

FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY

DATE: July 2023
ITEM: New Business Item 1
FROM: Greg Elems and Eugene Vicknair

OFFER TO SELL BUILDER PLATE FROM WP 2-8-2 301 TO FRRS

We have been given an offer to purchase one of the builders plates from Western Pacific 2-8-2 301. This plate is damaged, as you can see from the photo, but the relevant data (builder number, year, works) are still present.

WP 301 was the first 2-8-2 delivered to the WP, a type and design that became the backbone of the steam fleet. I could not find a shot of 301 itself, but here is sister WP 302 from the same order.



The seller was originally asking \$700. I discussed the cost with him and he has agreed to a price of \$600 and he will also pay for the shipping, provided we donate at least 20 admission tickets to the children in the local Portola Head Start program.

Matt Shuman suggested I contact Martin Hansen for his thoughts on value. Martin stated that he would consider the plate to be worth \$300 to \$500 in its current condition. The seller would not go lower than \$600.

I have already received commitments totaling \$300 toward purchase of the builder plate.



Photo of the plate.

The general opinion among those willing to donate is this is a rare artifact from a very significant WP locomotive, even damaged. Also, the Head Start donation represents a great PR and community relation opportunity.

REQUESTED ACTION

We request that the Board authorize purchase of this plate under the terms proposed (\$600 and seller to pay shipping), with the FRRS Archives Fund to cover any remaining cost to \$600 following donations. We also request that the Board authorize the donation of 25 Family admission tickets to be given to the Portola Head Start program.