

WPRM Rolls Out Interpretive Signage –Eugene Vicknair

For several years, the Society has been looking at ways to economically place interpretative signage on our railroad equipment. Starting in 2010, we began experimenting with different methods and materials to replace the small number of plastics signs that were done many years ago.

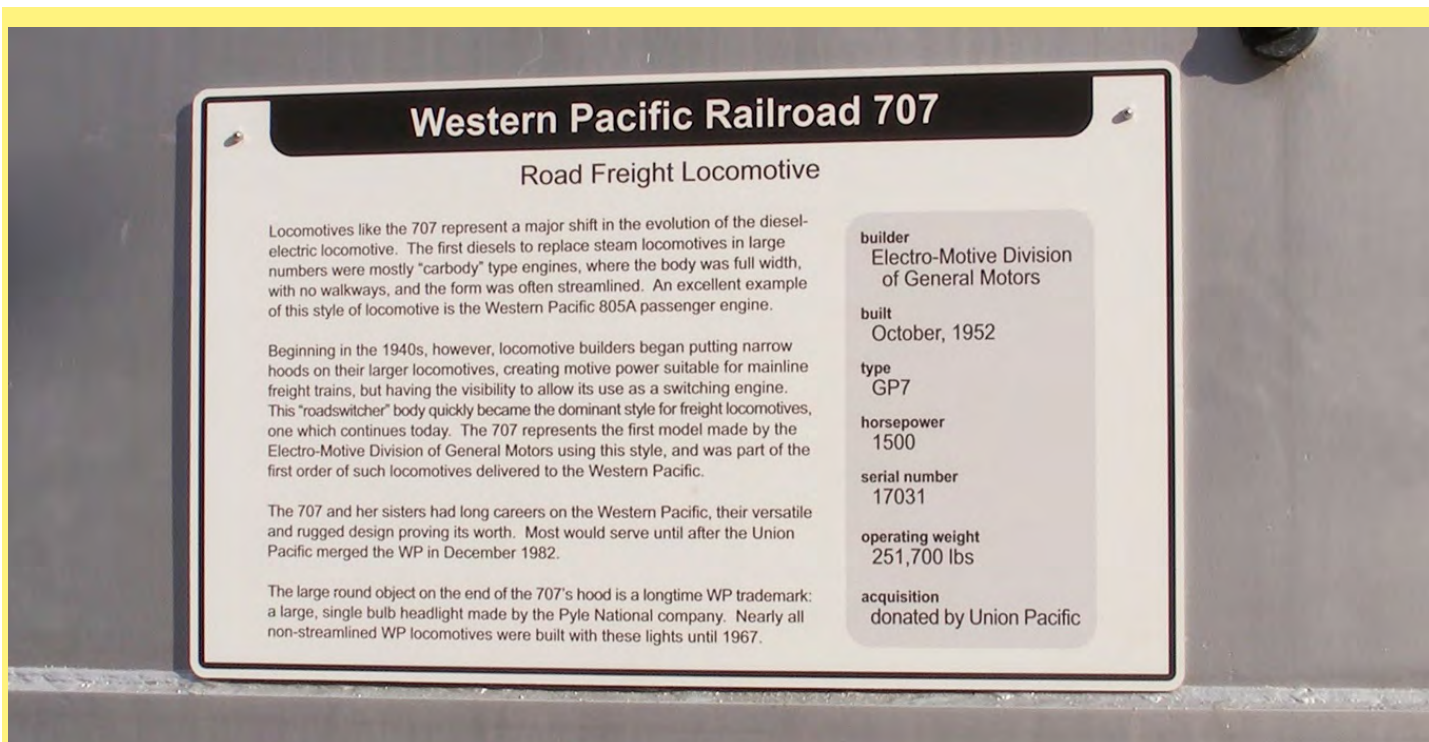
Outdoor equipment signage can be very expensive, with high quality signs costing as much as \$400 each. While we did not want to “cheap out”, with 150 pieces of equipment and our harsh environment, we needed to find an easy to implement and cost effective solution. In 2013, a small number of aluminum signs were produced that cost about \$40 per sign (including mounting hardware) and they handled the weather quite nicely. The price was further squeezed down and now sits around \$34 per sign.

In 2015, we placed out first orders for these new signs, placing two identical signs (one per side) on select items in our rolling stock

collection. Some pieces received a second pair of signs with extra information such as details on their mechanics or historical information on other events the year they were built.

So far the results have been very positive! Visitors appreciate the information and the members have expressed approval for the look and quality of the signs. The graphic work has been donated by Eugene Vicknair through his design company. Research for the histories that appear on the signs has been done by Eugene, Mike Mucklin, Frank Brehm, Garth Groff, David Epling and others using the FRRS archives and other resources.

By the opening of the 2016 season, we should have signs on 24 pieces of equipment, with another 15 pieces slated to receive them by end of season. We have also acquired signs discussing WP history, details of rail and showing the WP system map. Also, our Run A Locomotive units will now sport small signs advertising their availability to visitors. With additional funds, we will be able to place even more signs in 2016, as well as direction signs around the museum, enhancing our visitor experience for everyone.



Informational Signage

One of the prototype signs as applied to Western Pacific GP7 707. No modifications are made to the bodies to mount the signs and they can be easily removed without damage.