

DEPARTURES

The Feather River Rail Society is saddened to report the passing of several Western Pacific employees and good friends of the museum. Our thoughts are with their family and friends and our thanks go to them for all they shared with us.

Dean Hill

Dean passed away October 1, 2006 at his home in Redding, CA. He is survived by his two daughters and two sons. Burial was in the Veterans Cemetery near Redding. He was 80 years old.

He worked for the Southern Pacific as a fireman and as an engineer from 1944 to his retirement in 1988. He also was a trainman for Western Pacific for a short time. This work brought him to Portola where he decided to retire.

Dean was a charter member of the FRRS and was active at the museum until ill health prevented him from further participation.

Dean and Norman Holmes were life long friends from high school days in San Jose and took many railfan trips together. He loved steam but not those ding-dang diesels.

Leonard Moser

Leonard passed away October 21st at his home. Leonard was born in Portola in 1937. He served 20 years with the WP and the UP as part of a track maintenance crew, retiring as a foreman.

George "The Iron Man" Breitweiser

George passed away November 27th. George and his wife Jan are the proprietors of The Pullman House Bed & Breakfast in Portola. When Jan served on the FRRS Board of Directors, she often "volunteered" George for various jobs at the museum. Even after Jan retired from the management of the gift shop and the Board of Directors, George was always eager to pitch in and help with electrical and telephone line problems, picking up supplies in Reno and helping Museum Manager John Walker with various projects. Thanks George, we're going to miss your smile, your sound advice, your help and especially your friendship.

Frank Hibbs

Frank, a Western Pacific photographer and modeler, passed away in Texas on November 30th, 2006.

He was a chief refrigeration engineer for Union Ice Company. Being along side the Western Pacific Stockton yard he for many years photographed an extensive collection of WP equipment. His photographs in color, using a medium format camera, are some of the best taken of each diesel locomotive of the Western Pacific. After retiring early with 30 years of employment he moved to Meadow Valley where he still followed the Western Pacific. His wife, Thelma, had passed away in September, 2005 and he then moved closer to his daughter in Texas. A private interment took place alongside his late wife at the Meadow Valley District Cemetery. Condolences to the family are available on line at www.fehrmanmortuary.com. The family asks that any remembrances in Frank's name be made to the Feather River Rail Society in which he was a long time member.



Frank Hibbs
-photo by
Norm Holmes