TRAIN CONVENTION

Norman and Barbara Holmes attended the Tourist Railway convention in Tyler, Texas, Nov 7 & 8. Here is their report.

"We flew from Reno to Dallas on Nov 2nd, rented a car and made a 1350 mile tour of central, southern and eastern portions of the great State of Texas. We saw several short line railroads, photographed some SP and Santa Fe steam engines on display and visited three railroad museums before arriving in Tyler. The convention opened on Friday with a Board meeting followed by two seminars, one on Tourist Railroading in the 21st Century and the other on Safety and Management. A banquet dinner was held that evening followed by a talk and slide show by U.S. Army Transportation Captain and an information presentation by Valley Railroad of Connecticut regarding the possibility of importing steam loco's and parts from China. (A 2-8-2 steamer will be brought in as a demonstrator, if USA boiler regs are changed.)

A meet was held at the Texas State Railroad including seminars on welding, bridgework, and insurance. The annual membership meeting was held after the Saturday night dinner.

TRAIN has 168 full members-a 25 member increase over 1985. The principal advantage to belonging to this organization is its insurance program. An added benefit is the information one gains from attending the convention seminars and meeting and talking to others who are in the same "business." We enjoyed our trip and feel it was worthwhile."

SALES DEPARTMENT

by Chris Skow

Work has started on the new larger 1987 merchandise catalog and we hope to have it ready to mail out with the next TRAIN SHEET. I think you will be surprized with all of the new items in our 87 catalog. Until then the 86 catalog is still good. Remember, buy from us and save, plus you will be helping a great growing museum.

The 1987 all-color calendars are in stock and we will mail them out to you. This large wall calendar opens up to 12 by 24 and is packed with 33 photos. The Aug shot is of the famous staged Union Pacific train on the WP's North Fork Bridge in the Feather River Canyon at night. It took some 750 flash blubs to make this shot. This Bo-Tree calendar lists for $8.95, our special is only $6.95.

A new item put out by John Carr should be of interest to UP fans. He has put out a Symbol Train Timetable that lists every symbol freight train on the vast UP system including; what the symbols stand for, where the train is coming from and where it is going. This publication is in a timetable format and has 45 pages, with updated sheets. List is $5.50, our price is only $5.25.

Our fifth custom mug is now out. WP GP-20, 2001 in silver and orange. Other custom mugs made just for us are the WP F7 921, UP 6946, WP NW-2 608, WP 428. Other mugs are, not custom for us, but nice are WP #175 steam engine, Cal Zep logo, UP-WP merger and a WP logo. Mugs list for $5.00, our Xmas special is only $4.50 each.

Our custom WP 921 F7A belt buckle is also out. This very detailed bucl is made from pewter and lists for $5.95, our Christmas special is only $5.00.

Shipping and Handling--under $50. is $2.50 and over $50. is $3.50. California residents MUST add 6% sales tax and we accept plastic..... VISA and MASTERCARD.....

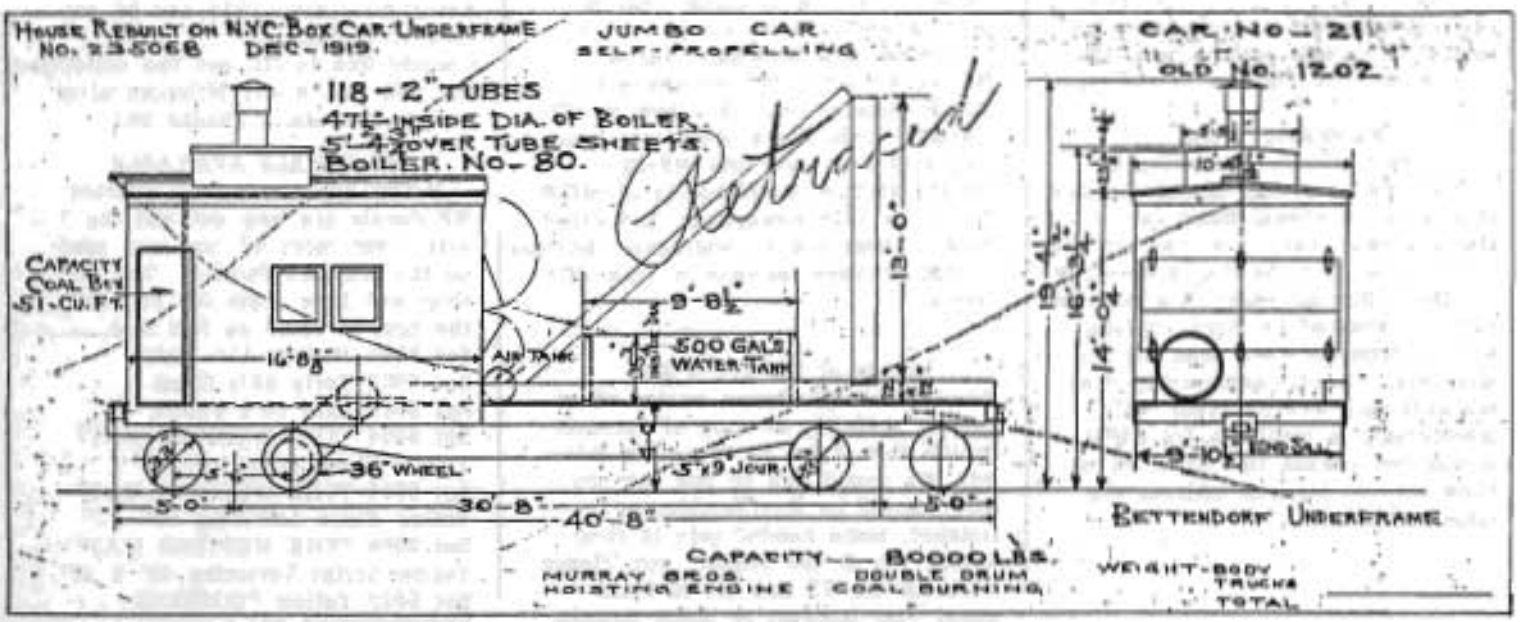
The following members have helped out in the gift shop at the museum or at our booths at several shows in California the past two months: Hap, Pat Duffy, David Dodds, Bob Thrasher, Bill Marshall and Chris.

Look in the calendar for the up coming events in which we will set up a booth for selling our merchandise and spreading the word that the WP LIVES in Portola.....

JUMBO CARS

Some time ago I asked about "Jumbo" cars and with letters from members Thom Anderson and George Comer we have our answer.

On page 320 of "RAILROADS of NEVADA" is a good photo of WP jumbo #20 with a work train out side the Chilcoot tunnel. "Jumbo" is a term applied to a piece of tunnel working equipment, sometimes self-propelled, that is used to repair or do maintenance on the inside of tunnels.

Later "Jumbo's" used on the WP for tunnel work were flat cars with a two deck platform.

WP had two, #20 was rebuilt from a P RR car #96599 and had a AH6D co double drum hoisting engine at 70 HP. The drawing for #21 is shown.....