

WESTERN PACIFIC

# *Mileposts* **JULY 1968**

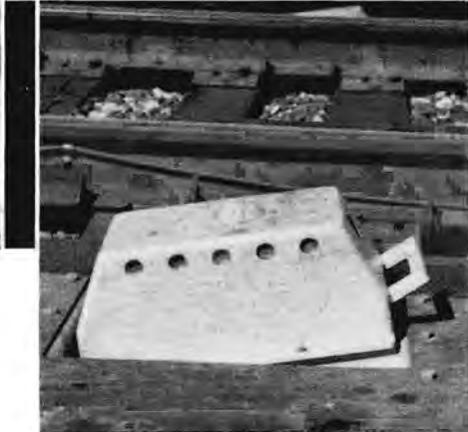
**CONCRETE  
TIES**



**SCARIFIER-  
TIE INSERTER**



**HOT BOX DETECTOR**



**IMPROVEMENTS  
ON OUR RAILROAD  
PAGES 2-8**

## IMPROVEMENTS MEAN PROGRESS

This issue of MILEPOSTS is to acquaint you with some of the improvements being made on our railroad—improvements that are necessary to stay in the competitive race and give our customers the service they demand.

This year we will spend \$8 million on improvements, new equipment, and industrial property to bring the total for five years to \$55 million! Such expenditures, coupled with fast, efficient, and reliable service given willingly will help make us a growing, modern company and your job and mine better ones.

A good customer of ours recently wrote to me to express his thanks for the good service and courtesy he had received from Western Pacific people. "But, after all," he said, "it is the Western Pacific way—maybe 'WP' means 'We Produce!'" To me, that supplements our already established slogan—"WP is Willing People."

No business can today stand still, nor rely on its past performances any more than can an individual. A good example is taking place in our sports world—particularly track and field events. There's always someone ready to better your record!

It's the same with our railroad. It's not going to be done all at once—it takes time, money and the work of a good team. But, as certain as our trains run every day, there will be more improvements to come!

*M. M. Christy*





**PRECEDING DOUBLE PAGE:**  
A new Mannix ballast cleaner in operation east of Wendover and now working west of Gerlach.

Useful for many purposes a Caterpillar 966B lays track panels in Stockton yard.



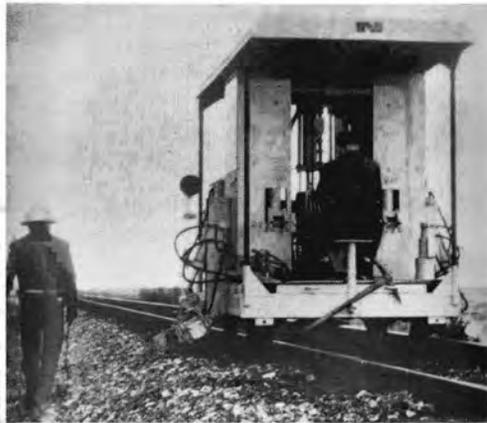
Above: A portion of the Oakland TOFC yard for handling trailers.



The recently erected station at Portola as seen by the camera of Loy Hibbs, special agent-claim agent.



Agent J. W. Davis and new Sacramento Northern station at Yuba City.



Above: This tie axe cuts a tie into three pieces and removes the ends.

Below: Grading north of the present Stockton roundhouse where the new, modern diesel locomotive repair facility will be erected.



Below: A John Deere front-end loader equipped with back-hoe attachment.

Below: Automatic production tamper raises tracks, tamps ballast, and lines track.





Agent B. R. Graves and new Sacramento Northern station at Woodland.



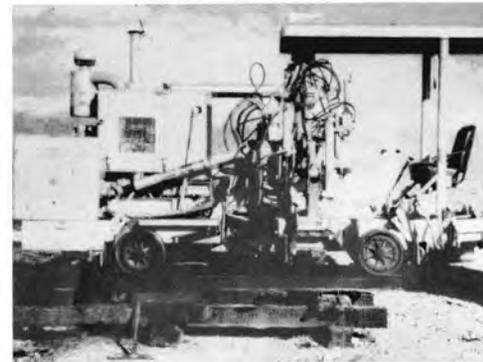
Above: One of Western Pacific's new General Electric U30B diesel-electric locomotives.



American 25-ton crane lifts rails from trailer for use in Garfield line change.



Below: Caterpillar 966B with front-end loader working in the Feather River Canyon.



Above: This tie saw cuts a tie into three sections and removes all pieces.

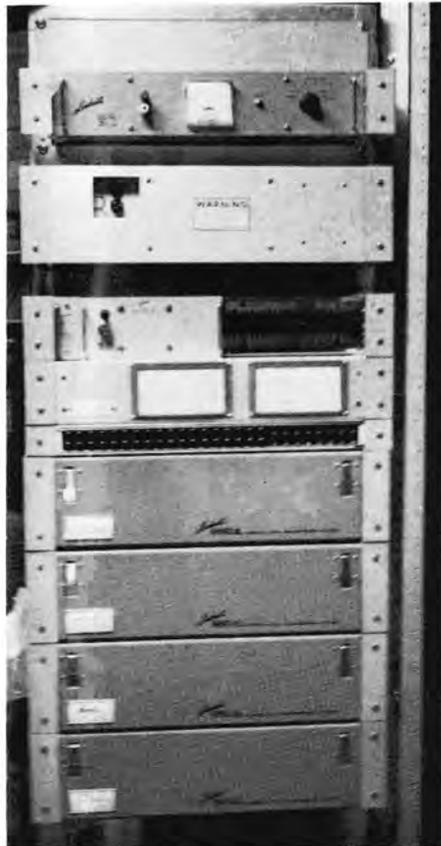
Below: Mechanical and store departments occupy this new building erected adjacent to the Stockton yard repair tracks.

Below: One of W P's 86-foot, high cube, cushion underframe, auto parts cars, with plug-type door for easier loading and unloading.





Heat from a hot box on the above passing freight car journal would be recorded by detector in foreground, received in Sacramento by carrier equipment shown at right, and recorded on graph being checked by Dispatcher Evan Neilson. Top picture taken by Special Agent-Claim Agent R. F. Stenovich; pictures below and at right taken by Signal Engineer Bruce McNeill, Jr.



## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Left: As Bill Breiner, manager TOFC operations, presented Car Service Inspector Rita Connolly with her 25-year Service Pin, he told Bill Schmidt, manager TOFC dispatch, "there is no one more deserving of this recognition than our 'Miss TOFC' who does such an outstanding job dispatching our trailers."



"Early this year Mr. and Mrs. Roger E. Halsey, Sacramento, made two quick round trips to Chicago just for the ride," said Ticket Clerk C. R. Schuetz. "On June 13 they brought all their children to Oakland so the entire family could enjoy the trip over entire route. They occupied all space in CZ 10 both ways." Special Agent-Claim Agent Bill Bergman's picture at Oakland includes Pullman Porter Juan Barreras and Rear Brakeman R. W. Tidd.



In recognition of his valuable service to W P's engineering department, Art Carlson, Pat Sullivan (behind the pipe) and Lenny Lelevich presented Sacramento Northern B&B Supervisor Clarence A. Moser with a SN 45-year Service Pin during a luncheon given for Clarence at Sacramento during June.



Photo of Wendover station building was taken just after completion by Esther Witt, diesel yard clerk and MILEPOSTS correspondent.



Sacramento Northern's new station at Chico as photographed by Agent Larry Ramsey.



After receiving a 45-year Service Pin from President Christy, Manager Purchases and Stores Al Kasper posed for a "family portrait" with his staff and wife, Judy, (standing, left). Next is Alice Sloan, Frank Brogdon, Darrell Jennings, Bill Funk and Frank Brown. Kneeling are Dora Meyer, Dues Kerper, Clyde Moll, Frank Gabbert, Marvel Walt, Pete Linale and Rich Schroers. Not present was Gertrude Pohndorf, on vacation.



## ELKO

Henry Wallock

We very much wish to apologize for having omitted in the May issue the name of J. R. KUMP in our report on our employees who work with our young people in Elko.

"Jay" is the Nevada State Director of the Babe Ruth Baseball League, and has done more for Elko's youth baseball program than any other person. He has been active in the Babe Ruth League since it was organized here in 1953. The park has been named after "Jay" due to his great pride in its care, which includes a new announcing booth and concession stand he had built this year. "Jay" states that they have a new program this year for 13-year-olds only to create more enthusiasm for this age group who compete in a State Tournament along with the other groups. There are about 70 Babe Ruth teams within the state this year.

When "Jay" isn't attending to his own duties, he will announce their games and then go over to the softball park to announce their games, too. Our hats are off to "Jay" for his tremendous efforts!

Congratulations to Lynda Angeline Hiott and Frank Allen Demaline on their marriage April 14. The double-ring ceremony was performed by Justice of the Peace, E. F. Lunsford, at the home of the bride's parents, Road Foreman and Mrs. W. D. EYRE.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Demaline

Lynda's sister, Sharon, was maid of honor and Adrian Samper acted as best man. Following the ceremony, attended by immediate members of the family, a reception honored the couple where they cut their wedding cake which was made by the bride's grandmother, Mrs. Hannah Tallent.

## NEW YORK

Richard Tracy

Signs of growing "kids" . . . CLARENCE W. BEADLING, JR., our district sales manager, now putting in spare time in senior Scouting and doing a great job.

JOE MASON, retired senior sales representative, is making plans for a South American tour, and we'll expect a full report upon his return.

GRACE BOLOGNA, secretary to sales

manager, is also planning a trip, island-hopping the Caribbean and South Atlantic which sounds exciting.

MIKE RZEZNIK, our DF clerk, keeping in shape playing in a weekend softball league, purchased a new bowling ball. The general opinion is that Mike should leave it in the bag when he bowls for better pin action.

Planning to become a Garden Stater is BILL GURGURICH, sales representative - special equipment. The most agreeable locations as far as Bill is concerned seem to be near golf courses.

AL HUDSON, G. A. ACY, formerly a sales representative and MILEPOSTS correspondent, is looking like a proud "pop" again. Daughter, Barbara, just received her M.D.

## STOCKTON

Elaine Obenshain

Best wishes for long and happy retirements to Engineer O. E. LYLES after 32 years and 6 months service, and to Engineer C. E. CHRISTY who completed nearly 26 years of WP service.

Assistant Trainmaster-Agent and Mrs. H. K. REESE became grandparents for the first time on May 10 when Daniel Ronald was born to their daughter and son-in-law, Gay and Ronald Scheile. Retired Machinist and Mrs. L. B. DAVIS of Oroville are the great-grandparents.

Grandfather KEITH REESE, incidentally, was elected as president of the Stockton Civitan Club for the ensuing year at an installation of officers on June 15.

Congratulations and best wishes to Miss Sandra Lee "Sandi" Trow, daughter of Engineer and Mrs. J. G. TROW, and David Anthony Happke, who were married in St. Bernadette's Catholic Church, Stockton, on April 27. Miss Susan Burke, daughter of Conductor and Mrs. R. E. BURKE, was

maid of honor, and Candy and Ray Trow served as their sister's flower girl and ring bearer. After honeymooning at Lake Tahoe, the couple left for South Dakota where the bridegroom is stationed with the Air Force. The young couple met last year in Bitburg, Germany, where "Sandi" had gone to visit with her brother and sister-in-law, Air Force Sgt. and Mrs. Ronald Trow.

Agent E. J. GODWIN, Tracy, reports that his son, Brakeman R. M. "MIKE" GODWIN, who is in the U.S. Navy stationed aboard the USS *Kitty Hawk*, has recently returned from his second tour off Vietnam.

Retired Switchman W. L. BATES advises that he was hospitalized in Phoenix, Ariz. in December, at which time it was necessary to remove a foot. He is now recuperating at home and would enjoy hearing from old friends and fellow-workers. His address: 16511 So. Garfield, Space 42-B, Paramount, Ca. 90723.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of retired Car Foreman WESLEY W. CLARK, who recently died in Seal Beach.

Clerk GARLON OVERLEY, JR. enlisted in the U.S. Army and departed June 6 for Ft. Lewis, Wash. Our best wishes go with him.

Yoshiteru "Teru" Uramoto of Japan, has been living with Clerk ETHEL ROSSITER and her husband, Larry, and family this past year under the American Field Service program. After attending Linden High School "Teru" departed June 20 for a three-week tour of the U.S. with other AFS students before returning to Japan from New York City.

Best wishes to L. B. "PAT" SPENCER who made his last run as a brakeman on the *California Zephyr* on May 30, ending 32 years 8 months service with WP. "Pat" first railroaded at Bakersfield, Calif. on September 12, 1928 fir-

ing a switch engine for the Santa Fe. He later was an SP fireman and on October 10, 1935 began as a brakeman for WP and was promoted to conductor on May 26, 1941. He worked in freight service for many years and entered passenger service on August 8, 1965. "Pat" and his wife will continue to live on their Copperopolis Road ranch near Stockton.

### MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT

Clara R. Nichols

Our front office recently enjoyed some beautiful singing by WILLIE PARKER, laborer in the shops. Willie has a remarkably beautiful voice and used to sing and dance on the stage at the Orpheum Theatre and for other leading vaudeville shows.

BLANCHE LOWER'S son, a June graduate of San Juan High School, won the title of "Beachcomber of the Year" for his perfect beard which he grew especially for a recent contest.

We're happy to report that NORMA FRENCH is now home from the hospital recuperating from a serious operation, and we hope she will return to good health soon.

Jane Carol Ackeret, daughter of General Car Supervisor and Mrs. RAYMOND L. ACKERET, graduated from San Juan High School, class of June 1968, and was chosen to be Senior Ball



Queen. Her other activities include being president of the freshman class at Encina High School, junior and senior Homecoming Princess Candidate, and song leader at San Juan. Jane plans to attend American River College this coming Fall.

### OROVILLE

Helen R. Small

Congratulations to Sheetmetal Worker and Mrs. N. G. OWENS who became grandparents on May 22 to a baby daughter born to their son, Norman, Jr., and his wife.

Telegrapher FRANK W. GORDER retired July 1 after completing 20 years in the communications department. Frank was relief telegrapher at Oroville yard at the time of his retirement. Our best wishes go with him.

Best wishes to Conductor L. B. SPENCER who retired on May 30 after more than 32 years service. His final



Pat Spencer hands his flagging equipment to Sam Heath after finishing his last run.

trip was as brakeman on the *California Zephyr* between Winnemucca and Oroville.

Margaret Field, 17-year-old daughter of Signal Maintainer and Mrs. EMORY FIELD, left June 19 to spend 8 to 10 weeks in Germany. She was selected to participate in the American Field Service summer exchange program. After her sea voyage aboard the SS *Waterman* to Rotterdam, Netherlands, Margaret rode by train to her summer home in Germany. A very active girl, she is a six-year member of the South Quincy Road 4-H Club, a member in Bethel 55 International

Order of Job's Daughters, an accomplished musician, and a member of the Oroville Sing Out. She plays piano at various civic events, with the school band, and for Unity Church of Oroville on Sun-



day mornings, and is a member of the First Methodist Church. She was a finalist on the district level in the National Mathematics Association, is affiliated with the Las Plumas High School United Nations Club, and was a delegate to this year's model U.N. meeting in Berkeley. In preparation for her trip to Germany she has taken a correspondence course in German from the University of California at Berkeley. She will be a senior at Las Plumas High when she returns this Fall. Our sincere congratulations to this remarkable and talented teenager!

### SAN FRANCISCO

Lawrence Gerring, Marge Morales, Ruth Stone

KATHLEEN MURPHY, secretary to Dr. MAX E. CHILDRESS, WP's chief surgeon, reports that the doctor was recently elected president of the medical staff at St. Joseph's Hospital. The staff consists of 265 doctors who are skilled in many specialties of medicine and surgery, and are admitted only after an extensive investigation of their credentials, records, and experience.

While on a visit to Sweden, HILDING D. NILSSON, 68, building engineer at general office, died on June 5 in the small city of Kalmar where he had spent a day with relatives. "Hildy" was born on the island of Oland in the Baltic Sea and was buried there near the graves of his mother and father.

Survivors include two brothers, Otto Nelson of Tracy, and Anselm Nelson of Cincinnati, four other brothers and a sister in Sweden, a niece, Mrs. Cerie Johnson of Berkeley, and many nieces and nephews both in the U.S. and Sweden. "Hildy" was not married.

John and Daniel McDearmid, sons of Assistant Freight Pricing Manager and Mrs. GEORGE MCDEARMID, recently won athletic awards at College Park High School in Pleasant Hill. John won his "block" in swimming, and Dan won his "numeral" in gymnastics.

JUDY HOLT, secretary in the TOFC department, announced the arrival of a daughter, Michel Deborah, on April 17. The 8 lb. 7 oz. girl is the first child for the HOLTs and was named for the father, Michael Richard Holt. Little Michel's name has the French masculine spelling, said Judy.



A son Mark was born on May 18 to the delight of NANCY AIELLO, marketing division statistician, and her husband Joseph. He was a 6 lb. 11 oz. boy, 19 in. long.

DON A. LOCHARD, secretary to General Manager L. D. Michelson, returned to work after an absence of two months for an intestinal operation. During his absence, he was replaced by DORA PROPHET, former employee who works temporarily. Dora and her husband have two boys, one five years, one four months of age.

JUDITH UTIKAL, assistant cashier-accounting, left July 9 on a leave of absence. "Judy" will join her husband, Corp. William Utikay, Jr., at Fort Hood, Texas, his new base after returning from a year's service in Vietnam.

DELLA KESSLER, interline clerk-ac-

counting, spent an exciting May vacation in Paris during the general strike. With her husband they were able to leave Paris on schedule only because the Luxemburg airport sent a bus to



Frank Thompson, mail truck driver, and family friend, Dorothy Knapp, were photographed by Frank's wife, Fran, during vacation visit to Colorado National Monument near Grand Jct.

pick up customers delayed at the Paris airport. The Kesslers then spent four days in London before returning home.

MARK SHIPMAN, son of Gene and Jean Shipman, and Sharon Massey were married on June 23 at the First General Baptist Church in Oakdale.



Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shipman

Following a brief honeymoon and moving into an apartment in Lodi, Mark returned to his job as brakeman out of Stockton. On June 16, GENE SHIPMAN former fireman and most recently in WP's TOFC department, became information control clerk in the new management information control section (MICS) announced in May.

MARGIE MORALES, secretary to N. A. Schoeplein, manager of revenues, and new MILEPOSTS correspondent, announced her engagement in June to Gerald Browne, Jr. November 30 has been planned for their wedding.

BERNARD E. PEDERSEN, director of advertising and public relations, was recently installed as third vice-president of Sales and Marketing Executives Association, San Francisco.

#### SAN JOSE

Lee Marshall

We regret to report having received word from Fremont that Agent CHARLES R. BLISS was hospitalized for a coronary in mid-June. He is at St. Joseph's Hospital in San Francisco and, we understand, he is improving.

We are happy to have for our busy season as summer ticket agent, ARCH HOLBERT, who for the past couple of years has worked for us during school vacation. Arch is studying locally for his license as a C.P.A. Before coming north, he worked for the Union Pacific in Los Angeles.

### *They Have Retired*

*Jasper R. Hicks*, store laborer, Sacramento, 21 years 10 months.

*Isabella Miller*, purchases & stores steno-clerk, San Francisco, 17 years 3 months.

*Leslie V. Noble*, water service maintainer, Elko, 30 years 8 months.

*Lloyd B. Spencer*, brakeman, Stockton, 32 years 8 months.

## Dues waiver announced by Medical Department

The Medical Department has amended Rule 4 to provide the following dues-waiver benefit, effective with June, 1968 coverage:

"Employees absent from payroll by reason of sickness or injury will be eligible for benefits without further payment of dues for a period of up to one year. This provision will commence with and shall include the last pre-paid month and shall continue in effect up to the maximum time such absence from payroll is due entirely to the sickness or injury. Reasonable confirmation of such sickness or injury may be required.

"If the member does not return to work prior to the expiration of the

one-year period, he may continue his membership by again making payments of dues, quarterly in advance, prior to the last day of the last month of dues waiver."

The following conditions should be observed cautioned S. Ferd Dorius, business manager:

1. The member will be responsible for remitting dues to the Medical Department prior to the end of the benefit year. The Medical Department cannot issue dues reminders.

2. Members initially absent from the payroll due to illness or injury and subsequently are able to work but remain off the payroll for other reasons, must remit dues directly to the Medical Department to continue eligibility for benefits.

3. To be eligible for the dues-waiver benefit, the member must have been in active working status at the onset of illness or injury.

## New Medicare handbooks mailed

Revised medicare handbooks, including the most recent changes in hospital and medical (doctor bill) insurance benefits, are being mailed to railroaders and members of their families enrolled in the program by the Railroad Retirement Board. The book also lists addresses of all Travelers Insurance Company offices, the only agent paying claims for railroaders and their families.

First mailings are limited to persons enrolled in both the hospital and medical insurance plans. Later mailings will be made to individuals covered only under the hospital insurance plan.

Anyone enrolled under both plans who does not receive a handbook by July 15 should contact the nearest RRB office.

VOLUME 20, NO. 5

JULY 1968



Mileposts 183: Approaching Ellis Road crossing as seen from front seat of Hy-Railer car.

WESTERN PACIFIC MILEPOSTS

526 Mission Street  
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Lee Sherwood, Editor

Member Assn. of Railroad Editors



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RAILROAD  
LINES



The 52 railroads owning over 96% of the common stock of REA have turned control of the express company over to three trustees for the next 10 years who will try to make the concern profitable.

\* \* \*

The Supreme Court in mid-June denied railroads the right to cut freight rates to recapture traffic lost to trucks and barges, a heavy blow to railroads fighting to regain lost business.

\* \* \*

Illinois Central has started a two-year project to centralize all train dispatching at its Chicago headquarters with the men handling dispatching for their own areas over microwave.

\* \* \*

If announced plans by the Chicago White Sox owner go through, 53 acres of air rights over railroad tracks south of Chicago's Dearborn St. station will be used to house sports complex in 1972.

\* \* \*

Chicago and Northwestern's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ben Heineman was named "Chicagoan of the Year" by Chicago's Junior Association of Commerce.

\* \* \*

The 81 million tons of coal hauled from the 220 mines served by Norfolk and Western last year would be equivalent to a train with diesels in Roanoke, Va. and cars extending westward across the United States, Pacific Ocean, China with the caboose in Pakistan—13,400 miles.