

KENT STEPHENS COLLECTION

Kent Stephens has donated his entire collection of railroad research material including photographs, books and an unfinished manuscript on logging railroads in the Feather River Country.

Kent is a long time member of FRRS, having joined in 1985. He served on the Board of Directors, the Acquisition / DeAcquisition committee and contributed a number of articles to the Western Pacific Headlight magazine. He also authored a book on the Diamond Match Company entitled *Matches, Flumes and Rails* published in 1977, as well as numerous short articles on Central California railroads.

Kent retired from his position as research librarian at the University of California, Chico, in 2000. Health disabilities has limited his activities resulting in the decision to donate his railroad materials collection. He now lives in a retirement home in Redding, CA.

Norman Holmes received a call from Kent in August telling Norm that Kent was moving from Chico to Redding and that he would not be able to utilize his collection because of space limitations and his disability problems. Norman drove to Chico in early September and met with Kent to inspect the collection and assess the amount to be moved. Norm filled his pickup camper with 40 boxes of material to bring back to Portola.

On September 22, Norman and Leroy Guill drove to Chico, picked up a U-Haul truck and met Wayne Monger and John Walker at the storage units. Some 150 boxes were loaded from 4 storage units and transported to Portola. The next day Charlie Spikes, Cody Wilson and Norman unloaded the U-Haul into the MoPac baggage car for sorting and temporary storage.

We wish to thank Kent for his most generous donation to the Western Pacific Railroad Historical archives.

WPRM DISPLAY AT SPARKS YARD

- David Epling, Museum Manager

Union Pacific's Sparks, Nevada Director of Train Operations, Ben Ritter, approached FRRS President Rod McClure to inquire about the loan of early Maintenance of Way equipment for a display that Union Pacific was doing for the main entrance to the Union Pacific's Sparks Yard.

The FRRS Board of Directors approved the loan and FRRS Vice President Steve Habeck took on the task of prepping the selected equipment. The equipment chosen was our former UPRR Handcar and Crew Speeder. Steve spent two weeks cleaning the handcar and masking and painting the crew speeder. His efforts turned out a great looking piece of MOW history. The equipment was moved in July 2010 under Steve's supervision to the UP Sparks Yard and set up where it can be seen today. The FRRS is honored to be able to help the Union Pacific celebrate its history.

The UP Yard Display is visible at the entrance to the Sparks Yard, right off Nugget Avenue.

- David Epling photo

