

WP/FRRS SOUTHERN REGIONAL MEET

By Peter Solyom

The fourth Annual WP/FRRS Southern Regional Meet was held on October 9, 1993 again in La Habra, CA. The turnout for this event was great, with a count of 78 people turning out. Participants included people from as far away as Birmingham, England, Honolulu and Baltimore. The day started out with the registration and setting up of the display and contest models. As in years past, over 250 models were on display, encompassing steam, diesel, freight cars, passenger cars, cabooses, and maintenance of way cars. There was also a good turnout of WP memorabilia including timetables, rulebooks, safety awards, and assorted other items. First of the many clinics was "WP GP20s - The Prototype" by Thom Anderson. Thom highlighted the WP roster of GP20s with his excellent slide collection and prepared a comprehensive handout for the attendees. Next was a clinic on modeling the GP20s in HO scale, showing how to build 4 different versions of the WP locomotives. Following this was an excellent clinic on 1960s WP rolling stock by Don DeLay. This clinic was an expanded perspective of his article in "The Headlight." (Issue #6, back issues of which are available through the FRRS gift shop.) Following the clinics was the feature presentation, by WP/UP engineer Bob "RR" Larson. Bob gave a great view of, not only his experiences on the WP, dating back to 1956, but of his overall railroad career. His experiences on the WP include a number of "Firsts" and "Lasts," which were certainly a pleasure to hear about and see through the eyes of his camera.

After this, Norm Holmes gave a talk on the current activities of the Society and the Museum and then it was time for the contest awards and raffles. The contest winners were as follows: Steam - Bill Mattil for his HO scale model of 0-6-0 #152; Diesel - Bill Mattil for his HO scale model of NW2 #608 in the orange scheme; Passenger Car - Pete Solyom for his HO scale RDC #375; Freight Car - John Brown for his HO scale BI-Level auto rack #89101; Caboose - Bill Mattil for his outside braced bay window #653; and Maintenance of Way - John Brown for his beautifully detailed Jordan Spreader WPMW 7. Best of Show went to Mr. Brown for his spreader! Raffle prizes totaling over \$500 were then awarded, with the Meet drawing to a close.

The planning committee would like to thank the following people for their help at this year's event: Sue Solyom, Steve Phillips, Melanie Evans, Norm and Barbara Holmes, John Brown, Thom Anderson, Don DeLay, Mike Mucklin, and anyone else who may have been overlooked. Without the help of these people, the Meet would not have been as successful as it was. We would also like to thank the Manufacturers and Hobbyshops for their support with raffle prizes. We look forward to continuing this event with its popularity growing each year. Thanks go to all who brought items and models to display, and we look forward to seeing new ones as well as the ones from years past at future Meets! Please contact Pete Solyom, via the FRRS, if you wish to help with future Meets in any way.

Until next year!!

RAILROAD DAYS

The eleventh annual Feather River Railroad Days celebration on August 21 & 22, 1993 was great. After the usual hectic week of preparation the model railroad displays started arriving Friday afternoon. Thunder Mountain from Sacramento had a large HO layout, The Lake Tahoe and Donner Pass group brought a large G scale layout including a live steam locomotive; Jim Druckmiller brought a layout, the regular group from Carson City had a large HO layout. We had TRAINS. Frank Allen brought up his 5" to the foot model of North Coast Railway "Sonoma." This beautiful 4-4-0 operates regularly at the Orland Fairgrounds. The Country Lace band played country music two hours each day. Allan brought a van with two yogurt machines and sold over 500 cups of yogurt at one dollar each, giving all proceeds to the museum.

Vicki Krois and David Dewey sold train ride tickets bringing in \$1,884. Saturday was about the same as last year, Sunday was a 50% increase in attendance. Barbara Holmes, assisted by Granddaughter Cori Holmes and Linda Dewey, took care of Gift Shop sales. The Beanery served hot dogs, hamburgers, chili, nachos and drinks. Working in the Beanery were Sue and Bruce Cooper, Linda Lippincott, Wendi Hook, Lollie (F7 Lady) and others. Ed Crary and Kent Stephens were crossing guards. Operating personnel were: Engineers - Steve Habeck, Dave McClain, Hank Stiles, Vic Neves and Ken Thompson. Firemen - Eddie Chase and Mardi Langdon. Conductors - Ed Warren and Mark French. Brakemen - Leigh Bradbury, Charlie Tronoff and Peter Langdon. Car Attendants - Don Borden, Justin Brewer, Brian Challenger, Charlie Lix, Don Clark and Dave Anderson. Sup't of Operations - Gordon Wollesen; and Train Master - Jim Gidley, Sr.

RAILFAN DAY

One hundred six railfans paid the entrance fee for our eighth annual Railfan Photographer's Day, on Saturday, September 18, 1993. Preparations for the event were started Thursday and completed late Friday evening. Eight different trains were operated around the balloon track, making two photo run-bys. Due to some last minute difficulties, we ONLY had ten units running instead of the twelve we advertised. Units in operation were: O&NW 4 BLH AS-616; FR&W 16 BLH S-12; FR&W 80 GE 80T; WP 512 ALCO S-1; WP 608 EMC NW2u; WP 707 EMD GP7; WP 921 EMD F7A; FR&W 1857 FM H-12-44; SP 2873 EMD GP9E; SP 4404 SD9E. WP 921 was coupled to our newly repainted F7B now WP 925C, WP 707 was coupled to WP 708, O&NW 4 was coupled to O&NW 3, and WP 512 was coupled to WP 501. A four unit consist with SP 2873, SP 3191, SP 3413 and SP 4404 pulled three Cotton Belt box cars and two SP cabooses. 3191 and 3413 had arrived only the day before so were DIT (Dead in Transit). Can any other railroad museum in America put on such a show? We don't think so.

After the train operations, a delicious spaghetti dinner was prepared and served by Sue Cooper, helped by Bruce Cooper and Linda Lippincott. A slide show followed, set up by Vic Neves featuring Bob Larson's popular Winterail slide set. The night photo session used the four unit SP consist and train. This set will not be available again. Event planning was the responsibility of Vic Neves and Wayne Monger. Switching operations were planned and supervised by Steve Habeck. Crew members were: Engineers - Hank Stiles, Dave McClain, Steve Habeck, Norm Holmes, Vic Neves, Wayne Monger and Brian Challenger. Firemen - Dave Anderson, Jack Palmer and Mardi Langdon. Conductors - Ed Warren and Mark French. Brakemen - Charlie Tronoff, Cary Cochran, Dave Bergman and Nick Tynan. Switch tenders - Don Borden, Fred James and Jerry Williams. Sup't of Operations - Gordon Wollesen, Trainmaster - Jim Gidley, Sr.