

Switch Parts

By Norm Holmes

Switches are properly called "turnouts," and we were in need of same to increase our storage tracks. In 1994, Wayne Monger contacted the company that now owns some of the land that used to be the Oregon & Northwestern Railroad in Burns, Oregon. Left on the property was a complete turnout and about 300 feet of track. We made a deal to purchase the turnout complete with all hardware for \$1,500. Wayne was to go to Burns and load the turnout and the rail onto a truck. However, because of his work and weather, the project was postponed until last month.

In the meantime Wayne was in contact with the Oregon Eastern, who operates a short remaining segment of the old Union Pacific branch. They were interested in obtaining one of our drop tables that we acquired some years ago from Salt Lake City. It seems that they also had a turnout that they would be interested in trading for one of our drop table units.

In early April, Wayne was able to go to Oregon and prepare the turnout for loading. Norm Holmes (with the help of Ken Iverson) used the Little Giant crane to load the drop table parts on a truck bound for Vail, Oregon. At Vail, the Oregon Eastern unloaded the drop table, loaded the turnout and drove it to Burns. At Burns, Wayne and Linda had the turnout and rail ready to load, however wet ground and some re-loading work delayed the movement an extra day.

On April 11, 1996, the truck arrived at Portola and unloading began. Again the Little Giant was utilized with Norm working the crane and Ken Iverson, Gordon Wollesen, Bob Lindley and Ken Roller helping to unload the material. Included in the deal, but not charged for were four track push cars and two single car air brake testing devices.

Related Story

Not associated with the above transaction was the acquisition of 34 switch ties. This was a deal worked out by Bruce Cooper with a local Portola feed supply firm. It seems that they purchased a load of ties from the Union Pacific and they turned out to be switch ties. Regular eight foot ties are what most people want to buy. As we have a good supply of eight foot ties, we traded two regular ties for one switch tie. A good deal for both parties. Now we need some bodies that would like to learn how to lay out a turnout and lay track...

Feather River Railroad Days

This annual event will be held in Portola on August 17-18, 1996. The Grand Marshall will be Chuck Yeager. The parade starts at 10:00 AM and will probably also have our M60A3 tank operating in the parade again this year. This is Portola's largest public event and produces our Museum's largest visitor days. As usual we will have several model railroad layouts and operate two passenger trains. We can use all the volunteers we can get for this important event. Plan to be in Portola for that weekend, if possible.

The FRRS Goes On Line

In keeping with the information superhighway, 2 FRRS members have established world wide web sites on the Internet that are of great interest to FRRS members.

Sam Hershbein has created a world wide web page that is the FRRS' home page. It has all kinds of information about the Museum, including new equipment arrivals. It has information about the Portola area, where to stay, where to eat. It has stories from his visits to the Museum, including "renting" a locomotive. It has photos taken around the Museum. It is a wealth of information about the Museum and Portola. He updates it regularly, so that this web page is a valuable source of information for anyone interested in the Museum. We thank Sam for his generosity in creating and maintaining this web site for us. Here is the URL for this web page:

<http://members.aol.com/cyborgsam/frrs>

You can send email to Sam at:

CyborgSam@aol.com

Also of interest to FRRS members is the web page set up by Frank Brehm. It is a Western Pacific home page set up by Frank as an information source for people interested in the Western Pacific. It has complete information on the FRRS, including indexes of back issues of FRRS publications. It has many, many links to other web sites that might be of interest to WP enthusiasts. It is also a top notch web site. Here is the URL for Frank's WP Home Page:

<http://www.calweb.com/~fbrehm/index.html>

You can send him email at:

fbrehm@calweb.com

The FRRS thanks each of these generous people who have set up these web sites with their own initiative. They both benefit FRRS members greatly. Thanks guys.

FRRS Gift Shop Activities

During the fall, winter and spring months there are a number of train shows that we attend, selling our merchandise and introducing people to our museum. Due to Roger Aten's recent illness, Ken Hitch from Selma has been working our southern shows, while David and Linda Dewey, Barbara and Norman Holmes worked the northern shows. While sales are not spectacular, usually they cover expenses. The main benefit is for us to show the "flag." We gain a few new members and we "network" with other railroad museum groups.

We have three shows scheduled in June:

GATS in San Mateo June 1 & 2.

GATS in Santa Barbara June 8 & 9.

The Great Western Railroadiana Show and Sale in Sacramento June 23.