

The Headlight

Volume 8

JULY, 1948

Number 7

...and please make
people careful, amen



Remember - Only you can
PREVENT FOREST FIRES!

Random... Views and Reviews

by The Editor

★ We deeply regret to report the passing of **Moroni Heiner**, president of the Utah Fuel Company, of Salt Lake City. A leading business man . . . a public spirited citizen . . . a gentleman—Utah and the West will miss him.

On June 23, **President Truman** signed (not vetoed) legislation approved by Congress increasing railroad retirement pensions and annuities 20% for those already on pensions and to future annuitants; maximum annuities increased to \$144 and minimum annuities to \$60 per month; restoration of lump sum death benefits with the right to name beneficiary; and guarantee of at least all payments into the fund. Members of the **National Railroad Pension Forum** testified at the hearings on this legislation, which was followed by a unanimously favorable report to the House.

"Woody" says YOU can keep America green . . . yes, YOU—and your friends and neighbors. That's because PEOPLE cause most forest fires—so PEOPLE can prevent most of them. Help keep trees growing. Keep America green!

Tom Brown, Jr., again streaked from California law exams to **Wimbledon** to participate in the "world's championships" of tennis—and, at this writing, has again amazed his "fans" by fighting his way into the quarter-finals. We don't know how he does it, but we'd like him to do more of the same!

Recently heard some kind words about service given by fellow-employees. Ass't. Mgr. **Herbert E. Miller**, of Gibraltar Warehouses, praised **Bill Hatfield** and **Bob Barrett**. . . . **Bill (W. F.) Telken**, of Seagrams Distillers, claims **Doris Nielsen**, of our transportation (manifest) dep't. at GO, is the reason why he looks with favor on the WP!

And while we're tossing bouquets, we (editorial) will unburden ourselves. Our limping faith in the underlying kindness of human nature was substantially bolstered—and almost restored—when one of our freight claim adjusters not only relieved us of the impossible chore of handling our annual picnic, but also read proof on the San Francisco Transportation Club's THE TIME CARD when we had to skip town. Our benefactor? He who is not "too busy" to lend a helping hand? **Frank John Rauwolf**.

Our charity for the month: CRUSADE FOR CHILDREN, the United Nations Appeal for Children—American Overseas Aid . . . Western headquarters 417 Market Street, San Francisco 5. Non-sectarian in scope, this is for the children of Europe, China and the Philippines. For food, medicine, clothing and shelter, \$60,000,000 is needed—for children. Send your contribution to the address shown in this paragraph.

This is the year of another centennial . . . the **Associated Press** was born a century ago. Wonder if we ever give much thought to the great service rendered by the AP and our two other great news services. Do we really appreciate how much more credence we place in news items when they carry the well-known initials of our news services?

Have you seen **Caterpillar Tractor's** ad. "Battlefield of Peace" showing a beautiful field of ripening wheat? How much more attractive than the battlefield of war!

This issue is crowded with stories of retirements. We've covered those we know about, or were told of. There probably were many more. It's a little sad to see so many of our associates retiring from active life. We can only hope they will enjoy retirement as much as they enjoyed their work.

Helen Hayes (yes!) of the **Atlantic Coast Line's** Washington office, was a passenger on the **Exposition Flyer** into Stockton June 20. We think that's where she left us. **Madison W. (Matt) De Long** was the steward of the **Burlington** diner on that train—and a fine job he did under trying circumstances. We envy his sense of humor.

Among June callers at the editor's sanctum (who found him in!) were **Harold Eno**, PTM, Rio Grande; "**Cy Harbecke**," WTM, ditto; **Tom Pray**, of the C&O; **Leonard E. Lanphear**, Elko roundhouse clerk; **Lloyd Smith**, of the MP; Trainmaster **Bill Howell**; Conductor **Milt McCann**; Sup't. **F. C. Rockey**, Railway Express Agency; and **Frank P. Donovan, Jr.**, associate editor of TRAINS.

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THE HEADLIGHT

Walter Mittelberg Editor
Jack Hyland Associate Editor
Frank Rauwolf Associate Editor
Bill Stout Business Manager

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Published Monthly by
The WESTERN PACIFIC CLUB

*Association of Employes of
The Western Pacific R. R. Co.
Tidewater Southern Ry. Co.
Sacramento Northern Ry.*

Western Pacific Building
San Francisco 5, California

Member American Railway Magazine Editors' Association.

Member Northern California Industrial Editors' Association.

PRINTED IN U. S. A.



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WATCH FOR THE NEW

DAILY STREAMLINERS between SAN FRANCISCO and CHICAGO

California Zephyr

Annual Western Pacific Picnic Attracts Record Attendance

★ The Annual Western Pacific picnic, held this year at Linda Vista Picnic Paradise, near Mission San Jose, California, on June 13, attracted well over one thousand frolicking "picnickers." From the standpoint of attendance, at least, this year's picnic was the largest of such annual events held thus far. It was a joint WP-Santa Fe affair, with employees of the former providing almost 85% of the attendance. Arrangements for the Santa Fe were handled by Ross Sullivan.

The all-day picnic featured a baseball game between the WP Club and the Santa Fe, won by the WP by a score which modesty forbids us to mention. In addition to baseball, various adults' and children's races were run off, apparently enjoyed by the spectators as much, or more, than by the contestants. Dancing throughout the afternoon, with music by a 4-piece orchestra, competed for popularity with the swimming pool. The usual amusement rides and games of "chance" were open on the midway for the children, large and small. Five gate prizes were given away during the afternoon, which concluded the organized activities for the day. The rest of the time was well spent eating and resting, to judge from the contented sighs and well-fed smiles noted around the park.

Frank Rauwolf, associate editor of The Headlight and editor of the Tale Lite, stepped into the breach at almost the last moment, handled all arrangements and worked diligently to achieve the tremendous success of this picnic. Frank thanks Edith Carter, Rita Connolly, Art Allen, Hal Nordberg, Tony Quill, Les Stoltzman and George Welch for their generous assistance.

Brandt-Coffey

★ Genevieve Brandt and Gerald Thomas Coffey were married at St. Timothy's Church, Chicago, Illinois, on May 29th. They honeymooned in Florida.

"Gerry" Coffey has been on the staff of our assistant traffic manager at Chicago since April 1, 1942, and is a veteran of World War II.

We join our Chicago staff in wishing Genevieve and Gerry all possible happiness.

Home Addresses of U. S. Railroads

★ The Association of American Railroads has just issued Railway Information Series — No. 5 — List of Principal Railroads in the United States, with home address of each.

If interested in securing a copy, contact the editor.

Maurice W. Hammond Promoted

★ Maurice Wendell Hammond, Eastern Division engineer since March 7, 1944, was appointed road foreman of engines, headquarters Elko, effective June 16.

Born at Grantsville, Utah, September 18, 1913, he entered WP service as a fireman October 8, 1936.

Fred Copp Wood Dies

★ Fred C. Wood, veteran Western Division engineer, passed away at Providence Hospital, Oakland, on June 15.

Born at Burlington, Iowa, November 30, 1874, he entered WP service as an engineer August 17, 1910. He was No. 3 on the current Western Division engineers' seniority roster.



"Stubby"

★ "STUBBY, The Little Train that Ran Away," written by Norman Christensen and published by The Fideler Company, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, is now available at the larger book stores—Tariff \$1.25.

We believe "Junior Railroaders" will like this story of Stubby, the little engine that got the wanderlust, as who doesn't, after a long time of short runs between here and there. One day, on impulse, Stubby just took the main line away from the streamlined engine and went to town. The story of Stubby's return home and the restoration of normal conditions for him and the many people who depend on him possibly points a moral applying to humans, but certainly concludes the story on a happy note.

This 32-page book, in colors, has an 8½"x11" cover realistically shaped like an engine—Stubby in this case.

If you have a "junior railroader" to whom you'd like to give Stubby, but a book store is not available to you, the editor will be glad to be of assistance.

Railway Employees' Essay Contest

★ Several entries have already been received from Western Pacific and subsidiary company employees in the essay contest sponsored by the American Railway Magazine Editors Association.

National prizes are \$1,000 First; \$250 Second and \$100 Third. Locally, on the WP, prizes are \$50 First; \$25 Second and \$10 Third, with three \$5 Honorable Mention awards.

You have until September 1st to file your entry of five hundred words or less telling "Why I like to work for the Western Pacific Railroad," substituting Sacramento Northern or Tidewater Southern when applied to you.

Send your entry to Editor, The Headlight, but if you send it via U. S. Mail, please don't forget to show Western Pacific Railroad on the envelope. The Headlight is not that well known in San Francisco and some of the entries wander about a bit before reaching headquarters when the complete address is not shown. When using Company mail, it's all right to merely show Editor, The Headlight.

The panel of judges for our local contest is not yet completed. We hope to announce it in our August issue.

Don't, however, let that stop you from submitting your entry as soon as you're satisfied with it. Get in there and try for that prize money!

Appointments

★ As we went to press, Master Mechanic William Parry's circular arrived announcing transfer of George M. Lorenz to Salt Lake City as road foreman of engines and appointment of Virgil H. Edwards in the same capacity, headquarters Portola.

Chinese Participation in Portola Festival

★ A spectacle within spectacle is what the Chinese participation in San Francisco's forthcoming Portola Festival and Pageant (October 2-25) will be, according to Robert Lee, president of the Six Companies, governing body of San Francisco's Chinatown.

A Chinese dragon, nearly a block long and which will require fifty men to propel it through the streets, will be one of the highlights of the Chinese display. Another distinctive feature will be a bevy of beautiful Chinese girls to be known as the "Young Old-look Girls." 'Nuf sed!

These features of the Portola Festival's Grand Parade, which will take place on the afternoon of October 17, will be followed on the night of October 23 by the Portola Grand Carnival Parade—"something extraordinary in the way of electrically illuminated pageantry," according to Major O. J. Keatinge, executive director of the Portola Festival.

Hy-Lites

by JACK HYLAND

again be her usual self in the very near future.

Promptly at 5 o'clock on June 20th . . . **Lou Jean Keller**, escorted by her brother **Tom**, marched down the aisle of the Star of the Sea Church, San Francisco, where she and **Timothy Moran** (Treas. Dept.) exchanged marriage vows and became "husband and wife" in a double ring ceremony. Following a "champagne" reception held at the Colonial Residence Club, the newlyweds departed for the southland for their honeymoon, taking with them the good wishes and happy blessings of their many friends . . . together with a "**Just Married**" sign on the back of their car.

Latest report indicates, **Faye Lacey**, daughter of **Charlie Dooling** (Attorney) has sufficiently recovered from the many bruises and severe burns received in an automobile accident last Washington's Birthday in Southern California, to permit her being returned home. We hope her days of convalescence will not be too many and that she will soon be up and around.

Henry "Hank" Donnelly (Spcl. Agent) takes his bowling quite seriously, for even though his vacation holiday took him to Los Angeles and then to visit his mother in Sacramento . . . it didn't prevent him from so arranging his schedule, to permit his appearing at Downtown Bowl on Thursday evenings.

We previously learned that **Cornelius "Connie" Murphy** (on leave of absence from Car Record) was contemplating desertion of his "**single man**" status and from all recent appearances, it looks like the real thing. The lady "to be" wearing the engagement ring is . . . **Eileen Albrecht** and the date tentatively set . . . is October 23rd at St. John's Church, San Francisco.

Just about one year ago, **Howard Sevey** resigned from the Treasury Dept., after slightly more than 10 years service, and at that time his mode of transportation was an "old dilapidated" Chevrolet . . . but when Howard and **Doris Sevey** drove to San Francisco to witness the marriage of **Dorothy** and **Ray Lee** on June 6th . . . it was in a brand new "**Studebaker**." Even though we understand the new car received three washing and polishing jobs during the first week, it does prove Howard is doing very well at his new position.

The WP Club's basketball and baseball player . . . **Bill Dunbar** (Traffic) resigned last June 15th to take up employment as the San Francisco representative of Garment Carriers, Inc., located at 68 Natoma Street. Bill will be working with **Carl Moore**, whom we all remember as our former Traffic representative (San Francisco) a few years ago. We wish Bill loads of success (and loads of garments between San Francisco and Los Angeles) in his new venture.

Charlie Rathburn, husband of **Mary Rathburn** (Treas. Dept.) once again proved his par excellence as a "barbecue steak" chef for a group of Treasury Dept. employes at our recent WP Club picnic held at Linda Vista Park. It wasn't (any picnic for Charlie) an easy task considering the group consisted of 18 people and for serving hot and perfectly cooked steaks to all (and at practically the same time) he deserved and received the gratitude of the entire group.

On the morning of June 18th . . . **George McDearmid** (Traffic) came to work with a bandage covering his left eye. Upon questioning, George jokingly admitted it was the result of trying to look through a key-hole with the key still in it. Truthfully though . . . a piece of metal was removed from the eye and we hope there will not be any ill effects.

The Treas. Dept. was surprised last June 18th, when **Betty Mason**, together with daughter, **Nancy Carol**, dropped in to say "hello" to the old gang. The official surprise came however, when it was learned Betty is expecting "**an addition**" to the family sometime shortly after the first of the year.

While on the subject of surprises . . . was truly surprised to learn that a horse named "**Jack Highland**" (spelled slightly different than mine) has been doing fairly well as a trotter down at the Bay Meadows track. Maybe this explains my recent "tired feeling."

Last month we also noticed **Agnes "Sis" Maysenhalder** (formerly Car Record) with her two youngsters, **Kenny** and **Ronald**, accompanied by Grandmother **Mrs. Emmett Dillon**, visiting the "526 Mission St." offices . . . and all four appeared in perfect health. Learned that because of husband **Kenny's** work . . . the Maysenhalders are residing in Fresno, California.

At the Western Pacific Bowling League's "8th Annual Dinner" held last June 19th at San Remo's Restaurant . . . **Manuel Bettencourt** (Pmgr. Traffic) acted as official photographer, and we know the pictures taken will turn out real well, for he has been attending night school photography classes at Galileo High School and was awarded the "**Blue Ribbon**" for his efforts in a recent contest.

Rose and **Arthur Petersen** (AF&PA) became "Grandparents" on June 15th . . . when their daughter, **Margaret "Marge" Powers** (formerly Car Record) became the mother of a daughter at the Merritt Hospital, Oakland, Calif. The little lady tipped the scales at 7 lbs. 2 oz. and will be called "**Donna Jean**." Understand Marge and Donna, as well as "Daddy" **Gene** are doing fine.

The WP Club Baseball League conducted a raffle last month, and the drawing held on June 21st found **Bob Ditty** (Manifest) the winner of first prize . . . a \$25 Savings Bond; **Ruth Dorsey** (Traffic) and **George Manning** (AF&PA) winners of 2nd and 3rd prizes, respectively, which consisted of glass containers holding a 100-proof liquid, recommended for medicinal purposes.

Emery Chester Bates Retires as WP Treasurer

★ Emery C. Bates, Western Pacific Railroad's treasurer for the past twenty years, retired June 30th. His railroad career spanned a forty-year period, the last 37 years and 8 months with the Western Pacific.

Bates was born at Colorado Springs, Colo., November 20, 1881, the son of Phebe Holcomb Bates and William H. Bates, a pioneer Colorado family. His maternal grandfather, A. O. Holcomb, came through Beckwourth Pass and down the famous Feather River in 1850. After public schools, Bates completed his education at Colorado College.



He was married in 1904 to Miss Lela A. McCammon, his high school sweetheart and attributes the greater part of whatever success has come to him to her unfailing support and kindly encouragement through the years. He says that life has been grand. He has one daughter, Mrs. Robert R. Range, of Berkeley, Calif., and a grandson, Robert B. Range, a student at the University of California, Berkeley.

After spending some time on his father's ranch, Bates went to Victor, Colorado, where he was employed in the gold mines in 1904-05. In 1906 he worked for the Santa Fe at Colorado Springs and in the winter of that year moved to California and joined the SP. He came to the Western Pacific treasury department on November 1, 1910; became paymaster in 1911; cashier in 1912; ass't. treasurer in 1922 and treasurer in 1928.

A member of Berkeley Masonic Lodge, he is a Past Commander of Berkeley Commandery Knights Templar; also a member of Ahmes Temple, AAONMS, Oakland, and the Pacific Railway Club. He plans to divide his days in retirement between his Berkeley home and Colorado Springs. We wish him good health and much happiness.

Axel Bernhard Nelson Retires

★ Axel B. Nelson, marine captain in the WP "navy," retired June 30th after a total of twenty-seven years of WP service.

Born at Oland, Sweden, June 30, 1882, Capt. Nelson worked on marine craft in San Francisco Bay for 45 years. He began his second, and last, tour of duty with us on July 1, 1928, as a deckhand; was promoted to Second Officer of the "Feather River" July 5, 1928; to First Officer August 29, 1928; and to Captain August 7, 1930.

The WP Navy is a mighty important phase of our operations, one which we railroaders frequently overlook. Capt. Nelson has served our "navy" faithfully and conscientiously. We wish him smooth sailing in retirement.

East Bay Notes

by Margery Glatt

★ Judging from the attendance, the Western Pacific picnic at Linda Vista Park June 13th, was a big success. To name a few, **Ed. Moss** seemed to be enjoying himself and we couldn't help noticing his very attractive blonde companion. **Joe Fitzpatrick**, marine dept., sang some very nice Irish ballads at the dance and received quite a round of applause. **Harry Teller** made good use of his camera and should have a fair assortment of pictures. **Dave Copenhagen** and family were in attendance soaking in a little sunshine.

Having returned from vacations, and once again back at their respective desks are **Bill Bording**, revising clerk, who spent a quiet (?) two weeks in Reno; **Eleanor White**, stenographer, enjoyed a restful vacation around home; **Bert Lewis** sojourned in the Feather River Canyon; and **Olga Olsen** divided her time between Eureka and Yosemite Valley. For the first time in twenty-seven years, **Pete Capponi** paid a visit to his home town, Chicago Heights, Illinois, while on vacation. It took quite a while, but Pete finally made it!

Looking like a school girl, instead of the mother of an eight months old son, **Carina Hillyer** has taken up her old duties at Oakland freight house after a year's leave of absence.

Irma Piver, who is now working in the new Diesel Yard, really has something to brag about—a brand new office no less. Irma is especially pleased with the color scheme, a soft shade of green, very attractive to the eye, and so restful.

Machinist **Jack Jones** suffered an eye injury while on duty and was hospitalized for a few days. We're happy to report it wasn't too serious and Jack was back to work in no time at all.

We are happy to hear **Mike Lewis** is getting along very nicely after his knee operation and, while he is still on crutches, Mike has hopes of discarding those before long.

★ We've a suspicion our readers never get down this far . . . and we've a fifty-cent bet that not a half dozen of you will notice we had nothing to use here and had to resort to this! Ed.

Thomas Kearns Retires as WP's Auditor of Freight and Passenger Accounts, Ending 52-Year Railroad Career

★ Thomas Kearns, who has served as our auditor of freight and passenger accounts for the past eighteen years, retired on June 30.

Tom was born at Modale, Iowa, December 15, 1881, and fifteen years later

began his 52-year railroad career with the Burlington as a messenger. He saw subsequent service as clerk, telegrapher, cashier, agent, traveling auditor and general agent with not only the Burlington, but the Southern Pacific; Central California Trac-tion; Oakland, Antioch & Eastern; and San Francisco-Sacramento Railroad, before coming to the WP as ass't. auditor of freight and passenger accounts in November, 1927. Three years later, he was promoted to the post he held until retirement.

Years ago, Tom broke with tradition, which among most accounting department people is to keep pretty much to themselves (!), when he joined our Western Pacific Bowling League in San Francisco. He was, in fact, a member of the Freight Accounts team which won the 1940-41 championship and has since become a fixture whenever the WP bowlers are on the alleys. Tom and

his wife Lillian have also participated happily in all employes' social activities—dinners, dances, picnics, etc., always apparently enjoying being part of "the gang."

We will miss Tom and join his many friends in all good wishes for the days ahead.

Tidewater Southern Notes

by Frank Lindee

★ To most of us, June has the shortest weeks of the year — those vacation weeks!

Jack Kenady, trainmaster, took a week off to rest up for the coming perishable season. At the same time, President **Rex Kearney** doubled as foreman on the Grand Jury. No matter what he does, he'll only be right to half of the people.

Clarence Booth, our night dispatcher and wife, are on their annual trek to Boston and New York, which is his old stamping grounds. Am sure **Perl White's** office in New York will be favored with a call.

Valma Hanson, Rex Kearney's and my secretary, took to the hills with her husband for a fishing trip. With swollen streams those elusive creatures will have plenty of hiding places. **Art Tibbets**, agent of Escalon, took a week off from inhaling wine while checking the loading of the several wineries in his bailiwick, which job **Ernie Skinner** handled. We had no reports of Ernie toppling from the top of tank cars.

Fern Lester, of the Stockton traffic department, likewise vacationed, which absence was noticed in our section, since she is our information bureau for rates, tracing and to find out why other offices in Stockton do not answer the Tidewater party line!

George Lyons, agent, Modesto, roamed California. It was not hot enough here so he went south for the summer.

Walter Samuels, of the Modesto office,

and wife headed in the opposite direction and toured the Northwest and Canada, including Lake Louise. Walter watched the news report of the Northwest flood, hoping for their sake and his, the rivers would behave.

Two SP trains tried the impossible in Modesto in using a single track to run trains in opposite directions. As your reporter walked about the wreckage, he assured customers that it couldn't happen on the Tidewater Southern because at this time of the year we only have one engine on the line!

"We Can Work Toward the Same Goal . . ."

★ Management may still be motivated by the desire for earnings and dividends, and labor may still seek better wages, regular employment, and a "place in the sun." These ends are not inconsistent with each other. The adoption of effective and practicable methods of human organization in the shop would lead to ever greater productivity and a spirit of identity of interests. Certainly, the profit motives and the fully developed worker are not incompatible. We can work along parallel lines to the same goal—an America of material abundance and spiritual greatness.

—Harvey W. Brown, International President
International Association of Machinists.

(This remarkably common-sense statement by Harvey Brown appeared in the June, 1948, issue of *Railway Progress*. Ed.).

Elko Echoes

by Nevada Michelson

★ When you see the office force wearing "boiled lobster" complexions you may be sure both fishing season and baseball season have arrived. However, the degree of boiling is no indication of the number of fish caught or runs scored. The fishermen? **Hanna Bowler, Johnny Etchebehere, Leland Ford, Jimmie Ford, Frank Wytrwal, Frank Oldham, Johnny Murphy, Henry Wesolowski, Pete Andersen, Keith Peterson, Jimmie Calkins, Jr.** and Adolph Moldenhauer. The baseball players? **Leland Michelson and Steve Hernandez.** If the number of enthusiasts in each sport means anything, the fish caught should greatly exceed the runs scored.

Fred Egelston, personal records, has taken leave of absence for a year, hoping to reopen his printing shop. However, he's having difficulty finding an office where he can house his new equipment. During Fred's absence, **Fay Strange** is personal record clerk, **Keith Peterson** has replaced Fay as ass't. time-keeper and **Edna Phillips** has returned to the switchboard. **Shirley Huntsman** is the new steno in the chief dispatcher's office and **Edith Payzont** has joined the clerical force in the superintendent's office.

Fred McElroy, Sr., agent at Elko, knows how it feels to be alone with a bomb. **Tony Martinez** did a Dagwood through the freight office one day, shouting as he went "It's ticking; it's a bomb!" By the time "Mac" reached the door, the entire freight house personnel had vanished, and "Mac" was alone . . . except for the bomb. Carefully tip-toeing through the building lest a heavy step might be fatal, he reluctantly, if not fearfully, conducted his investigation. Yes, he could hear a faint tick. It was his watch! What was that thump, thump? Oh!! That was his heart . . . but what was the darned thing doing at the bottom of his stomach? Yes, there was a tick . . . definitely . . . tick, tick, tick! It was directly in front of him . . . and then, blessed oblivion! Some time later "Mac" sat up and rubbed his eyes . . . tick, tick, tick! Slowly, deliberately, his hand reached toward the spot from whence came that ticking sound . . . and then he was breathing again! That darned impact recorder!

During the Silver State Stampede the only thing lacking in the superintendent's office was a bronco. Most of the boys were wearing levis . . . **Eleanor Gowan, Mary Lamberty, Angelina Domingo, Scotty Duncan, Tom Clark and Frank Oldham** were content with scarfs, while **Caroline Wolf** was wearing her Roundup hat and **Jane Hood, Edith Payzont and Barbara Buckley** were resplendent in Levis or riding pants and loud shirts. And may we ask, "Cui bono"?

Announcement of the promotion of **Robert F. Stenovich** to the position of assistant special agent with headquarters at Elko, was made official on June 16th. Bob, the son of **Nick Stenovich**, Hoist engineer at the Elko Roundhouse, was born at Elko in 1925. He is a graduate of the local schools, having obtained

his high school diploma after interrupting his junior year to serve an enlistment in the U. S. Navy as Petty Officer 2nd Class in the South Pacific. He has been employed in the special agents department of the Western Pacific as patrolman since November 1946. In addition to being a member of the Nevada Peace Officers' Association, he is a Scout Master in the local Boy Scout organization. Our sincerest congratulations, Bob!

Charles Parker Russell Retires

★ Charles P. Russell, general auditor for the Western Pacific since July 14, 1946, retired June 30th, completing almost 46 years of WP service.

Born at Los Angeles, California, May 6, 1880, Russell entered WP employ as a general clerk in December, 1906; became disbursements clerk in February, 1916; chief clerk to the general auditor in October, 1918; and assistant general auditor in November, 1921.

Western Division Notes

by Agnes Welch

★ Hi, folks, here's a chance to contract the services of two comely, two-fisted house painters. **Maxine Naibitt** and **Milly Wingate** are new members of the Painters Union. Recently these two energetic femmes equipped themselves with the necessary material and attacked the Naibitt domicile with brushes and paint a-flying. The work was completed in record time and met with the approval of the boss of the manor, namely, "Bus" Naibitt, with one exception: Milly will either have to remove the paint from the windows in a neat and orderly manner or turn in her union card! The outcome of this is pending.

Dan Cupid has been tossing his arrows again, although it wasn't too surprising to the many friends of **Catherine Ferrera** and **John Rossi** when the announcement of their engagement was received on June 6th. Cathy is secretary to Chief Dispatcher **Allen** and John is Supt. **Curtis'** secretary. However, **Elaine Forrett** completely surprised all of us when she appeared for work Monday morning, June 14th, wearing a new sparkler. The lucky man is **Ruebin Schmidt**, who is in business for himself.

June 26th was chosen as the wedding day for **Dorothy Meyers** and **Lester D. Morrison**. On June 16th a dinner party was given in honor of the bride-elect and those attending were: **Marian Sellers, Betty Landerman, Anne Levy, Libby Stockseth, Lillian O'Kelly, Elizabeth Helmick, Blanche Dennis, Elaine Forrett, Marie Kistle, Mildred Cox, Maxine Naibitt, Mildred Wingate, LaVerne Williams, Clarisse Doherty, Frances Elmo** and, of course, the honoree.

Colleen Whitaker bid in position of PBX operator and expense clerk in Oakland. Her cheerful presence will be missed by all of us.

Bessie Ceravantes Perez returned to her position of steno-clerk after an ex-

tended leave. Bessie has a fine son five months old now and we are happy to have her back with us.

Section Foreman **Charlie Miller**, Midway, has a unique and very interesting hobby. Last year Charlie built a coffee table entirely of thousands of toothpicks held together with airplane glue. This table is about 36" x18" and is a practical piece of household furniture. He also constructed a wood model gang motorcar to exact scale, which included claw-bar, spike, maul and track jack, together with flagging equipment. The track jack deserves particular mention. It is an exact scale model 12 inches high and actually works. Charlie's latest achievement is a model dirigible, about 4' long, constructed entirely of toothpicks—25,000 of them—and it required 210 hours of tedious labor to complete it.



Charlie Miller and his "toothpick dirigible"

(Editor's Note: We're using the photograph of Charlie Miller and his "toothpick dirigible" sent us by "Aggie" because it's a little better than a couple on the same subject sent us by Roadmaster **John P. Connelly**. John tells us that Charlie owns his own plane and flies it regularly . . . probably the only "flying section foreman" on the WP or any other railroad. Any challengers?).

"The Christmas City"—Minden

★ We've always been intrigued by the highway sign at Minden, Nebraska, designating that community as "The Christmas City" and finally decided to ask John W. Cooper, of the Burlington's president's office, to get us the story. He tells us that . . .

Minden is named after the German city of the same name. The people of Nebraska's Minden have attracted considerable attention with their annual Christmas decoration of their streets, court house, etc., and their Christmas Pageant.

Small neighborhoods of many American communities are noted for their Christmas decorations, but apparently this is a case of an entire community going all-out. Since the genuine spirit of Christmas needs encouragement the world over, we hope Minden, Nebraska, will continue to offer its "shining" example.

Dale Wightman Retires

★ Dale Wightman, general bookkeeper in our general auditor's office, retired on June 30th, completing almost thirty-five years of service to the Western Pacific and its subsidiaries.

Dale was born at Boonville (Anderson Valley), California, August 15, 1880, and, as a boy, worked in the fields, the woods and the mines to graduate from the Academy of Hard Knocks! Later, he attended the Western School of Commerce, Stockton, and took a stenographic job with the California Moline Plow Company in that city.



Dale's mother was the first white child born in Anderson Valley, Mendocino County, in 1856. Her parents crossed the plains in the early Gold Rush days and settled on a Spanish Grant on the Russian River. Driven off by the Spaniards, they trekked north with a group of families under the leadership of "Old Man" Anderson to settle in the little valley that now bears his name.

Dale began his railroad career with the Northern Electric Railroad (now Sacramento Northern) at Chico, Calif., November 1906, as voucher clerk in the engineering dept. before the line was completed to Marysville. Though he left the service in 1910, he returned November 1, 1913, and has an unbroken service record since. He transferred from Chico to Sacramento as division accountant just prior to the 1918 Armistice and advanced to chief accountant, in charge of the general books, in 1923. He is the last of the SN employees transferred from Sacramento to the Western Pacific GO in 1927 and given seniority rights on Short Line positions and indicates the post from which he is retiring will now become a WP job.

Dale says he has always enjoyed his work, even though strenuous on occasion . . . for example, he points out that at one time he had charge of the general books for the Westside Railroad; Western Refrigerator; San Francisco-Sacra-

mento RR; Deep Creek Railroad; Standard Realty & Development; Tidewater Southern; and Sacramento Northern. The first four were liquidated and the Central California Traction and Northern Warehouse Company added later.

Dale tells us he's going to miss the good friends and congenial environment at the WP offices, but, after all, does look forward with pleasure to at last having the time to do the things he's always wanted to do. Writing jingles is his hobby and he sums it up this way . . .

Forty years a married guy
And to the best of cooks
Forty years a pencil pusher
And never plugged the books!

Joining his many friends, we wish Dale all possible happiness and good health in the years of "loafing" ahead.

Recent Retirements

★ William Leon Ingersoll, Western Division conductor, retired May 23rd; and Stefan Drozdowski, Eastern Division track laborer retired June 5th.

Ernest Campbell Skinner

★ Ernest C. Skinner, agent for the Tidewater Southern Railway at Manteca, California, retired July 1st. Ernie, who was born at Anabel, Missouri, April 3, 1883, started with the Tidewater in 1922 as a clerk and had been agent at Manteca for 24 years.

Both shippers and fellow employees are sorry to see Ernie put away his pencil—they have depended on him and his judgment for so many years. During the perishable season Manteca is a hot spot. However, we have yet to see Ernie become ruffled on the worst day. We could certainly recommend this gentleman to the State Department for a post in Russia!

Ernie says he will remain in Manteca to take care of his home and just take it easy.

Robert Shelby Thomson replaces Ernie as agent at Manteca. He comes to us from the SP agent's office in Manteca and already has his home and is well acquainted in our sugar capitol.

—F.G.L.

"Tip Card" Box Score

Name	Occupation and Location	Total Points to Date
Lloyd J. Miller	Brakeman, Stockton	32
Harry J. Sutherland	Tax Commissioner, San Francisco	15
Kenneth K. Dunton	Ass't. Agent, San Jose	13
Mason P. Gordon	Claim Clerk, Fruitvale	10½
James B. Dillon	Agent, Oakland	8
Charles E. Renner	Conductor, Eastern Division	8
Oscar H. Larson	Chief Clerk, Trans. Dept. San Francisco	7
Dan T. Costello	Commercial Agent, San Francisco	6
Karl F. Henrich	Signal Material Stockman, Livermore	5
Charles Woods	Tavern Car Attendant, Oakland	5
Angelo D. Prato	Assistant Agent, Stockton	4
Andrew L. Anderson	Fireman, Portola	3
Sheldon Glatt	Traffic Representative, Oakland	3
Paul Werner	Telegrapher, San Francisco	3
Boyd C. Sells	Secretary to FTM, San Francisco	2½
Andrew A. Crist	Special Agent, Sacramento	2
Francis E. Doyle	Towerman, Stockton	2
Harry C. Dustin	Boilermaker, retired, Sacramento	2
Earl D. Fonda	Cashier, Portola	2
Henry J. Madison	Storekeeper, Sacramento	2
William L. Moore	Chief Clerk, freight station, Stockton	2
Otis C. Potter	Head Bill Clerk, Oakland	2
Jess L. Reed	Engineer, Stockton	2
Frank Rowe	Freight Traffic Agent, Oakland	2
James H. Duhig	Commissary Buyer, DC&H Dept., Oakland	1
Robert N. Dreessen	Revising Clerk, San Jose	1
Edwin C. Eager	Car Foreman, Oroville	1
Lawrence T. Haggerty	Bill Clerk, Oakland	1
John H. Hyland	Hd. Clerk—North Coast Bur.—Traf. Dept.	1
Frank F. Lemon	Engineer, Stockton	1
Louis Lopez	Waiter, DC&H Dept., Oakland	1
Elmer A. Manier	Agent, Sacramento	1
William E. Moss	Car Foreman, Oakland	1
Doris Nielsen	Manifest Clerk, San Francisco	1
Walter M. Samuels	Bill Clerk, Modesto	1
Volney V. Scott	Chief Clerk, freight station, Sacramento	1
Edgar A. Thompson	Terminal Trainmaster, retired, Oakland	1
Earl M. Watson	Machinist Helper, Sacramento	1
Samuel Williams	Chef, DC&H Dept., Oakland	1
John Young	Waiter, DC&H Dept., Oakland	1

★ The contestants in the "Tip Card" Derby are now in the home stretch. August 15th is the closing date of our first annual "business prospect" contest following the end of World War II. Someone is going to be awarded a gold wrist watch! And if it isn't to be Brakeman Lloyd Miller some heavy work will have to be done by the runners-up!

Stanley Ruben Proffitt Retires

★ Stanley R. Proffitt, purchasing agent for the Western Pacific for the past several years, retired June 30.

Proffitt was born February 4, 1882, at Raymond, Kansas, began his railroad work with the Frisco at St. Louis on June 2, 1902, serving in the transportation and mechanical departments. He moved over to the Santa Fe mechanical department four years later and, in July 1909, entered Western Pacific employ.

To Stanley Proffitt our best wishes for happiness in retirement.

On the Sacramento Northern

by Ruth Crane

★ Russell Gould, former TS&S maintainer, was appointed acting superintendent of power, succeeding Henry F. Neill. We are sorry to lose Hugh McReynolds, chief clerk (WP Traffic), who resigned June 12 to accept a better position with the Campbell Soup Company.

Vacationists: Norma Ming to Santa Cruz; ex-Sgt. Glen McDaniel to Del Paso Heights; Wilmer R. Andersen to Medford, Oregon, attending a Shriner ceremony. Relief Yardmaster Clarence E. Herschler recently returned from a trip "Back Home in Indiana."

Warna Huff, steno-clerk, Marysville, is taking a leave of absence; reason being, we understand, that she's expecting

a little Huff . . . and Nelda Del Ponte is back at her desk after her absence, thus allowing Lois Trowe, who relieved her, to return to her home and family.

Fashion Notes: Al Fippin appearing in a bold bow-tie; Bert Norlen in a new brown suit (his birthday gift to Bert); Roy Evans looking handsome in grey; Betty Jones and Eleanor Olsen with Marie Antoinette hair-dos (created by Hair Stylist, Christine Wilkes) . . . Lastly, but not leastly, Jimmie Taylor with a mustache. Our Women's Fashions critic (self-appointed) is Mel Parker!

Louis O. Nervig, cashier, freight office, vacationed in Los Angeles . . . visiting his brother who is a film editor with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer . . . Also spent some time with a brother and sister in San Diego.

Yvonne Killick Gardner, former secretary in our GO, is now living at Pacific Grove with her six-months' old daughter, Lesley!

New York's Ex-Chicagoans

★ A couple of months ago, a group of former Chicago travel men, now living (?) in New York, met at a luncheon at the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria to renew auld acquaintance.

In the course of conversation, it was discovered that ex-Chicagoans represented many important businesses in practically all branches of travel, but it also appeared there probably were another twenty or more ex-Chicagoans in

New York who would have liked to be included.

Plans were discussed for a Fall meeting to which all ex-Chicagoans in the travel business, in and around New York, were invited to be present.

To keep things moving, John Nolan (AGPA, WP) was elected general chairman; Jack Cavanagh, co-chairman for the steamship industry; Bill Fox, co-chairman for the travel agents; Herman Theilig, co-chairman, air lines; and Ed. Hastings, co-chairman for the hotel industry.

Charter members include . . . Ed. O'Connor, T.M., Thos. Cook & Son; A. C. Burdt, eastern passenger agent, Illinois Central; J. H. Desherow, P.T.M., Southern Pacific; Frank L. McCloskey, general agent, Canadian Pacific Steamships; William E. Carbone, G.P.A., Lackawanna; Charles F. Feltham, general eastern passenger agent, Lackawanna; H. M. Hampton, T.P.A., Santa Fe; E. D. Poulsen, D.P.A., Chicago & North Western; W. F. Fox, ass't. vice-president, American Express Company; Roy C. Nerland, general eastern passenger agent, Atlantic Coast Line; W. T. Phillips, ass't. to G.P.A., Pennsylvania; William R. Nikodem, Alcoa Steamship Company; J. J. Cavanagh, ass't. district P.T.M., Waterman Steamship Corp.; E. K. Hastings, ass't. to president, Hotel Waldorf-Astoria; Herman Theilig, manager of agencies, American Air Lines; and John C. Nolan, AGPA, Western Pacific.

May Gee, of WP Transportation Dep't., Entered in Chinese Beauty Contest

May Gee, of our general office transportation department, is one of seven contestants entered in the first Chinese Beauty Contest ever staged in the United States. Sponsored by the Chinese-American Citizens Alliance Lodge of San Francisco, the contest is scheduled at the Old Hearst Ranch, near Pleasanton, on July 4.

The seven contestants are shown here — left to right . . . Penny Lee, Louise Wong, May Gee, Ellen Wong, Louise Schulze, Virginia Wong and Eleanor Wong. Naturally we hope May runs off with the honors!

—photo courtesy
The Chinese World,
San Francisco

