



Preserving "THE FEATHER RIVER ROUTE"

Issue - 183

October/November/December 2019

2019 Pumpkin Patch Express

- Eugene Vicknair

The 2019 *Pumpkin Patch Express* operated once again at the museum over two weekends, October 19-20 and 26-27. Despite a couple rainy, blustery days, everyone seemed to feel the event went very well. Our overall public attendance was only slightly less than last year, despite of the dicey weather, and we saw higher income from the pumpkin patch sales. Ali Doty and Kristina Dunn spearheaded the set-up and planning of the event.

The Haunted Railcar was decorated and staffed by the S.W.E.E.T. (Sierra West End Educational Theater) group out of Quincy, led by Risa Joy with help from the West End Theater/Dramaworks. It proved to be very popular, especially with the crew tailoring the experience to the age and scare level of the guests as they entered. The WP 106 "Charles O. Sweetwood" business car was open as an all-ages haunted car decorated by Kristina Dunn and Ali Doty.

Ali Doty led the Pumpkin Patch and decorating the train and diesel shop with help from Ethan Doty, Kristina Dunn, Shaun Rowden, Debra Reynolds, Portola City Council member Pat Morton and others. Ali, Ethan, Shaun and Debra, with help from Adam Mahoney and Patty Clawson, also handled the pricing of the pumpkins. Eugene Vicknair and Bob Danner took

...Continued page 11



2019 Santa Trains

- Staff

The FRRS and WPRM hosted its annual Santa Trains event in December. We opened the gates to our winter guests on Saturday December 7th and then Friday and Saturday nights December 13th, 14th, 20th and 21st. To the delight of the children, Santa and Mrs. Claus took time out of their busy schedule to visit.

New for 2019, we ran seven cabooses and doubleheaded the train with newly restored WP 1503 in the lead and SP 2873 trailing. Also new for this year, cab rides were available as an extra-fare item for our visitors. Preparations for Santa Trains began right after the October Pumpkin Express trains were done. It takes a lot of work to put this event together every year. Thanks to all who participated.

We had 55 cars through the gate on opening night. We ran on the half hour and had riders for every train.

It is estimated we had 200 guests on opening night even though it was cold and rainy until about 7:45 p.m. Attendance was good both of the following weekends and we ran a total of 37 trains over the five nights.

Our baggage car was decked out for its role of Treats Center for the event. Although we didn't get good snow, everyone seemed to have a good time!

-THE TRAIN SHEET-

Issue 183 - October/November/December 2019
 Published January 6, 2020
 News from the Feather River Rail Society and the
 Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola

Editor - Paul Finnegan
 Email: trainsheet@wplives.org

Contribution Deadlines: Last Day of March, June,
 September and December.

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FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY
WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD
MUSEUM at PORTOLA

PO BOX 608, Portola, CA 96122-0608

Museum Phone: (530) 832-4131
 Fax: (530) 832-1854

The museum is open:

April: Thursday - Sunday

May - September: Daily

October: Thursday - Sunday

Hours: 10 - 5, weather permitting.

If you wish to visit during the closure period, it is
 advisable to call in advance
 and find out if the museum will be open.

Entrance to the museum for members is free. Non-
 members are required to pay an admission fee, details
 are inside this issue on the inside of the back cover.

The Feather River Rail Society, a tax-exempt public
 benefit California corporation, is the historical society for
 the Western Pacific Railroad and operator of the Western
 Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola, California.

**The FRRS is not associated with the Union Pacific
 Railroad.**

FRRS Tax ID number is 68-0002774
 Member of the Heritage Rail Alliance



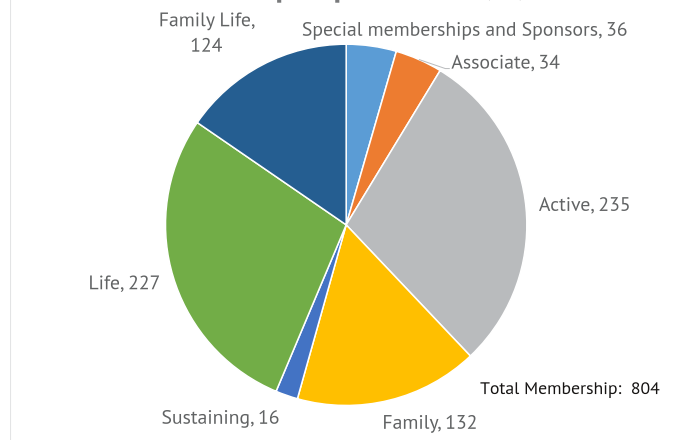
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Membership Report as of 1/2/20



- WEB PAGES of INTEREST -

FRRS Official Site	www.WPLives.org
CZ Virtual Museum	calzephyr.railfan.net
California Zephyr	californiazephyr.org
Western Pacific Pages	www.WPLives.com
WP Virtual Museum	wpmuseum.railfan.net
Tidewater Southern Pages	www.TidewaterSouthern.com
Central California Traction	www.trainweb.org/tractionco

President's Pin

- Greg Elems

Howdy, I will start this message with a quick explanation of my column title. As a railroader, we used the word "pin" when we worked on the ground as switchmen. What we were asking for, with the word "pin", was an easy move with the engine to uncouple cars or engine from a car. When we couldn't uncouple, the reason was the slack was stretched tight and the cut lever couldn't do its job. We had a hand signal for that, fist clinched and the thumb up like you were hitch hiking. Or if we couldn't use hand signals we asked for a pin on the radio. So my *President's Pin* is a play on words, using a railroad term "pin" rather than "pen."



On to the column. We had a reasonable Santa Train event this December. The weather didn't help, but we did very well the last Saturday. WP 1503 looked great with Steve Habeck's decorations.

Now we have the rotary snowplow and the slug getting the rest of the inspections and staged for use, if we get some good snow to plow in early 2020. Should it get the call, we will be offering cab rides in the rotary as well as the pusher engine. If that interests you, keep your eye on the website or let us know.

Keep your eyes on the signals and we'll see you this spring, if not sooner with a rotary call to action.

Greg Elems
FRRS President



Santa Trains 2019

- photo above by Greg Elems
- photo below left by Michael Clawson

Upcoming Events...

- April 2 - Museum opens to public: Thursday - Sunday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- April 16-18 Western Pacific Historic Convention - Oroville, CA
- May 4 - Museum Open Daily, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- May 9 - Crew Training/Rules Exam 10 a.m.
- May 16 - Volunteer Breakfast in the Silver Plate - 9 a.m.
- May 16-17 - Facilities Work Party 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- May 23 - Operating Season Opens,
- May 23 - Crew Training/Rules Exam 10 a.m.
- June 6 - Members Dinner - 5:30 p.m. / Annual Membership Meeting - 7:00 p.m. / Election Results
- June 20 - WP 1503 Dedication Celebration
- August 1 - 2 Western Pacific History Event

Do you love trains? Would you like work on the railroad? Then come join the Museum Operating Department!!



- Loren Ross, Superintendent of Operations

The WPRR Museum operates passenger trains every weekend from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and some additional “special” trains along the way, including our October *Pumpkin Trains*, and our December *Santa Trains*. Begin your journey with us as you become a student brakeman in our in-house training program. Certified instructors will teach you the basics of railroading, including instruction on coupling and un-coupling cars, hooking up brake air hoses, giving hand signals to the engineer, and throwing switches to change tracks.

To get started, you must first join the Feather River Rail Society and then attend one of two annual training classes where you’ll begin your official training. This year the classes will be held Saturday May 9 and Saturday May 23 at 10:00 a.m. You will receive in-depth instruction and take a rules examination. Not to worry, the test is “open book”. You’ll also be asked to provide an emergency notification form and sign a Liability Release. Upon completion of the training class, you’ll be an official member of the Operating Department. Your future career begins as a Student Brakeman and you can work your way up the ranks to Conductor, Fireman, and finally Engineer. “WP” also stands for Willing People. We need people who are willing to help keep the Western Pacific alive for years to come. COME JOIN US!!

New and returning members are asked to sign up online for your choice of class. Please use the “Join Our Operating Department” link on the Museum’s home page to register.

Operating season opens Saturday May 23, 2020. See you there!!!

FRRS 2020 Election

*- Matthew S. Shuman
FRRS 2020 Nomination &
Election Committee - Chair*



Three seats, presently being held by Kerry Cochran, Greg Elems and Charlie Spikes, are available for the June 2020 FRRS election. Nominations are open from January 1, 2020 through January 31, 2019. Nominations can be submitted by voting members of FRRS (IN WRITING) to the Nomination and Election Committee or personally delivered to the Election Committee. Nominations received earlier than January 1, 2020 will not be accepted and will be rejected. Nominations received later than January 31, 2020 will not be accepted and will be rejected.

Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older who has been a FRRS member of a voting membership unit in good standing for a minimum of one (1) year at the date of the election or appointment shall be eligible to election or appointment as a director.

Full election procedure details are available on the Membership page on the society website.

Museum Sponsors

We ask our members and visitors to support our business sponsors, companies who have generously contributed to the museum and its mission to preserve the Western Pacific family. See how you can support the WP Museum, your community and improve your advertising and networking outreach through our sponsorship program. See www.wplives.org to learn how.



DAVID HANSEN - SUSANVILLE

H & R Block - David Hansen

2850 Main St Ste 7, Susanville, CA 96130
Tel: 530-257-9339



Retainers from our collection.

- photos by Kerry Cochran



What the heck is a RETAINER?

- WP Operating Department Training Manual - 1974

RELEASE CONTROL RETAINERS: In normal operation, release of brakes occurs at the same time as recharging, consequently the brake pipe cannot be recharged without releasing the brakes. Under certain conditions, such as long heavy grades when dynamic brake is not available, this is undesirable. To provide a means of keeping brakes applied while recharging, freight cars are equipped with release control retainers. Although, in the interest of simplification, our text and diagrams so far have shown brake cylinder air exhausting directly to atmosphere, on freight cars it is exhausted through a retainer. This retainer can be set to exhaust directly to atmosphere or set to retain a given amount of brake cylinder pressure. These retainers must be set manually in accordance with timetable instructions.



*Humaconna's
Binnacle*

*- photo by
Kenneth Finnegan*

Things around the museum – Binnacle from WP Tug HUMACONNA

In early 1987, former Western Pacific President Myron Christy knew of some important artifacts our museum would like for our collection. He contacted Mrs. Walter Brumberg and arranged for the donation of the binnacle from WP's tugboat HUMACONNA. The binnacle housed the magnetic compass for the boat. The correcting spheres on each side were used to correct the compass errors introduced by the metal of tugboat. It is on permanent display in our Collections Room at the museum.

The Humaconna's official number was 218071. She was built in Superior, Wisconsin, in 1919; tonnage 418 gross; 190 net; steel hull, length 142 feet, beam 27.5 feet; draft 14.6 feet; engine 1250 h.p.; two Scotch marine boilers, reciprocating engines.

In 1949 she was working 24 hours daily between Oakland and San Francisco except between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, with steel barge No.3 in tow. Approximately 300 rail cars were handled daily on barges, operated under the jurisdiction of the yardmaster at Oakland.

2019 Run-A-Locomotive Report

- Ethan Doty

Apr. 2017	Apr. 2018	Apr. 2019
9	7	6
May 2017	May 2018	May 2019
12	20	11
Jun. 2017	Jun. 2018	Jun. 2019
37	30	29
Jul. 2017	Jul. 2018	Jul. 2019
36	36	31
Aug. 2017	Aug. 2018	Aug. 2019
26	27	17
Sept. 2017	Sept. 2018	Sept. 2019
33	14	16
Oct. 2017	Oct. 2018	Oct. 2019
12	10	13
	Nov. 2018	Nov. 2019
	2	1
2017 Total	2018 Total	2019 Total
166	146	124

As of 11/8/2019

Western Pacific Reefer PFE 55069

- Eugene Vicknair

After the intense flurry of work to get the side of WP PFE 55069 stabilized and painted before the Santa Clara County Fair, things slowed down a bit as we continued the evaluation of the car structure.

Unfortunately, it was found that the painted side had been subjected to beetles and termites over the years, which has damaged nearly every piece of sheathing on that side. However, the critters appear to have remained in the sheathing and not infiltrated the underlying structure of the car, meaning new siding is all that is required. A lumberyard in Newark carried the correct profile and wood type so a ready source of siding is available, however it is not cheap. Doing one side of the car will cost about \$2,500.

With help from non-member Christopher Kapreilian, I was able to remove the last intact outer ice hatch. Although in poor condition, it can serve as a pattern for new hatches. All inner hatches are present and look to be in reasonably



good condition, although one or two may need to be replaced. Overall, the roof looks in fine shape, although the wood is almost all gone. Only one small area of the sheet metal roof showed rust-through. The rest of the metal and most of the hatch hinges and latches look to be in good shape.

The ice hatches have now been tarped for the winter. In the spring, the plan is to start with repairs on the roof and replacing the missing walkway and outer hatches. In addition, we will stabilize the door that has been used as the only access. Forty years of use have finally caught up with it and it is sagging. Once the roof is done, we will likely move on to replacing the siding, one side at a time, and address the small amount of frame rot found on the side that was exposed to the weather and dirt.

If anyone would like to be notified about work sessions for the WP PFE 55069, please contact me at info@wplives.org. Work takes place at the California Trolley and Rail Corporation work site adjacent to the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds in south San Jose, right off Monterey Highway.



The Feather River Rail Society is pleased to announce the...

2020 Western Pacific Historical Convention



The Western Pacific's Oroville Depot

“Western Pacific’s Gateway to the Feather River Canyon”

April 16 - 18, 2020 - Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Hosted by the Gold Country Casino Resort - located in Oroville, California

Featuring...

- Historic and Modeling Clinics
- Rare Films from the Virgil Staff Collection
- Vendors and Special Guests
- Saturday night Banquet Speaker: former WP trainman **Tom Hervey**
- Archive and Photo Exhibits
- Our Ever Popular Raffle!
- Modeling Displays

All proceeds benefit the FRRS Archives and the Arthur Walter Keddie Railroad Library

Presentations include: Western Pacific MOW Equipment, history of the Reno Branch, the WP in World War II, UP Centennials on the WP, wrecks and derailments, and more! Watch the convention website for updates.

Fares...

Pre-Registration fares ending April 1, 2020	<u>FRRS</u>	<u>Affiliate Groups</u>	<u>non-Members</u>
Combo Fare (convention and banquet)	\$84	\$87	\$92
Convention only	\$45	\$48	\$52
Banquet only (available until April 1 only)	\$48	\$50	\$54
Three Entree Buffet - see convention website for details			
Convention only April 2 until April 14	\$50	\$53	\$57
Convention only at the door	\$54	\$57	\$61

note: No charge for non-rail spouses to attend the convention, but they need to be registered and have paid fare to attend clinics, banquet and some special events.

AFFILIATE GROUPS: Shasta-Cascade Rail Preservation Society, Rio Grande Modeling and Historical Society, Black Butte Center for RR Culture and Bay Area Electric RR Association members who are not also FRRS members pay this price.

Register on-line at convention.WPLives.org

or mail payments to: WP Historical Convention 2020, 20212 Sears Drive, Tehachapi, CA 93561-6824

MODELERS - don't forget to enter our model exhibition and contest. Bring your WP / SN / TS / CCT / OT / ABL and DRGW models.

Non-members wishing to join FRRS can receive a 1 year Active or Family membership for half price plus cost of any non-member fare. As a special bonus, current members wishing to renew their Active or Family memberships can also do so for 50% off (\$25 / \$40 extra) when they register. New members signing up can register for Convention as FRRS members.

Clinic and Event Line-Up and more info available at convention.WPLives.org. Final schedule of presentations subject to change.

Kerry Cochran and Eugene Vicknair, Convention Chairs

eMail - convention@WPLives.org

2020 Western Pacific Railroad Historical Convention

Western Pacific's Gateway to the Feather River Canyon

April 16-18, 2020 - Thursday, Friday and Saturday - Hosted by the Gold Country Casino Resort, Oroville, CA

Convention Pre-Registration

Combo Fare (convention + banquet) — <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	\$84 - FRRS <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	\$87 - Affiliate <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	\$92 - non-member <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>
Convention only — <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	\$45 - FRRS <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	\$48 - Affilitate <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	\$52 - non-member <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>
Banquet only (available until Apr 1) — <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	\$48 - FRRS <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	\$50 - Affilitate <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	\$54 - non-member <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>
Speaker: xxx			
Non-Member 1 Year FRRS Active Membership — <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	\$25 - new members register at FRRS member price		
Non-Member 1 Year FRRS Family Membership — <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	\$40 - new members register at FRRS member price		
FRRS Member Active Renewal Discount — <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	\$25		
FRRS Member Family Renewal Discount — <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	\$40		
HO Scale Convention Car - WP Wood Boxcar — <input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	\$32		



Western Pacific Convention Car!

AccuRail custom HO scale outside braced wood car with decals for numbering in the 26001 series. Limited quantity!

TOTAL FARE \$ _____

Pre-Registration ends April 1, 2020 - Register on-line at convention.WPLives.org or mail payment and this form

note: No charge for non-rail spouses to attend convention, but they need to be registered and have paid fare to attend clinics, banquet and special events.

Attendee Info: name _____ FRRS member # _____

spouse or quest name _____

mailing address street _____

Pre-Registration Ends
April 1, 2020

city _____ state _____ zip code _____ country _____

phone number _____ eMail _____

Payment by CHECK or CREDIT CARD card type MC Visa card number _____

please circle one

CCV _____ expiration _____

Mail payments to: WP Historical Convention 2020, 20212 Sears Drive, Tehachapi, CA 93561-6824

Make checks payable to: FRRS or Feather River Rail Society - please note 2020 Convention in memo line

Any questions, please contact the organizers by email at convention@wplives.org

Watch the Convention website at convention.WPLives.org for updates and additional information!

Information on the Gold Country Casino Resort - Oroville, CA



Gold Country Casino Resort

4020 Olive Highway, Oroville, CA 95965 - phone (800) 334-9400

- . Located 3.25 miles from downtown Oroville
- . Fitness center
- . Complimentary WiFi
- . Free parking
- . Outdoor pool
- . On-site restaurant and bar / lounge
- . Laundry service
- . RV Park
- . Spa and Hot Tubs
- . Golf Course
- . Bowling
- . Smoke-free convention space and casino areas

CONVENTION ROOM DISCOUNT - To reserve, call 800.334.9400 and tell them the Western Pacific Convention.

- 2 Queen bed room - \$97 Thurs night / \$140 Fri - Sat nights
- King bed room - \$117 Thurs night / \$160 Fri - Sat nights
- 2 Queen beds room with Jacuzzi tub - \$120 Thurs night / \$165 Fri - Sat nights
- 2 Queen beds deluxe room with Jacuzzi tub - \$127 Thurs night / \$170 Fri - Sat nights

Convention Room
special discount
ends March 25, 2020

Other Lodging located nearby in Oroville...

- Holiday Inn Express - (530) 534-5566
- Berry Creek Rancheria RV Park - (866) 991-5061
- Days Inn by Wyndham - (530) 533-3297
- Super8 by Wyndham - (530) 533-9673

~ SPECIAL EVENTS ~

We are working on special trips
and model railroad layout tours
- Dates and times to be announced

Western Pacific HO Scale Convention Boxcar!

Limited run Western Pacific outside braced wood boxcar from AccuRail.
They will come with decals for numbering in the 26001 series.
These cars served the WP from the late 1930s until the late 1970s.
Order yours today before we run out! Delivery at Convention.

AVAILABLE NOW! NOW WITH COLOR!


WESTERN PACIFIC 2020 Historic Photo Calendar

This 2020 Western Pacific calendar is available now in the Museum Store.
Featuring a collection of images from the Feather River Rail Society's
Arthur Walter Keddie Library archives collection, including color images!
All proceeds support preservation of the Western Pacific Railroad.

Order online at www.WPLives.org
or by mail from the Museum Store.

\$17.95 plus tax

FRRS members get 10% off (\$16.15)
(15% off [\$15.26] for Sustaining and Life) their order
shipping and handling added for mail orders

YES! I want the 2020 Western Pacific Photo Calendar: qty. ____ X \$17.95 = \$ _____

Western Pacific related books available from the Museum Store:

- My Western Pacific Railroad - by Norman Holmes qty. ____ X \$39.95 = \$ _____
- California's Tidewater Shortlines - by Norman Holmes qty. ____ X \$20.00 = \$ _____
- WP's Final Decade: 72-82 - by Benson, Dorn, Sanders, Stanley qty. ____ X \$79.95 = \$ _____
- RRs of Nevada and Eastern California vol 2 - by David Myrick qty. ____ X \$35.00 = \$ _____
- Western Pacific Track Charts - compiled by Frank Brehm qty. ____ X \$15.00 = \$ _____

subtotal = \$ _____

member discount: Associate, Active, Family = 10% / Sustaining, Life, Family Life = 15% - discount = \$ _____

US domestic shipping: add \$5 per calendar or book = \$ _____

tax: 7.25% = \$ _____

If purchasing from outside the US, please contact the museum
via email at info@wplives.org for shipping information and costs.

TOTAL = \$ _____

ORDER FORM name _____ FRRS member # _____

mailing address street _____

**You can also order online at:
www.WPLives.org**

city _____ state _____ zip code _____ country _____

phone number _____ eMail _____

Payment by CHECK or CREDIT CARD
please circle one

card type MC Visa card number _____

CCV _____ expiration _____

Mail payment and purchase list to: Western Pacific Museum Store - P O Box 608, Portola, CA 96122

Make checks payable to: FRRS or Feather River Rail Society

2019 Pumpkin Patch Express
continued from front cover...

turns performing as Sasquatch during the Super Spooky Saturday Night Trains.

We also had several vendors this year, including two food vendors: We Cook For You out of Chico and Portola's own Pizza Factory. The facepainter in particular was a popular vendor and all requested to come back next year. Advertising and vendors were handled by Eugene Vicknair and Patty Clawson, with help from Michael Clawson.

The highlight operationally was the use of recently restored Western Pacific SW1500 1503 on the trains. The 1503 ran great and garnered a lot of positive comments. Several visitors had been following the restoration on Facebook and the WPRM website and raced to the engine to check it out up close. Cab rides were popular and also a good source of revenue. The train crew volunteers were Bil Jackson, Loren Ross, Kevin Ross, Charlie Spikes, David Elems, Greg Elems, Matt Elems, Janet Steeper, Steve Habeck, Robbie Campbell, Kenneth Finnegan and Duane Van Der Veen. Eugene helped out with the patch set-up, as car attendant and as general troubleshooter. Duane also took on some last-minute electrical work to keep everything going.

Taj Yager and Kristina Dunn worked the store, while Jean Danielson and Barbara Jackson handled the gate. We received about 460 pounds of food for the EPCAN food bank. This was delivered to EPCAN by Bil Jackson. Thank you to everyone who helped out with this event! Hopefully we got all your names.

We plan to run the Pumpkin trains again in 2020 and build the event even larger!



Pumpkin Patch Entrance

- photo by Kenneth Finnegan



Pumpkin Patch

- photo by Michael Clawson



Pumpkin on its way home

- photo by Michael Clawson



Pumpkin Express

- photo by Kenneth Finnegan

Membership Spotlight - Vince Bonfiglio

- Vince Bonfiglio

Like most kids, I grew up loving trains. I had model train sets during elementary school and was in awe of my grandfather's model train displays which took up the entire attic of his huge house in Los Angeles. Growing up, I loved all things mechanical and eventually turned my passion for cars into a 45-year career as a mechanic. I started out with Volkswagen, served as a Master Mechanic for Porsche for 19 years, and finished my career as a shop foreman for Hendrick BMW in Charlotte North Carolina. But my fascination with trains never went away. While living in Charlotte, my wife Catherine and I were frequent visitors to the Spencer Shops in Spencer North Carolina, which served as the repair center for the Southern Railroad. During our visits there, I was particularly interested in the repair side and how the volunteers were bringing the old steam engines, locomotives and rail cars back to life.

Fast-forward to 2016. After we both retired, Catherine and I relocated to Reno to be closer to family and friends spread throughout the west. Although she had lived here prior to our marriage, I was relatively new to the area and was pleasantly surprised to discover the Western Pacific Railroad Museum. We visited a couple of times, but I really wasn't aware of the volunteer program offered by the museum.

When my birthday rolled around this past April,



Vince at the controls of SP 2873 on his RAL as instructor Charlie Spikes looks on.

- photo by Catherine Bonfiglio

Catherine surprised me with a present of an hour's rental of an engine at the museum. Charlie Spikes showed me the ropes of the controls and was very helpful in explaining the operation of the 2873. During my time at the control stand, Charlie talked about the volunteer program. Upon learning that I am a retired mechanic, still interested in getting my hands dirty and with an interest in trains, he encouraged me to sign up as a volunteer, which is exactly what I did before leaving the museum that day.



Vince on his way to the WPRM Museum Store to fill out a membership application!

- photo by Catherine Bonfiglio

Starting in May, I began volunteering two days a week. I've been given many assorted tasks, which has helped me to learn about trains, their operation, maintenance, and the history of the Western Pacific Railroad. Volunteering has also enabled me to continue to use my skills as a mechanic, while learning about a different mode of transportation. I have enjoyed getting to know everyone at the museum who keeps the history of the Western Pacific alive. I would encourage anyone to learn more about the volunteer program and how you can contribute to its operation. No matter what walk of life you're from, you can be an asset to the museum.

Departure: Ken Iverson

- Eugene Vicknair

Long time member and volunteer, Ken Iverson, passed away on Tuesday, October 1, 2019, in Red Bluff.

Kenneth Charles Iverson was born on June 23, 1938 in Los Angeles... specifically in his uncle's car. Ken was the eldest of three boys. Their mother passed away when Ken was 9 years old. Ken graduated from Coachella Valley High School in Indio, CA.

He studied Electrical Engineering in San Francisco, where he met the woman who would become his wife, Mabel "Missy" Hiatt. Their daughter, Evelyn, was born in 1956. During that time he worked at Standard Stations, Inc., which operated Chevron gas stations, and became the youngest assistant manager in the company.

In 1958, the family moved to Ukiah where son David was born. Ken took a job at Masonite followed by a position with the City of Ukiah. He later worked for the California Division of Highways, now known as CalTrans. Employment at the California Department of Water Resources resulted in the family's relocation to Tracy, California, in 1964, and then to



RAL Instructor Ken Iverson, with RAL Student Kenneth Finnegan, 1996.
- photo by Paul Finnegan



Ken in the cab of WP 608 on May 20, 2005
- photo by Paul Finnegan

Gustine, California, until his retirement in 1994. While in Gustine, Ken served as chairman of the city Planning Committee and was on the Gustine School Board.

After retirement, he and Missy moved to Portola, where Ken became an active volunteer for the museum. He was a regular engineer in the "Run-A-Locomotive" program. Ken also served as our Facilities Manager and regularly pitched in on various facilities projects. He was instrumental in some of the early planning for the Facilities Master Plan. For a couple years, he was also part of the election committee.

In 2010, he and Missy moved to Red Bluff to be closer to their son and his family. Ken is survived by his wife of 63 years, Mabel "Missy"; daughter Evelyn Falk (Larry) of Xenia, Ohio; son David (Kristin); grandchildren Zachary (Savannah), Emmaline and Miranda; and great-grandsons Jaxon and Logan.

Steam Work Session September 2019

- Roger Stabler

A short work session was held September 27th-29th to continue work on the WP 165. Work was focused on mainly working on piping in the cab. Mike Waters lapped an injector valve seat after Roger Stabler cut new seats on the steam valve. We completed an injector and its piping. The firing valve was installed and the manifold body, made by Channing Walker, was installed.

Firing valve quadrant installed by Channing Walker, Channing also made up a new fireman's manifold body.

- photo by Roger Stabler



Steam Work Session September 2019, Completed engineer's injector

- photo by Roger Stabler



Mike Waters grinding valve for engineer's injector.

- photo by Roger Stabler



Notes from the Mechanical Dept

- David Elems

Next up:

SPMW 208 & 8221

Full annual inspection

SP2873

Fuel System: Inspection, check injectors for leakage

Lubrication System: Inspection; strainers, filters and feed lines

Air system: Inspection & Repair; service auto-drain valves and repair any found leaks

WP1503

Repair found air leaks

Work on water leaks; replace low water/crankcase over pressure device if time allows

Continue working on electrical issues: replace problem switches and work on headlight wiring

- FRRS Membership -**Yearly Dues**

Associate \$25.00
 Active \$50.00
 Family \$80.00
 Sustaining \$150.00

Single Life Membership - \$1800.00

Family Life Membership - \$3000.00

Institutional - \$60.00 (annual membership for 501(c)3 groups)

Renew or change your information on
 the FRRS website! Go to:
<https://membership.WPlives.org>

These are the dues for the duration of one year, with Life and Family Life being a one-time payment.
 Five year payment plans are available for life memberships.

Associate memberships do not have a vote, receive *The Train Sheet* but not the *Headlight* and are for one person only.

Active memberships receive both *The Train Sheet* and the *Headlight*, have voting rights and are for one person only.

Family memberships receive both *The Train Sheet* and the *Headlight*, have two votes and include two adults and all minor children residing at the same address.

Sustaining memberships receive both *The Train Sheet* and *Headlight*, have voting rights and are for one person only.

Life memberships receive both *The Train Sheet* and *Headlight*, have voting rights and are for one person only for life.

Family Life memberships receive both *The Train Sheet* and the *Headlight*, include two adults and all minor children residing at the same address, and have two votes (one per member) for life.

Send all applications, renewals and address changes, including email changes, to:
 Feather River Rail Society - Membership Dept. - P.O. Box 608 - Portola, CA 96122-0608
 Address / email changes may also be sent to membership@wplives.org

Mission Statement

"The Feather River Rail Society is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and education of the public, as to the history and people of the Western Pacific Railroad."

Mission Goals

To preserve and interpret the history of the WP, the "*Willing People*" as a vital link in the development of the rail industry on the West Coast, including the steam and diesel evolution, WP's influence in the passenger tourism industry, the impact of freight competition between neighboring railroads, and WP's influence in the lumber, mining and agriculture industry from Plumas County throughout California, Nevada and Utah.

WPRM Admission and Train Ride Fares for non-members (effective April 2, 2020)**Admission**

Adult (ages 19 - 64): \$10.00
 Youth (ages 5 - 18): \$5.00
 Child (age 4 and under): free
 Senior (65 and up) and Active Military: \$8.00
 Family (defined as 2 adults plus any related children 18 and under): \$25.00

Admission and train ride tickets are good all day.

Admission and train rides for FRRS members are free.
 Cab rides are extra fare with member discount.

Train Rides

- Adults 19 and over... \$4.00
 - Youth 4 - 18... \$2.00
 - Children 3 & under... free
 - Family... \$10.00
 (2 adults plus any related children 18 and under)

Cab Rides

- Adult 19 and over... \$20.00
 - Youth 4 - 18... \$10.00
 Cab rides are for one (1) ride only.

***The Train Sheet* needs your photos and articles!**

If you are working on projects for the Society, volunteering on restorations, performing archives work, helping out at off-site events, etc., or if you get some nice photos of FRRS or museum happenings that you want to share, please contact us to have them printed in *The Train Sheet*.

Photos should be at least 5" high by 7" wide and 300 dots per inch.

Articles should focus on FRRS related events, people or your own personal experiences with the Society.

To contribute, contact the editor - Paul Finnegan, by email at trainsheet@wplives.org.

The Train Sheet

Feather River Rail Society

P.O. Box 608

Portola, CA 96122-0608

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VIPs at Santa Trains 2019

- photo by Michael Clawson