

WPRRHS Convention Report

By John S. Walker

The Western Pacific Railroad Historical Society held its first convention at the beautiful Depot Restaurant in Oroville on April 18 and 19, 1997. The event, a fund raiser for the FRRS/WPRRHS library in Portola, was attended by 80 guests.

A convention is an opportunity for people with a common interest (in our case, railroading and the Western Pacific) to meet and to converse with people with similar interests. At Oroville, Western Pacific fans, historians and modelers had plenty to look at and admire. Many museum volunteers also had a chance to relax and enjoy themselves before beginning the 1997 campaign up at the museum.

Pete Solyom, Mike Mucklin, Thom Anderson, Al Wood, Don Schmitt, Dave Pires and others displayed nearly 100 outstanding WP and Sacramento Northern HO, N and O scale models. Lots of speculation centered around the Fantasy category of contest models that featured a Sacramento Northern TGV type high speed electric, a WP GE DASH 9 in the "new image" paint scheme and an AC6000 in a stylish version of the old silver and orange scheme (Hmmm, imagine the WP in the 90's.....)! Frank Beavers displayed a heavy-weight style, steam powered passenger train and a 14 car steam powered freight. Several really nice freight cars and locomotives (some of which you'll be seeing in future issues of The Headlight) rounded out the display.

Memorabilia displays featured Bill Shippen's collection of lanterns, switch keys and locks. Robert Forren displayed a WP painting of four silver & orange GE's on the North Fork Bridge. Vickie Krois let us see some old B&W photos of the WP. Steve Hayes had a construction era book showing the excavation and fills on the WP line near Blairsden. Lolli Bryan brought down a beautiful California Zephyr place setting, some other passenger service memorabilia and a book of snapshots of the flood of 1986 while John Walker displayed his collection of WP passenger timetables and tour pamphlets of the Feather River region. A well traveled nose herald from a WP F-unit and some enamel signs from a WP piggyback trailer were also displayed.

The swap section included several brass locomotives, timetables and WP related books. The WPRRHS was selling Historical Society T-shirts and hats and WP models. Norm Holmes was busy selling items from the Museum gift shop and several attendees made a killing on the many raffle prizes graciously donated by model railroad and railfan gift manufacturers (seriously, some people were rewarded with a \$100.00+ worth of raffle prizes for a \$10.00 investment!).

In between delicious meals prepared by the Depot restaurant staff, conventioners were treated to fantastic slide shows, modeling clinics and presentations on the WP's fleet of bay window cabooses, maintenance of way equipment, GP 20's, the Oro Dam Constructors Railway and a short UP vid-

eo of the damage done to the Feather River Canyon last winter. After dinner, Chris Skow presented his hour and a half long color Western Pacific movie (soon to be available from the FRRS on video) and Vic Neves' multimedia slide program: Remembering the WP.

Two new members were signed up at the convention and several asked for membership information. Post convention surveys indicated that everyone had a really great time and are looking forward to next year's event! While on that subject, we need to hear your ideas and suggestions for next year's event. So far, we have received strong recommendations for a convention in the Stockton or Pleasanton/Fremont area. If you would like to help with next year's event, please drop us a line or give me a call.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who contributed their time and energy to making this event a rousing success. David & Linda Dewey, Clyde and Linda Lippincott, Vic Neves, Robert & Wendy Forren, Steve & Norma Hayes, Pete Solyom, Dave Pires, Thom Anderson, Chris Skow, Dave Cox, Jim Cooper, Norman Holmes, Kent Stephens, Mike Mucklin, Richard Danials and Bill Shippen did a great job! We couldn't have done it without them. And thanks go to everyone who attended. Thanks to you, we covered the convention costs and raised several hundred dollars for the library. The great part of all of this is that everyone had a great time doing it!

I also want to apologize for the late announcement on this event. No doubt, some of you are just hearing about the convention here for the first time. Due to unforeseen events and poor timing/coordination on my part, it seems that every opportunity to try and inform the membership of the convention broke down and ultimately, we had to rely heavily on word of mouth to spread the news. Regrettably, I have to admit that it was my mistake and I take full responsibility. In getting a convention off the ground, some mistakes will be made (and I made most of them). But I think I can promise you much improved notification for next year's event.

Watch for more news and photos of the convention in issue #15 of The Headlight.

Cash Donations

The following generous people have made cash contributions. Thanks people.

To the General Fund: Deborah Canino, Bob Dobbins, R.A. Funnell, James Hollett, IBM Matching Grant, David Jacobs, David Krieger, Mark MacGregor, Carl Motycka, Albert Novak, Ferdinand Rat, Bob Regan, Leonard Rimicci, Charlotte Rodgers, David Rowe, Don Schmitt, United Way of L.A.

1215 Fund: Brad Fick, William Garner, Ralph Shafer

GP9 Fund: Mark Cooper, Richard Sullivan

UP 105 Fund: Foster Maxwell, Chuck Sted

New Life Members

Please welcome the newest FRRS Life Members:
Pat O'Driscoll, Kerry Pierce, Daniel Maclean, Jr.

Obituary

We are sad to announce that Al Schuetter has passed away. Al was the WP Roadmaster at Portola for many years before retiring to Los Gatos.

RGLP Magazine

Many of us were subscribers to Railway & Locomotive Preservation magazine. This publication has ceased to exist. To help fill the gap, the Association of Railway Museums is expanding its newsletter to include preservation news. If you wish to subscribe to Railway Museum Quarterly, send \$15.00 to RMQ, P. O. Box 3311, City of Industry, CA 91744.

For Sale

Tom Mougovan has for sale a Krauss-Maffei Model ML 4000 CC Operating Manual, a Baldwin Model VO Diesel Engine Maintenance Manual, EMD F7 Engineman's Operating Manual, EMD 567B Engine Maintenance Manual, Alco PA Operating Manual, Alco Century Series Operating Manual and General Electric Trouble Shooting Guide for U25 - U50. Sold as a complete set only for \$230.00. Call Tom at (707) 823-1664.