1995 a pictorial 12 page calendar, then sent out the Tenth Anniversary program and equipment roster. These were sent out by the FRRS as compensation to the members as a gesture of good will.

Train Sheet mailing and membership renewal costs associated with each member amount to about \$4 per year. With a production run of under 2,000 "Headlights," the cost per copy and mailing amounted to about \$4 for each copy depending on the number of pages. The remainder of the dues go to restoration, acquisitions, and operating the museum. Our electric bill alone costs about \$3 per member.

Our membership dues are "in line" with other organizations with similar needs. Historical and Technical Societies such as UP and Santa Fe have very nice publications, but do not have a museum to maintain. We do NOT anticipate a dues increase to fund a resumption of the publication of the "Headlight," but this may be necessary in the future due to recent increases in postage, paper and printing costs, etc. We would like to keep our membership dues as low as possible for those who may not be able to afford a higher rate and encourage those who can afford to, to add "a little extra" with their dues renewal.

We hope this answers the questions of the missing "Headlight" and "what am I getting for my dues."

FRRS Member Benefits

The following new benefits are now in place for all FRRS members in good standing:

- 10% discount on all items in the FRRS Gift Shop, purchased in person or by mail.
- 50% discount for fee paying special events.

Please mention your membership number to receive your discount. Each member's membership number is on their address labels, and their membership card.

Also:

- No extra charge for Member coats.
- Qualifications for entrance into different departments will be established.
- Hats & shirts of different colors will be established for each department; these will be sold at cost to the members.

Take a Shower

We now have operational at the Museum, a really nicely fixed up shower for the use of members working at the Museum. There is a nice tiled shower area, and this is separated from the newly installed toilet. Also in the "Silver Shower" car is a new sink which is just right for washing up after working. Clyde Lippincott was behind the main effort, and several other members helped him do the work. Several members used the shower on the Annual Meeting day, and they commented on how nice it was.

This is another effort the FRRS is making to offer the members a pleasant experience when visiting and working at the Museum.

Membership Report

as of June 30, 1995

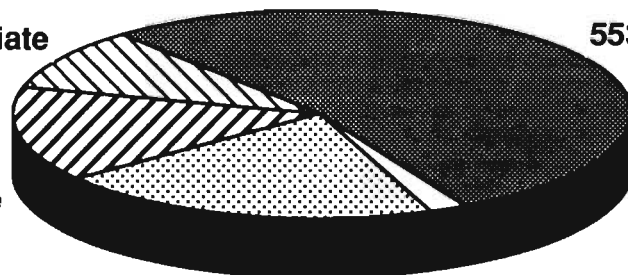
103 Associate

553 Active

152 Life

210 Family

20 Sustaining



*Total FRRS membership is 1,038.
Of these, 27 are Charter members.*