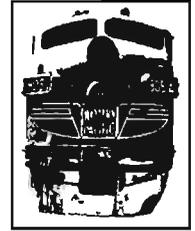


—THE TRAIN SHEET—
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Contribution Deadlines: Second Friday of February, April, June, August, October and December.

—MEMBERSHIP NOTES—

At the December, 1998 FRRS Board meeting it was determined that Kerry Cochran would be the new FRRS Membership Chairman. I want to personally congratulate him on his new position and I wish him well. So where is Bill Shippen going? Not far... I will still be publishing the *Train Sheet*, taking care of mailing, and sending out *The Headlight*. Hopefully, I will be allowed to help with next year's calendar project as well.

In the future I will be helping Frank Brehm with Headlight projects, and hopefully will be able to spend some time at the Museum doing whatever needs to be done. My term as Membership Chairman and Headlight Editor was an educational experience, one I won't soon forget. It taught me to plan my time in a better way, not to tear off more than I can handle, and not to irritate so many people by being late with things such as Membership cards and the like. Of course, FRRS work isn't the only thing I do. SRG does books in conjunction with Four Ways West Publications and also produces several monthly news magazines. By having Kerry take over as Membership Chairman, it will give me back about 40 hours a month of time, which will allow for a bit of breathing room.

For those of you who are still sending your renewals to the Chico PO Box I want to assure you they will be forwarded to Portola for processing. Eventually, this PO Box will be closed as a FRRS box, but will remain as a SRG box. Any stray mail that shows up there will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

In closing, I wish to apologize to FRRS and the membership for any problems that occurred during my tenure as Membership Chairman and I want you to know that I will do everything I can to make the transition to Kerry as painless as possible. I also want all of you to know your support of our museum is always appreciated! High Green Kerry!

—**Bill Shippen**

—TRAIN SHEET NOTES—

Train Sheet #94 was produced the second week of January and mailing is expected to be January 21.

—PRESIDENTIAL NOTES—

Hello again from the Presidents Desk. Sorry to say we were not able to run the first Santa Train on the 5th of December as we have done in past years, but due to miss communications and poor planning, the lights were not on the caboose train or engine, the locomotive was left outside without being drained and it froze to the point that the radiators were damaged, and the engine would not turn over. The extent of the damage has not been determined as yet and will not be until Spring when it thaws out completely.

The second week was different...

Tom Graham and his family came to help decorate along with Steve Habeck, Don Borden, Ken Iverson, Vic Neves, Wayne Monger, Bob Carr, and many others that I did not get their names. They came to work and run the Santa Train, in our winter weather. Barbara and Norman Holmes had the Gift shop ready, Lollie Bryant and her crew supplied refreshments for the evening. Santa joined us also. The results were great, had a good turnout, and people brought their children from far and near. We regret the first train did not run but we can assure you next year both trains will operate.

WP GP-20 #2001, now on the Yolo Shortline for work, will go to Sacramento and Roseville and be a part of the reopening of the new Union Pacific Roseville Rail Yard

and RailFair '99. She will have a prominent place in the activities. The cost of getting the engine ready will be significant and we would welcome any donations to assist us in this project. The #2001 will be displayed with our signs and flyers to advertise our museum and its programs to the thousands of visitors that will come to the California State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento. Send your donations for the 2001 restoration account to FRRS, c/o Norman Holmes, PO Box 608-M Portola, CA 96122-0608.

A report about the *California Zephyr* cars is coming and will be relayed to all of you in the future. Until later, keep the faith and the Western Pacific will live...

—**Skip Englert**
President

—EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NOTES—

Nineteen hundred and ninety-nine will bring new challenges to our organization. We will have our WP GP-20 #2001 present at the dedication of Union Pacific's rebuilt Roseville Yard on May 10 then at the CSRM's Railfair in Sacramento June 18-27. Union Pacific and CSRM officials inspected the unit in November and were suitably impressed to have it at their festivities. We need to do everything possible to take advantage of this exposure.

On November 1, 1909, the last spike was driven at Keddie to complete the Western Pacific Railroad. This year is the 90th anniversary of this event. It should not go unnoticed. This year is also the fifteenth anniversary of the opening of our Portola Railroad Museum. We have made a lot of progress in fifteen years. Perhaps a commemorative booklet would be in order.

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas season and have a great New Year.

—**Norman W. Holmes**

GIFT SHOP NEWS

David Dewey and Jim Gidley worked the Roseville International Railfair show on Saturday, November 14 and Barbara and Norman Holmes finished the show on Sunday. The Roseville show is one of our most successful shows. The last show of the year was a Great American Train Show at Pleasanton November 28 and 29. Norm and Barb went to the Bay Area a few days before Thanksgiving to visit hobby shops to check stock of *My Western Pacific Railroad* book and the WPRRHS Headlight magazine. The

Pleasanton show was worth the time and expense. A profit was made for the Gift Shop and we passed out brochures about our museum. The next show will be Winterail in Stockton March 13 and the GATS show in Reno March 13 and 14.

CHANGES

At the November Board meeting Gordon Wollesen resigned as Treasurer, citing health reasons. He will remain on the Board, however. Gordon has been treasurer for as far back as anyone can remember in addition to a number of other hats he has worn. We wish to thank Gordon for all that he has done over the years and wish him good health. At the December Board meeting Steve Habeck was appointed to fill the position. Norm Holmes will continue to make the bank deposits and pay the bills under Steve's direction.

Kerry Cochran has volunteered to take over the responsibilities of Membership Chairman starting January 1, 1999. All renewal mail should be sent to the FRRS address at PO Box 608, Portola CA 96122-0608. The renewals will be processed here and forms sent to Kerry for entry in a database. We wish to thank Bill Shippen for all his work this past year doing this difficult and demanding job. Bill will continue to publish the *Train Sheet*.

OBITUARY

Robert "Bob" Wakefield died December 15, 1998, he was 76 years of age. Bob was a member of our Society until recently and supported our efforts to preserve the Western Pacific. He was an engineer with WP for 39 years and resided in Portola for 35 years.

SANTA TRAIN

As we have done since 1986, we operated a Santa Train for the enjoyment of local children. (Some also came from Reno and other areas). Unlike some other railroad museums we do not charge admission, relying instead on donations to help offset costs.

The train was scheduled to operate December 5 and 12. Work to decorate the train with lights and put up a tree and decorations in the shop building got off to a slow start with most of the work being partially completed for the December 5 train. The weather turned extremely cold during the day with the result that we could not get a locomotive started. Reluctantly, we canceled the evening's train. It was so cold there probably would not have been many visitors anyway.

By December 12, the weather had improved and