

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

thanks to Tom Graham, Judy, Melissa and William McGrath, Steve Habeck and others the train was decorated. An engine was started and train rides began. The Beanery counters were loaded with cookies, coffee and hot water for coca, cider and tea was ready. Rolph Gaudard again sat in for Santa, Ken Roller ran his model railroad, Edna Ede, Missy Iverson and Lolli Bryan served the hungry crowds of children and adults while Barbara and Norman Holmes opened the Gift Shop.

The train crew consisted of Steve Habeck, Vic Neves, Hank Stiles, Tom Graham, Judy, Melissa and William McGrath, Bob Carr, Tom Mueller, Wayne Monger, Don Borden and Ken Iverson. Other prep work before and after the activities was performed by Ed Powell, Doug Morgan and Skip Englert. Hap Mani bought two Christmas trees and decorated them for our event. Cookies were furnished by ladies from the Rebecca and others including: Edna Ede, Ann Foster, Ellen Housen, Patsy Lamm, Marietta Thompson, Leslie Anderson, Tootie Betzer and Elanne Lucas.

## —Norman Holmes

### —HAP'S CABOOSING—

Other than the Santa Train preparations regular routine work continues. Ken Iverson is keeping our batteries charged and the facilities in order with Doug Morgan. Ken and Doug were busy trying to keep the display, meeting and rest room floors dry. (In winter, ice forms on the north side of the building and when it melts it runs into some of the rooms because of the too low floors. A problem we have tried to fix for years).

A propane heater was installed in the women's rest room to keep the plumbing from freezing. Winter work in Portola is always a challenge. In the week before Christmas the temperature ranged from below zero at night to a warm mid 20's during the day. Then the next week it ranged between 25 and 45 degrees.

## —Hap Mani



### —MEMBER PORTRAITS—

*This is the second of a series of Member Portraits*

Harry D. "Hap" Mani is one of our Charter members having joined our organization in 1983, and is now a Life Member. Hap has been active around the museum ever since. He volunteers his time whenever a tour group arrives, helps in the Gift Shop, gets out a broom whenever we have a cleanup day and motivates us to help get the job done. He keeps a journal of day to day activities, which we use to report these activities in the *Train Sheet* under the "Caboosing" heading. Whenever we need to find something or need a part or tool the word is "Ask Hap."

Hap was born in Loyalton on June 10, 1916, his family moved to Portola to work in the lumber mills in 1929, and Hap has lived there ever since. After graduating from High School he worked for the County doing among other things, oiling the dirt roads common at the time. He married Evelyn, known as Sugar, August 3, 1946, and has two sons, Larry and Mike. Larry was until recently a CHP patrolman. He was one of the last motorcycle cops in the Bay Area and was on the Bay Bridge when the Loma Prieta earthquake happened. Mike works for