

Notes From the Chairman

At the outset, may I say, it is a privilege to be in this position and be a part of a tremendous Museum, which has been described by many as a "Sleeping Giant".

There can be no doubt that a tremendous amount of effort by many has brought this organization to its present level. Many plans are in the works and hopefully the effort will continue to bring them to fruition. The Museum and the board have been fortunate in that the County of Plumas, City of Portola and the Board of Supervisors have an interest in helping the Museum grow.

Among the goals deemed achievable is the refurbishing of the roof of the building due to its extreme deterioration. Another aim is to complete the modification of the boxcar to become the home, at least on a temporary basis, of all the historic documents and memorabilia in the possession of the Historical Committee. John Walker, Chair, has done an exemplary job in bringing this about.

In all candor, I am not sure it is achievable but one of my own personal primary goals is to make the "Little Steam 440 #737", the original Union Pacific engine, an acceptable static display.

Having recently been apprised of the fact that the Ingersol-Rand engine in the museums possession is the only one of this type known to exist, a bit of "TLC" will be directed toward it to assure its preservation.

There are many, many things that we as mem-

bers can do, to not only perpetuate the Museum, but also to assure progress. I am aware that geographically we are to some very remote. Nevertheless, in my time as a member of this organization I have developed a great regard for the Museum and its members: hopefully they can be encouraged to become more active in helping enhance the efforts that are ongoing.

I would be remiss were I not to acknowledge the efforts and dedication of our immediate past president "Skip" Englert. Unfortunately, he has experienced some health problems but still is an active member of the Board and continues to manage the "R.A.L." Program.

In closing, I again express my gratitude for being allowed to be a part of a tremendous institution and wish to assure all that I will do my utmost in assisting others in furthering our Museum's growth.

The Headlight

Issue 17 (the big CZ 50th Anniversary issue) is nearing completion and will hopefully go to paste up in a few weeks.

Articles being submitted for future issues include an article on Binney Jct. in Marysville, the WP's proposed but never built San Francisco peninsula line, an article on the Jeffery Shops in Sacramento, a look at the WP's Stockton Yard, an excellent article on modeling the U23B's and some other ideas which are still works in progress.

Our magazine staff is constantly looking and developing new material months, even years in advance. This magazine is an all volunteer effort, none of the staff gets paid for any of this. This is YOUR magazine. We need YOUR contributions. Don't wait for someone else to write an article, they're waiting on you.

We desperately need cover photos, "Portrait of a Feather" photos, modeling articles as well as historical articles. A new feature, the Collectibles Corner, features short articles and photos of unique WP items such as lanterns, china, service awards, etc. Please consider sharing some of your items with us in this column. Contact Frank Brehm at 916-334-7476 or via email at headlight@wplives.com for details.

- Frank Brehm

Obituaries

We have lost two members recently: Richard Mitchell died July 14 and Robert Dobbins died on August 16.

Richard Mitchell worked for the Santa Fe in Richmond until his retirement and was active in the Northern California Railroad Club. Mitch hosted several bus trips from the Bay Area to our museum.

Robert Dobbins was an enthusiastic supporter of our museum and was very generous in his contributions to our endowment fund.

Both will be missed.

Web Pages of Interest

PRM	www.oz.net/~samh/frrs	SN Page	www.people.virginia.edu/~ggg9y
WPRRHS	www.wprrhs.org	Tidewater Southern	www5.pair.com/rattene/WP/TideIndex.htm
CZ Virtual Museum	calzephyr.railfan.net	Tidewater Southern	members.aol.com/TSRY/page5/Tsmainpage.htm
The Western Pacific Site	www.wplives.com	WP Virtual Museum	wpmuseum.railfan.net