

Model Railroaders Visit the Museum

By Pete Solyom

A few months ago, a group of model railroaders approached me to inquire about a visit to the world famous Portola Railroad Museum. Many had heard of the Museum as well as seen the Museum video at the local swap meets and Southern Regional Meets where the FRRS gift shop had been set up. They were impressed with the collection of equipment that had been acquired, and the summer weekend operations. They were also anxious to hear about the "Rent-A-Locomotive" program. After a couple of meetings, a date was picked to set up a group visit to the Museum.

The 4th of July 1992 weekend saw the group arrive from Southern California to visit and enjoy the Museum. Being modelers, they enjoyed the opportunity to inspect close-up the equipment on the grounds, and they enjoyed the weekend train rides. Monday, July 6 saw the enthusiastic group enjoying locomotive rentals. They operated the ALCO S-1 WP 512, as well as the GP7 WP 707 and the famed F7 WP 921D. Many of the group are members of the Pasadena Model RR Club, which is the home of one of the largest model railroad layouts around. They all thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to run the diesel locomotives around the Museum's balloon track. At the end of the day, the members of the group conveyed how much they appreciated the opportunity to visit the Museum. As an added bonus for the Society, some of those in the group who were not yet FRRS members joined on the site.

As usual, the weekend which included Monday, came to an all too sudden end, and we all had to head back down south.

I hope to put together additional excursions with the many RR groups and clubs located down in my neck of the woods. Those of you that are interested, please contact me through the Museum.

Nice Invitation

An invitation has been received from the Western Railway Museum at Rio Vista, California for our members to participate in their second annual Railfan Day at Rio Vista Jct. on Saturday, September 12, 1992. All California rail fans are invited to this event free of charge.

Discounted Train Excursion

FRRS member Chris Skow, through his Trains Unlimited Tours has provided us with a raffle for a free trip over the past several years. The funds generated by the raffle have gone into our building fund savings account. This year Chris will be offering our membership a greatly reduced rate on his October 31-November 1, 1992 Nevada Northern Spectacular run from Ely, Nevada. This first annual tour will feature charter steam and diesel operated passenger, freight and mixed trains on the Hilline to the old McGill Smelter and up the scenic Robinson Canyon to Keystone. There will be plenty of photo run-bys included.

A discount of \$136 per person from the regular fare is offered to our membership and in addition, Trains Unlimited will donate \$20 to the FRRS building fund for every booking received from this special offer. Only FRRS members may place booking for this special. Each member may book as many spots as he likes for family or friends. Further information and phone numbers are available on the flyer enclosed with this issue of the Train Sheet.

3rd Annual FRRS Southern Regional Meet

Saturday, October 17, 1992

Featuring:

- Slide presentation by Ken Rattenne, author of The Feather River Route One and The Feather River Route Two.
- FRRS Founder and President Norm Holmes will be present to discuss the latest FRRS activities and museum acquisitions, as well as to answer your questions about the FRRS.

Also

- Western Pacific modeling/historical information presentations.
- Western Pacific model/memorabilia display (bring your WP models, timetables, china, etc.)
- Popular vote WP scale model contest.

Categories:

- Steam Locomotive
- Diesel Locomotive
- Freight Car
- Passenger Car
- Maintenance of Way
- Caboose

Prizes

Win a Rent-A-Locomotive session from the Portola Railroad Museum plus other fabulous prizes.

- FRRS Gift Shop. Support the FRRS through the purchase of your favorite WP memorabilia, books, videos, etc.

Timetable/Location

Registration begins: 10:00AM

Clinics/Activities: 12:30 to 8:00PM; dinner break 4:30 to 6

Place: La Habra Senior Citizens Center

165 E. La Habra Blvd. (between Harbor and Euclid)

La Habra, CA 90631

Fares: FRRS Member: \$3.00

Non-FRRS Member: \$5.00

Free Admission with new FRRS membership sign-up!

For additional information: 714-356-4126 or 310-691-4139

Seventh Annual

Railfan Photography Day

Saturday, September 19, 1992

10 A.M. until midnight.

Plan to attend a day of photography, caboose rides and cab rides. This one day each year, over a dozen freight and passenger trains from the 1930's, 1940's, 1950's and 1960's are operated for railfan photographers on our museum trackage. Motive power will be a selection of historic ALCO, Baldwin, Electro-Motive Division, and General Electric diesel-electric locomotives from our collection of 30 locomotives. Train operation is from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Other daytime activities include a swap meet inside the enginehouse, "speeder" rides at lunch, and watching Union Pacific freight trains pass by the museum on the Feather River Canyon mainline.

Plan to partake of the museum's "spaghetti feed" for dinner. Following dinner, multi-media shows by noted railroad photographers and FRRS members will last until midnight. Join in on a 9 P.M. group night photo session starring recently acquired Baldwin AS-616s Oregon & Northwestern #3 and #4 plus caboose O&NW #300.

Adult tickets: \$8 in advance; \$10 day of event
children under 16 free

Swap meet dealers welcome \$10 per table