

Convention Attendance

Barbara and Norman Holmes attended a number of conventions this fall. The first was the Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society convention held in Redding September 30 to October 3. A model contest, slide and movie show and guest speakers were presented during the event. Don Olsen showed old SP films that he will soon make available on video. We had a table with Gift Shop merchandise available to purchase and had a photo display showing our 17 pieces of Southern Pacific equipment. While sales totaled a little over \$1,000, interest in our SP equipment was tepid. Guess SP fans are more interested in photos and models than preservation of the railroads equipment.

On October 6, we flew to Las Vegas for the annual convention of the Nevada Museum Association. While we are not located in Nevada, we are close enough to participate in some of the activities in Nevada. The convention was held at the Clark County Museum and had a number of workshops with speakers on various subjects of interest to museums. An evening "dinner train" ride was available at the Nevada State Railroad Museum's Boulder City facility. The ride was behind UP 1000, UP's first diesel switcher (NW-2) and an open car that was once a WP caboose from the Elko derrick train. The dinner was a buffet style BBQ.

October 27 saw us flying to Washington DC to visit the Smithsonian, B&O Museum, National Trolley Museum, Virginia Museum of Transportation and others. This before the Tourist Railway Convention on November 3-7.

Convention headquarters was the Snowshoe Mountain Resort, high atop a mountain in West Virginia. This ski resort has condominiums and time share apartments. Two days were spent riding the Cass Scenic Railway and touring their shop facilities, located 18 miles from Snowshoe. The remainder of the time was attending seminars, talking with vendors and other members of TRAIN. The evening banquet featured a speaker from Cass.

Attending conventions gives one a chance to network with people in the same kind of work you do and discuss the same problems that we all have. Ideas and knowledge are always welcome.

- Norm Holmes

Minutes of Past Meetings

November 1999

The November Board meeting of the F.R.R.S. was called to order at 1:10 p.m. at the Portola City Library. All Directors were present with the exception of Director Englert. Other guests present: Lolli Bryan & Chris Simpson.

Minutes were approved.

Financial Report: Lolli Bryan presented a report on the RAL.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Loyalton Middle School thanking us for our donation. Letter from Old Town Merchants re: Christmas Activities

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Director Holmes announced the arrival of the 44 Tonner from Salt Lake City and the attendant costs \$3275.00. He also announced that he will apply for a smog refund on all museum cars purchased in Nevada. A full written report will be forthcoming on the TRAIN convention.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LIBRARY CAR. Conversion is in progress with planed for installation of more shelves and lighting. Some shelves and the floor is in.

TRAIN SHEET. Director Brehm gave an update of the Train Sheet re: printing and postage and will give a full report at the December meeting. Mailing of last year's calendars as an incentive for purchasing the 2000 calendars will cost \$256.00. The Board approved this action.

MUSEUM UPDATE. Director Morgan reported the shower car has been winterized. Installation of the AC unit for the Blue Car is on hold but will be completed in the spring.

Motion 21/11/99 - Authorized Director Vicknair to order 750 RAL gift certificates from San Jose Printing at a cost of \$265 plus tax.

OLD BUSINESS:

MUSEUM ROOF. Director Anderson reported that the City of Portola and the County Board of Supervisors have designated the sum of \$30,000 as the amount they would give toward replacing the existing roof of the museum building.

SILVER HOSTEL. Motion 19-11/99 that the F.R.R.S. engage legal counsel to protect the investment of the CZ Car at the cost of \$145/hr Reason for this action is to insure that the CZ car retain the configuration and equipment that was present at the time of purchase. Motion by Director Morgan, second by Director Stiles.

THOMAS PHILLIPS COLLECTION. Director Brehm reported the acquisition of the Thomas Philips collection has been completed. The collection will be housed at his home until the completion of the Library Car.

SILVER THRUSH. Director Vicknair reported that the Silver Thrush is in good condition. Purchase price is \$110,000.00 but possible that price could be negotiable.

NEW BUSINESS:

ROLLING STOCK. Discussion was held regarding rental charges for privately owned rolling stock. The general consensus was in cases where an agreement was not in hand and that persons owning this stock indeed were an asset to the museum

Minutes of Past Meetings

the rental charges be waived in recognition of contributions by the owners. No further action was taken.

BUDGET PROCESS. Each department head was asked to prepare a "Preliminary Budget" for the year 2000 to be presented at the December meeting. These items will be forwarded to our treasurer for his perusal and a final budget will be in place by January 2000.

MOTION 20-11/99 That the F.R.R.S. designate specific Directors as liaisons to certain groups, departments or committees. By Director Vicknair, second by Brehm. Passed

ADVERTISING. Costs were discussed and a general review of them was deemed to be in order. It was felt that many of the publications we now advertise in do not have a fair return ratio. A resolve to this situation is in order.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

December 1999

Meeting called to order at 12:01 p.m., Portola City Library. Directors in attendance: Brehm, Englert, Morgan, Vicknair, Neves, Stiles, Wagner, Monger and Anderson. Absent: Holmes. Others present: Lolli Bryan, Steve Habeck, Kerry Cochran, Don Borden & Kathleen Miller.

Minutes were read and corrected.

Financial Report was given out by Kathleen Miller. RAL Report was given by Lolli Bryan.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter received from W. E. Nordgren of Minnesota regarding his miniature layout which features W.P. lettering.
2. Letter from Andy Hinz informing us that he is volunteering his time this winter to help with the museum.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: - A letter of proposal by Executive Director Norman Holmes expressing his desire to rescind his noted intention to resign this position as of 12/31/99 and allow him to be re-appointed Executive Director and gift shop manager was read. Contained in this proposal were various demands and accusations that made the Board extremely uncomfortable. After considerable debate the Board voted to reject his proposal. Motion 23-12/99 regarding this vote is attached. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The Board expressed a desire that a letter of appreciation for all of his past endeavors to further the Museum growth be forwarded to Mr. Holmes.

Motion 23-12/99 - That the Board of Directors of the Feather River Rail Society shall, upon the retirement of Norman Holmes, effective 12/31/99, retire from use the position and title of Executive Director in tribute to the years of service given in that position by Norman Holmes.

The duties of this position will be distributed among the Board Chairman, Treasurer, Facilities Manager, Publications Manager, board liaisons and any other designated responsible persons as required by the Board and the needs of the membership of the FRRS. Motion passed. The following duties were assigned on an interim basis:

Gift Shop	Lolli Bryan, John Walker
Mail	Lolli Bryan, Andy Anderson
Membership	Kerry Cochran – money from such will be deposited locally.
Paying of bills	Andy Anderson - after receiving bills. Chairman Anderson will compare with Department Head involved. If approved they will be forwarded to Kathleen Miller for payment. (as stated in procedures for such)

Other duties will be shared by Board members as needed. Parliamentarian Kerry Cochran will contact legal counsel re: legality of lifetime appointment of the position of Director in non-profit organizations.

Chairman Anderson asked the Board to ponder for discussion at the January Board meeting the possible formation of an interview panel for the hiring of a General Manager of the Museum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADVERTISING: Director Neves presented a preliminary budget for review for the year 2000. It was noted that Sunset Magazine, Trains Magazine and our web site provided the best response.

TRAIN SHEET & HEADLIGHT: Director Brehm provided a preliminary budget for consideration. Director Brehm also reminded members that the deadline for the next Train Sheet is Dec. 31, 1999.

BUDGET: Chairman Anderson reminded all department chairs that they need to have preliminary budgets by our next Board so that Treasurer Brady can develop a final budget. (Next Board meeting, Jan. 8, 2000)

OPERATING DEPARTMENT: Kerry Cochran stated that some of the concerns of department head Jim Gidley were as follows:

1. Track repair - was discussed and Director Morgan stated it would be done.
2. Condition of engines and maintenance of RAL equipment. It was noted that if necessary/maintenance work could be jobbed out due to lack of volunteer time to adequately perform the task. It was noted that all engines had to be in working condition by summer season's opening date.
3. Scheduling of work days etc. Operating department Chair Gidley, Kerry Cochran and Frank Brehm will coordinate the calendar for year 2000.

LIBRARY CAR: Car is nearing completion and will be a great asset to the Museum.

MAINTENANCE: Director Stiles will present a preliminary budget by next meeting. It was also suggested that Engine 501 be put into the RAL program and Engine 1857 moved out of the RAL program. Director Stiles also reported that Engine 2001 is still in Yolo County but manuals have been received that will assist in returning this engine to running order and hopefully in the near future will be returned to Por-

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