

The Headlight

Volume 8

OCTOBER, 1948

Number 10



**THE MURPHY WINDMILL
IN GOLDEN GATE PARK, SAN FRANCISCO**

PHOTO COURTESY OF WALTER GAINES SWANSON
VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER
SAN FRANCISCO CONVENTION AND TOURIST BUREAU

Random... Views and Reviews

by The Editor

★ Secretary of Defense **Forrestal** has announced the reactivation of the **USO** to serve our new peace-time armed forces and has asked that it be supported through **Community Chests**. And the Red Feather campaigns are now being conducted throughout the nation. Goals are understandably higher than ever. We know San Francisco has a \$3,758,000 quota. Wherever you are, won't you support your local Community Chest according to your means? The Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls, Community Centers, Salvation Army, Travelers Aid and the Visiting Nurse Association are among the Community Chest-supported organizations. Give for all... all you can!

Because there are so many hot-heads (the term borrowed by us from **Gen. Lucius D. Clay**, our military governor in Germany) both here and abroad whose blatant blabbering may lead us into a third world war, we're mighty happy to learn that the Atomic Energy Commission is working with the Office of Civil Defense to prepare an adequate disaster plan for this country, pointedly to assist atom-bombed cities. We hope the plan need never be activated, but, listening to the many morons claiming membership in the "human" race, our doubts increase daily!

United Nations Week begins October 17 and culminates in United Nations Day on October 24. So what, you ask? And we'll pardon your cynicism in gratification that you've read this far! Actually we don't know why you should be interested in United Nations Week unless you think that maybe UN is our last best hope for world peace! And hope there will always be while the UN General Assembly continues to convene. Even the much-mooted veto power is a peaceful weapon! Last year some fifteen countries of the world celebrated UN Week. That's not enough interest, but it's a start. If the representatives of the world's nations carry on their talks concerning social objectives and economic and political unity, the cause of peace is furthered. And if UN Week causes us to lend some thought to that work, which resolves itself finally into bettering the lot of bewildered humans, maybe we have the answer to your "So What?"

Earlier in the month—October 3 to 9—is **Fire Prevention Week**; slogan "Help Yourself to Fire Prevention." And that's no idle slogan, for the record shows that more fires are started by careless smoking than you can shake a stick (match, that is) at! Every 20 seconds a preventable fire breaks out in this land of ours! And, believe it or not, fire takes a toll of 22 lives daily. Seems to us carelessness is mixed up somewhere in that mess!

In "**Aggie**" **Welch's** "Western Division Notes" (July, 1948, issue) we included an editor's note inquiring whether there were any challengers to **Charlie Miller's** claim of being the only "flying" section foreman on the WP, or any other railroad. And we got a challenger—on our own railroad! **Bud A. Jones**, our section foreman at Hawley, California, has been a flying enthusiast for years and flies his own B-2 "Sports Wing" regularly. Well, maybe "Chuck" Miller and Bud Jones give the "flying section foreman" championship to the WP!

Portola's Mayor **John C. Richards** and **Stanley Bailey**, editor of the Portola Reporter, have entered the fray over the pronunciation of Portola in the Festival and Pageant of the same name! They say PorTOLA; some localities say Porto-LAH. Since one local newspaper referred to our Portola as a "village," we're definitely on the PorTOLA side! That'll "learn" them to refer to a "city" as a "village."

Department of personals... We were sorry to hear at Sacramento of the passing of Nevada Northern's VP&GM **Harry Beem's** wife. We were chided by **Clarence Hoover** and **Dick Beltz** for overlooking WP's 38th birthday. Our reason sounded only like an excuse! A card from **Tom Fox**, retired conductor, proves he was in Washington, D.C., with Mrs. Fox attending the 50th Spanish War Vets convention. Tom is enjoying retirement. More power to him. **Charley (C. E.) Kane**, executive assistant, Illinois Central, arrived in San Francisco via No. 39's ferry one night not so long ago. Less than a minute later, he could have been seen chasing his straw hat down the Embarcadero. Enjoyed a short trip with Steward **Walter Parks** recently. Hard to tell whether he takes more pride in his dining car service or in his new offspring!

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THE HEADLIGHT

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WATCH FOR THE NEW

DAILY STREAMLINERS between SAN FRANCISCO and CHICAGO

California Zephyr

Frederic Bennett Whitman Named Executive Vice President of Western Pacific Railroad

★ Frederic B. Whitman was elected executive vice president by WP's board of directors effective October 1, 1948. He comes to us from the Burlington, for whom he was serving as general superintendent at Lincoln, Nebraska.

Born at Cambridge, Mass., September 1, 1898, Whitman received his public school education in that city, was graduated from Harvard with an A.B. in 1919 and from the Harvard School of Business Administration in 1921. He served with the United States Army in World War I as a Second Lieutenant.

His first railroad service was with the Fort Worth & Denver City



as a locomotive fireman and machinist helper. On October 7, 1921, he went to the Burlington as a freight house laborer, subsequently serving that road continuously, until his recent election, as payroll clerk, roundhouse laborer, freight car repair checker, switchman, brakeman, extra gang time-keeper, ass't. track foreman, yard-master, traveling car accountant, ass't. trainmaster, trainmaster, ass't. superintendent, superintendent, ass't. to general manager, ass't. general superintendent and general superintendent.

He is a past president (1940) of the American Association of Railroad Superintendents.

San Francisco's Murphy Windmill Undergoing Repairs

★ For the first time since its construction in 1905, the Murphy Windmill, famous landmark in Golden Gate Park, is undergoing major repairs. Soon, with renewed vigor, it will once more vigorously with the breezes off the Pacific Ocean.

The Murphy Windmill is so called because it was Samuel G. Murphy, a local banker, who donated \$20,000 for the erection of a windmill. Originally, this windmill pumped 96,000 gallons of water daily, used to irrigate the adjacent Golden Gate Park area. All too soon came the mechanical age and an electric pump, with a far greater capacity. From that day forward, the Murphy Windmill became merely picturesque . . . and gradual deterioration occurred.

Motorcycle Speed Record Established on Bonneville Salt Flats

★ Roland R. Free, of Hollywood, Calif., sent his 2-cylinder British-built motorcycle roaring at 150.855 mph, over the same Bonneville salt flats course used by John Cobb last year, to set a new world's speed record for motorcycles. Ignoring superstition, his record-breaking run was made September 13.

Covering the northbound measured mile in 23.9 seconds, Free rode his cycle prone, lying on the rear fender. He started his machine sitting on the fender, but dropped to a prone position upon attaining speed of almost 100 mph.

The salt flats course over which these record speed runs were made starts about six miles east of Wendover, Utah, on the WP.

Railroads Take to the Air

★ Monday evening, October 4, at nine, the railroads of the nation air "Good News," starring Dinah Shore, Jane Powell and Gordon MacRae, over the ABC network (KGO San Francisco), first of a series of Monday night musical comedies and operettas running throughout the Fall and Winter. Substitute shows will be offered during

WP Office in Denver

★ James R. Stitt, our traffic representative at Denver, Colorado, announces his new office address as 1726 Champa Street, zone 2; telephone Tabor 7473. Our best to Jim in his new quarters.

The Day of Two Noons

★ The story of "time" before and after the adoption of standard time on November 18, 1883, is graphically told by Carlton J. Corliss in "The Day of Two Noons," just published by the A.A.R. If you're interested in the story of the transition to standard time and the public's then reaction to that drastic step, you may secure a copy of this booklet by telling the editor you want one.

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Tune in your ABC station and listen to your show.

led by Norman Luboff. The orchestra and the choral group will conduct shows! Carmen Dragon will conduct so much MacRae, he'll be on all the 18 will present Rise Stevens with Gordon MacRae. If you're wondering why "The Cat and the Fiddle" on October 11, with Margaret Whiting, "Anything Goes" will be offered on the summer months.

Hy-Lites

by JACK HYLAND

★ Not to be out-columned by **Herb Caen** (S. F. Chronicle) who mentioned recently in his column, the arrival of a daughter to "The House of Charm's" **Nerice Fugate**, and commented . . . "model mother, model child," with nary a word about "father," wish to add the following just for the record. The baby girl arrived August 24th at the Stanford Hospital, San Francisco, weighing 6 lbs. and has been named "**Nerice Lloyd Moore**," with the last name derived from our friend, husband of Nerice, and now father . . . **Carl Moore**, who was previously employed by the Western Pacific as Traffic Representative prior to his association with the Garment Carriers, Inc. located at 68 Natoma St., San Francisco. (Now there's a real business plug for "Daddy" Moore).

During the past month—it seems that nearly everyone previously associated with the Western Pacific has become (as the case may be) either a mother, or a father . . . and so the next few items will have to be classified as . . . "Births":

Word comes to me via the circuitous grapevine that . . . **Elynor Lowery** (formerly Treas. Dept.) recently became the proud mother of a baby boy, born in San Diego, Calif. Last report indicates all three . . . Papa **Richard**, Mom **Elynor** and young "**Richard**" are all doing fine.

Another arrival announcement which completely surprised us was that of . . . **Jeannette O'Grady** (formerly Traffic) who became the mother of a baby daughter last September 7th (in Chicago) when little "**Kathleen O'Grady**" arrived weighing slightly less than 8 lbs. We also know that "Father" **Frank** is just as proud and happy as "**Jan**."

Also on the newly named "mother" list since last September 10th is . . . **Nell Burkle** (formerly Treas. Dept.) when her little son arrived weighing 8½ lbs., which has since been named "**Richard Carl**." We know both **Nell** and **Walt** are very happy with their new status of "parenthood."

We were very sorry to learn of the recent misfortune which entered the **Gerry Coffey** (Chicago) family . . . when his father was fatally injured last August 24th near St. Joseph, Mich., by a careless (speeding) automobile driver. Although the driver was severely injured and her car badly damaged, there isn't anything so important that requires speeding beyond the limits of careful and safe driving . . . especially when its disregard has such drastic results. Our deepest and sincere sympathy is extended to the Coffey family.

Ruth Dorsey (Traffic), our very pleasant and always accurate Payroll Clerk, resigned last September 30th to take over full time duties of being a "home-maker," and to complete the arrangement, Ruth is expecting "the addition" to arrive some time during the forepart of December. If it's a girl, I'm sure (almost) that Ruth will not forget the name . . . "Elsie."

Just learned the other day that when **Earl McKellips** (Gen. Auditors) was selling tickets to the WP Bowling dinner party last spring, he only sold "Three" tickets. Although "Mac" cannot be considered as a super-salesman, he must have something—for it has been confirmed that the three tickets he did sell were purchased by **Mrs. Manuel Bettencourt**, **Al Thomas** and **McKellips** . . . and all three **WON** door prizes.

Word from **Frank Sell** (Los Angeles) discloses that Messrs.: **Bill Curtiss**, "**PH**" **Emerson**, **Bill Foster** and **Dave Spowart** all attended the Pacific Coast Advisory Board meeting last month in Los Angeles, after which Bill extended his stay for an additional week to complete a number of business interviews, accompanied by some of our Southern California Traffic Representatives.

We also learned . . . **Bill Cook** (Traffic Repr.) formerly located at Ogden, Utah, has been transferred to the Los Angeles office, under the leadership of our good friend and genial General Agent **Dick Wilkens**. Bill's new territory covers San Diego . . . as well as **ANAHEIM**, **AZUSA** and **CUCAMONGA**, which undoubtedly is more preferable than the regions of Utah, Idaho and Montana.

On October 20th, celebrations will be in order for . . . **Ida** and **Ernest Knox** (Stat. Engineer—Oakland) who will have reached their "23rd year" anniversary of marital companionship, and upon the same date . . . **Olga** and **Spencer Lewis** (Car Record) will have attained their "20th year" of married life. We extend to both families our very best wishes, and hope the coming years will continue to bring greater happiness.

At 5:30 p.m. on September 5th . . . **Marion Bong** (Gen. Auditors) walked down the aisle of the Star of the Sea Church, San Francisco . . . and at the altar exchanged marriage vows with . . . **Gene Snyder**. Following a reception at the Colón Residence Club, they dashed away for their honeymoon, amidst the very best wishes of their many friends.

Last August 31st was the "65th" birthday of **George Hart** (Traffic), and to more fully celebrate the occasion . . . he retired from active service of the Western Pacific (which began back in July, 1910) upon the same date. His many co-workers presented him with a beautiful gold watch, and extended to him their well wishes for a continued healthful and enjoyable life of retirement.

Well . . . just learned of another "birthday," that of little "**Robert William Bullock**," who arrived last September 19th at St. Joseph's Hospital, weighing slightly more than 6 lbs., which naturally made . . . "Mama" **Myrtle**, formerly Traffic Dept., and "Papa" **Robert**, two very happy parents. We hope Myrtle will now (or soon at least) be able to make use of the gift presented to her by her former office co-workers of . . . "a high chair."

Van Hultens to Holland

★ Cornelius John Van Hulten, who retired June 30, 1948, as a cabinet maker at our Sacramento shops, is now in Holland with Mrs. Van Hulten for a two-month visit in the country of his birth.

Van Hulten, who had been a cabinet maker for the Western Pacific for 35 years, was born at Waalwyk, Noord, Brabant, The Netherlands.

The Twin Cripplers . . . Arthritis - Rheumatism

DID YOU KNOW THAT

... One out of every 20 Americans—more than 7 million persons—is a victim of arthritis or some other form of rheumatism?

... Only one out of every hundred arthritic and rheumatic patients receives hospital care?

... Less than 200 free beds in the nation's hospitals are specifically allocated to the study and treatment of rheumatic diseases?

... Per Capita, Congress spent about 9 cents for forest trails, 20 cents for plant and animal diseases and 40 cents for Dept. of Agriculture research last year, while from all sources less than one-tenth of a cent was spent for research in rheumatic diseases.

... The country's greatest scientific organization—the National Research Council—in cooperation with the Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation is planning a research program to find the cause and cure of rheumatic disease?

Your contribution will make possible a victorious battle to curb the Twin Cripplers. Send it to:

THE ARTHRITIS AND
RHEUMATISM FOUNDATION
535 Fifth Ave. New York 17, N.Y.

Do You Know That . . .

★ On railroads in North China, fares for children are based on their height?

Under 2' 6"—free

From 2' 6" to 4' 3"—half fare

Taller than 4' 3"—full fare

—from the Missouri Pacific "Newsreel."

Added Starters . . .

★ The California State Employment Service calls our attention to **National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week** October 3-9. Five and a half million workers with significant physical handicaps are now gainfully employed . . . and achieving above-average production in comparable jobs handled by unimpaired workers!

At Chicago, we were hailed at the corner of Clinton Street and Jackson Boulevard by no less than **H. W. "Hal" Nordberg**, newly appointed EFFA, accompanied by "**Barney**" **Hart**, FFA of the Burlington. Later, at the Railroad Fair, taking in the pageant, we found ourselves not much more than ten feet from Treasurer **Roy E. Larson** in a standing room only crowd! The Fair was great; the pageant no less. It closes October 3, after drawing more than two million visitors, more than half of whom took in the pageant (at 60¢ a head). More next year, we hope.

At Independence, Missouri, home of the current President, visited with "**Polly**" and **Frank Fowler**. Frank deserted the railroad ranks when chief clerk to the WP superintendent at Sacramento. He's doing very well, thank you, with his chores for Station KIMO, Independence, The Daily News, of the same city, a printing shop and bowling alleys. His address 1410 W. Walnut Street, Independence.

At the Denver Athletic Club (Denver, Colorado, of course), had the pleasure of a few words with **Frank J. Conrad**, formerly our FFA, now FTM for the Burlington at Omaha.

We thought **W. B. "Billy" Hall**, Rio Grande purchasing agent, would go on forever and regret to report his retirement, after 57 years with that road, on September 1. Retired too was veteran 85-year-old Rio Grande Business Car Chef **Bill Price**. In years long past we enjoyed many meals prepared by Bill. And we're very happy to note promotion of **T. A. "Tommy" Thompson** to Rio Grande's assistant to president.

A practically anonymous note (?) from San Jose indicates that Roundhouse Foreman **George Heintz** has issued a rash golf challenge . . . he will handicap any WP employe one stroke a hole at any local course and let the chips fall where they may. Hope George isn't really serious!

We still think "The Patter," published for students and alumni of San Francisco's Golden Gate College School of Traffic, and edited by ex-Western Pacificer **Irv Abramson** continues to be one of the most humorous efforts passing over our desk. You'd like The Headlight if Irv were able to inject some of his stuff into these columns.

The Editor.

George Raymond Hart

★ George R. Hart, chief rate clerk in the general office freight traffic department, ended a 40-year railroad career with retirement on August 31, his 65th birthday.

George, a native of New York City, came West in 1908 to work for the Union Pacific at San Francisco. In July, 1910, he began his Western Pacific service as a stenographer. Fourteen months later, he was promoted to rate clerk. In 1918, he was appointed AGFA for the Sacramento Northern Railway, at Sacramento. For a year, beginning November, 1921, he was furloughed to the Pacific Freight Tariff Bureau at San Francisco, returning to the WP as rate clerk and subsequently, in October, 1940, being appointed chief rate clerk.

He was presented with a handsome gold watch by his associates, whom we join in wishing George many years of happy leisure.

Railroads Top 60-Year Safety Record in '47

★ Speaking at the American Museum of Safety, at New York, President Revelle W. Brown, of the Reading Company, declared that in 1947 fewer passengers lost their lives in railroad accidents than in any one of the sixty preceding years covered by ICC records.

Top 1947 safety award went to the Norfolk & Western, with the Charleston & Western Carolina and the Canadian Pacific Lines in Vermont leading their classes. The Reading, Southern Railway and Great Northern also received certificates of award.

Fishing at Gold Lake

★ Louis J. Fischer, Western Division engineer, headquarters Portola, is the unofficial publicity director for Gold Lake and its fishing potentialities!

Gold Lake is ten miles above Blairsden, an hour's drive from Portola. There, Louis says, fishermen may rent boats and motors, as well as needed fishing tackle. Tents also are available.

If fishing at Gold Lake sounds good to you and you want any information about it, or any of the other lakes in that vicinity, get in touch with Louis J. Fischer, P. O. Box 931, Portola, California. He'll be glad to tell you where the fish are (!) and how to get there!

On the Sacramento

Northern

by Ruth Crane

★ **Emmett O'Sullivan** (traffic) thought the people in Salt Lake were exceptionally friendly when he visited his family there recently . . . until he discovered he was being mistaken for his brother, who lives there!

Mel Parker (engineering) visited the old home town (Cedar City, Utah) . . . seeing his folks and old friends. On the train to Salt Lake he was surprised to meet **Howard Waight** (retired), **Charley Eck** (Sacramento freight), and **Emmett O'Sullivan**.

We knew **Bert Norlen** (traffic) was an accomplished pianist, but didn't know he was a not-so-accomplished dancer as well. We saw him folk dancing at Sutter Jr. High School and jitterbugging at the Auditorium!

Wilfred Blue (transportation) was pleased with the people in the middle-west, who were hospitable and friendly. Wilfred motored to Muskogee, Oklahoma via the southern route and returned to California via the northern route.

Ovid Hook and family vacationed at Dillon's Beach, swimming, fishing and boating.

Back from vacations . . . **Norman Macdonald** (Vancouver, B. C.); **Roy Evans** (Santa Cruz); **Maurice-Clegg** (Seattle and Portland).

The following error was noted in September issue of The Headlight . . . The last paragraph says "**Al Fippin** (traffic), while vacationing, showed his sister-in-law from the east . . .".

This was "**Bert Norlen**"—not Al Fippin.

Rail Excursion On WP and ST&E

★ Approximately 140 members and guests of the California-Nevada Railroad Historical Society enjoyed a trip on the Western Pacific and Stockton, Terminal & Eastern railroads Aug. 29.

A special Western Pacific train, consisting of baggage car, 5 coaches, 1 Zephyr Vista Dome chair car, cafe coach and lounge car, was operated between Oakland Pier and Stockton. It was hauled by one of the old ten-wheel passenger engines, No. 77, especially equipped for the occasion with a whistle owned by the Society.

Two gondolas, hauled by the ST&E's only steam engine, provided transportation to Linden and Bellota.

Oakland Passenger Traffic Representatives **Joseph F. Hamer** and **George A. Mix** escorted the group over our line.

Retirements

Western Pacific Railroad . . .

Ballard, Ernest B.
 Bates, Henry Theodore
 Casey, Robert Francis
 Dack, James Erwin
 Ford, Dana Guthrie
 Mithen, William
 Newlin, Ella Jane
 Nishiguchi, Samuel Masa

Towerman
 Switchman
 Engineer
 Electrician Helper
 Telegrapher
 Telegrapher
 Janitress
 Laborer

Oakland
 San Francisco
 Stockton
 Portola
 Blairsden
 Carbona
 Oakland
 Reno



UNITED NATIONS WEEK Oct. 17-24 | **UNITED NATIONS DAY October 24**

"Tip Card" Box Score

Name	Occupation and Location	Total Points To Date
Harry J. Sutherland	Tax Commissioner, San Francisco	3
Kenneth K. Dunton	Ass't. Agent, San Jose	2
Clifford A. Norden	Ass't. Engineer, San Francisco	2
Frank J. Rauwolf	Freight Claims Inspector, San Francisco	2
Joseph J. Hale	Laborer, Oakland	1
Manuel C. Silva	Captain, Marine Department, Oakland	1

Elko Echoes

by Nevada Michelson

★ A farewell dinner for **Jimmie Calkins, Jr., Leland and Jimmie Ford** was given at the Stockmen's Hotel on August 20th. In addition to the honored guests were **Joann Reinhart**, who was Jimmie Calkins' guest and the Ford boys had for their guests their mother **Viola Ford** and sister "**Diz**" Ford. Others present were **Tom Clark, Johnny Etchebehere, Hanna Bowler, Fay Strange, Edith Batchelder, Scotty and George Duncan, Ernie and Theda Mueller, Caroline Wolf, Margaret and Billy Joe Thompson, Mary Lamberty, Edna Phillips, Miller Vaughan, Cecil Borjas, Mary Todd** and ye scribe. We're very grateful to **Gordon and Tatle Switzer** for taking time out to attend the dinner, also to **Joe Corven, Dick Bentz** and **Jess Doud**, whose presence added much to the success of the affair. Tom Clark, in his usual gracious manner, made a very delightful master of ceremonies. Decorations were sweet peas from Theda Mueller's garden and tall tapers. Nut cups containing jaw-breakers, bubble gum and balloons supplied all the entertainment necessary to give the boys a riotous send-off. Jimmie Calkins is now a law student at the University of San Francisco and the Ford boys are attending the University of Nevada. Leland is studying civil engineering, while Jimmie is taking a pre-med course preparatory to becoming a dentist. We're all saving our dental work for Jimmie and Gordon Switzer is hoping to get his cow pasture surveyed free of charge.

Johnny Etchebehere, personnel department and **Hanna Bowler**, assistant division engineer's secretary, roadmaster's clerk, B&B supervisor's clerk and signal supervisor's clerk (not sure whether she has any more titles), took the fatal leap into the sea of matrimony September 1st and are spending their honeymoon motoring through the Pacific Northwest. Having learned the art of handling four or more jobs at the office should make housekeeping a cinch for Hanna. We also noticed she's learning how to handle Johnny . . . well, anyway, he wears a coat sometimes! Our best wishes for a lifetime of happiness to a delightful couple.

Our congratulations to **Gunso Hirata**, relief foreman of Sano Section, for having achieved a section foreman's dream . . . according to his August form 630 . . . he sent one bad order roadmaster to the Sacramento Store for exchange. Further investigation discloses he now has **Sam Hargrave**, acting roadmaster. We sincerely hope "**Andy**" Anderson is not seriously damaged.

Wendover Wires

by Elsie Hart

★ This column has been held open until the last possible moment this month on account of the singularly uncooperative attitude taken by some people around here, to-wit . . . Messrs. **Barney Guzenske**, lineman, **Jack Hampton**, baggageman and **Lloyd A. Darnell**, storekeeper, all of whom refused callously to go out and break a leg, or do something equally newsworthy to provide a little material for Wendover readers.

Darnell took the position, not badly taken, either, that he has enough to contend with, now that his mother and wife have both gone back home and he has to do his own housekeeping in his unusual living quarters, consisting of two trailer houses connected by a built-on addition, which connects them together. He has been basking in good home cooking and it looks like he has waxed a little fatter lately, too. Bet he will get his boyish figure back on his own cooking.

Our most important item this month, no doubt, is the party which was held for **Fred Tyroff** on the occasion of his retirement from active service, about which we spoke last month. He's a very popular person hereabouts and the guests were an almost complete list of WP employes and everybody else around town who could manage to get in on it. The party was supposed to be a surprise to him and was, up until the point where "**Heinie**" **Wallock**, roundhouse clerk, who is Fred's next door neighbor, began having so many guests arrive at his house that evening that Fred began to be first astonished, then a light dawned. By the time the group had assembled at Wallock's, Fred had a pretty good notion of what it was all about. The Wendover WP employes and others on the railroad contributed to a fund which was used to purchase a railroad watch for **Fred. Cliff Williams**, watch inspector, H. B. Miller Company Jewelers, Salt Lake City, furnished a beautiful chain and the engraving on the watch. A grand time was had by all and Fred is still looking surprised to find he has so many friends and well-wishers. We could have told him that, though, a long time ago.

Roland Anderson, son of **V. "Chunky" Anderson** has been working as crew caller all summer, but is now going back to school. **Bud Sweetwood** also is leaving us, having finally gotten his long-awaited transfer to Elko.

"**Ernie**" **Runyon**, stationary engineer, is out of the hospital where he spent a few days for treatment of a painful burn on his foot.

Tommy Riggs, third trick telegrapher, Knolls, relieved **Lou Ellis**, third trick operator at Wendover, for one night and **G. A. "Brownie" Brown**, enroute to take his second trick assign-

ment at Knolls, relieved him for two more nights, while he was off sick. The doctor told Lou there wasn't much wrong with him, the main thing he needed was to get more sleep! Ha!

Wayne E. Buckley, Elko dispatcher, suffered a painful injury to his knee, but was back on the job next day, though he was treating it with some consideration, suffering considerable pain with it.

I. L. "Kil" Kilgore, assistant trainmaster, Wendover, received some good news from his son, **Earl**, about to receive his discharge from the U. S. Navy and will soon be back home with his family. Earl spent most of his term of enlistment in the South Pacific.

WP Blood Bank Donors

★ Last month, **Mary Preece** and **Mary Rathburn**, of our treasurer's office; **Axel F. Rintala**, assistant treasurer; **Roland L. Gohmert**, ass't. freight claim agent; and **John E. Roscoe**, elevator (lift) operator at GO, made blood donations to the WP Blood Bank at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank, San Francisco.

We're happy to give them credit in The Headlight for their generosity, for this blood will be used whenever required for any Western Pacific employe. It requires continuing donations to assure availability of blood as needed for fellow-employes, maybe you. Contact **Anne Crowder**, medical department at GO, if you want to do your part.

Western Division Notes

by Agnes Welch

★ **Elaine Schmidt** and **Frances** took advantage of the Labor Day holiday to go to Portola via the WP and greatly enjoyed the Canyon as well as the luxury of one of the vista domes. Their husbands went along for the ride. All had a very fine time. On their way home they met **Mr. and Mrs. Howard Waight**, who were returning from a trip to Salt Lake City. Howard is a retired employe of the Sacramento Northern. We like to hear from retired employes and any news regarding their activities is always welcome.

Van Davison spent a lucky day at the races during the Fair. Someone said he really had money to burn as it was practically falling out of his shirt pockets.

Walt Warrell and **Ed Lindley** have had their share of similar bad luck recently. **Walt's** boy, **Thomas**, suffered a broken leg in a freak accident on June 23rd, both bones being broken in the left leg below the knee. **Ed's** son, **Jack**, fractured a shin bone and dislocated an ankle during football scrimmage on September 3rd. However, despite their painful injuries, they have shown the pluckiness of real American boys and

just to mention one example: they have attended their classes, although still on crutches, regularly since school started. Good luck to **Thomas Warrell** and **Jack Lindley**.

The girls from the freight office and the superintendent's office enjoyed a get-acquainted luncheon the latter part of August. Those attending from the freight office were **Elizabeth Helmick**, **Nancy DeRiso**, **Lorraine Machado**; Superintendent's office . . . **Mildred Wingate**, **Maxine Naisbitt**, **Eileen Frost**, **Mildred Cox**, **Norene Kimball**, **Laverne Williams**, **Dorothy Morrison**, **Marie Kistle**, **Libby Stockseth**, **Gertrude MacDonald** and your reporter.

The Merry Makers Club is planning a Hallowe'en party, October 30th, to be held at Veterans Hall, 3333 I Street, Sacramento. There will be good music and an abundance of tempting viands and other refreshments. Here's your opportunity to join in the fun. Don't miss it.

"You and the Constitution of the United States"

★ Based on a railroad theme and inspired by an essay "What America Means to Me," written by **Graham Finney**, of Greenwich, Conn., **Dr. Paul Witty**, of Northwestern University, and **Jullily Kohler**, have produced a 64-page "story of the Constitution in pictures," published by **Childrens Press, Inc.**, of Chicago. Pictures are by **Lois Fisher**.

We haven't seen this effort, but it's an appreciation of the American way of life which should appeal particularly to the young people. Tariff is \$1.50.

U. S. Freight Train Names and Nicknames

★ **Coal Oil Johnny**, **Cousin Kelly**, **Dirty Shirt**, **Dive Bomber**, **The Hutch**, **Mae West**, **New Deal**, **Peanut Run**, **Spark Plug**, **The Tom Cat**, and many other intriguing cognomens (whoa!) of our nation's freight trains will be found in the new **AAR Railway Information Series No. 12**. Our review indicates the **Illinois Central** cops first honors for originality and imagination. For copies, contact the editor.

"History of Transportation in the U. S. Before 1860"

This standard work on the early history and development of transportation, by **B. H. Meyer**, was out of print for many years and the rare copies available brought up to \$25. Now **Peter Smith**, New York book publisher, at 321 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, N.Y., has reprinted the book. Cost of the new edition is \$10.

Beehive State Notes

by Mel Graham

★ Salt Lake City visitors who dropped in to say hello . . . **John C. Nolan**, AGPA New York and **Mrs. Nolan** on their way home from a vacation spent in California . . . **Phyllis Ditty** and **Patricia Moore**, GO accounting dep't., on their way East . . . **William Fosdick**, train desk clerk, Oroville, and family on their way home from a vacation at Dillon, Montana . . . **Nicholas A. Schoepflein**, assistant auditor freight and passenger accounts, and family spent a few days here . . . **Josephine Bein**, sec'y to sup't. of transportation, drove through on her way home from an eastern vacation . . . **Trevor J. Long, Jr.**, ticket clerk, Oroville, and family, on vacation . . . **Dave Spowart**, sup't. of car service, a few days on a business trip.

William Burford Cook, traffic representative out of this office, who has been covering the Idaho territory for the past three years, has been transferred to the Los Angeles office as traffic representative. We wish Bill success in his new position.

Robert E. Gonsalves, district passenger representative, **Mrs. Gonsalves** and son **Tommy** spent their vacation in Chicago. Son Tommy was very happy to take such a nice long ride on the Choo-Choo. Tommy saw his grandfather, aunts, uncles and cousins for the first time.

Margie Hammond, secretary to the general agent here, reported she had a nice vacation in California.

The two "Ike Waltons" in our office are really in a bad way. One has loaned his equipment out and the other has locked his up in a trunk. Guess they don't want to be tempted. In some future issue we will disclose the names of these two fishermen. Right now it might not be safe!

The first and perhaps one impression a visitor never forgets after visiting Salt Lake City is the water running down the gutters of the streets which helps keep the streets so clean. This water comes from the mouth of City Creek Canyon, just a few minutes drive from the heart of Salt Lake City.

The major portion of Salt Lake City is divided into 10-acre blocks and the principal streets are 132 feet wide. We have been told that when Salt Lake City was settled July 24, 1847, Brigham Young, leader and president of the LDS Church, laid out Salt Lake City in 10-acre plots so each settler would have a farm and be self-supporting.

It has been said State Street, running from the Capitol grounds on the North, to Murray, Utah, on the south, is the longest and widest straight street in the world. It runs several miles without the slightest bend.

The Portola Festival October 2-25

★ Whether it's pronounced PorTOLa, or PortoLA, the celebrations commemorating Don Gaspar de Portola's discovery, or first sighting, of San Francisco Bay are all set.

Leading off will be the first annual National Hardcourt Tennis championships, to be held concurrently with the running off of the 59th annual Pacific Coast Tennis championships, at the California Tennis Club, Bush and Scott Streets, October 2 to 10.

Other scheduled events during the month are . . .

13th—OPERA . . . one act each from "Carmen," "Barber of Seville" and "Forza del Destino."

15-17—N.R.A. Pacific Coast Regional Pistol Matches.

16th—Football . . . Oklahoma A&M vs USF.

17th—Solemn Pontifical Mass and other religious celebrations.

17th—Arrival of Portola Trek from San Diego.

17th—GRAND PARADE.

17th—Sacred Music Concert.

17-22—PORTOLA PAGEANT.

23rd—PORTOLA GRAND CARNIVAL NIGHT PARADE.

23rd—Grand Carnival, Masked Ball, Dancing, Strolling Troubadors, Invitational Balls, Fireworks Display.

24th—Portola Folk Festival.



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