



FRRS

Feather River Rail Society

Preserving
"The Feather River
Route"

PO Box 8
Portola, California 96122

The FRRS, a tax exempt public benefit California corporation, is the historical society for the *Western Pacific Railroad* and operates the *Portola Railroad Museum* in Portola, California. The FRRS is not associated with or supported by the Western Pacific Railroad.

FRRS Tax id number is 68-0002774



Tourist Railway Association Inc.

Board of Directors

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Bruce Cooper
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Membership Secretary

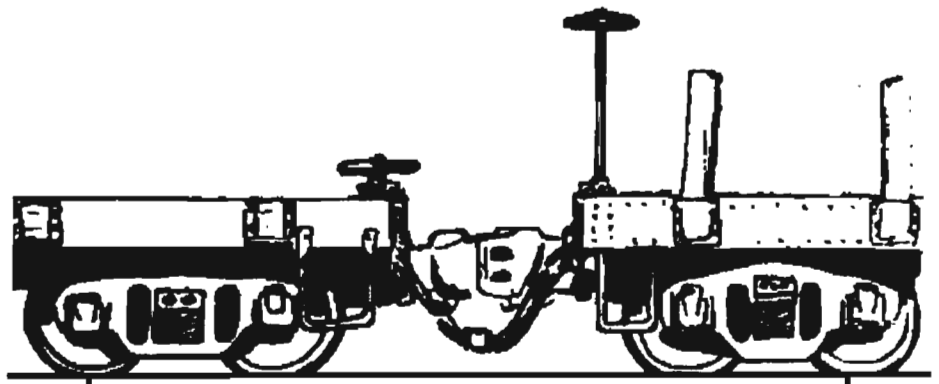
Ed Warren

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Membership

Associate	\$15.00
Active	\$25.00
Family	\$30.00
Life	\$300.00

Dues are paid for 12 months from time of receipt. All memberships have one vote except for Associate. Associate members also do NOT receive the quarterly publication - *The Headlight*.



The President's Message

A recent editorial in the *Locomotive & Railway Preservation* expressed concern as to where museum groups such as ours will be in 25 years. I too wonder. After Hap, Barbara and I are gone or at least have become inactive, who will take over? There will probably be no shortage of persons who would like to be president, general manager and the like, but who is going to open the gate in the morning, close it in the evening, check on visitors throughout the day, empty the garbage cans, mop and check the restrooms and keep up the thousands of little things that make our museum a nice place for visitors to see? Gordon, Bruce, Sue, Hank, Ken and others do a lot of work on building, equipment, track and so forth, but there is so much more to be done. Office work alone is a full-time position.

We are not ready to quit, but we have grown so large that a full time paid staff has become a near necessity. The big question is how are we going to be able to pay for such a staff. The Nevada State Museum in Carson City has 9 paid staff people, and they are smaller than we are. Of course they are state funded. I don't believe we want to become a governmental unit. But we do have to find funding for our operation, whether it be private or governmental grants. I don't believe we can generate enough revenue from visitors and members to have a paid staff.

Our present income comes from membership dues, donations, gift shop profit, locomotive rental, train rides and a few miscellaneous sources. The gift shop does a good business on a day-to-day basis. We have a very large selection of railroad items -- over \$50,000 in inventory. It is encouraging to get notes with membership renewals saying we are doing a great job, but a \$100 check would be nice, too. Bruce Cooper's locomotive rental idea was super. It has gained us nation-wide notoriety and has made a lot of money for the museum. Just the other day, Bruce had a call from an eastern dinner train outfit that wanted to try the same thing on their property.

Passenger cars have been in short supply at our museum. We have missed several chances to have movie or commercial work because we do not have a passenger train. We are getting a passenger car from the Air Force at Hill AFB and an Army guard car. These cars will be at no cost to the museum.

Where are we going to put all this equipment? That is becoming a problem. We have room for a few more tracks, but we will have to really think about space.

Our museum is six years old and we are at least as far advanced as most groups that have been in existence for 25-40 years. I hope we can continue to improve our museum, but it is going to take more than a few of us who live here. If you can help by working here, or can help financially, or can help us find funding, or volunteers, we sure would appreciate it.