

# Western Pacific Railroad 165

This locomotive was built in **1919**. Other events from that year...

- Edsel Ford succeeds his father as head of the Ford Motor Company.
- The Boston Molasses Disaster. A wave of molasses sweeps through Boston, Massachusetts killing 21 and injuring 150.
- The 18th Amendment to the United States Constitution goes into effect, beginning Prohibition and outlawing the making and selling of alcohol.
- The League of Nations is founded in Paris, France.
- Jack Palance, actor whose career would span over 50 years, is born. Later audiences know him best as “Curly” from the movie *City Slickers*.
- Benito Mussolini forms the Fascist Party in Italy.
- Oregon is the first U.S. state to enact a gasoline tax: 1 cent per gallon.
- Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States, dies.
- Grand Canyon National Park is established by congressional action.
- The Bauhaus architectural movement begins in Weimar, Germany.
- The League of Red Cross Societies is founded.
- The first transatlantic flight occurs between Newfoundland, Canada and Lisbon, Portugal via the Azores Islands by United States Navy aircraft.
- The University of California opens what will become UCLA.
- J. D. Salinger, the American novelist best known for *The Catcher in the Rye*, is born.
- Einstein's theory of general relativity is confirmed by observation of a total solar eclipse.
- The American Legion forms in Paris, France.
- Several mail bombs are sent to well-known politicians and society figures as part of the 1919 anarchist bombings in the United States.
- Jackie Robinson, the African-American baseball player who will break the major league “color barrier” in 1947, is born.
- The United States Congress approves the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote.
- Pancho Villa and his band commit several attacks in Mexico and clash with United States cavalry forces.
- The Treaty of Versailles is signed, ending World War I.
- The British dirigible R34 lands in New York, New York, completing the first crossing of the Atlantic by an airship.
- Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his efforts to form the League of Nations.
- Black Sox scandal: Members of the Chicago White Sox conspire to rig the World Series, giving the series victory to the Cincinnati Reds.
- Eva Perón, wife of Argentine President Juan Peron and inspiration for the award-winning musical play *Evita*, is born.
- Health officials declare that the global Spanish Flu pandemic has ended.
- The first licensed “public” radio stations in North America, featuring commercial programming, go on the air.
- Various strikes occur in the United States, including a strike of railroad workers, The Longshoreman's strike and The Great Steel Strike.
- The Western Pacific ends its first decade of operation, the mainline from Oakland to Salt Lake City having been completed in November 1909. Construction in progress on a branch to San Jose, completed in 1921.