

## The Last Train Departed - Barbara Holmes

- Kerry Cochran

As reported in the last *Train Sheet*, Life member Barbara Holmes passed on September 29, 2020.

Barbara leaves behind her husband Norman of 72 years, two sisters, four children, four grandchildren, six great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.



Barbara enjoyed visiting with her family, sewing and worship with the Portola United Methodist Church.

Barbara's involvements with the Feather River Rail Society began when the first shovel of ballast was

moved to clear the museum site. Barbara furnished drinks and lunch for our first volunteers. Later she set up a beanery in the stockroom and then managed the Gift Shop.

Norman and Barbara visited a number of model railroad shows and railroad conventions promoting Portola/Western Pacific museum and gift shop.

After Norman's retirement from U.P., the couple traveled to over 75 countries and enjoyed riding a lot of trains!

In September, 2012, the couple moved to Carson City, Nevada. Barbara's Parkinson disease became acute two years ago and Barbara passed peacefully in a care facility in Carson City. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

One of the things I remember of Barbara, is that, when I first became an RAL Engineer, Barbara always talked to me first about the visitors and made sure that I knew that they were ready to go. She was always in the old gift shop waiting when we were finished with the RAL and helped me get the visitors signed out and their RAL certificates completed. She was always around the museum helping with crew lunches and work around the Beanery and Gift Shop.

Thank you to Norm Holmes for providing me with the background information.



*Help us return WP 705 to Green & Orange!*



Western Pacific GP7 705 - August 14, 1977 - Oakland, California - Thomas G. Acheson photo, Frank Brehm collection

## Western Pacific GP7 705 Repainting

- Eugene Vicknair

Despite the COVID-10 lockdown, the museum volunteers have begun prepping a major project for 2021: repainting Western Pacific GP7 705.

WP 705 was purchased by a group of members from OmniTRAX many years ago with the goal of restoring it for Run A Locomotive service wearing the 1970s WP green and orange paint scheme.

Starting in August 2020, we began raising funds for the repainting. As of December 31, the fund stands at \$3,500. Our hope is to start the repaint in late spring / early summer, depending on funds donated and progress in combating COVID-19.

To donate to the WP 705, WP 165 steam fund, the FRRS archives or just support the society as we work for our season opening some time in 2021, you can visit the website at [donate.wplives.org](http://donate.wplives.org) or mail a donation to FRRS Donations, P O Box 608, Portola, CA 96122.