

A Cadillac Comes to Portola...

The wishes of many FRRS members that are fans of EMD motive power and of the Southern Pacific have been fulfilled thanks to Norm Holmes' purchase of four MRS-1 locomotives and the subsequent trade of two of the units to LMC International Corporation at Richmond, California for a retired Southern Pacific SD9E, No. 4404. Affectionally known as Cadillacs by fans, LMC purchased the 4404 along with sister 4380 for scrap or resale from the SP early this year. Because of a depressed locomotive resale market they reluctantly decided to scrap the units. Norm approached John Drusma at LMC and it was agreed that a trade was possible on a "pound for pound" basis, taking two Alco's for the SD9E, with Norm keeping the GE traction motors and other parts. (The SD9E weighs 360,000, the MRS-1's weigh 240,000 each, traction motors and axles about 10,000 each.)

Both 4404 and 4380 were retired because of engine damage. The 4404 appears to have suffered a broken connecting rod and a damaged block. It may be repairable or if necessary we can exchange the engine for the 567C we acquired some years ago. The engine in the 4404 is a 645! Some electrical parts are missing, but with an agreement between LMC and Howard Wise from the Pacific Locomotive Association, who are getting some parts from 4380 after LMC scraps the unit, the missing parts were obtained. FRRS members involved in securing the parts needed and preparation for movement to Portola include Norm Holmes, Fred James, Wayne Monger and Victor Neves. Vic took the lead in this project in October to get the unit ready for

movement and in handling all local details. Due to a strike at the LMC yard, the unit will remain there until the strike is over.

The FRRS would like to thank John Drusma, Gary Moore and George Cataldo of LMC International Corporation for making this possible and working with the FRRS members. A complete history of this unit will appear in the Train Sheet following 4404's arrival in Portola.

Donations

The following people have made cash contributions with their membership renewals during the past two months:

Richard Kirker, David Burton, Roy Cameron, Elmo Dito, Russell Fike, Joseph Fuhrig, Rick Galassi, Larry Galetti, Barry Garrett, James Hall, Harry Jamason, Jerry Obert, Walter Ozanick, Leo Prescott, Jonathan Reynolds, Robert Stevenson, Kenneth Thompson, G. & M. Van der veen, Jerry Williams, Warren Gilleran, Walter Whitman, and A. E. Novak (via United Way).

Thanks people!

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