

## Catch the Early Train!

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### Departure Bob Larson

Bob Larson hired out on the Western Pacific as a fireman in 1956; he came to the WP from the Soo Line, CN&W and DM&IR.



In 1957, he was forced to Portola on the firemen's extra board. At the time he had no idea where Portola was and did not know anything about the Feather River Canyon.

Bob had an old-time nickname (everyone on the railroad has or acquires a nickname); it was "Hoopie". During some of his time on the railroads back east, he worked as a tower operator, where part of the job was to "hoop up" train orders to passing trains. This followed him to the WP. At Winterail many years ago, Bob told us a hilarious story of an evening he spent in a tower in Wisconsin, while live-narrating a slide show of some of his spectacular collection (he was also a great storyteller). He almost always had a camera with him when he went to work, and, as a result, got hundreds of photos that no one else could even hope to have.

Bob shared some of his adventures with the Western Pacific over a long series of articles he wrote for the *The Western Pacific Headlight*, the journal of WP history from the Feather River Rail Society. The articles were titled "At the Throttle with Bob Larson" and chronicled his career from 1962 to 1978.

Bob Larson died February 14, 2019 at age 81 in Las Vegas.

### Museum Sponsors

The Western Pacific played a major role in developing the economy of Plumas County and the surrounding region. The Western Pacific Railroad Museum is proud to be a part of that heritage and to hold a position in supporting the ongoing economic health of our community. We welcome the support of that community in return. Helping to preserve the Western Pacific is good for tourism, good for our regional culture and good for business.

We ask our members and visitors to support our business sponsors, companies who have generously contributed to the museum and its mission to preserve the Western Pacific family.

If you are a business owner, see how you can support the WP Museum, your community and improve your advertising and networking outreach through our sponsorship program. See [wplives.org/sponsors\\_how\\_to\\_become.html](http://wplives.org/sponsors_how_to_become.html) to learn how.



### H & R Block - David Hansen

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