

WESTERN PACIFIC
Mileposts

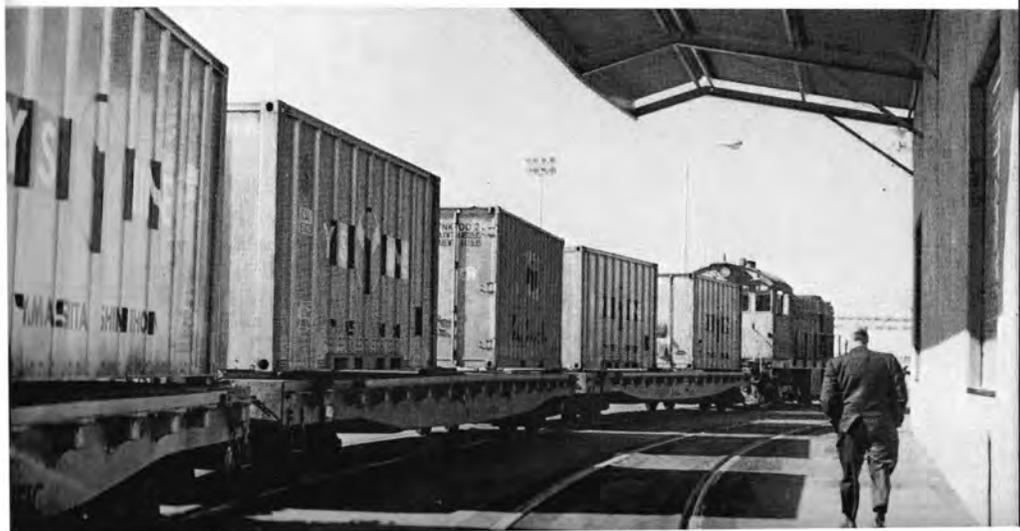
**MARCH
1969**



Alameda Belt Line

—Switching for WP—Page 3

Oakland Terminal Railway





How ABL and OTR move freight for WP

With only 23 miles and 29 miles of trackage, respectively, the Alameda Belt Line and the Oakland Terminal Railway move a lot of freight for customers of Western Pacific in Alameda and in some areas of Oakland. It's sort of a "family arrangement," for the two railroads are jointly owned by Western Pacific and Santa Fe.

The ABL has three diesel switchers, and four flat cars used as "buffers" to move the cars on and off the MV *Las Plumas*. The OTR's equipment consists of one diesel switcher. Fifteen employees work for ABL, 20 for the OTR. Another 17 employees are on a joint ABL-OTR payroll. All are under the supervision of Superintendent Russell H. Robinson.

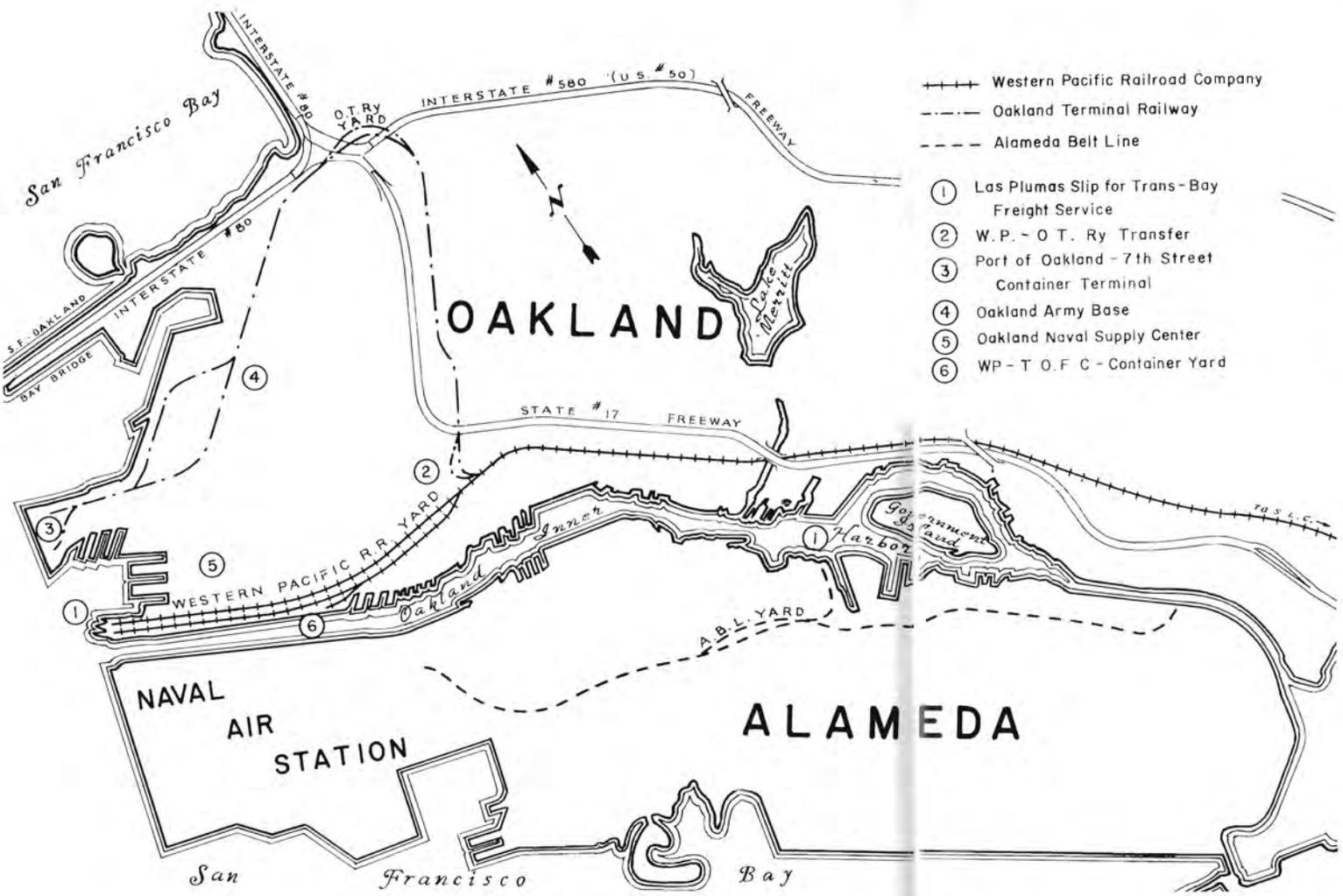
As the map on the following page shows, WP's interchange with the ABL is made at a slip in Alameda by WP's diesel car ferry MV *Las Plumas*. WP's interchange with the OTR is made by rail at 3rd and Union streets in Oakland.

Working closely with the two railroads, to insure getting WP's share of business in the areas switched for WP by the ABL and OTR, are Sales Representatives John Friedman and Lee Preston, of WP's Oakland district sales office.

Pictures on the following pages illustrate how some of this business is obtained and served by this "family arrangement."

Cover Pictures: (Upper) Switching Matson containers in Alameda Belt Line's Alameda yard; (Lower) Switching to Port of Oakland's 7th Street Terminal by Oakland Terminal Ry.

Left: Sales Representatives John Friedman and Lee Preston leave WP's new Oakland district sales office at 8201 Edgewater Drive.



Russell Robinson (left), ABL-OTR superintendent, gives Preston and Friedman valuable information for improving customer services.

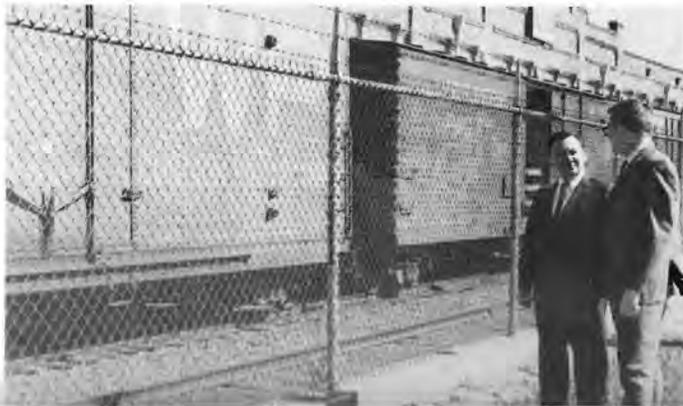


While passing by Fore Terminal Company plant in Alameda, Friedman stops to make note of tank cars on spot for loading.



Above map by Franklin Louie, WP draftsman.

An ABL engine shoves cut of cars on track leading to Alameda slip (extreme right) to later go aboard Las Plumas for delivery in Oakland and San Francisco. ABL crew is Engineer W. E. Butow, Footboard Yardmaster M. G. Lari, and Helpers D. D. Fisher, C. C. Brandon.



Friedman (right) calls on Bill Jones, car distributor for Del Monte Warehouse #48 in Alameda to make sure cars ordered for loading were received on time, an important function of good customer service.



WP's 45-ton capacity LeTourneau side porter easily lifts truck trailer to be carefully set down on rail flatcar. Operator Elim Anderson is assisted by two groundmen, Fred Starling and Robert Abood.



Just to keep in touch and learn how service might be improved, John Friedman makes goodwill call on Manley Sowles, manager, National Biscuit Company.



Lee Preston and Russell Robinson discuss switching operations with Bob Growdon (center), terminal operations manager, Oakland Container Terminal Co. in Port of Oakland.



Making a call on McGuire Terminal Co., subsidiary of General American Transportation Corp., Preston (left) found Traffic Manager Jack Wilhelm in the tank car loading area.

Behind a section of Port of Oakland's huge mobile crane are stacked containers of varied steamship lines just arrived from overseas. Containers will be placed aboard rail flat cars for shipment across country.



On call at Finn Industries, division of Potlatch Forests, Preston learned that Traffic Manager Cliff Tonkin spent eight years with WP before leaving the railroad in 1954.



Preston received a pleasant welcome from Vernal Stevens, superintendent Thompson Bros. and Dodd Warehouses, and learned that his customer was satisfied with service.

84 people agree "WP" means Willing People

During the height of California's recent stormy weather, a California Zephyr (Train 17) was derailed at Tunnel 13 in the Feather River Canyon on February 11. The incident could have been most unpleasant for the train's passengers were it not for some Willing People among the train and engine crews who made the best of an unfortunate situation.

The following letter, received by Robert E. Gonsalves, director of passenger sales, from John W. Vickerman of Pittsburgh, Pa., tells the story:

"You have qualified reason to feel pride in the crews for their fine work in caring for and serving passengers on Train 17 at the derailment yesterday in the Feather River Canyon. The some 84 passengers asked me to tell you so, and to commend and thank those involved.

"The engineer stopped the train quickly and securely without anyone 'hitting the deck,' the conductor took over immediately, and others including ground crews got us out of a bad situation in a remarkably short time—and the heavy rain was not helping.

"If a Star may be given we ask that the little Zephyrette not be overlooked



Ready to begin her return trip from Oakland to Chicago, Zephyrette Nancy Gephart and Sleeping Car Porter Henry F. Wellington wait to welcome aboard the California Zephyr San Francisco passengers to arrive by coach.

—what a helluva way to start her first trip alone! She did her work like a pro—putting passengers at ease, sending 'delay' telegrams, adjusting reservations, and all with a smile and poise! The plan and execution in bringing us out showed that your people were not idle, and the fine hot meal was appreciated by all.

"A porter in the coach, whose assistance to a very young mother with three small children (two in arms) both before and after the derailment, was something to watch. Judging from the mother's appearance there was little or no tip involved. He was not alone, for the head waiter and one of his men gave the children little cakes, gum and candy, which they bought personally.

"When you get 80 to 90 tired, late,

(Continued on Page 9)

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

John M. Starr was appointed assistant to general manager, effective March 1. His new duties will include field activities related to safety, and assisting Ray Adams, assistant to general manager, in joint facility contracts.

Jack was born in Stockton on December 6, 1936. He was first employed by Western Pacific as a brakeman at Stockton in 1956. He entered the U.S. Army in 1957 and returned to WP as a brakeman in 1959. In 1964 Jack became assistant transportation supervisor for the California Public Utilities Commission, and since June 16, 1967 he was assistant manager-personnel for Western Pacific.

Jack was a member of Alpha Gamma Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi, two honor societies, while attending Stockton Junior College and College of the Pacific. He has continued his education by completing an I.C.S. course in railroad administration, and by receiving an A.A. degree in business administration with honors, and a B.A. degree in economics with honors, and through a Crown Zellerbach scholastic scholarship. He expects to receive a

84 people agree...

and somewhat damp travelers to their destinations and they are still in a good mood and wishing to thank and compliment someone, you have earned the credit.

"Again, on behalf of my fellow travelers, our compliments to you and Western Pacific for the fine treatment on a bad day!"



John M. Starr



C. Peter Blaskowsky

J.D. degree in June from Golden Gate College of Law in San Francisco.

Jack and his wife, Diana, live in Concord with their two children, Linda, 8, and Karen, 5.

* * *

C. Peter Blaskowsky was appointed manager-domestic sales, intermodal service, effective February 1.

Pete was born in Billings, Mont., on August 23, 1939, attended Lodi Union High School, and California State College in Long Beach where he studied marketing management and received a B.S. degree in business administration.

Pete first worked as a clerk for Western Airlines for a few months before becoming a clerk for WP at San Francisco in October, 1959. He was made head clerk-foreign freight department in March 1960, chief clerk-sales in March 1961, both at San Francisco, and went to Los Angeles as a sales representative in September, 1961.

Pete is a past president of the Los Angeles Freight Agents' Association and was a member of three other traffic clubs in southern California. He presently is active in his neighborhood's Homeowners' Association in Santa Clara, enjoys golf and handball and various spectator sports.

Pete and his wife, Julie, have three children, Michael, 9, Lori, 7, and David, 5.

Editor's Note:

Crew members, as respectively referred to by Mr. Vickerman, were:

- H. D. Atkinson, engineer
- C. A. Lockwood, conductor
- Nancy Gephart, Zephyrette
- Arthur Jones, chair car porter
- Walter Gaskin, steward
- Ernest Pontifilet, waiter-in-charge



STOCKTON

Elaine B. Obenshain

Lead Car Inspector CECIL W. SMITH retired in January with 17 years WP service. Cecil and his wife have moved to Long Beach where he is entering the hearing aid business with his brother. The Smiths have four daughters, all living in Modesto, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Our deepest sympathy to the families of Conductor WILLIAM D. BENEDICT, who died suddenly at Oroville, and Section Laborer LUIS A. GONZALEZ.

We are happy to welcome back from military leave, Switchman GARY L. COLUMBIA. Gary, the son of Engineer and Mrs. M. L. COLUMBIA, was recently discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps after serving two tours in Vietnam.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of retired Yardmaster GEORGE M. HENYAN, who died on February 11 in Vancouver, Wash. Internment was at Battle Ground, Washington. George retired on May 1, 1965 and moved with his wife to La Center, Wash. in 1967.

We are happy to see Electrician LEE HERMAN back at work after several months' illness.

Others absent because of illness are Switchmen M. W. KEELE, G. R. BRADFORD, H. V. WRIGHT, Brakeman C. A. CROSS, Clerk R. D. REESE, and En-

gineers W. R. DuBOIS and J. A. OSTERDOCK. We wish for them quick recoveries.

SAN JOSE

Lee Marshall

Welcome to our new employees GLEN SNODDERLY, GENE HAMILTON and TED HALL, who have been assigned to positions at your San Jose yard.

Agent PAUL SCOTT is now home recovering from his illness, and he reports that he is feeling much better. Although his doctor told him to keep away from cigarettes, he still manages to drop by the office occasionally to bum a smoke.

Received a note from FRED W. CARBINE, who says he threatens to become 84 this year with 19 years of retirement from our railroad. Fred is a brother-in-law of LARRY GERRING, clerk at San Francisco's 25th street yard. He also said that he graduated from the 8th grade in 1893 in La Grange, Ill. the birthplace of CHARLES K. FAYE, assistant vice president-freight sales, and knew "Chuck's" father, HAROLD K. FAYE, very well. Fred also left with us a clipping from the January 24, 1969 edition of the *San Jose Mercury* telling about the burglars who stole our safe—"a bit of the Old Wild West still carried on in the first capitol of the State — San Jose," said Fred.

ELKO

Henry Wallock

The installation of officers for the International Order of Rainbow for Girls was held at the Masonic Temple in Elko on January 26. Carol Rae Hobbs was installed as Worthy Advisor by her father, RAY HOBBS, roadmaster. She was then crowned by her nephew, Raymond Hobbs, and following her installation Carol, in turn, installed her father as "Rainbow Pop."

Carol was further honored by having Linda Thomas as installing marshal. Linda was Worthy Advisor when living in Portola, and is the daughter of Trainmaster and Mrs. L. EDMUND THOMAS.



Carol is a senior in high school, and plans to enter college next fall. She is very active in school activities, and was elected as vice president of De-Laureola, a national honor society.

Yard Clerk FRANK OLDHAM showed us a letter dated March 29, 1907, addressed to Frank's uncle, F. H. Winter, who was in the Nevada legislature at that time. The letter, sent by VIRGIL G. BOGUE, vice president and chief engineer for Western Pacific Railway Company, reads:

"I have heard with a great deal of pleasure of the strong position you took with respect to one of two bills which have become law at the recent session of the Nevada Legislature. The liquor bill and the eminent domain bill will be of great service to us in building our main line through Nevada, and in subsequent construction of branches, of which we contemplate more than one.

"We appreciate the position you

took all the more because we have not the pleasure of your acquaintance.

"Our railway is progressing. Our track has now about reached the east boundary of Nevada, and we are about to let contract for 321 miles which will cover the distance between Deeth and California-Nevada State Line, and we hope by the middle of next year to have most of the track laid across the state.

"Thanking you again, and in the hope that I may meet you at no distant date, I remain,

Yours very truly."

OROVILLE

Helen R. Small

Congratulations to the following newlyweds:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert "Duke" Sherwood, Jr., were guests of honor on February 2 at a reception held in El Medio Community Club. The bride is the former Diana McConnell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McConnell of Oroville, and "Duke" is the son of Switchman and Mrs. ROBERT SHERWOOD. The couple was married at Reno in First United Methodist Church, and will live in Sacramento. Diana attends MTI Business School, and "Duke" is enrolled at Sacramento State College.

Diane Elaine Chapman, daughter of Mrs. Bert J. Chapman and the late BERT CHAPMAN, conductor, and Richard Dale Carpenter were married on February 1 in Oroville's First Methodist Church. A reception followed in the Church's Fellowship Hall. The newlyweds plan to live in Gerber after a honeymoon in San Francisco.

James Douglas Ronan, Jr., son of Conductor and Mrs. JAMES D. RONAN, SR., and Penny Cathryn Wilkerson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Wilkerson of Oroville, were married in the First Baptist Church in Oroville by Dr. Harold Alexander. The bride



is living with her parents while her husband attends Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga.

Mrs. Eva Mae Fletcher, 73, died on December 18 in a local hospital. She is survived by her husband, retired Conductor JOHN FLETCHER; a daughter, Mrs. Warren Thatcher of Oroville; two grandchildren; a brother, Charles Cunha; and several nieces and nephews.

Sheetmetal Worker GEORGE F. KIRK, 58, died in a local hospital on January 23. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. June Kirk, and his father and stepmother, Mr. and Mrs. James Kirk of Oroville.

Brakeman HENRY FRANCIS STAPP, 58, died January 24 in a local hospital. Mr. Stapp moved to Oroville from Portola in 1960 and was assigned to the *California Zephyr* between Oroville and Winnemucca. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Margaret Stapp of Oroville; a son, William H. Stapp of Los Padres, San Luis Obispo County; several sisters and a brother.

Carman H. B. KELL is in the Medical Center Hospital convalescing from a fractured hip.

SACRAMENTO NORTHERN

Milton F. Ziehn

Thought some of the old timers would enjoy the above picture by DUDLEY THICKENS, chief of WP's divisions bureau, about 1946. The picture was taken at Lafayette during one of SN's annual inspection trips when the SN ran through between San Francisco and Chico. Being 20 years ago, some faces and names are a little hazy. Left to right I'd say they were: Insurance Representative; CLARENCE MOSER, supervisor B&B; H. F. NEILL, superintendent power (overhead, phones, signals, etc.); J. B. McKee, Marsh & McLennan; Insurance Representative; M. F. ZIEHN and his pipe; GEORGE I. TURNER, superintendent of equipment; NORMAN MACDONALD, assistant to general manager; Jim Clark, Marsh & McLennan; (?) NICK CAPTAN, roadmaster, (head showing); WALTER H. EVANS, VP&GM; Insurance Representative; STACEY LONG, trainmaster; (?) R. D. LONGSHORE, chief engineer; and W. W. NELSON, superintendent transportation.

MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT

Clara R. Nichols

DICK RICHARDS, train desk clerk at our yard office, won a stereo phonograph at Cal Expo recently. This was a little luck Dick could use, for just before his good fortune his wife, Ethel Ann, fell and broke an arm.

SAN FRANCISCO

Marge Browne, Larry Gerring, Ruth Stone

RAY ROWLEY, accounting department, and his wife, Marie Claire, announced the birth of a son on January 28. Victor William weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. and grandmother, CHERRY GOODRICH, accounting department, is most proud.

It was another boy—the third—for THOR C. OLSEN, chief of rate bureau, and his wife, Vera, who announced the arrival on February 25 of Dirk Hendrik Olsen, a husky 8 lb. 10 oz. member of the family.

LINDA PINANA, general secretary marketing division, reports that Stenographer-Clerk LU MORROW, on leave from sales & service, and her husband are parents of John Nicholas Morrow II, an 8 lb. 6 oz. boy born on January 22. The Morrows are now living in Dunnigan, Calif.

Mention was made in the January issue about the good health and activities of WELLESLEY T. RICHARDS, retired engineer of maintenance of way and structures. Since then a letter

was received from "Wells" to announce his termination of his sales activities as a manufacturer's representative. He didn't say why, but it can't be because of his health or age, as he must be one of the youngest 80-year-old's your editor knows.

Congratulations to MARGARITA MORALES, secretary to manager revenue accounting and MILEPOSTS' correspondent, who became Mrs. Gerald Daniel Browne, Jr. on November 30. Wedding ceremonies were held at St.



Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Browne, Jr.

Paul Catholic Church in San Francisco, followed by a reception at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley. Attendants at the wedding were "Marge's" sister, MARIA E. MORALES, sisters BEVERLY and DIANE KORN, all WP employees, and BARBARA CULHANE, former secretary to S.F. district sales manager. One of four ushers was DARRELL JENNINGS, material control specialist, P&S department, and it was learned after the wedding that Darrell and "Marge's" sister, Maria, will be married next June 7. The newlyweds traveled through California on their honeymoon and will live

Crippled Kids Can Be Helped!



Give To EASTER SEALS

in Albany. "Marge" is also to be congratulated on being selected 1969 Queen for San Francisco's St. Patrick's Day parade this month.



Mr. and Mrs. Eugene F. Adrian

Phyllis Jill Carleton, daughter of Chief Special Agent & General Claim Agent and Mrs. ELMER H. CARLETON, and Eugene F. Adrian were married at Park Lane Chapel in Reno on February 15. A reception at the Mapes Hotel followed the ceremony, and the newlyweds were again honored on March 1 at a reception at Deer Park Villa in Fairfax. Jill is a graduate of Terra Linda High School, College of Marin and Marincello School of Beauty. She is a past worthy advisor of Tamalpais Assembly 191, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, and is employed by American Telephone and Telegraph Company. The groom is a graduate of San Rafael High School, attended College of Marin, and is employed by the Mill Valley Police Department. The couple spent their wedding trip at Lake Tahoe and live in San Rafael.

Sincere condolences to Mrs. Merle Dorius and her family in the death of her husband, S. FERD DORIUS, man-

ager of WP's medical department, on March 3. Ferd had not enjoyed good health for some time. In spite of his illness he continued his duties part time at the office, at home and while hospitalized. He was a former general chairman for the Switchmen's Union of North America (now United Transportation Union) and had been manager of the medical department since April 1, 1963.

This is Important!

As announced in the July 1968 MILEPOSTS, the Medical Department last June amended Rule 4 to provide that members actively employed but absent from payroll because of sickness or injury could receive benefits without further payment of Medical Department dues for a period of up to one year, commencing with the last prepaid month.

This is to remind those members who have not returned to work prior to the expiration of the one-year period, that in order to retain their membership they must again make payment of dues, quarterly in advance, prior to the last day of the last month of dues waiver.

It is the member's responsibility to make payment when due, as the Medical Department cannot issue dues reminders.

Bowlers Wanted

The 18th Annual Western Pacific Handicap Bowling Tournament will be held this year at the Starlight Bowl in Reno, Nevada on April 12 and 13.

It is expected that between 25 and 30 teams from California, Nevada, and Utah will compete.

Entry blanks are now available, and those interested in entering may obtain entry blanks and additional details by contacting Hy O'Rullian, mechanical department, Sacramento.



Clarence L. Bancroft, locomotive engineer, Quincy. March 15.

John L. Barrier, Sacramento Northern train dispatcher, Sacramento, February 24.

Rufus C. Crampton, retired assistant chief clerk, Oakland, January 1969.

S. Ferd Dorius, manager-medical department, San Francisco, March 3.

Mark J. Evich, retired car inspector, Oroville, December 1968.

A. Georgiadis, retired clerk, San Francisco, February 1969.

Richard I. Gloster, retired valuation engineer, San Francisco, February 21.

Paul B. Harris, retired sales representative, San Francisco. March 17.

Arthur V. Hughes, retired machinist helper, Portola, January 1969.

Myrton H. Hull, retired painter, Oroville, March 3.

Earl Kennedy, retired switchman, Sacramento, March 5.

Robert V. McGinnis, retired locomotive engineer, Oroville, February 27.

Allen N. Moore, retired Sacramento Northern yardmaster, Sacramento. February 1969.

Louis O. Nervig, retired clerk, Sacramento, January 1969.

Frank Parson, retired brakeman, Oroville, January 1969.

Beatrice M. Pinkiert, retired accounting clerk, San Francisco, January 1969.

James D. Ronan, train conductor, Oroville, February 23.

Robert N. San Miguel, switchman, Oakland, February 25.

Benjamin H. Stamps, retired car repairman, Oroville, January 1969.

William Stritzky, retired Sacramento Northern marine captain, Concord, date unknown.

Owen W. Terry, retired senior draftsman, San Francisco, March 6.

Petrus A. Van den Ende, marine deckhand, Oakland, February 20.

Joseph W. Wilkinson, retired section foreman, Sacramento, January 1969.

Louie T. Wright, Sr., retired mechanical inspector, Oroville, December 1968.

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Milepost No. 191: Near the Yuba-Butte county line about 14 miles south of Oroville.

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Lee Sherwood, Editor

Member Assn. of Railroad Editors



MARCH 1969

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RAILROAD
LINES

North Western and Erie-Lackawanna, in joint experimental TOFC service, reduced running time 50% in delivery of fresh meat from St. Paul, Minn. to East Coast in 38 hours, by-passing yards in St. Paul and Chicago.

* * *

Perry S. Heath, nearing 70, and since 1964 grand chief, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, retires April 1 to be succeeded by C. J. Coughlin, first assistant.

* * *

Southern Pacific directors approved plans for establishment of holding company which could engage in non-transportation diversification, to be voted on by shareholders at SP's May 14 annual meeting.

* * *

Denver & Rio Grande Western formally unveiled in March its new "total performance system" for unit-train delivery of coal from three mines in Utah and Colorado to U.S. Steel's Geneva Works, near Provo, Utah.

* * *

Production of containers in 1968 set records for number of units and total value, according to Truck Trailer Manufacturers Association.