

Harry *HAP* Mani 1916-1999

We lost a great man and a loyal member of our Society when on October 31, 1999, Harry "Hap" Mani passed away at the age of 83.

Hap was born in Loyalton June 10, 1916, and moved to Portola at a young age graduating from Portola High School in 1933. He was a lifetime member and former commander of the Portola America Legion Post. He went to work for the Western Pacific Railroad in 1937 and retired in 1976. He was a "mud hop" (yard clerk) and crew caller when he retired. He had lots of stories to tell about his experiences. He was featured as the second in a series of member portraits in issue No. 94 of the Train Sheet.

Hap joined the Feather River Rail Society in 1983, soon after the organization was formed. A very ardent supporter he was always available to help with the gift shop sales, would conduct tours for seniors and school children and every spring, a few days before Railroad Days, would get a hose and squeegee to help wash down the diesel shop building. He was an inspiration to all of us.

Hap was a collector. Anything that he or we might want to use in the future or just want to save for whatever, Hap saved. He got a lot of ribbing about this, but when someone wanted some hard to find part or

tool, Hap could usually find it. Once when we were re-cabbling our 200-ton derrick, we needed the end of the cable leaded in. Hap said "I think I have what you need". Soon he returned with a supply of "socket lead."

For a number of years the Train Sheet carried a column titled "Caboosing with Hap Mani." Hap, I suppose because of his work as a clerk, kept a daily journal about everything that went on at the museum. We gleaned items from the journal to report minor activities at the museum.

Hap developed cancer a few years ago and passed away peacefully at home. His wife of 53 years Evelyn "Sug", sons Larry and Mike as well as sister Thelma Epper and four grandchildren survive him. He was preceded in death by one brother. No services were held at Hap's request and his ashes were spread over the mountains he loved.

Hap had a wealth of memories about the history of the area, the railroad and the people who worked here. Unfortunately we were not able to record these recollections.

The family requests any donations in his memory be made to the Portola Railroad Museum c/o Fehrman Mortuary and Crematory, P.O. Box 53, Quincy, CA 95971.

WP Heavyweight coach 320 Donated to PRM

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car as much as possible like it was as a WP coach. Coming along with the coach was a former TS box car also used in the Portola Derrick outfit.

The entire Oroville derrick outfit was moved to Portola in 1990, when the Oroville car facility was closed. We now have most of the Oroville derrick outfit: 200 ton derrick No. 37, boom car 37-1, flat car 37-2, Supply car 37-6, Pullman sleeper 37-7, cable storage car 37-10 and cabooses 37-10.

Of the 20 WP heavyweight coaches owned by WP, 6 exist: 302 donated to City of Oakland, now on loan to Western Railway Museum at Rio Vista Jct. In service. 309 sold and now an office in Oroville. 314, 316 sold and now retail stores at a station complex in Calistoga. 315 sold to Norman Holmes in 1975 and donated to Pacific Locomotive Society, in service on Niles Canyon Railway. 320 donated to the Feather River Rail Society, Portola.

- Norman Holmes



November 30, 1999 found our newest acquisition on the property. Donated by the Union Pacific, this car helps round out our collection of ex WP heavyweight equipment.

- Norman Holmes