

World Wide Western Pacific, Part 1

By Eugene Vicknair

The rise of the internet and the growing ease with which websites can be created has led to an explosion of information available to the world. Of particular interest to members of the Feather River Rail Society are the many sites devoted to the Western Pacific and related topics such as the California Zephyr and WP subsidiaries. In fact, a quick look at several popular search engines shows the WP family to be one of the best represented and documented railroads on-line. The following are some brief descriptions of several of these websites. They are grouped by railroad according to their primary focus, but many have information on related lines.

WESTERN PACIFIC

Frank Brehm's Western Pacific Pages.

www.wplives.com

One of the older and more comprehensive WP related sites, it includes much historical background on the railroad, including information on its marine operations, synopses of the motive power roster, annual reports, advertising used by the railroad and a roster of the WP's presidents. The motive power section features roster shots of a wide range of steam and diesel locomotives, as well as plan drawings for many of the steam locomotives. This is still a growing site and promises to remain one of the major sources of WP information on-line.

WP Virtual Museum.
wpmuseum.railfan.net

A very visually oriented site, Alan Radecki's WP Virtual Museum includes such unique items as examples of Western Pacific postcards, photos of WP china, Annual Report covers, and scans of timetables and literature issues by the railroad. There are also tables of surviving WP and Sacramento Northern equipment, with photos, as well as links to other lists of surviving equipment.

Ken Rattenne's Western Pacific Pages.
www5.pair.com/rattenne/WP/WPPages.htm

Part of a larger complex of webpages created by Ken Rattenne, his Western Pacific Pages include very in-depth sections on the WP's GP40s, a class roster of diesel locomotives, articles on Niles Canyon and Niles Tower, a short article on the famous San Jose Turn and errata from his Feather River Route volumes 1 and 2. Of particular note is an excellent page on the WP's Bicentennial GP40 locomotives which includes photos and dispositions of the pair.

SACRAMENTO NORTHERN

Sacramento Northern On-Line.
www.people.virginia.edu/~ggg9y/home.html

Maintained by Garth G. Groff, this excellent site consists mainly as a series of articles covering such items as the SN's Parlor Cars, 40' boxcars, electric motors, the road's stone depots and suburban passenger service. Several of the pieces are personal memoirs from individuals who lived and worked with the SN. The site also includes photo rosters and articles about the railroad's cabooses, diesels and steepcab electric locomotives, lists of surviving equipment and museums with SN material, modeling guides and a list of SN related books and magazine articles.

In the next issue...

Part 2 covers websites featuring the Tidewater Southern, California Zephyr and Central California Traction Company.

2002 Events Calendar

January

5 Board Meeting 1 p.m.

February

2 Board Meeting 1 p.m. Sacramento

March

2 Museum Open to Public,
Board Meeting 1 p.m.
9 Winterail

April

6 Locomotive Maintenance Clinic,
Board Meeting 1p.m.
12, 13 WPRRHS Convention, Marysville

May

4 Locomotive Maintenance Clinic,
Board Meeting 1p.m.
4, 5 Crew Training, Rules Exam
25 Operating Season Begins

June

1 Locomotive Maintenance Clinic, Board Meeting
1 p.m., Bar-B-Que 5:30 p.m., Annual Membership
Meeting 7:30 p.m.

July

13 Locomotive Maintenance Clinic, Board Meeting 6
p.m.

August

3 Locomotive Maintenance Clinic,
Board Meeting 6 p.m.

September

2 Operating Season Ends
7 Locomotive Maintenance Clinic,
Board Meeting 1p.m.
21 Railfan Photographer Day

October

5 Locomotive Maintenance Clinic, Board Meeting
1p.m.

November

2 Museum Closes to Public,
Board Meeting 1 p.m. Sacramento

December

7 Board Meeting 1 p.m., Santa Train 5 p.m.
14 Santa Train 5 p.m.