

Help Fund A Portola Homecoming!

As the historical society for the Western Pacific, the Feather River Rail Society has strived to acquire Western Pacific materials and equipment for the collection at the Portola Railroad Museum. One of the gaps in our collection is EMD's GP9, of which the WP had eight, numbers 725-732. This gap has now been filled.

When the Union Pacific acquired the Western Pacific in 1982, six of the eight WP GP9's were still on the roster, and 4 of those (WP 725, 729, 731, 732) were repainted into UP colors and remembered UP 300, 304, 306, 308. These units saw service on many areas of the old WP SN until 1984, when they were sold to a regional railroad in Iowa. The FRRS inquired about the two remaining units, 300 & 306, and a price was negotiated. FRRS CMO Hank Stiles traveled to Council Bluffs, Iowa, to inspect the units, and upon Hank's recommendation, the FRRS has purchased both units, and they are on their way to Portola, where they will regain their WP numbers, 725 and 731, and be scheduled for repainting.

Operational GP9's can command a high price in the used locomotive market, and although Helm Financial sold these units to us at their rock-bottom price, we will have over \$70,000 invested in them when they arrive in Portola. The Board of Directors felt that this expenditure was warranted, since these are two of the only 3 WP GP9's still in existence (the other is the 727, on display in Elko, NV). We would like every member of the FRRS to consider making a special donation to help defray the expenses incurred in this venture. We appreciate everyone's help and support, and your contributions are, as always, fully tax deductible. Use the coupon below, and help bring the GP9's home!

WP GP9's 731 and 725 lead another GP9 and 59 cars eastbound at Keele on February 12, 1967. (John C. Illman photo)



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I'll help bring the WP GP9's home. Here's my contribution:

Name _____ Donation amount \$ _____

Address _____ Check Money Order MC Visa

City, State, Zip _____ Credit Card Account Number Expires _____

FRRS Member # _____

THANK YOU!

Signature

Send this form to: FRRS GP9 Fund, P. O. Box 608, Portola, CA 96122