

er. A photo of an Alco built UP Big Boy was shown but nothing else on Alco. Outside a freshly painted Alco RS-3, in Great Northern paint, was on display.

The Catskill Mountain Railroad, at Mt. Pleasant (no town, nothing but a train station, try to find this on a map!) advertised hourly trains from 12-4pm through Oct 9, but nothing was operating. A sign on the station said weekends only. They had a 50-ton Porter side rod diesel, 2 open cars and a caboose. Wonder what they do when it rains as it frequently does in this area? Other equipment listed in the guide must have been located elsewhere.

The Trolley Museum of New York at Kingston was locked up behind a high fence. We could see lots of equipment rusting away in the damp atmosphere. Could not see where they would have a "2 1/2 mile, 40 minute round trip.

New York City Transit Museum is located in Brooklyn in a no longer used subway station. Stored on the two tracks were at least 25 cars of various vintages. Also on display were various fare collection devices, bus and trolley models, parts, and a history of how the subways were built including a movie showing same.

A nice trip, but it is also nice to be home.

Slowly Slipping Away

By Eugene John Vicknair

The San Jose area recently lost some major portions of its quickly fading WP heritage. Perhaps the most noticeable and tragic was the demolition of the downtown freight house on The Alameda, one block west of the famous SP Cahill Station. The freight house, one of only two which remained from the WP (the other in Elko, Nevada) was built when the branch to San Jose was constructed in the early 1920's. It served until 1971. In recent years, it had fallen into a terrible state of disrepair, but still sported a Western Pacific Freight Depot sign until the end. Efforts to preserve the building as part of downtown redevelopment fell by the wayside some years ago as local preservationists chose to focus on the nearby Del Monte warehouse and the rail community focused on the SP roundhouse.

The major shipper on the end of the San Jose Branch, the Del Monte cannery, finally closed early this year. Now, the last shippers spur, located just north of the WP line's crossing of the ex-SP Vasona Branch, has been tied into the former SP line and the WP branch beyond Monterey Road has been embargoed. This line was notable for tiptoeing through the backyards of the historic and pricey Willow Glen neighborhood.

Finally, the WP's Seventh Street spur, which took off from the branch near Spartan Stadium, is being torn up. Once a major line of an extensive industrial district where SP and WP tracks meshed and crisscrossed each other, the spur had one rail pulled over in recent weeks, a fate also befalling some SP trackage in the district. UP is rapidly pruning the San Jose Branch and very few customers remain.

Obituaries

Bruce Lee Cooper 1943-2000

We lost a very dedicated member when Bruce Cooper died August 22, 2000 from complications resulting from diabetes. He was born in Redding, California on April 1, 1943 was a fire fighter for the City of San Rafael for 15 years and after retirement on disability moved to Grass Valley.

In 1987, Bruce and his wife Sue visited our museum and found it so interesting that they moved to Portola and joined the Society in August 1987. Bruce and Sue became active volunteers, Sue in the Beanery and Bruce in the operating department. Bruce was elected to the Board of Directors in 1988 and in 1989 started the now famous run-a-locomotive program. This program has made the public aware of our existence through TV, newspaper, and magazine publicity. The R-A-L program had done more for the museum's financial welfare than any other one thing.

Bruce was also responsible for obtaining our first land acquisition, a 3.46 acre donation which included our picnic area. He also obtained supplies and equipment from Government Surplus at Herlong.

A memorial is being established with the American Diabetes Association, 10445 Old Placerville Road, Sacramento CA 95827.

Guy Dunscomb 1915-2000

While not a current member of FRRS, Guy Dunscomb supported our Society with photos and information. Guy authored a number of books on the Western Pacific in addition to his extensive Southern Pacific works. Guy could always come up with a photo or roster information when asked. He was a fine gentleman. He passed away on September 1, 2000.

George L. Bates

We were recently advised by Mrs. Bates that George passed away on September 23, 2000. Retired and living in Amirillo, Texas we regularly received donations from him in addition to his membership dues. Our condolences go to the family.

Unofficial Poll Results

The following FRRS poll held on our EGroups mailing list site is now closed. This was not an officially sanctioned poll by the FRRS. Here are the final results:

POLL QUESTION: If repainted, which paint scheme should the Southern Pacific SD-9 be repainted into?

CHOICES AND RESULTS

- Black Widow (Black/Orange/Silver), 15 votes, 75.00%
- Bloody Nose (Red/Grey), 5 votes, 25.00%