

# The Train Sheet

Issue No. 93

Preserving "The Feather River Route"

Sep/Oct 1998

News from The Feather River Rail Society and The Portola Railroad Museum

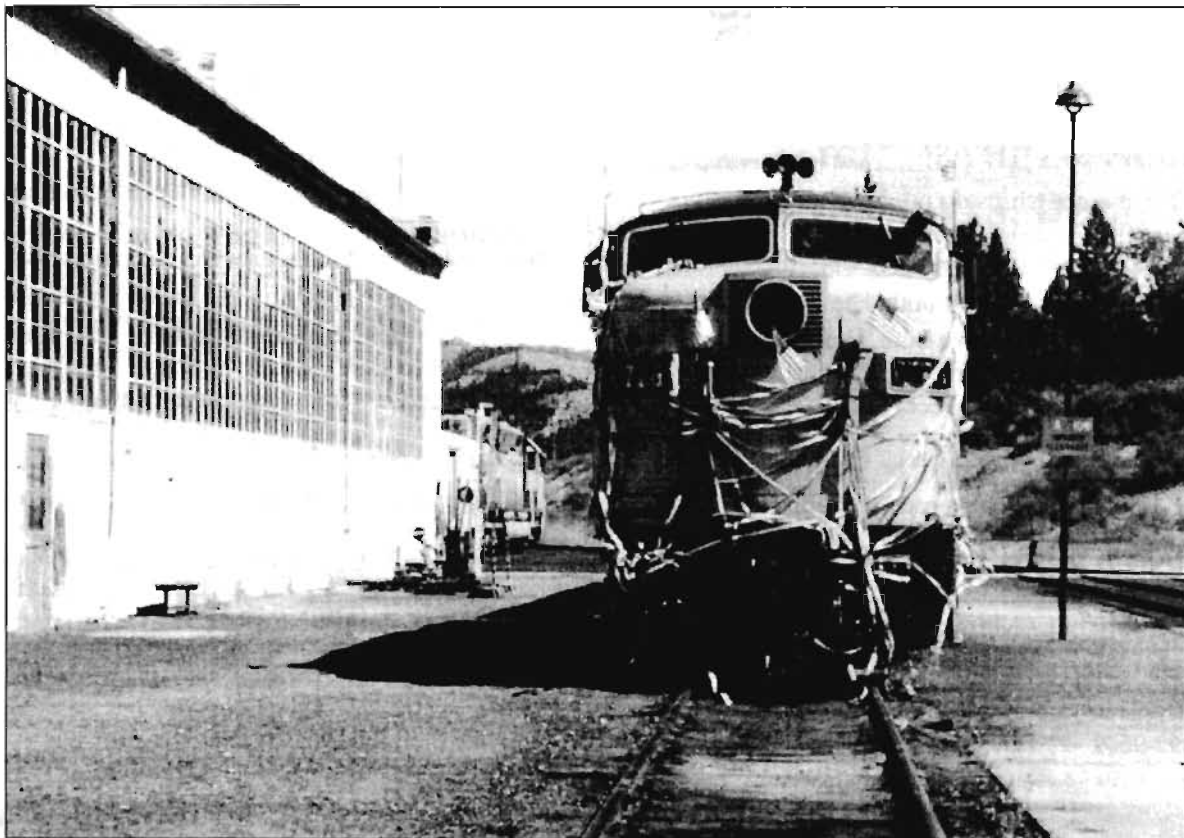


This years Railfan Day was enjoyed by many. With plenty of action to both watch and photograph, plus an excellent swap meet, multimedia slide shows and another successful Vic Neves and Crew Night Shoot. Visiting members and guests had a fun filled day (and evening).

LEFT: Our Kodachrome SP Geep and WP #2001 await their turn at running while being photographed from a passing train.

BELOW: VIA FPA-4 #6776 is decorated with bunting and American Flags as she poses near the diesel shed. In the background our Union Pacific "Centennial" can be seen, graciously donated by UP. Although not operational, the big unit commands attention from just about everyone who visits our museum. Thanks to Wayne Monger and his crew for organizing another super Railfan Day.

Both Photographs —*Nick Shippen*



**—THE FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY—**  
**—THE PORTOLA RAILROAD MUSEUM—**  
 PRESERVING THE MEMORY OF...  
**“The Feather River Route”**

Portola RR Museum P.O. Box 608 Portola, CA 96122-0608 Museum: (530) 832-4131

Fax: (530) 832-1854 Office Car: (503) 832-1657

The museum is open daily year round from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, except for Christmas Day. Entrance to the museum is free, however, we have a suggested donation of \$2.00.

*The Feather River Rail Society, a tax exempt public benefit California corporation, is the historical society for the Western Pacific Railroad and operator of The Portola Railroad Museum in Portola, California.  
 The FRRS is not associated with the Union Pacific Railroad.*

FRRS Tax ID number is 68-0002774

Member of Tourist Railway Association, Inc.

The Western Pacific Railroad Historical Society (WPRRHS) is a division of The Feather River Rail Society. The Train Sheet is the newsletter of the FRRS. The Headlight is the Western Pacific Railroad historical and model magazine of the WPRRHS and FRRS.

**—FRRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS—**

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Gordon Wollesen—Director ☎(530) 832-5311

Andy Anderson—Director

**—FRRS MEMBERSHIP—**

Associate \$15.00 Historical \$22.00 Active \$30.00 Family \$35.00  
 Sustaining \$75.00 Life \$300 Family Life \$450

These are the dues for the duration of one year, with **Life** and **Family Life** being a one-time payment.  
**Historical** membership dues are for 4 issues of the Headlight.

**ASSOCIATE** memberships do not have a vote, do not receive the Headlight, receive only The Train Sheet, and are for one person only.

**HISTORICAL** memberships receive only the Headlight, do not have voting rights, and are for one person only.

**ACTIVE** memberships receive both The Train Sheet & Headlight, have voting rights, and are for one person only.

**FAMILY** memberships receive both The Train Sheet & Headlight and may include all members of one's immediate family, but there is only one vote.

**SUSTAINING** memberships receive both The Train Sheet & Headlight, and are for a maximum of two people and two votes.

**LIFE** memberships receive both The Train Sheet & Headlight, have voting rights, and are for one person for life.

**FAMILY LIFE** memberships receive both The Train Sheet & Headlight, and are for a maximum of two people and two votes for life.

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—THE TRAIN SHEET—  
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Contribution Deadlines: Second Friday of February, April, June, August, October and December.



**Web Pages of Interest...**

Frank Brehm' WP Page <http://wpr.railfan.net/>  
 WPRRHS / Mike Mucklin <http://members.aol.com/wprrhs/>  
 PRRM / Samuel Herschbein <http://www.oz.net/~samh/frs/>  
 SN Page / Garth Groff <http://poe.acc.virginia.edu/~ggg9y/home.html>  
 CZ Virtual Museum / Alan Radecki <http://calzephyr.railfan.net/>  
 WP Virtual Museum / Alan Radecki <http://members.aol.com/wpwobbly/wpstuff/wpmuseum.htm>  
 CZ Home Page / John Wilson <http://www.mindspring.com/~calzephyr/czhome.htm>

—PRESIDENTIAL NOTES—

Christmas Greetings from the President and a Happy New Year to all of you. I hope all your wishes come true and you all get that electric train for Christmas. A message from the B of D about two special projects we are working on.

#1. As this is being written two of our delegates are in the St. Louis area to inspect two WP *California Zephyr* cars that the board is considering acquiring for our collection. Both cars will require quite a bit of restoration but if either one or both are acquired and restored it would really add a lot to our collection. When and if the decision is made to proceed with the project, you will be notified and will be asked to participate in a fund raising campaign to finance same.

#2. The California State Railroad Museum has asked us to participate in the 1999 Rail Fair celebration by sending WP GP-20 #2001, restored and in running order, for display and use at the CSRM grounds. This means that in order to be operational, the engine must be "Blue Carded", brought up to railroad running specifications. To do this will require about \$17,000 to \$20,000 worth of work. If this is

done then we will have a locomotive that can be used anywhere we are asked to take it as a "Flag Engine" for our museum. It would be quite a show piece and selling point for our museum and our organization. It could be added to the R.A.L. fleet at a special price, helping to recover the cost of repairs. The engine work would have to start right away in order to have it ready.

If you think these projects are worth funding and pursuing, please respond to any one of the board members, Executive Director Norm Holmes, or myself. Our e-mail addresses and phone numbers are in the front of the *Train Sheet*. There are other projects in the mill that we are sure you will be pleased with. We are making progress toward making the museum into a place that you can be proud to say that you are a part of.

Santa's Train runs Dec05 & Dec12. This year we are working in conjunction with the Old Town Merchants of Portola for a full day of celebration on the 5th, the whole business district will be all lighted and stores will stay open until 7:00pm. There will be Christmas Tree decorating contests, Big Tree Lighting, bonfire in the park, and a hayride from town to the museum for Santa's Train.  
**COME JOIN US.**

*Seasons greetings from Skip & Mary*

—**TRAIN SHEET NOTES**—

TS #93 was produced the last week of November by SRG, Inc. Mailing date is expected to be Wednesday, Dec02. Staff member Adam Clegg helped with production.

—**Bill Shippen**



—**CMO**—  
—**REPORT**—

—**HANK STILES**—  
**CHIEF MECHANICAL OFFICER**

At this time in Portola most of our equipment is put to bed for the winter, water drained, batteries removed, doors and windows closed against rain and snow. Two units have batteries, the WP 608 and the FR&W 1857. These have batteries that are hard to remove because of the design of the battery boxes. The remainder of our batteries are snug for the winter in our battery house.

Now that we have the electrical upgrade, we have enough electricity to hook up the battery house, so it is finally in service. Thanks to Ken Iverson and others we have steel racks on which to put the batteries. This way Ken Iverson can keep them charged with a lot less work than Gordon used to have to do. This is one more thing that we have spent money on to make our shop "user friendly". This makes our limited volunteer hours more productive and more fun, as we don't have to do things the hard way all the time.

We have two of our members, Ed Wagner and Dave Stares who are designing an inventory system for our replacement parts. This will be a great advantage in the upkeep of our equipment, having the parts that we

need to do our work, if not under our fingertips, at least with in our grasp will speed up our work. I wish to thank both of them for taking on this task that to me seems as big as a blimp hanger. If any of you would like to help with this job please let me know, this would be a way you could be a big help to the museum.

Thanks to Tom Graham and his team, the backhoe is in great shape with only some minor repairs and windows (no small thing in a Portola winter) left to do. Tom is designing and building removable window frames so the windows can be removed in the summer. With the breezes that we get in the summer in Portola this will make it more comfortable to operate when it gets hot. Good job Tom! They have also done work on the truck crane, dump truck and our pickup, the green death, ugly but a good truck.

Other than putting in windows in one of our SP cabooses in time for the Santa Trains, that is about all the big stuff going on. Things never stop in the winter at the museum, thanks in large part to the staff that live close and can come to the museum when the sun shines and it is not too cold.

In closing I would like to wish all of you a happy holiday season, may you enjoy the pleasure of family, friends, peace and joy in your heart.

—**Hank "Flat Iron" Stiles**

—**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTES**—

During October Barbara and I took a 29 day trip to Italy, Austria and Hungary. We rode some trains, visited some museums and generally had a good time. One has to get away once in a while and we do enjoy travel, however it is good to be back home. The rail

system in Europe is so convenient and easy to use. Too bad we don't have a similar system.

The number of tour groups visiting our museum is growing each year. One thing we really need at the museum is proper rest room facilities. I proposed building a visitor center earlier this year that would include rest room facilities as well as a new gift shop location and a ticket/telegrapher/waiting room area. The project did not go forward for a number of reasons, one of which was funding. For the past ten years Chris Skow has donated a free trip with his tour company in the form of a raffle and has single handily raised nearly \$20,000 for the building fund. This is a project worthy of your support. A modular building can be in place and in use for about \$75,000. A donation in addition to your raffle ticket donation will help make this project a reality.

—*Norman W. Holmes*

### **GIFT SHOP NEWS**

Ken Hitch is retiring as our Southern California Gift Shop representative. For the past three years Ken faithfully represented our museum at GATS Shows and model railroad meets in the San Joaquin Valley and as far south as Long Beach. While there is some value to promoting our museum and organization in that area, table sales have often failed to cover costs of merchandise, table rent, motel and transportation costs. Ken's last two shows were GATS at Costa Mesa on November 7, 8 and at Bakersfield on November 14-15. We want to thank Ken for an outstanding job as our representative. Norman & Barbara Holmes along with occasional help from David and Linda Dewey, Jim Gidley and Kent Stephens will continue to do train shows in central

California.

Our beautiful full color 1999 Western Pacific calendar has been well received. If you haven't ordered one yet please do so while supplies last. They make good Christmas gifts too. Members receive a 20% discount from the \$9.95 regular price (See ad details elsewhere for this offer). The calendars are also available from selected hobby shops.

### **UNDERGROUND TANK REMOVAL**

When WP constructed the diesel shop in 1953-54, the old WP Hospital on the hill above the museum still required steam for heating purposes. The old roundhouse had a steam boiler fired up at all times for this use and to aid in firing up cold steam engines. To supply steam to the hospital and to heat the shop building three steam generators, similar to those in diesel locomotives, were installed in the shop area. When the new hospital was built there was no longer any need for the steam generators (a different heater was installed in the shop area), so they were removed. To supply fuel for the generators a 3,000-gallon storage tank was placed underground on the north side of the building near the shop area.

State law requires that all old underground storage tanks be removed or replaced by year's end. Union Pacific's Environmental Department was contacted to alert them of the requirement and they hired a licensed contractor to do the removal. Our backhoe was used by the contractor and Ken Iverson assisted using our Krane Kar to dig out and remove the tank. The removal and disposition of the old tank was observed and approved by a Plumas County Environmental Health

Inspector.

The dirt removed from over and alongside the tank, although not showing any contamination, was placed back in the hole and covered over with a plastic sheet. A few days later Tom Graham finished filling the hole with fresh dirt from other parts of our property. This dirt separation was necessary in case some contamination is found at a later date and the "old dirt" would have to be disposed of. Ken Iverson and Doug Morgan deserve a vote of thanks for doing this difficult, dirty job.

## **OTHER FACILITY ACTIONS**

The electrical upgrade is completed. We now have 440v, three phase power thanks to Ken Iverson, Doug Morgan and Siler Electric. Some additional changes will still have to be made in routing the power, namely to the shower car and sleeper. Power is now available to the battery building so it can be used for its intended purpose.

The parking lot was "shot" for drainage by Tom Graham using his laser level so that we now know which way the water should flow. A drainage ditch outside the front gate was dug out by Jeff Palmer and Tom Graham and a new culvert donated by the City was installed by Ford Construction Co.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Other items: Don Nelson spent a week at the museum cutting down and modifying some of our wood steps so they can be used with the passenger cars. Old gutters have been removed from the north side of the shop building. These gutters damaged due to poor design for snow country and were an eyesore. Don Nelson, Jerry and Jill Prickett did the work. The office car now has a central

heating system, which makes it comfortable to use during cold weather. Art Yong worked on the final trip for the shower car, it is now virtually complete, finally.

—***Norman Holmes***

## **—HAP'S CABOOSING—**

**Sep04** Kerry Cochran and Jack Palmer helped to get ready for Labor Day weekend.

**Sep05-07** Train crew Jack Palmer, Vic Neves, Kerry Cochran, Jim Gidley, Tom Miller, Jack Sanford, Lew Bernard, Paul Finnigan, Dave and Carol Stares. Lolli Bryan, Norman and Barbara Holmes in the Gift Shop, Tom Graham, Hank Stiles, Dwight Wolfinger, Eugene Vicknair, Skip Englert, Ken Iverson, Ken Roller, Steve Habeck and John Walker did various jobs around the museum. Ed Powell removed the old plastic windows from caboose SP4107.

**Sep09** Hap went to Washoe Hospital in Reno for an operation.

**Sep10, 14** Lolli Bryan addressed hundreds of envelopes in response to the Sunset magazine ad.

**Sep14** Skip Englert was taken to Washoe Hospital due to a heart attack. (Both Hap and Skip are doing OK now).

**Sep16** Frontier Tour 30 pass. Jack Palmer, Kerry Cochran, Don Borden, Norman Holmes, Lolli Bryan and Ken Roller for a ride and tour.

**Sep17-18** Prep for RF day, Kerry Cochran, Jack Palmer, Don Borden, Paul Finnigan, Art and Dave Bergman, Doug Morgan, Vic Neves, Lolli Bryan, Norman and Barbara Holmes.

**Sep17** Feather River Preschool ride and tour.

**Oct03** Scenic Byway dedication of Hwy70, Feather River Highway. Lolli Bryan, Skip Englert and Ken Roller represented our Society at the dedication ceremonies in the City Park.

**Oct10** Model A group and Trains Unlimited, Tours tour of museum and run a loco. Ken Iverson on RAL, Lolli in Gift Shop.

**Oct11** Indian Guide group — 26 — for ride and tour, Hank Stiles, Vic Neves, Ken Iverson and Ken Roller.

**Oct14** Sierra Seniors group tour, Skip Englert, Ken Iverson and Ken Roller.

**O**ct Locomotives have been drained for the winter, stacks capped and batteries placed in an area to keep them charged — Ken Iverson.

—**Hap Manit**

**11th Annual Fund Raising Drive  
and  
Free Trip Drawing**

Trains Unlimited, Tours and the Feather River Rail Society are pleased to announce the 11th Annual drawing for a free trip in 1999. The winner of this drawing will receive a free space on any Trains Unlimited Tours, domestic USA tour, being offered in 1999. This will include the following tours: San Diego & Arizona Eastern Spectacular, Wisconsin & Southern Rail Cruise, Sacramento River River & Rail Spectacular,

Cumbres Fall Colors Spectacular, Redwood Steam Spectacular and McCloud Railfan Day. Please refer to the enclosed Trains Unlimited, Tours brochure for dates and details.

Fund raising tickets are \$7 each or five for \$30. All sales from these tickets will go towards the Building Fund at the Portola Railroad Museum. The drawing will be held at the Museum on March 6, 1999. Five tickets are included with this issue of the *Train Sheet*. Please help YOUR museum grow by buying all five tickets. If you have any questions please call Trains Unlimited, Tours toll free at (800) 359-4870 or (530) 836-1745, FAX (530) 836-1748 or write to TUT PO Box 1997, Portola CA 96122. If you want to buy more tickets contact TUT or the museum.

—**Chris Skow**

—**SPECIAL FUND STATUS—**

Item	Additions	Balance	Notes
Building	-	\$14,224.25	
WP GP-9	\$25.00	\$13,594.75	(1)
SP 1215	\$55.00	\$24,195.43	(2)
UP 105	\$555.00	\$2,120.00	(3)
CTC Board	\$40.00	\$300.00	(4)
Library	\$53.00	\$501.79	(5)
Magnolia	\$250.00	\$250.00	(6)
Endowment	\$285.00	\$33,252.08	(7)

—**OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS—**

**Alan Gardiner  
Robert Sanchez**



1) Ed deLozier. 2) Tom Deats and donation box. 3) Ray Moser and donation box. 4) Wayne Monger and Philip Wyche. 5) WPRRHS convention sales. 6) Charles Schwab Corp Foundation.\*  
7) John McCormick and Keithco Co. \*This is a new fund, a joint effort with other organizations to relocate the Magnolia Tower (Oakland) to Jack London Square.



## —MEMBER PORTRAITS—

*This is the first of a series of  
Member Portraits*

Kenneth Roller has been with the FRRS almost from the start. He was first introduced to our organization by Jim Boynton at the first Feather River Railroad Days in 1983. Ken moved to Portola the next year and has been active here ever since. Ken was born in Oakland May 9, 1948, and attended Alameda County schools. He grew up in foster homes and has lost contact with his family. He was drafted into the US Army on February 14, 1968, and served in Viet Nam, Thailand and Japan until honorably

discharged in the fall of 1969.

Ken fell in love with trains after his family presented him with an electric train set. This love was further energized when he took his first railfan trip to "chase a train" as he put it in Thailand, there he saw his first operating steam locomotive. Steam locomotives have been his passion ever since.

Ken attended Feather River College in Quincy and it was here that he developed his skill in painting portraits of steam locomotives. He has occasionally painted a diesel locomotive by special request, but prefers steam. Our Beanery/Flannery Room has a number of his paintings on display as well as in other places in Plumas County. Ken worked for the US Forest Service for several years and now lives on a disability allowance. He has visited several railroad museums around the country in search of steam, most recently to the Illinois Railway Museum.

After his rented house was sold in 1992, Ken moved to the museum and lives in an outfit car (UP converted boxcar). Ken is almost always on hand to greet visitors, conduct tours and help out around the museum wherever he is needed. A lot of track work can be credited to Ken's efforts. We are very fortunate to have Ken at the museum and we thank him for his efforts on our behalf.

—**Norman Holmes**

## NEW WESTERN PACIFIC 1999 ALL COLOR CALENDAR

Fourteen full color photos, drum scanned and professionally printed, saddle-stitched. Your order helps support ongoing efforts by FRRS to preserve the memory of the Western Pacific Railroad. Both steam and diesel, plus Sacramento Northern is represented in this calendar.

—**Produced by Shasta Rail Group for FRRS—**

Now available from the Feather River Rail Society Gift Shop for \$9.95 plus \$1.50 shipping. California residents please include state sales tax of \$0.82 (Total \$12.27) or purchase from your favorite hobby shop.

—Dealer inquiries invited, please call (530) 832-4131—

Members of Feather River Rail Society may deduct 20% from price, please include \$1.50 for shipping. California residents please include \$0.55 state sales tax (Member total \$10.00).

### Available Now!

Please send your order to:

**FRRS Calendar P. O. Box 608 Portola CA  
96122-0608**

**VISA and MasterCard accepted!**

**Call (530) 832-4131 or 24-Hour Fax (530) 832-1854**

FRW 256-257



## **ANNUAL ELECTION PROCESS 1999**

Dear Members,

The annual election process for 1999 has begun. There are four Director positions to be elected for the following terms: 1) Two-year term, and 3) Three-year terms.

You may request which term you wish to run for. If no term is requested then you will be considered for all terms. The person receiving the highest number of votes will get the longest term unless a shorter term is requested.

If you or some member you believe would be a good candidate for one of the Directors positions please feel free to contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee (listed below) with your recommendation and the requirements in item #3 of the election calendar below are met. All candidates for Director may prepare a one sheet campaign statement. The statement will be produced by the candidate on a 8 1/2 x 11 inch sheet of white paper not to exceed "20 lb. weight" and may be printed on both sides.

The statement shall set forth the candidate's views on relevant Society matters; it should not contain photographs, art work or slanderous comments about Society matter and must conclude with a disclaimer that it is "NOT PREPARED OR REPRODUCED AT THE SOCIETIES EXPENSE AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT SOCIETIES POLICY AND POSITIONS".

Failure to conform may cause the material to be returned for rewrite if time permits or omitted from the consolidated mailing. The Committee will reproduce the statements with the candidates sharing the cost.

Feather River Rail Society Nominating and  
Election Committee  
6200 Gates Road Santa Rosa CA 95404-9676

Tom Graham: (707) 539-538-3722

tomghm@ap.net

Gary Hall: (707) 538-0737

gary@macnetworks.com

Ken Iverson: (530) 832-0770

Don Borden: (530) 357-4563

## **BYLAWS**

A petition to change the Bylaws of the Society must be signed by one member in good standing and the requirements in item #3 of the election calendar below are met. Proponents of amendments from any source may prepare a one-sheet statement. The statements will be signed by one author; other supporting names maybe included as part of the statement and must conclude with a disclaimer that it is "NOT PREPARED OR REPRODUCED AT THE SOCIETIES EXPENSE AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT SOCIETIES POLICY AND POSITIONS".

Statements will be produced on a single 8 1/2 x 11 inch sheet of paper of white not to exceed "20 lb weight" and may be printed on both sides. Failure to conform may cause the material to be returned for rewrite if time permits or omitted from the consolidated mailing. The Committee will reproduced the statements with the authors sharing the cost.

**FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY  
BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

P.O. Box 911 San Bruno CA 94066-0911

Kerry Cochran KC6NT@CompuServe.Com

All campaign statements and bylaw arguments and rebuttals will be combined with the ballot and election instructions into one consolidated mailing with costs paid by the Society. Members are permitted to mail their own election material at their own expense.

1. — Nominating and Election Process confirmed by the Board Nov14, 1998.
2. — Nominating Committee post notice in *Train Sheet* Dec 1998.
3. — Petitions of Nomination and all candidates statements received at Election Committee's address Jan30, 1999.
4. — All proposed Bylaw changes and Bylaw proposal statements to be received at the Bylaw Committee's address Jan30, 1999.
5. — All proposals for amending or repealing Bylaws with arguments are available to members with a self-addressed stamped envelope on request Feb20, 1999.
6. — All candidates names and statements and All Bylaw change and arguments presented to the Board Feb20, 1999.
7. — All statements requested to be revised must be received at the Election Committee's address by Mar01, 1999.
8. — Consolidated mailing (ballot, statements, and arguments) Apr01, 1999.
9. — Ballots received by 5:00 P.M. at P.O. Box 608 Portola CA 96122-0608 May07, 1999.
10. — Election Committee meets to conduct vote counting on May14, 1999.

## —FRRS 1999 DATES—

- Jan16** Board Meeting.
- Feb20** Board Meeting.
- Mar20** Board Meeting.
- Apr03** Locomotive Maintenance Workday.
- Apr10** Board Meeting.
- Apr16-17** Historical Convention.
- Apr24** Crew Training.
- Apr25** Workday.
- May01** Locomotive Maintenance Workday.
- May02** Crew Training.
- May15** Board Meeting, Annual Meeting, Election.
- May29** Memorial Weekend, Opening Weekend
- Jun05** Locomotive Maintenance Workday.
- Jun19** Board Meeting.
- Jul03** Locomotive Maintenance Workday, Independence Day Weekend.
- Jul17** Board Meeting.
- Aug07** Locomotive Maintenance Workday.
- Aug14** Board Meeting.
- Aug21** Railroad Days.
- Sep04** Locomotive Maintenance Workday, Labor Day Weekend.
- Sep11** Board Meeting.
- Sep18** Railfan Day.
- Oct02-03** Locomotive Maintenance Work Weekend.
- Oct16** Board Meeting.
- Oct16-17** Work Weekend.
- Nov13** Board Meeting.
- Dec04** Operate one Santa Train.
- Dec11** Board Meeting, operate two Santa Trains.

### **Report to the membership of the FRRS Attendance at the 1998 Association of Railway Museums Annual Convention. By Wayne Monger**

The 1998 version of the Association of Railway Museums Annual Convention was hosted by the Orange Empire Railway Museum (OERM) of Perris, CA. The convention itself ran from Nov04 through Nov08 and was based out of the historic Mission Inn at Riverside, CA. Over 100

different railroad museums/railroad historical groups from around North America were represented, with all of the major California railroad museums well represented. Your Society was represented this year at the ARM Convention by FRRS Board of Directors members Wayne Monger and Doug Morgan, plus Chairman of the FRRS Acquisition and Deacquisition Committee, Dr. Peter Lyman.

Wednesday, Nov04 was a travel day for most but may turn out to have been quite important to the future of the FRRS. Wayne Monger happened to have the same flight out of Sacramento to Ontario as CSR Foundation Executive Director Cathy Taylor, which gave them a chance to talk about the details of the formal California State Railroad Museum invitation to the FRRS to bring GP-20 Western Pacific 2001 (as an operating locomotive) to Railfair '99 in June '99, as well as participation by the WP 2001 in the planned Grand Opening of Union Pacific's new Roseville Yard on May10, 1999. The CSR Foundation is estimating that 200,000 to 400,000 people will be attending Railfair '99 during June.

Thursday, Nov05 was a day for seminars at the Mission Inn. Much of what is learned and exchanged at these seminars can have long ranging positive effects upon not only our organization but all other railroad historical groups. The first seminar Wayne Monger attended was led by Lois Tait of OERM, titled "Hosts and Docents". The focus was upon her experiences at OERM setting up a very effective volunteer hosts and docents program. Several of the important points brought out is that a hosts/docents program at any museum is highly valuable but that hosts/docents must not be isolated from operating crews and restoration teams. A host/docent's

first job is the "comfort" and "bonding" with the visitors so they feel good about the place they are visiting.

The second job is the safety of the visitors as well as the museum (i.e. liability). There was also a strong suggestion that at all large and small railroad museums, there should be a formalized training of operating crews as "informed hosts" so that these volunteers can have the tools to give educated answers to all ranges of questions from visitors when docents are not on hand. In conclusion, she reminded everyone in attendance that "a museum is many interest groups under one umbrella, which brings up many conflicts — but are good for an organization in the long run as long as all groups put out the effort to reach solutions where everyone involved feels they have a stake in the success of the organization."

In the meantime, Doug Morgan attended the "Relationships with Railroads and Agencies" hosted by the BNSF while Dr. Lyman attended the National Transportation Safety Board's "Accident Experience and Risk Management" seminar.

The second seminar attended by Wayne, Doug and Dr. Lyman was the "Recommended Practices for Railway Museums". Wayne had been the FRRS representative to the ARM committee which developed the highly important "Recommended Practices for Railway Museums" document, which will help focus and lead this newly emerging non-profit "railway museum industry" into the next century. This seminar was to discuss any changes to this document but instead evolved into a discussion upon the importance and pitfalls of Mission Statement development. As several of the Bay Area Electric Ry. Assoc. directors were also in attendance, their

recent experience with development of a new mission statement was explored. Our current "unique" membership input from the FRRS membership on development of a new FRRS mission statement was also discussed among the delegates. The conclusions are that all organizations need tightly focused mission statements in order to "sell" concepts to the larger community, tell one story which everyone involved can "buy into" and correct inaccurate reporting by the media that railroad museums are "only for rail buffs".

The third seminar attended by Wayne Monger was "Oral History: Its Importance to Your Museum", presented by two people that had done oral history projects for their Master's Degree at CSU Fullerton. This seminar not only dealt with the "nuts and bolts" of setting up and preserving oral histories, but also looked at the legal aspects of recorded oral histories, costs, and the objectives that oral histories should augment and complement other forms of historical documentation.

The fourth seminar attended by both Wayne and Doug was "Site Planning for Your Museum", presented by current members of the Site Planning Committee for OERM. Utilizing the 40 years of site evolution at OERM's site at Perris as the focus, this seminar ran through the years of site planning evolution, the problems encountered by different expectations of members over time and how the current semi-independent status of the OERM Site Development Committee apart from the Board of Directors and the general membership evolved. Much was learned by all, with emphasis that any site development plan is a fluid document which is always changing.

Activities on Friday, Nov06 was a full day

group tour for all in attendance. This included a trip on a Metrolink commuter train from San Bernardino to downtown L.A., a complete guided tour through the modern Metrolink shop facilities at what used to be SP's Taylor Yard, private charter train over both the L.A. Metro Blue Line and Green Line plus tour through the Green Line shop in El Segundo, a catered dinner in the old Harvey House restaurant at LAUPT then taking the last Metrolink train of the evening back to San Bernardino.

Saturday, Nov07 found all activities focused upon OERM's museum site at Perris, with shuttle busses taking people between the Mission Inn and Perris every hour. On site seminars given by various OERM volunteers during parts of the day included the topics of Track, Parts, Signals/Electrical, Air Brakes, Steam, Diesel and Conservation. OERM volunteers were out in force this day, operating not only a wide variety of electric railway equipment but also diesel equipment for the enjoyment and education of all.

That evening back at the Mission Inn, the highlight for many in attendance was held. The ARM annual banquet was held in the Mission Inn Music Room, and had as the guest speakers Michael Broggie (author of "Walt Disney's Railroad Story") plus original Disney animator and owner of the Grizzly Flats Railroad, Ward Kimball.

The ARM Convention concluded on Sunday, Nov08 with the ARM Annual General Meeting to vote on new ARM Board of Directors members and see a presentation by West Coast Railway Museum on the plans for the 1999 ARM Convention they are hosting in Vancouver, B.C.

—*Wayne Monger*

**1998 Convention Report**

Nearly 100 people attended the 1998 WPRRHS convention held at the Stockton Inn on May 8th and 9th. Convention directors Steve and Norma Hayes did a fantastic job of setting up, coordinating and executing a great gathering. Clinics included model railroad photography by the nicest Texan you'll ever meet; Mr. Tommy Holt. Modeling WP "Beer" cars by Eel River "Beer Car" manufacturer Jim Booth. John Walker used a variety of member slides to show detail shots of the WP's Stockton Yard facility. Jack Palmer contributed some slides to the program while Ken Meeker helped described some of the items we were looking at. Dave Stanley presented a program on the Central California Traction Co. and announced that his CCT book will be available soon. Jack Parker and Bob Larson showed some vintage WP slides from their collections. Ken Rattenne shared his multi-media presentation on the WP and Ken Meeker presented his tribute to the old WP dispatching office in Sacramento with his "Odyssey to Omaha" program. Virgil Staff kept everyone on the edge of their seats as he showed four WP color movies from his collection! Todd Clark of Icon Video provided a video tape showing the first renditions of a series of new WP video's featuring the color movies of Virgil Staff. An authors panel consisting of Guy Dunscomb, Ken Rattenne, Virgil Staff and Kent Stephens enthralled listeners when they recounted their work in bringing notable WP books to print. The joy and frustrations of the publishing business were explored and many memories of kind, helpful WP employees and memorable experiences on the WP were

relieved.

The museum gift shop did a lot of business and the members swap table was phenomenal! The modeling displays were bigger than last year but surprisingly, few wanted to compete in the contests. Instead many people just showed their models and discussed modeling techniques with other members.

A great time was had by all. Good food and great fun. The icing on the cake was a \$1,400.00 profit on the event, which will go to the continuing development of the WPRRHS's Arthur Walter Keddie Railroad Library in Portola. Again, our thanks go out to Steve and Norma Hayes and all of the volunteers who helped make this another great event!

**1999 Convention Plans Announced**

WPRRHS members Jim Dias and Thom Anderson have come up with a preliminary plan for a convention at the Newark-Fremont Hilton on April 16-17, 1999. The convention would run from 5:00 PM Friday evening until 11:00 PM Saturday evening. Sunday would be a free day with possible layout tours and possibly a get together with the Pacific Locomotive Association in Niles Canyon.

The cost of this facility and the meals will be a little more expensive than we have encountered in the past. But, the Hilton is a first class facility and we are sure everyone will have a good time. Tentatively, registration will be \$25.00 per person and dinner will cost each attendee about \$30.00 to \$35.00. There is a bar on the premises and refreshments will be available. This is a nice hotel and rooms would run \$79.00 a night. However, we are not obligated to book any hotel rooms. Attendees can make other

arrangements or drive home at the end of the evening if they choose to do so.

We are still negotiating with the Hilton management for a firm price and Jim Dias has already lined up some tentative speakers and presenters. More details will follow as the event schedule begins to firm up. But please mark your calendars now to attend this event. And start working on those models. We want an even bigger model display next year. This is sure to be another great convention! Tentative plans for the year 2000 convention are looking at the historic Feather River Inn in Blairsden, just down the road from the Portola Railroad Museum!

### **Help Wanted**

As part of our responsibilities as the Official Historical Society of the Western Pacific Railroad, we get numerous requests for information. Some questions are easy and others require more time or information. We currently have several requests which the office has no answer to give. If you can help with these questions, please drop John Walker a note.

1) Ada Southern of Lake Havasu City, Arizona asks if anyone might have any information concerning her grandfather, Mr. Henry James Southern. Mr. Southern worked on the WP as a tunnel watchman, section foreman, and bridge builder before passing away in Portola in 1919.

2) Mr. Theodore Kornweibel, Jr. is a professor in San Diego who is researching a book on African Americans and the railroads. He is looking for any WP records, reports, employee magazine articles, newspaper clippings or photographs of African American employees on the Western Pacific.

3) Mr. Lyle M. Lindahl of Golden, Colorado

is interested in railroad stations in Nevada. He is interested in acquiring copies of old WP and Nevada shortline railroad timetables to add to the information he has already collected.

4) Mr. Philip Dohmen writes: I am writing to locate the former WP# 815 *Silver Schooner*. All of the records of the Auto Train Corp. auction I have read claim that the car was sold on 12/08/81 to "Anbel Corp.". This company is owned by Mr. Ken Nickols of Houston, Texas. I have spoken with him several times about this car. Each time he denies having ever owned it! Have you or any of your readers "seen" this car over the years since the (Auto Train) auction? Has anyone out there been to Brownsville, Texas where this stuff is stored? Sure appreciate any help! Thanks in advance. pdohmen@ddnnet.com or (901) 795-7117 days (901) 757-1310 evenings. Again, if you can help with any of these questions, please drop us a line. Thanks.

### **Library**

A major accomplishment of the WPRRHS last year was the passage of the Library Proposal. One of the primary functions of the WPRRHS is to establish a permanent library for the FRRS/WPRRHS archives. As we began sorting through the material already collected by the FRRS over the last 15 years, it quickly became apparent that we needed to come up with a plan for what we will collect, how we will store it and how we will allow access to this material. Kent Stephens and John Walker presented a proposal to the FRRS Board of Director in October 1997 that was accepted.

Basically, the library will be known as the Arthur Walter Keddie Railroad Library

(otherwise referred to as the FRRS/WPRRHS Library) and will consist of five sections or reference desks. The Historical Desk will collect and preserve material relevant to the history of all railroads in the greater Feather River Route region. Essentially, Western Pacific and its subsidiaries, connecting shortlines and industrial railroads from Salt Lake City to the San Francisco Bay area. This material will be properly stored in the appropriate archival storage media and will be housed in a secured, climate controlled area. Access to this material will be by appointment only, under the direct supervision of the library staff.

The Mechanical Desk will collect material relevant to the operation and repair of equipment at the Portola Railroad Museum. Usually this includes operating and repair manuals of all kinds, electrical drawings, etc. This material will be available to any interested parties or organizations. The Reading Desk will include general railroad subjects of all kinds, general railfan and model railroading publications and general history publications of the greater Feather River Route region. This material can be accessed by any interested parties. Hopefully, some time in the future, we hope that a reading room can be established at the museum where members and visitors can review this material at their leisure.

The Display Section will include any non operating artifacts which are used for display at the museum or at FRRS/WPRRHS sponsored events. Generally, this will include lanterns, maps, pictures, old tools, builders plates or other artifacts which are displayed in the museum display room or other locations (another library display or a social event). This material will be properly stored

in the proper archival storage media and will be kept secure from theft or damage. A surplus desk will be used to auction or sell surplus material. We will try to trade other railroad items to their respective railroad historical societies and museums before offering it for sale. Hopefully, we can establish a reciprocal agreement with other organizations to swap material that would otherwise be disposed of. You should note that we are not trying to collect Great Northern, Southern Pacific or Santa Fe material (except in how these railroads interacted with the Western Pacific). There are specific organizations and libraries which are dedicated solely to these railroads. Our interest is pretty well confined to the Western Pacific and those railroads which ran in the Feather River Route region (including current UP and BNSF operations). We welcome your contributions to the A.W.K. Library.

In fact, we strongly urge every FRRS/WPRRHS member to make the legal arrangements necessary to insure that your collection comes to us when you no longer need, or can use it. Simply expressing your desire to have your collection donated to the library upon your demise will not insure that it will happen. Recently, a noted railroad photographer and writer in northern California passed away. His collection was probably one of the ten largest collections in the western United States. Upon his death, the collection was reportedly stored in a mini storage and when the rent on the mini storage went into default, the collection was sold off by the landlord of the storage facility! Thankfully, we understand that some or most of the collection was rescued by another museum. Yet, no one seems to know how much was saved, what was lost or who was

able to acquire any of the other pieces. In another example, it was early in the history of the FRRS, when our founder Norman Holmes and others actually dug through the Portola dump in an effort to save some of the collection of the late Bill Pennington, a long time contributor to Railroad magazine, X2200 South and a retired WP engineer who had mapped most of the abandoned logging lines in the Portola area. While this was a nasty, thankless task, Norm was able to recover some of the material that had been sent to the dump and it is now in the FRRS archives. Sadly, there is no doubt that some of the collection was lost forever.

As we are sorting through the archives, we are finding many items which don't have any information regarding who donated the items. If you have donated something to the Feather River Rail Society or the Portola Railroad Museum in the past, please drop us a note (in care of the WPRRHS Conservator Lolli Bryan) describing the items, when you donated them and who you dropped them off with. Then as we find these items, we can make the proper notation in our records and send you an official "Thank You" letter for your donation. Don't be shy, we want to give you the proper credit for your generous donations. Your description of the items might also help us to identify these items or link them with similar items.

Additionally, many of us FRRS "old timers" have, over the years, taken it upon ourselves to care for items which were donated to the museum for which there was no place to properly store them at the time. Many of us have kept these items safe until the day when they could be stored safely in a library. Now that the library is finally coming together, I'm glad to report that these items are now being

returned to the library where they will be cataloged and properly cared for. Hopefully, as we continue to sort and catalog the collection, we will soon be able to bring you more information through *The Headlight*, our conventions and library services. Like many other projects at the museum, you can now make monetary contributions directly to the library. Simply mark your donation as a gift to the library and that money will be used exclusively for the preservation and display of our archives. Acid-Free boxes, archival safe document and photo protectors and other storage media are expensive. We are trying to purchase new metal shelving, filing cabinets, display cases and other equipment to help file the collection. Your contributions to the library will be a great investment in preserving the history of the Feather River Route.

We have received a donation from Mr. Robert Finan of Los Angeles of 1949, 1961 and 1968 WP Annual reports and some company freight car inventory sheets from 1969. The mechanical desk also received a donation of eleven Association of American Railroads Recommended Freight Car standards from John Walker. Mr. J.W. Lynch of Sacramento donated a box of wreck photos taken by his father James F. Lynch who began work on the WP in 1924, retiring as System Superintendent in 1967! We hope to use these photos in some upcoming issues of *The Headlight*.

Lolli Bryan and John Walker have made significant progress sorting through the boxes of things that have been donated to the museum over the years. Several filing cabinets and metal map drawers have recently been obtained and we are putting these to good use. In fact, we have nearly filled all of



the filing cabinets already!

### **The Headlight**

Issue fifteen is out and we have received some nice comments on this issue. Carol Voss writes "Have been meaning to write to tell you how much I have enjoyed the recent issues of *The Headlight* since (the WPRRHS) took over and revamped it. It is certainly an extremely well put together publication and the graphics, photos and layout are very well done. I especially liked this last issue with the article reprints about Perlman and the Marketing Manual information. I find that I no longer put *The Headlight* on the "later" pile when it arrives and read it just as promptly and avidly as I do my monthly *Trains* and *Flimsies West!*. Again, my applause for your work on developing a truly class act publication!

WPRRHS member Rick Schonfelder from Australia writes: "I just received the latest issue of *The Headlight* and am very pleased with it as always". Rick would like to discuss WP modeling ideas with other WP modelers via E-mail. You can reach Rick at rick.schonfelder@au.arthurandersen.com

Bill Shippen and Kent Stephens are working on an article on the Deep Creek Railroad, a little known WP subsidiary. Bill would like to borrow a Deep Creek pass, key or lantern or any piece of hardware for inclusion in the article.

Future Articles: The Indian Valley Railroad. We have a roster, roster views, a beautiful Employee Pass, some action shots and a view of the Crescent Mills depot with a WP inspection car sitting on the Indian Valley interchange tracks. We are looking for more pictures and more information on the Engle Mine. Other articles in the works will feature

the Jeffrey Shops in Sacramento, Sacramento Northern, the *California Zephyr*, the SP control case, Stockton Yard, BNSF operations on the High Line and many others.

### **Headlight Staff Changes**

Frank Brehm is assuming the Managing Editor position while Bill Shippen will continue to write articles and contribute pictures to the magazine. We all want to thank Bill and his staff at Shasta Rail Group for reviving *The Headlight* with such a great new look! Well Done Bill!

We need your contributions to *The Headlight* now! Don't wait for someone else to write a story or do a modeling article. We need to stockpile some articles and photo's now to keep the magazine coming to you regularly. Contact Frank Brehm at (916) 334-7476 or fbrehm@jps.net for more information.

### **Web Site**

Mike Mucklin has changed our website address to: <http://www.wprrhs.org>. This new site will allow better access and maintenance and it is now a registered URL. Check it out! While on the subject of web pages, WP fans should check out FRRS member Frank Brehm's WP web page at: <http://www.jps.net/fbrehm/frrs>. Here you will find WP modeling ideas and an index to back issues of *The Train Sheet* and *The Headlight*. WPRRHS member Garth Groff maintains a great Sacramento Northern Web Page at: <http://www.people.virginia.edu/~ggg9y/>

FRRS member Jim Ley dropped us a note to say: "A Western Pacific RR (Internet) mailing list started up the other day and I just kinda' stumbled across it... It has occurred to me that some of you may be interested. Here's

the URL to subscription information.  
<http://www.trainorders.com/Pages/discussion/index.htm>

Also, please note a new E-Mail address for John Walker. The new address is:  
[run8john@thegrid.net](mailto:run8john@thegrid.net)  
See you in Fremont!

—*John Walker*

### —Tom Graham Report—

#### MOBILE EQUIPMENT REPORT

The Green Death has had its brakes repaired... Maintenance and upgrading work is continuing on the backhoe. William McGrath and Tom Graham cleaned off all the old asphalt in the loader bucket. The 12-inch hoe bucket needs new teeth. The loader bucket will need a new cutting edge. We will be building frames for the glass and hope to have them done and installed by the end of the year. This machine has been used a lot since purchased and is working well as we expected.

#### SHOWER CAR REPORT

Judy and Melissa McGrath and Tom Graham covered the unused windows and painted them. Art Young finished the trim and prime paint on the windows in the new section. The window and trim in the kitchen needs to be rebuilt... I asked that the Board sees the rest of the work on the Shower Car, Lounge, and Sleeper be funded and finished as soon as possible. This work includes electrical, plumbing, heating, cooling, and a deck.

#### WORK DAY REPORT

The following were present on one or more days:

From Santa Rosa: Jerry & Jill Prickett, Judy, Melissa and William McGrath, Art Young, Jeff Palmer and Tom Graham.

From Eureka: Don Nelson.

From Rancho Cordova: Hank Stiles.

From San Leandro: Vic Neves.

From Yuba City: John Walker.

From Chico: David Dewey.

From Suisun City: Wayne Monger.

From Portola: Lolli Bryant, Meg Evens, Ken Iverson, Doug Morgan and Skip Englert.

—*Tom Graham*

### —BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING—

**SATURDAY, OCT10, 1998**

**At the Portola Library, Portola CA**

**Roll Call:** Present: Englert, Graham, Monger, Mueller, Stiles, Morgan, Neves. Absent:

Holmes, Wollesen... **Board Position Filled:** Andy Anderson was elected to fill B of D vacancy...

**Misc:** The Old Town Merchants is sponsoring a Halloween Safety night for the downtown area and would like to have FRRS open a booth. President Englert took care of assisting the OTM... **Donation:** Charles Schwabb Corporation Foundation awarded a grant of \$250.00 to the FRRS in recognition of the volunteer efforts of Mike Huggins who is spearheading the preservation and moving of the Magnolia Street tower. The contribution is made through the Assets Award Program, which Mr. Huggins requested that FRRS receive this grant...

**Motion 10-98-01:** Motion was called for and passed that established a fund to collect funds and assist with efforts directed at the preservation of the Magnolia Tower...

**Motion 10-98-02** was passed by Board Members, this provided funding to send two

(2) members to East St Louis to inspect the condition of 3 ex-WP *California Zephyr* cars that have become available for purchase...

**Motion 10-98-03:** The Board of Directors accepted a proposal from Terrence Thomas—CPA, to perform an audit of FRRS financial records for the years 1996, 1997, & 1998...

**A & D Committee:** Dr. Lyman's A & D Committee will be discussed at next meeting... **Guide Books:** Guide Books for Directors of Non-Profit Organizations have been received.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**Meeting Dates:** Tom Graham introduced four scenarios or lists of possible dates for upcoming Board meetings. Discussion followed. Board agreed to discuss at the next meeting after reviewing the lists... **Motion 10-98-04** was approved by Board of Directors

to allocate \$5000.00 to complete the electrical upgrade in the museum facilities...

**WP 2001:** A proposal to send the 2001 to the Yolo Shortline was offered. CMO Hank Stiles indicated "wintering" the 2001 in Woodland would make it easier to FRA approve it for the Spring *CSRM Railfair*. CMO Stiles was instructed to research this further... **Motion 10-98-05:** The Board approved a motion to contact Amtrak and inquire if running a Franklin Canyon trip with WP #2001 on the point during the Spring of 1999 is feasible...

**The Headlight:** John Walker assumed managerial business control of *The Headlight*.

Complete copies of board meeting minutes are available to any interested member by sending \$2.00 to cover postage and copy charges to: Tom Mueller. Board meetings are open to all interested members, contact any director for location and time.

—**Tom Mueller**

**—BOARD MEMBER—  
—ATTENDANCE 1998—**

NAMES	1998				
	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Anderson, A	N/A	P	P		
Englert, S	P	P	P		
Graham, T	P	P	P		
Holmes, N	P	P	F		
Monger, W	A	P	P		
Morgan, D	P	P	P		
Neves, V	A	P	P		
Stiles, H	A	P	P		
Wollesen, G	P	I	A		
Mueller, T	P	P	P		

**Starting Mar28, 1998, attendance is recorded as follows:**

**P—Present    A—Absent    I—Illness  
W—Work      S—Society Business  
T—Transportation    F—Family**

**—FRRS BOARD MEETING—  
—SCHEDULE 1999—**

**Jan16, Feb20, Mar20, Apr10,  
May15 (Annual Meeting, Election),  
Jun19, Jul17, Aug14, Sep11,  
Oct16, Nov13, Dec11.**



## —1998 OPERATING DEPARTMENT REPORT—

### —JIM GIDLEY Sr.—

The 1998 operating season has closed down with it being another big year. This year, for the first time, the Rent-A-Locomotive program was operated at the same time as the Caboose train. The response was very good as more people found out about the RAL program. The participants in the RAL program got a better feel for railroading as they had to get into a siding to make way for the passenger train, enhancing their experience at our museum.

### —New Operating Department Members—

I want to welcome to the Operating Department six new people. Andy Anderson, Lew Barnard, Mike Barlow, Tom Miller, Chris Simpson, and John Sandford.

### —1998 Operating Department Participating Members—

A real BIG THANK YOU to all the members of the Operating Department who volunteered their time this year: Andy Anderson, Dave Anderson, Thomas Andrewes, Lew Barnard, Mike Barlow, Dave Bergman, Don Borden, Leigh Bradbury, Pat Brimmer, Bob Carr, Eddie Chase, Kerry Cochran, Terry Decottignies, Skip Englert, King Felton, Paul Finngan, Jim Gidley, Sr., Tom Graham, Steve Habeck, John Hittner, Norman Holmes, Ken Iverson, Jim Ley, Tom Miller, Judy McGrath, Mellissa McGrath, William McGrath, Don Nelson, Vic Neves, Jack Palmer, John Sandford, Chris Simpson, Hank Stiles, Ed Wagner, Gordon Wollesen, and Eugene Vicknair.

### —New Qualifications for 1998—

Jim Ley — Re-certification as Passenger Engineer.  
Dave Anderson — Re-certification as a Yard Engineer.  
Pat Brimmer — Passenger Engineer.  
Terry Decottignies — Yard Engineer.  
Paul Finngan — Conductor.  
Ed Wagner — Conductor.  
Andy Anderson — Brakeman.  
John Sandford — Brakeman.  
Chris Simpson — Brakeman.

Built as Alameda & San Joaquin RR #A-1, this Richmond built 4-6-0 awaits scrapping at Stockton, California sometime between December 1947 and her scrap date of April, 1950. She served as the second locomotive of the WP, being numbered 122 around November of 1909. She served on WP's subsidiary Deep Creek RR, Tidewater Southern and on countless locals, putting in 44 years for Western Pacific.

—Courtesy Greg Munster

