



Preserving "THE FEATHER RIVER ROUTE"



The Train Sheet

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News from the Feather River Rail Society and the Portola Railroad Museum

2001 WPRRHS Convention Successful

By Thom Anderson

The WPRRHS 2001 Convention is now history. Over 75 people were in attendance at the Modesto Holiday in on April 27 and 28. A big "Thank You" goes out to Steve and Norma Hayes for all of their work to make the event a big success. I would also like to thank Bob and Lois Mersereau for all of their help on the registration desk. Vic Neves again handled audio/visual duties. Norman and Barbara Holmes brought a selection of items from the PRM gift shop and handled sales to the attendees. Dave and Bob Pires were in charge of contest duties this year. My thanks go out to all of them, as well as those who made presentations, including Dave Stanley, Virgil Staff, Vic Neves, Tom Taylor, Dave Connery, John Zach, Ken Rattenne, Evan Werkema, Dan Mosier, Steve Hayes, Henry Bender, Norman Holmes and Eugene Vicknair. If you missed it, you missed a good one.

This year's theme was the Tidewater Southern. I believe all of those who were in attendance came away from the presentations having learned something new. All of the presentations were informative and thought provoking. I found the most unexpected presentation was the one by Dan Mosier on the Tesla branch, the town of Tesla, the Alameda & San Joaquin Railroad and it associated enterprises. For instance,

did you know that in addition to coal mining at Tesla, there was a brick factory, gravel pit, window glass factory, and a briquette factory associated with the A&SJ? There were also plans for a rail line to the bay and commercial production of electric power, and that practically everything had disappeared by 1920! Many of the people involved in these enterprises were also involved in the formation and early days of the WP.

Mr. Mosier has written a 380 page soft cover book with many rare photographs of the people and the industries they created. He had the book available for purchase at the convention. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, he can be contacted at Mines Road Books, P.O. Box 3185, Fremont CA 94539 for ordering information. History of Tesla - A California Coal Mining Town By Dan L. Mosier and Earle E. Williams

Tom Lawler, 2002 Convention Chairman reports he will have a date and site selected soon. The convention theme is Sacramento Northern. Vic Neves and Barbara Holmes (no, not Norman's wife - this is another person with the same name) have

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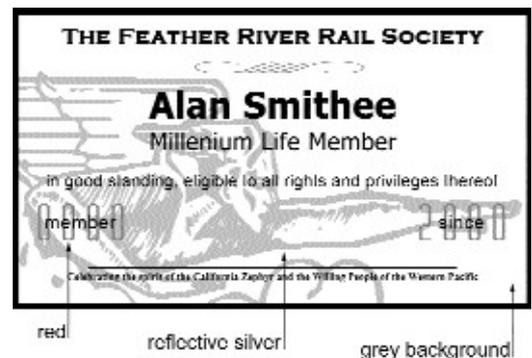
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Zephyr Project Millenium Life Cards Sent

"The Millenium Life Membership cards have now been sent to those Zephyr Project donors who gave \$1000 or more. So far four members have chosen to enroll as CZ Life members and receive their new cards. The cards are a new style for the FRRS, featuring a special reflective silver Zephyrus image on a grey background. Red accents and numbers highlight these very distinctive and unique badges of membership.

Also, the backlog with the model suppliers has finally been broken and the commemorative models are being created. These should be in the hands of donors shortly."

Eugene John Vicknair



2001 WPRRHS Convention

stepped up to handle the 2003 convention, located as Barbara states "somewhere in the Oakland area". More details will be forthcoming in the coming months.

Other sites being considered for future conventions are Sacramento, Chico CA, Reno, Winnemucca, Elko, Gerlach NV, Salt Lake City and Knolls, UT. One thing that we have found when preparing conventions is it is a necessity to have someone in the area to handle the smaller details as they come up between the Society and the hotel or site where the convention is being held. It is near impossible to do this from a distance.

By the time you have read this, you should already have received your copy of Issue #17 of the Headlight magazine. The Headlight staff hopes you are pleased with the content. Frank Brehm is putting together the layout for Issue #18 containing the second half of the CZ coverage, due out this summer. The staff is confident that we are past the trouble that has plagued production of the magazine and that you will see it on a regular schedule.

Two other publications are now available or due soon. Four Ways West has released "WP Color Pictorial, Volume 1" by Adam Clegg. Jim Eager reports he has completed the work on an all-color book for Morning Sun on WP rolling stock. It is anticipated to be available sometime this fall. Several members of the Society have contributed photos and information on this project.

P.S. – We're not really considering Gerlach or Knolls as convention sites. I just wanted to keep all of you on your toes!

CMO Report

By Hank Stiles

Hello to all, spring is on the way and I can't wait! Time to start the summer season at the museum. We are already doing locomotive rentals, Maintenance Clinics started in April and we have begun the new season.

Some of the locomotives have been serviced and more will be as time permits. We will be painting the WP 707 this year for use in upcoming events. Along with other projects this will be a busy year in Portola.

I am proud to tell you that the WP 2001 has had all the bugs worked out and by the time you read this should be performing service on the Yolo Shortline. This locomotive had one problem after another, small problems but problems just the same. After many trips to Woodland I along with the help of others was able to repair everything and put the locomotive in service. We owe the Yolo Shortline a big pat on the back for all that they have done to help us. If you can come to Woodland and ride their passenger train do it as it is a nice ride along the Sacramento River, well worth the time spent.

We have a lot of work to do this year, I hope that some of you can come to Portola and help out with the exciting projects that we are planning this year. Not only is this one of the best ways that you can personally make our museum a success, but coming to the museum and working with people that want to see projects get done just as much as you do is a lot of fun. The satisfaction of seeing a job well done is a reward in itself.

I hope to see many of you in Portola this year, the facilities are ready, all we need is you!

From the President

By Hank Stiles

As I set here at my desk, piled with tasks, I think about the long list of things to do at the museum. Who will do them? We have a small bunch of people who pour their heart and soul into the museum. As of April 30 we have no one to run the Beanery. Sue Cooper can't do it because she will be traveling this summer; Edna Ede has spent hundreds of hours working in the Beanery and does not have the time that it needs. We have a hospital building that was donated to us and where will the volunteers come from to restore this piece of Western Pacific history? We need volunteers to do things from restore locomotives to mop floors. ? Skip Englert, Ellen Minor, Bruce Cooper and Hap Manitt have all died in the last year or so, where will we get the replacements for these hard workers. Who will step in and do these jobs that need to be done? Can we go on with the progress that we have seen in the past at the museum with the amount support we receive? We may be forced to reduce the services we now provide to the public. We may also be forced to reduce the amount we can do to reverse the effects of time on our collection and the museum itself.

If we cannot attract enough volunteers to do the jobs that have to be done, then the museum suffers. Our income is not sufficient so that we may hire people to do the jobs that just have to be done. We can get a volunteer work force and a smaller pile of dollar bills or we can take a much larger pile of dollars and hire a work force.

How do we solve this problem?

I see only two ways we can go. One way is to somehow find a supply of cash. However the cash is not available now so this does not solve our problem. We have applied for a transportation grant and other grants are being looked into. There are long lines of deserving organizations for these grants and dwindling resources available. Grant money will be a part of the long-range solution to this problem.

The best way to go, in the short and long term I think, is to have our volunteer force grow. What we need is for everyone to think of how you can help your society prosper. Your help with the work of the society would be one of the easiest and most needed ways you can help. Please consider coming to the museum to help. We need people for one day or one week or one month; you will have fun and the knowledge that you made a difference.

We have in the last few years improved our volunteer facilities with a shower car with both men's and women's restroom and shower facilities. Also provided is an air-conditioned sleeping car for your comfort and a kitchen to cut down on your food costs. Tom Graham and many others have built a very nice deck between the shower car and the sleeper car where we can BBQ and socialize in the evenings after a satisfying day at the museum. We plan to fix up a car as a lounge area with TV, VCR and down the road Internet access when our networking budget catches up with our ideas.

If you have any thoughts or comments please email me at flatiron@mindspring.com write to me at 2443 El Burlon Cir. Rancho Cordova Ca. 95670 or call at 1-916-363-8572.

Thanks for your time