

The Train Sheet

Issue No. 90 Preserving "The Feather River Route"

Jan/Feb
Mar/Apr 1998

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



Ghost From The Past Sitting in the weeds at Precision National, Western Pacific GP-20 #2010 wears a fading "New Image" paint scheme as she waits for an uncertain future. One of several former WP units on the property, it is doubtful she will see service again. Thanks to the hard work of the FRRS, we have sister unit #2001 in virtually mint condition. —Courtesy Ken Ardinger

Inside this Issue:

- ◆ Board Meeting Minutes
- ◆ Report on Acquisition of WP 563

—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 (530) 832-4131
 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.

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—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.



Prez' Notes...

Here we are at the beginning of a new year with several new board members with new ideas and thoughts of what we can do to increase the number of visitors to our museum. I for one would like to see the esthetic appearance of the grounds improved. The outward appearance of any place the public goes has a lot to do with whether they enjoy themselves and if they return. It also has a lot to do with the way the people that work there perform their jobs, whether paid or volunteer.

I would like to see our members become more active in the overall program. Not just running trains on weekends, or mechanical and restoration work, or working in the Beanery, but lets take time to train our members to become real docents of the museum.

We need to train them as museum guides, to be familiar with all the rolling stock, to know an F-7 from a GP-9, an ALCo from an EMD and so forth. They need to know what the history of our museum is, what the different artifacts in the display room are, the history of certain pieces of rolling stock like the 805-A, the 921-D, the 105 business car, and all the rest of our equipment.

I would also like to see all volunteers and docents dress in the proper attire for the part they are playing, as you see in almost every railroad museum in the country. So many times wives and children just sit or walk around because they have nothing to do. Lets make it interesting and just maybe they will enjoy their time at the

museum also.

I propose we set up a training roster for those of who would like to volunteer and have them sign as to what they would like to do. The material and training guides are available and I for one would be willing to take the time to train those in their field of choice, and I am sure there are more who are qualified to run a training class.

There is such a great potential here right under our noses that we should take advantage of it and put our museum on top of the places to go in northern California.

Let me hear from those of you that would like to see something like this started at the Portola Railroad Museum. My mailing address is P. O. Box 1063, Portola CA 96122. The e-mail address is skipe@plsn.com. See you at the museum.

— *Skip Englert*

—TRAIN SHEET NOTES—

Train Sheet No. 90, March/April, 1998, was produced early—March and will be mailed by Mar15. Shasta Rail Group staff members Nicholas Shippen, Richard F. Daniels and Adam Clegg helped with production.

—MEMBERSHIP NOTES—

As the database is being continually updated, your help in correcting any anomalies in addressing has been most appreciated! It reduces our cost when we have an accurate mailing database to work with. Please direct all payments for new/renewal memberships, address changes, etc. to:

FRRS P. O. BOX 1411, Chico, California 95927-1411. Phone is (530)892-9609, 24-Hour FAX (530)894-7359, or we can be contacted via e-mail at: wphlight@aol.com. Thanks!

— *Bill Shippen*



CMO REPORT

HANK STILES
CHIEF MECHANICAL OFFICER

Time again for an update on what is going on with our equipment. The word is not much at this time of the year. The shop is cold and working with bare fingers is tough. Work however does go on, not so much at the shop but in my nice warm office here at home. Not to say that nothing is going on in the shop. Gordon is working on keeping the locomotives with batteries charged. Doug has gotten things ready for the trip to Foster Farms to retrieve our ALCo S-4 that Norm and John have donated to the PRM.

Locomotive rentals go on, thanks to that crew. Of course there are all the little things that people who live in Portola and come down to the museum one to seven days a week to do. Things like cleaning the bathrooms and dumping the trash. Things that most of don't see or think about but are a necessity in order to keep things going. This is a lot of work and having been on this crew for 8 years I know. These people deserve our thanks.

One thing that happened that will disturb us all, someone came up to the museum and closed the battery switch on the WP 2001 and the SP 2873. Because of the way it was done, it was done on purpose. Of course the batteries went dead, and then froze. This is especially sad when you know that there are people that will come to a museum and do things to destroy a piece of equipment that so many people have worked so hard to preserve. I guess some people have such a sad life that they can't stand

to see anyone have something nice, we should feel sad for these unfortunate people.

On a brighter note on Dec. 27th Doug Morgan and Bob and Darlene Crews drove to Livingston to the Foster Farms plant to be joined there by John Reese. They started the setup work for the loading of our ALCo S-4. Janis and I with my son Jeremy arrived on the 28th and we worked all day on this project. We all stayed overnight and on the 30th we got the locomotive loaded onto a flatcar. We had a couple of problems but those of you that have done a project like this know that things never go just as you plan them. It was a big job but with hard work, common sense and first and foremost safety, we were able to load the locomotive. It sure looked good sitting on that flatcar after all that work. We had quite a crowd when the locomotive was up in the air about five feet. It did look strange to see it with all that air under it. Doug Morgan and all his helpers get a big thank you from all of us for his hard work on this project.

Remember that Locomotive Maintenance Clinics Start on April 4th & 5th. It will be time to wake up our locomotives for this years operating season. I would like to see more of you come up to help. With more equipment and more use they requires more upkeep. I hope to see many of you up at the museum for the clinic.

Thanks for your time...

—*Hank Stiles*

—GENERAL FUND DONATIONS—

Mr. Folchi, Kevin Metzger, Jack Tomczak, Steve Fauth, Charles Givens, Don Hunter, and James Schindler. We thank all for their generosity in helping our museum.

NORM NOTES...

THE STEAM GAUGE



California Fruit Exchange 2-6-2ST #1 had her nose smashed in on an unknown date while working for the company out of Graeagle. This locomotive is now heading for operational restoration in Fort Bragg, California. —Greg Munster Collection

While no news is sometimes good news, we have no news to report on the proposed restoration of our SP 0-6-0 No. 1215. We have not progressed any further than the desire to having it running someday. Our resident volunteers have so much work just to keep the facility open and taking care of all the details associated with our museum we cannot take on a major restoration project. We are looking for someone or a group that would like to see the engine operate, to take on the task.

From the Mendocino County Railway Society newsletter comes the information that the California Western Railroad 2-6-2ST No. 14 moved from Willits to Fort Bragg on December 18 to the CWR's depot for an eighteen month restoration to operating condition. This engine was built for the California Fruit Exchange in 1924 and operated at Graeagle (near Portola) until 1938 when it was sold to California Western. After retirement in 1956 it was sold to Bert Rudolph in Willits and donated to Roots

of Motive Power (museum) in Willits after the death of Mr. Rudolph. We had hoped at one time the engine would return to Plumas County, but are happy to learn of its probable return to active service.

TICKETS

Don't forget to send in your opportunity drawing tickets for a free trip on any of Chris Skow's Trains Unlimited, Tours USA tours. Drawing will be held on May 2, 1998. Additional tickets are available at the museum or by mail to our Portola address.

EXCURSION ANNOUNCED

Last year we contracted with Amtrak to operate an excursion train from Sacramento to Dunsmuir for that city's Railroad Days. A side trip from Dunsmuir to Black Butte was also offered. This excursion was very successful and we are planning a repeat this year. The date will be Saturday, June 21, the day before Father's Day. Details will be mailed to all members ASAP. We will be in need of car hosts and a few people to supply the train in advance. Contact the museum if you are interested in helping.

—*Norm Holmes*

CABOOSING

BY HAP MANIT

Haps' column will return in issue #91.

—1998 RULE EXAM AND CREW TRAINING—

Please remember to come up to the upcoming crew training weekends. See you there!

—*Jim Gidley, Sr.*

TRAINING OFFICER

(530)342-3903

—BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE 1997-1998—

NAMES	1996						1997								A	P
	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE				
Cooper, B	P	A	A	*	A	P	P	A	P	A	P	A	6	5		
Cooper, S	P	A	P	*	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	3	8		
Habeck, S	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	0	11		
Holmes, N	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	1	10		
Lippincott, C	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	1	10		
Monger, W	P	A	P	*	P	A	A	P	A	P	P	P	4	7		
Morgan, D	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	0	11		
Neves, V	P	P	P	*	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	P	2	9		
Stiles, H	P	P	P	*	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	1	10		
Wollesen, G	P	P	P	*	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	A	3	8		
	1997						1998									
	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB								
Anderson, M	-	*	-	-	-	G	P	P								
Borden, D	-	*	-	-	-	G	P	P								
Cooper, B	A	*	P	A	A	A	-	-								
Cooper, S	A	*	P	A	A	A	-	-								
Englert, S	P	*	P	P	A	P	P	P								
Graham, T	-	*	-	-	P	P	P	P								
Habeck, S	P	*	P	P	-	-	-	-								
Holmes, N	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P								
Monger, W	A	*	P	P	P	P	P	A								
Morgan, D	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P								
Neves, V	P	*	P	P	P	P	A	A								
Stiles, H	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P								
Wollesen, G	P	*	P	P	P	P	P	P								

Starting March 28, 1998, attendance will be recorded as follows:

P—Present A—Absent I—Illness W—Work S—Society business T—Transportation

—WORK DAYS COMING UP, HELP!—

On the upcoming Training Weekends we need your help! The few regulars cannot continue to do all of the work required to keep the museum operating. Please try to be there to give us a hand. We are trying to be as successful as we were on the fall work days. Please have the willing parties contact me at (707)539-3722 or write me at: Tom Graham 6200 Gates Road Santa Rosa, Ca 95404, for information or to tell when you can be there. Thank you. —*Tom Graham*

—SPECIAL FUND STATUS—

Item	Additions	Balance	Notes
Building	\$674.00	\$18,198.25	(1)
WP GP9	\$245.00	\$13,189.75	(2)
SP 1215	\$50.00	\$23,445.04	(3)
UP 737	-	-	
IR 110-1	-	-	
UP 105	-	\$1,585.00	
CTC Board	-	\$220.00	
Library	-	\$268.00	
Endowment	-	\$34,207.00	

—OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS—

Michael Bozzini
Douglas Morgan
Raymond Sarno (Family Life)
Donald Grant (Family Life)



(1) Proceeds to date from Raffle

(2) Terry Sharp, Richard Sullivan, Ed DeLozier (3) Jack Tomczack.

FRRS BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE 1998

March—28 Saturday

April—25 Saturday

May—23 Saturday

June—13* Saturday

(***Annual Meeting**)

July—4 Saturday

August—1 Saturday

September—5 Saturday

October—10 Saturday

November—14 Saturday

December—12 Saturday

—BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—

JANUARY 18, 1998

MEMBERS PRESENT: Englert, Holmes, Morgan, Stiles, Borden, Graham, Monger, Wollesen. Absent: Neves.

Secretaries Position: Don Borden appointed as secretary of FRRS. **Publicity:** President Englert renewed our ad with Pentrex magazines... **Public Relations:** We will be placing ads in north state newspapers regarding museum activities. **Membership:** Discussion on membership renewal problems with Shasta Rail Group. **Gift Shop:** Gift shop has \$93,000 gross worth of stock at this time, if all sold with our 40% markup there would be a profit of \$56,000. **Facilities:** All water systems not in service have been drained. Roof leaks in shop still a problem. Five main projects for 1998 are: Entrance road, Building roof, Shower car, 3rd phase of electrical upgrade, and getting electricity into the battery house. **CMO:** Engine 563 in Turlock loaded on flatcar awaiting shipment. Vandals closed battery switches on engines 2873 and 2001, causing batteries on 2873 to be destroyed. Purchased two ALCo heads from Canada for \$350 each (C\$). **Beanery:** Waiting for proposal from Benji for operating beanery. **Aesthetic Committee:** Top of list is to install sidewalks between tracks 1 & 2 and tracks 3 & 4 over to shower car. **Correspondence:** Discussion on phone call received regarding using steam locomotive 737 for a movie. Will wait for proposal. Renewed museums membership in TRAINS. **Executive Report:** Received check for \$500 from Bank of America for grant, will be used for electrical upgrades. **Motion:** Motion to establish opening and closing dates for museum, motion passed. Motion to establish equipment and acquisition committee, motion passed. **Discussion:** Discussion on doing Dunsmuir Daylight this year. Operation Lifesaver: Joined California and Nevada OLS at a cost of \$250 each. **Backhoe:** Motion to spend up to \$4,500 to repair backhoe, motion passed.

FEBRUARY 28, 1998

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anderson, Englert, Holmes, Stiles, Borden, Graham, Wollesen, Morgan. Absent: Neves, Monger.

Financial Report: Total in all accounts \$264,471.72. **Publicity & Public Relations:** President Englert reported that no advertising will be going out until we have an advertising plan. Skip and Hank will present advertising plan at March meeting. **Membership:** Discussion with Bill Shippen regarding membership renewal problems. Bill and Norm will work together to resolve problems. **Facilities:** City of Portola, Plumas Corporation, and the FRRS working on getting study grant for entrance road and museum parking lot repair. Lengthy discussion on what's needed to do temporary repair to entrance road. Tom Graham reported there will be workdays on the two crew training weekends. **CMO:** Working on installing water pump on 2873. #608 will be used for the first part of 1998 season while #512 is down for repairs. Discussion on upkeep of rental locomotives. **Beanery:** Doug Morgan will write a contract for operating the Beanery. **Restoration:** Discussion on restoration of locomotives 805-A, 921-D, SN 146, and cab of 6776. **WPRRHS:** Check for \$300 sent to Best Western Inn in Stockton for deposit on convention. **Train Sheet & Mailing:** Approved contract with Shasta Rail Group for 1998. **RAL:** Motion that FRRS Locomotive Rental Program be titled "Operate a Locomotive Program". Motion passed. Motion that no payments be made to Operate a Locomotive engineers until state and IRS requirements are looked into. Motion passed. **Correspondence:** Received check from Pacific Limited Group for \$613.92 for close out of the group. Received FRA records on locomotive 1215 from Peter Lyman. **Dunsmuir Daylight:** Motion to sponsor a trip this year, motion passed. **#737:** Received offer of \$50,000 for locomotive 737. General consensus is that this offer is not acceptable. Motion was made that we are open to leasing locomotive for movie use, motion passed. **Army 80 tonner:** Offer by Dave Wrangle to purchase for \$10,000. Board consensus is \$10,000, as is, where is, with a good traction motor. **Motion:** Motion to establish an attendance record for all directors of the board, motion passed. Authorized Tom Graham to handle sale of museum backhoe. Also authorized Marty Anderson to work on disposition of one mule and two Army tanks. Approved sending 4 board members to symposium at CSRM in Sacramento. **Office Car:** Hank Stiles reported it will cost between \$1,200 and \$1,500 to install heating and cooling in office car. Complete copies of board meeting minutes are available to any interested member by sending a business size SASE with 78 cents postage to: Don Borden, 17250 Flowers Lane, Anderson, CA 96007. Board meetings are open to all interested members, contact any director for location and time.

—Don Borden FRRS Secretary