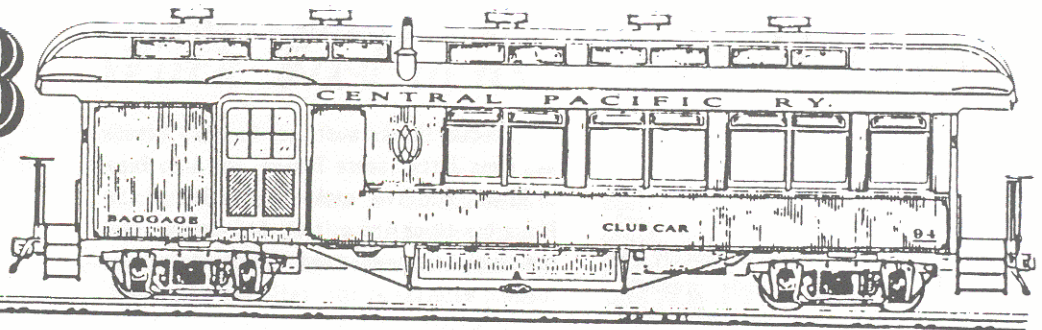


THE CLUB CAR



Bulletin #284

Pacific Locomotive Association

February, 1987

President's Report

Niles Canyon Update

By Mike McQuaid

For those of you unable to attend the January business meeting, I'd like to provide an update on our railroad in Niles Canyon.

The cutoff for acceptance of public comments regarding our environmental study was reached in early January. The major responders were the State Public Utilities Commission, California Department of Forestry, Alameda County Water District, Caltrans, and the cities of Union City and Fremont. A brief meeting on January 13 with the state PUC, Alameda County Staff, PLA (myself and Peter Schulze), and our environmental consultant clarified the PUC's involvement (advisory only, no legal authority). After the departure of the PUC representatives we continued the meeting with a review of all public comments and prepared a rough draft response.

The following steps are ahead:

- 1) Prepare and sign a new list of mitigating measures for acceptance of our environmental study by the county.
- 2) Draft, review and sign a license agreement with the county.
- 3) Present the environmental study and the license to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for approval.

The earliest date that this process will be completed is Tuesday, February 24. At that point the PLA will have concluded an effort begun over four years ago (January 1983). Then we can officially begin work on "our railroad".

The first priority will be to complete the track between Ki-Lite and Sunol. General Manager Peter Schulze estimates it will take two months to accomplish this. Additional projects will be undertaken concurrently as resources (money, material and manpower) are available or as becomes necessary to protect equipment or materials.

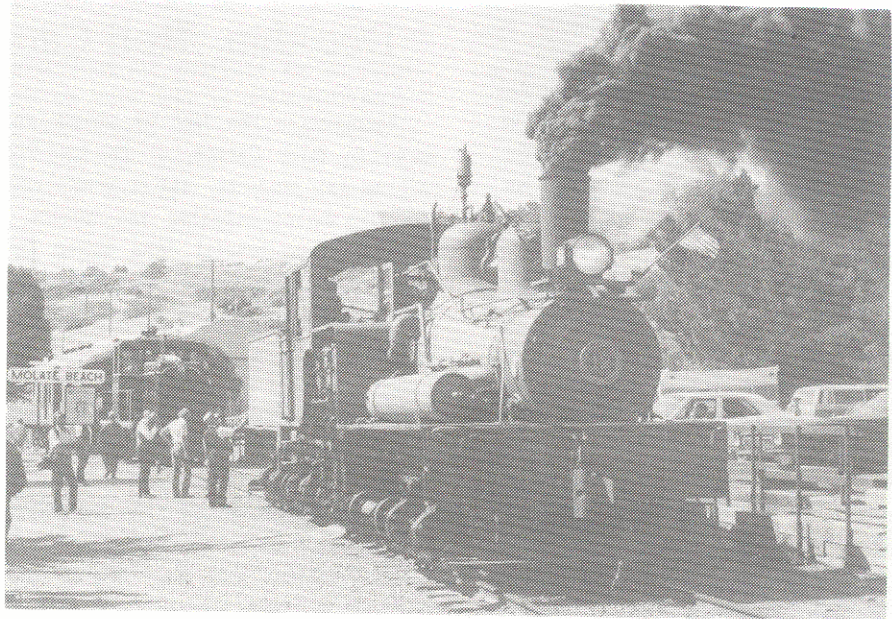


Photo by Jim Evans

An advertisement in February's Railroad Model Craftsman announced that a brass model of Pickering Lumber Co. #12 will be released soon by Beaver Creek Model Co. of Morgan Hill, Calif.

More Members Help Back-A-Hoe

By Madeline Iverson

January, traditionally a financially slow month for businesses and organizations, has had many PLA members and supporters come forth with donations totaling more than \$500 for the Back-A-Hoe Fund. The following contributions for January were received by January 23: MICHAEL CARLISLE, DR. AND MRS.

During this period we must also be ready to respond to emergencies such as SP removing rail at Niles or Verona Rd or donation of equipment or materials needing immediate movement.

In summary, we have much to do. We need volunteers, especially self-starters. March and April will be beautiful months in Niles Canyon--come and enjoy.

BUCHNER, A.N. DARCY, DEXTER DAY, ALBERT FOWLER, LOWELL GARRETT, MR. AND MRS. CORNELIUS GROOT, MR. AND MRS. ROBERT HARRESCHOU, WALT HINCK, ROBERT JOCHNER, TOM LERZA, MATT MAKSEL, RAY McALLISTER, KENT McDUGALL, CRAIG MILLER, RICHARD NICHOLS, ALFRED NIELSEN, DAVID PAVA, KENNETH PETERS, HENRY PRINCIPE, W.E. RAAB, WILLIS ROBBINS, WILLIAM ROBINSON, STEPHEN SLABACH, ALVON THOMAN, and T.G. WURM.

In addition, the following people have made contributions to the First Mile Fund or the General Fund this month: ALAN ASKE, RANDALL CAPE, JOEL COX, ROBERT AND BARBARA EMPEY, ALFRED NIELSEN, MICHAEL RUMBALL, and JOHN TUFVESON.

Our thanks go to all of you. If you haven't been to Niles Canyon lately, stop by and see the good your donations have done.

January Meeting

By Madeline Iverson

Apparently many PLA members made New Year's resolutions to come out and support their club because the January meeting had almost 80 members and friends present, including some old friends we hadn't seen around for a while. Welcome back!

Notwithstanding the small amount of money in the bank, 1987 promises to be a very exciting year for the PLA. President MIKE McQUAID reported that Alameda County is simultaneously readying plans to file a negative declaration for the environmental study and ready for the license for use of the canyon by the PLA to present at the county's Board of Director's meeting either the end of February or the beginning of March.

In keep with good news for the New Year, HENRY LUNA announced a PLA excursion for sixteen fortunate people. Henry has chartered the luxury private car "Virginia City" for a weekend excursion through the Sierras on the weekend of March 27 to 29 -- the time when the Sierras are covered with snow. Henry had the membership drooling over his description of the trip, which includes the SP executive chef preparing a breakfast and two special lunches aboard the car. Contact Henry Luna at Key Tours (415-945-9687) if you are interested. Space will be filled up quickly.

STEVE SLABACH announced that his new year and that of other track workers would be much brighter with the loan of a spike puller from the Orange Empire Railway Museum in San Diego.

JIM EVANS reported that there will be many new potential members to be voted upon at the February meeting, thanks to interest shown by people seeing us in the canyon and at the Great American Train Show in Oakland. The PLA effort at the show was spearheaded by PATTY SCHULZE, RICH GILL, PHIL GRESHO, and ALAN SIEGWORTH were voted into Associate Membership.

Local Business Helps PLA

Special thanks must go to Jerry Lamere who owns Jerry Lamere Towing and Auto Repair in Niles. For five weeks he has loaned the PLA a tow truck and a flat bed truck. The tow truck has been used for dragging and loading material at the rail removal project at the Milpitas Ford Plant, and the flat bed has been used for transporting material to Niles Canyon. Jerry also has also done work for the PLA.

Dec.-Jan. Roll Call

Following is the list of people who worked in Niles Canyon, at the Ford Plant rail removal projects, and at several other locations during December and January. The roll call from several days during this period were not available. Also there was no list available for people who worked on PLA rolling stock.

- B. Adam (4), B. Andrews (8), R. Antonio (1), C. Barnes (2), S. Barnes (1), B. Berger (5), M. Bozzini (6), D. Burla (2), E. Chase (3), L. Chiaromonte (1), J. Cox (4), D. Day (7), R. Dyce (1), D. Eatmon (1), T. Flippo (3), A. Fowler (8), R. Gill (2), P. Grisho (3), D. Gross (2), M. Gross (2), A. Harvey (1), C. Holumbo (4), N. Lariviere (1), R. Leber (1), M. Maksel (6), M. McQuaid (1), K. Munro (1), C. Nunez (1), P. Orth (10), E. Powell (5), F. Presley (9), M. Price (2), A. Ramsay (3), J. Ray (1), L. Reimers (7), S. Robbins (2), E. Ryan (7), J. Schrufer (2), Pa. Schulze (4), Pe. Schulze (9), L. Sepulveda (1), A. Siegworth (1), D. Siegworth (1), S. Slabach (2), C. Smith (2), M. Snyder (5), P. Sousa (1), A. Teruya (2), C. Walker (1), J. Williams (3), C. Wilson (2), M. Wilson (2), Cliff ? (2), Diane ? (1).

Active Member BOB LEMON brought a former WP marker light which was donated by RODNEY KEENAN. It is in excellent condition and will make a welcome addition to our museum.

Name Change Considered

By Brian Wise

On the evening of December 3 the monthly Board of Director's meeting was held at St. Christopher's Church in San Leandro. Among the topics discussed was whether or not the name chosen by the membership of the PLA for the operating part of the museum best reflects the interests of the club.

The discussion by the Board was sparked by two letter from PLA members concerning the name "Niles Canyon Scenic Railway". Basically the comments in each letter suggested that the name was too "touristy" reflecting a purely money making venture rather than a historical society engaged in the preservation of railroad equipment and memorabilia. The idea that a tourist railroad name could cause problems with acquiring grants was a concern by a least one member of the PLA. There was also concern that the approach taken to establish a new name was poorly executed.

Several members present at the board meeting agreed that the problem was the work "Scenic". Many other railroad organizations use this word in their operating names, most notable the Cass Scenic Railroad and the Mount Rainier Scenic Railway. The word "Scenic" seems to most accurately describe the beautiful surroundings that these railroads traverse.

After a brief amount of discussion PLA President MIKE McQUAID proposed that a new committee be established for the purpose of conceiving a more logical system through Niles Canyon. The Board voted and the motion was carried.

Active Member Charlie Blake is the chairman of the new committee and the members of the committee are now being selected.

At the February membership meeting there will be a discussion of a possible name change. The committee wants to get the members input on whether a name change is still desired and how it may be done.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President Michael McQuaid, (415) 846-4082
- Vice President Dexter Day, (415) 345-1790
- Recording Secretary Madeline Iverson
- Membership Secretary Jim Evans
- P.O. Box 451, Burlingame, CA 94011-0451
- Treasurer Dave Busar
- General Manager Peter Schulze, (415) 797-8613

The Club Car

The Club Car is the monthly newsletter of the Pacific Locomotive Association and its members. All submissions will be considered for publication and will only be edited for space and clarity.

- Editor Alan Teruya
- 744 Olivina Ave, Livermore, CA 94550
- (415) 455-1269

Ride To Reno On The Virginia City

Sixteen PLA members will have a unique opportunity to travel to Reno and back in style aboard the private railroad car "Virginia City". The 1928 vintage car was owned by Lucius Beebe.

The excursion will leave the Oakland Amtrak station at 11:40 AM on Friday, March 27. A white-jacketed porter will serve drinks and a special luncheon prepared by the Southern Pacific executive chef. Then the ascent of the Sierra Nevada mountains begins. The train follows the historic Central Pacific Overland Route completed in 1869.

After arriving in Reno, the group will stay at the Fitzgerald's Hotel. Saturday will be a free day, before the descent from the mountains begins Sunday morning.

The price is \$275 per person, double occupancy. The price includes transportation aboard the Virginia City from Oakland, two lunches and one breakfast aboard with open bar, two nights hotel, all taxes, and "Winner's Book" of coupons.

Make checks payable to "Pacific Locomotive Assn." and send to PLA, 2301 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94596 or call HENRY LUNA at Key Tours (415-945-9687). Over half of the places were sold at the January meeting so make reservations right away.

Company Store

By Carol Sullivan

In January PATTY SCHULZE and LIZ REIMERS took the store stock to the Great American Train Show where they sold a good amount of merchandise. Sales were also brisk at the January meeting. The top sellers at both locations were books.

We will have another booth at train shows at the Solano County Fairgrounds on February 8, March 8, and April 5. Our main goal at the train shows is to let people know about the PLA and our current efforts in Niles Canyon, but the chance to earn money to support our goals is a nice side benefit.

Come to the February meeting for your copy of "The Southern Pacific of Mexico and the West Coast Route" by John Signor and PLA member JOHN KIRSCHNER. Also get "The Northwestern Pacific Railroad - Vol. II"; we just got our second shipment. The books are, as usual, discounted.

V-P and Operations Manager's Report

Work To Focus On Niles Canyon

By Dexter Day

Just like a hobby shop is the source of supplies for a model railroad, the Ford Plant project in Milpitas has been a gold mine of supplies for the Niles Canyon project. For the last couple of months our merry warriors have been on a search and capture for track material there and at other places in the Bay Area.

It is now February and it is time to come home to the canyon and continue the job with everything and everyone we can muster. The job we have left is straightforward: Within three months after the agreement is signed with the county we will have a railroad in service and operating from Brightside to Sunol with #M-200.

Some of our members say "Who are you trying to kid?" We are not trying to kid anybody; we are dead serious. The PLA is running short of funds and we have a lot more to do and a long way to go before we can think of getting our engines and rolling stock back together again. The revenue that we will receive from the operation of the first two miles will pay for building the railroad from Brightside to the SP mainline in Niles. It will take long hours of hard work to accomplish this, but what else is new? We have all worked hard in many ways in building this railroad; now lets get together and make our efforts pay off.

The plan is a simple one. Until the agreement is signed with the county, we have three projects to work on. They are:

- 1) Complete both the East and West switches at Brightside. Finish laying a rail through Brightside and string out the second rail in place to be spiked down later. Build a ramp on the mainline east of the crossing to unload #M-200 and other equipment.

- 2) Distribute two piles of 85 lb. rail in the Dresser area. Lay one rail in place and string out the second rail between Farwell and Dresser. This would include both bridges.

- 3) Clear and clean off the ties for blowing and plugging from the Ki-Lite crossing West to MP 32.4 (about 3/5 of the way to the Farwell Bridge). Drag rail into place and lay one rail and set up the second rail.

These may not all be completed before the agreement with the county is signed, but we will get a good start on them and a lot

will be completed.

When the green light does come from the county the true test of our skills will begin. The building of the railroad from Brightside to Sunol should go pretty fast. When we have a good indication of the date we can start, we will stock pile supplies (joint bars, tie plates, bolts, and ties) at Brightside. By this time, security fence will have been installed to provide protection for the equipment. When we get the word to go, the first move will be to gauge and lay the second rail from Brightside to Sunol. This will include rebuilding the farmer's crossing. The tie plate gang will follow with a spike setter which will be followed by the tie gang replacing missing ties.

#M-200 will be brought in at the appropriate time to undergo maintenance. Crew training will follow. The biggest job will be building the parking and passenger loading area in Sunol. There are also other things that will have to be done such as installing water, electric power, and security at Ki-Lite, but basically that is it; within three months we will have an operating railroad. Maybe it is time that we all start thinking about getting ourselves in shape so that we can hit this final push with a lot of energy.

When the motor and work cars come onto the property we will have operating rules for them. The rules that will govern their operation are being prepared at this time. The members that operate these cars will have to be qualified in flag protection, on the operating rules of the PLA, and on the equipment. At this time, this will limit the operation of these cars to present train crew members. Some training will be needed to operate these cars in the way they will be used to build the railroad.

Well, I hope you have a good month and that you can all make it out to a work party.

In the last Club Car there was an article stating that membership applications would be mailed with the newsletters. Unfortunately, there was a mistake in estimating the number of applications needed, and there weren't enough for everyone on the mailing list. For that reason Contributing Sponsors did not have applications in their Club Cars.

February Meeting

There will be a discussion of whether or not to change the museum's name from Niles Canyon Scenic Railway. To be considered for Active Membership: Ed Ryan. Ed has contributed much to the Niles Canyon project and has helped with the membership roster.

To be considered for Associate Membership: Stephen C. Clearwater of Hayward, F. A. Dishong, Donald Glass and Sam McCracken of Sunol, Dan Elder of Santa Cruz, Albert H. Fowler of Sunnyvale, George W. Gavaletz of Livermore, John Houghton, Jr. of Tracy, Jeffrey Otto of Santa Clara, Wayne Scholtes of San Jose, Jack C. Wall of Menlo Park and Ted Wurm of Oakland.

Entertainment will be a presentation by Freelance Video of PLA museum activities at Castro Point including the last two public operations. Members will be able to buy videotapes and \$5 will be donated to the PLA for every one sold at the meeting.

Regular meetings are held on the third Friday of every month at St. Christopher's Church at the corner of Via Toledo and Hacienda in San Lorenzo.

PLA Calendar

Feb. 20 Regular Meeting
Feb. 21, 22 Work Parties, Niles Canyon and Castro Point
Feb. 28 & Mar. 1 Work Parties
Mar. 2 Deadline, March Club Car
Mar. 7 & 8 . . . Work Parties, NCSRY or CP
Mar. 9 Club Car Goes to Printer
Mar. 14 & 15 . . Work Parties, NCSRY or CP
Mar. 20 Regular Meeting
Mar. 21 & 22 . . Work Parties, NCSRY or CP
Apr. 17 Regular Meeting

For work projects in Niles Canyon please contact Vice-President Dexter Day (415-345-1790) or General Manager Peter Schulze (415-797-8613) for details. For projects at Castro Point contact Master Mechanic Ray McAllister (415-479-5249).

The Hot Box

Your association continues to need tools (and people) to do our building projects for the Niles Canyon Scenic Railway.

- 1) Two 25-ton Railroad Journal or Screw Jacks. These will be vital for doing car maintenance.
 - 2) 2" steel strapping or "bands" for bundling ties and other material. We need 200-300 feet in sections 12' or longer. Rusty bands are okay as long as they aren't cut or bent.
 - 3) Chains & binders, 3/8" high tensile load chains 15-25' long and 3/8" high tensile chain load binders for our new truck.
 - 4) Chain link fence. 8' fence fabric and hardware, especially full length 2" posts and 4" and 6" gate posts. Contact Craig Wilson.
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