

NRHS Excursion

- John Walker, Museum Manager

Chris Skow of Trains Unlimited Tours offered the FRRS a chance to make some extra money by staffing a gift shop and food and drink concessions on his 15 car, three-day excursion from Oakland to Portland for the NRHS convention. Hank and Janice Stiles helped John aboard the train with the additional assistance of Dave Houston of Daylight Sales in Sacramento.

The trip was quite the adventure! Selling gift shop merchandise and serving drinks at speeds of 80 mph on the mainline and 10-30 mph on the switchbacks of the McCloud Railroad and the former SP Coos Bay branch west of Eugene (now operated by CORP) was challenging at times. The days were very long and after a few hours sleep; it was another pre dawn start for the next day of the trip. The logistics of trying to stock a fifteen car train with nearly 400 people on board are very challenging and Janice saved our bacon on several occasions by driving a chase car and picking up things we had run out of and delivering to the train just in the nick of time. On one occasion, we had to jump over an irrigation ditch to get 200 fresh donuts onto the train before the train took off again! But everything went pretty well and we had a great opportunity to talk to people about the FRRS and the museum. Surprisingly, a lot of our members were on board as well as members of other museums, private car owners, excursion operators and railroad officials and we got a chance to talk with them and help catch them up on recent events at the museum. Occasionally, we actually got a chance to stick our heads out the window and see some wonderful scenery (but not often enough).

After arriving in Portland (with eight minutes to spare) near midnight, we finally got to our motel rooms at 1:30 in the morning and caught up on some sleep. Janice and Hank returned to Sacramento while John picked up a U-Haul rental truck and packed up all of our stuff on the train. With an evening to kill, John visited the Brooklyn Roundhouse and was asked to volunteer for The Friends of the 4449 on their roundtrip excursion with the SP&S 700/SP 4449 from Portland to Wishram and back the next day. This was another opportunity to make new friends and observe how other groups do things and possibly learn something.

Following the Wishram trip, John drove the remaining gift shop supplies south to Dunsmuir to meet up with the museum train that had left

Portola on the 6th. Our baggage/Concession car was set up and stocked for Dunsmuir Railroad Days on the 9th and 10th. The people of Dunsmuir were GREAT! Many people went out of their way to thank the FRRS for making their event the best it has been in ten years. Rod and Gail McClure, Steve Habeck, Wayne and Linda Monger and Hank and Janice Stiles monitored cars and equipment, ran the gift shop, sold drinks, passed out brochures and gave rides on the turntable at Dunsmuir with our SP 2873 and WP2001 securely fixed to the bridge of the turntable. Special thanks to Matt Shumann and his crew of the Cascade Rail Preservation Society and Buck _____? and _____ Plank, the Union Pacific MTO and MOP at Dunsmuir for all of their assistance. And thanks to UP Superintendent R.J. Perry.

WP Modelling Report

- Thom Anderson, WPPRHS Admin

There are a few new models on the horizon. Broadway Limited has released the California Zephyr baggage, dome coach, diner 10-6 sleeper and 16-section sleepers as of this writing. They are also going to rerun the cars done in the first release in a few months.

Athearn announced WP 85-foot piggyback flats and WP bicentennial trailers in HO scale, stock #93272. A Pullman-Standard 2983 cubic foot covered hopper is now available, as is a 65-foot mill gondola, in both HO and N scale. These cars are good for WP, however WP is not among the roadnames announced so far.

Atlas announced GP35 units in N scale in green paint #3001, stock#46525 and #3009, stock #46526. Also announced in N scale is a 50-foot Fruit Growers Express boxcar. Many roadnames are being offered, including WP, stock #33713. Many of these other FGE cars were seen on WP, even though they had other reporting marks.

Rick Schonfelder reminded me that Atlas is offering WP as a roadname on their O scale Berwick 60-foot boxcar. The 2-rail car is stock #9629, and the 3-rail car is stock #8629. This is the same car that Athearn did in HO in their Genesis line. Atlas is also offering in O scale iced refrigerator cars in various WP schemes, including the Western Refrigerator Line, a very short lived scheme for some of the WP's first refrigerator cars. The cars will be available singly or in a 4-pack containing one of each paint scheme.