

THE F7B STORY

We have been searching for an F7B unit to go along with our 805A and 921D. Larry Hanlon made contact with Century Locomotive Parts in Montreal, Canada, who had purchased a number of Canadian National F7 units for parts and scrap. They agreed to put together good wheels, motors and truck frames under a mechanically good F7B unit. CN 9190 would be available to us for \$40,000 Canadian, FOB Montreal. This price was far under their asking price for other F units and since we were able to afford the purchase price with a credit union loan and available cash, we decided to go for it. F7B units are very rare and if we were going to get one, especially in good condition, we had to act. Transportation costs from Montreal to Portola will be extra. This will be worked out after January 1st. Two FRRS members will go to Montreal to inspect the unit before payment is completed.

Needless to say the purchase of the Baldwins and the F7B, along with the government surplus property has had a severe drain on our finances. We need your financial help, please consider sending a donation for purchase and transportation.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

We have received a supply of poster prints depicting the Portola depot building with a 4-8-4 and FT in the snow. This painting by UP PR Department's John Bromley is used on UP's Christmas cards. The 16x24 full color prints are available from our gift shop for \$20.00 plus \$2.00 postage. Christmas cards are also available - 25 for \$14.50.

NEW LIFE MEMBER

We welcome Delbert (Dutch) Rohlinger to our Life Membership roll. Dutch recently retired from Union Pacific where he was employed as an engineer. He came to WP/UP from the Milwaukee Road when that line ceased operations in the Northwest.

NEW CHIEF MECHANICAL OFFICER

Mardi Vincent has been appointed CMO for our museum. She is seen regularly around the museum, working hard on various projects -- mechanical and other types. Mardi works for the U.S. Forest Service and is familiar with record keeping -- a necessary ingredient for this position. Therefore it is important now that anyone working on ANY piece of equipment make a record of work completed or work needed so that it can be recorded.

A LITTLE ITEM OF NOTE

A part of Western Pacific's San Francisco Bay ferry Edward T. Jeffery, scrapped some years ago, lives on. A stairway from the ferry was installed in 1981 in a former U. S. Army Corps of Engineers "snag boat" and used by a San Pedro cruise company. The boat has been purchased by Channel Star and will be used on excursions originating in Old Sacramento.

WP OFFICE BUILDING RAZED

The old Gothic-style headquarters of the Western Pacific Railroad at 526 Mission Street, San Francisco, are gone. The seven story office building was built in 1920 and used by Western Pacific from 1941 to 1983. After Union Pacific bought WP, corporate decisions were made from Omaha, Nebraska. The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake badly damaged the structure and the decision was made to raze the building.

THE FIRST ANNUAL FRRS SOUTHERN REGIONAL MEET

by Peter Solyom

The First Annual FRRS Southern Regional Meet was held on Nov. 10, 1990 in La Habra, CA with great success. The turn out for the Meet was about 60 participants which resulted in the addition of 15 new memberships to FRRS.

The modeling clinics as well as the video and slide presentations were well attended by most everyone at the Meet. The end of the day raffle presentation, including gifts by local hobby shops, the FRRS gift shop, a 1 hour Rent-A-Locomotive session and a copy of John Ryczkowski's book "WP Pictorial," was the highlight of the day.

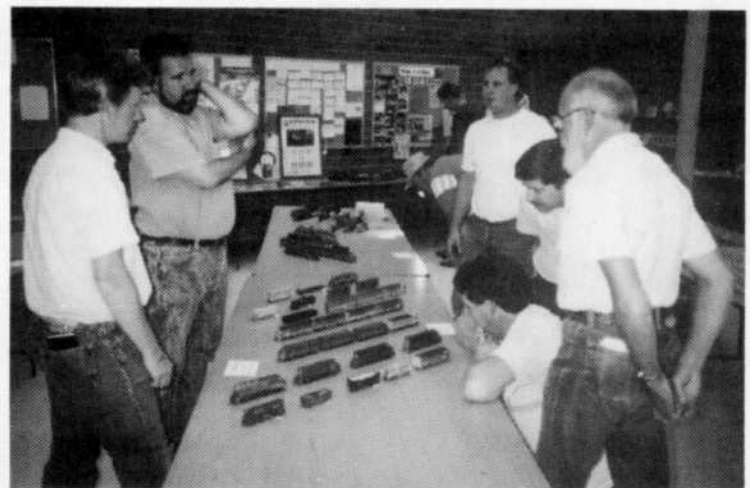
As stated before, the intention of this function was to keep the not-so-close members of the FRRS in touch with the Society. I, for one, know how difficult it is to visit and work at the museum as often as I would like. My intention is to hold this meeting on an annual basis, hoping that the success of this last meeting will carry over and grow with the future ones.

My personal thanks go to Tom Bacarella and Dave Dodds for their assistance in the planning and organization of the Meet. Without their help, the meeting would not have been what it was.

Also my thanks go to all of you who brought your models and memorabilia to display and show. I think that this was a big draw to the Meet.

Lastly my thanks go to those of you who made presentations and gave a helping hand at the meet, Wayne Monger and Hank Stiles, representing the FRRS board, John and Mary Ryczkowski, Larry and Lynn Hanlon, Gary and Pat Cousin, Susan Dodds, Steve Habeck, Skip Marshall, Susan Solyom and everyone else who added a hand.

Preparations are already in the works for next year's Meet and I look forward to seeing you all there again!!!



Attendees are shown here reviewing the WP model display at the 1990 FRRS Southern Regional Meet.

photo by Pete Solyom