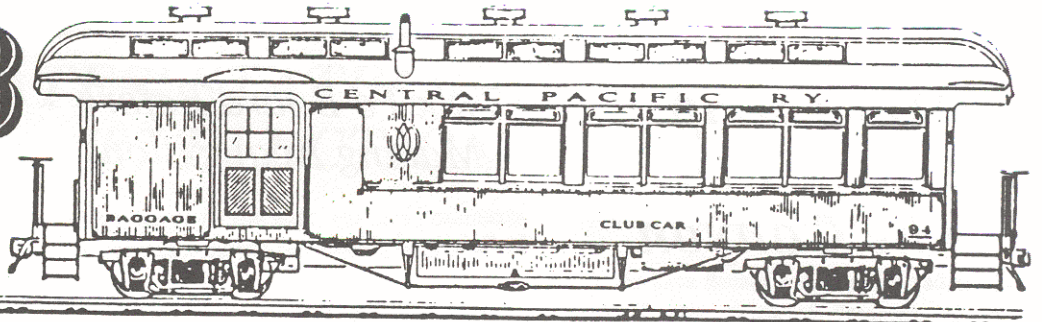


THE CLUB CAR



Bulletin No. 289

Pacific Locomotive Association

July 1987

June Meeting 1987-88 Board Elected

By Madeline Iverson

A record of perhaps many years was broken at the June 19 general meeting of the PLA. Forty-one of the forty-nine Active Members attended the meeting. This was probably for several reasons, the two most important were an anticipated run-off election for officers and the program presented by TED WURM. The meeting also came close to breaking another record, this one brevity. The business of the meeting was conducted in a mere seventy one minutes.

A total of 45 ballots were received for the 1986-87 election. In all races other than the presidency a clear majority was reached. Elected to the following offices were Madeline Iverson, Vice-President; Jim Evans, Membership Secretary; Brian Wise, Recording Secretary; and Burneda Anderson, Treasurer. The run-off ballot taken with the forty-one active members present resulted in Mike McQuaid being reelected president of the PLA for another year.

Voted into Associate Membership were JAMES McDANIEL, ELIZABETH KOOY, ELAINE AMES, DAVID FILSON, DARRELL DENNIS and THOMAS CLARK.

Of some note was the work continuing in the Canyon while we wait for Alameda County to review and approve the contract. Much work is being concentrated on cleaning up the track and culverts and readying the tool car for its temporary role as a gift shop. Much to the pleasure of those assembled, RAY McALLISTER announced that the #30 now has valve liners installed.

After the brief business meeting, the club was treated to an excellent slide presentation by Ted Wurm on the railroads of New Zealand and Tasmania.



Photo by Jim Evans

Although only one rail can be spiked down to secure ties before an agreement with the county is signed, the second rail is being dragged into place to allow quick completion of the railway.

#1861 & #1830 UPDATE

By Howard Wise

A recent trip to the California State Railroad Museum library at Sacramento (a facility highly recommended by yours truly) yielded substantial information about the history of AT&SF #1861. Much to my surprise, #1861 was not originally a baggage car: It was in fact built in 1914 as Santa Fe #987, one of 35 cars built by Pullman between 1913 and 1928 in the Santa Fe series #965 to #999 as 70 to 80 passenger coaches. This finally explains some of the torched off structural members in the car that had me guessing.

All of the cars in this series were converted to baggage cars during the years 1948 to 1952 with #987 becoming baggage car #1861. #1854 to #1860 did not have their vestibule areas opened up during the conversion and thus had 69'4" of baggage area. #1861 through #1884 had the entire

74'10" interior converted to useful space. One other interesting fact that surfaced is that the car was rebuilt into a foreman's car in 1961 and given the number 198982. Evidently, a later renovation concluded with a re-numbering to 203743-X, the number it carries today.

While at the museum, I also took the opportunity to research the "boom tender" car the association acquired from Levin Metals. I found that this car was built by Pullman in 1929 for the Santa Fe and was one of 40 baggage cars delivered in the 1830 to 1839 series. The car was converted to its present configuration in 1963. It would appear that it spent its entire post-conversion career as the tender for the Winslow, Arizona big hook which Levin also had but was scrapped. Because of its configuration, #1830 will make an ideal open passenger car with a concession compartment in the center.

Operations Manager's Report

More Help Needed In The Canyon

By Dexter Day

Now that the elections are over and the fallout has had time to settle, it is time to take a hard look at what lies ahead and how each of us can be an active part of it.

I wish I could report that our work crews were large and that several jobs were getting done each weekend, but that would not be telling the truth. For the past month, a small band has been building this railroad. I hope that this will not continue through the rest of the summer. We have a lot of jobs to be done before we get the green light from the county, and each one will take more manpower than I've seen in the past month.

The three month estimate that we stated for finishing the first two miles from Sunol to Brightside was predicated on at least 20 men per day on weekends. This is what I wish we had now so that we can get the right-of-way prepared between Farwell and Brightside with one rail laid and the second set in place to lay at a later date. This would include building two 100 pound switches. This project could go very fast if we had the manpower. We have the means of getting the rail on site at a very low cost, but it will take a larger work crew than we have had.

However, no matter how large our working crews have been, we have accomplished everything we set out to do. If you don't believe that, just take a little time to come out to the canyon and look around. Sure we will need more material before this railroad is finished, but we can fill a big void with what we have now.

We can do it, we have been doing it. What I am trying to say is that everyone

Talk To Board Before Making Acquisitions

By Madeline Iverson

At the June Board of Directors meeting a very important concern was expressed. With the move into Niles Canyon almost assured, some members run the risk of getting "acquisition happy." The board is requesting that any members who want to acquire equipment for either themselves or the club and want to store or operate it with the PLA's equipment consult the board first.

We do not want to be surrounded by equipment we cannot use and needs extensive restoration. Perhaps we will have sufficient facilities in the distant future, but we don't now. The board does not want to be in the position to either turn down or accept a member acquisition that it doesn't want, and the member has no where to put it. So please, if you are considering getting a piece of equipment and want to incorporate it with the PLA's collection, check with the Board of Directors first.

should keep a positive attitude and remember that you are part of this Association and no matter what your capabilities are we have a job with your name on it. If we all keep the idea that team work will build the railroad, and everybody gets behind the idea, then you will see this railroad ready to receive our long awaited equipment sometime in 1988.

If you don't know where the action is from week to week, please give me a call at home on a Thursday night. If I'm not in I will leave a tape on my tape deck letting you know where to report on the weekends. The number is (415)345-1790. I hope you all have a good months, no fights with your spouse, and be out in the canyon on weekends.

Company Store

By Carol Sullivan

New discounted books in stock for the July meeting, plus some on order which may arrive by then: Echoes Down the Canyon, by Ted Benson (WP, 1968-86, including #918 at Niles Tower, in fact much Niles Tower coverage); Passenger Train Annual '87; Sacramento Northern Gallery; SP Steam Locomotive Compendium; and, back in stock, Steam Locomotive Inspection.

New VHS tapes for at-home entertainment and education have been added to our rental collection manned by Charlie Blake: Best of 1986 (Pentrex, includes a little of our #12 under steam at Expo '87); Clear Track Ahead-PRR; Great Age of Steam; Steam Locomotives - NYC 1941; and Railroads, a 16 mm production of the 70's which sold for \$800 each, filmed profession in 25 states, Canada, and Panama and now on VHS.

And maybe on hand by then: Gold and silver metal devices for conductor and engineer hats including CONDUCTOR, BRAKEMAN, ENGINEER, FIREMAN, MOTORMAN, and STATION AGENT for around \$12 each.

The Company Store was "on the road" in Niles on June 6 for Charlie Chaplin Day. JIM NOBLE and DAVE BURLA manned our PR exhibit in the Harriman car while LIZ REIMERS, FLO NOBLE, JANET NOBLE, and CAROL SULLIVAN ran the sale booth outside. Set-up assistance was provided by ED RYAN and PETER SCHULZE. (Highlight of the day was watching the Coast Starlight go by, heading for "our" canyon thanks to a bridge being rebuilt in Alviso.) Our next tentative out-ventures, aside from LIZ's continuing efforts at area flea markets, are the Niles Flea Market August 30 and another Vallejo Great Western Train Show in September.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President Michael McQuaid, (415) 846-4082
- Vice-President. Madeline Iverson, (408) 727-7230
- Recording Secretary Brian Wise
- Membership Secretary. Jim Evans
- P.O. Box 451, Burlingame, CA 94011-0451
- Treasurer Burneda Anderson
- General Manager (To be appointed)

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.

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

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS FROM '87 ELECTION

The candidates for the 1987-88 Board of Directors were given the opportunity to write statements concerning their candidacies. Seven of the ten candidates submitted statements which were sent out with the ballots to the Active Members.

Following are the statements of the winners of the election:

Mike McQuaid, President

The PLA is about to begin a new phase which has little in common with Castro Point except track gauge. At Castro Point we had no neighbors. We had no county or city governments to deal with and we were allowed to operate with minimal interference. In Niles Canyon we have neighbors who have filed suit to claim the very land on which we will build track and facilities. Although our project is popular with many local residents, in some cases reception is downright hostile. While the county government and staff are supportive, that position can quickly change through lack of adherence to the license agreement or disregard for environmental laws and regulations.

During the last two years I have established a good working relationship with various governmental bodies, the Southern Pacific, business, civic organizations and press. This continued relationship will be critical to our successful growth this coming year. Another important factor is my daytime availability. While PLA WORK is accomplished in the Canyon on WEEKENDS, PLA BUSINESS is accomplished on WEEKDAYS.

We must be financially conservative in our approach to the Niles Canyon project. We must establish a realistic budget, prioritize our work and set aside some funds instead of relying upon emergency donations to take advantage of opportunities to acquire equipment or supplies.

The PLA is entering a very public arena, an arena in which we will be expected to perform on a professional level equivalent to any developer or contractor. We must be excellent listeners, recognize and acknowledge our limitations, and consider carefully the goals and motives of these agencies and governmental bodies we come in contact with. I believe my experience in business, and as a PLA traincrew member and

worker makes me the most qualified candidate for president during this coming year.

Madeline Iverson, Vice-President

My name is MADELINE IVERSON, I'm running for VICE-PRESIDENT, and I'd appreciate your vote. Qualifications: I have been the PLA's recording secretary for three years and am familiar with the operation and politics of the club. Duties of the include conducting meetings and other activities in the absence of the president. I am an experienced public speaker and my background as an English teacher will also enable me to oversee our excellent newsletter, THE CLUB CAR, to which I have been a regular contributor for the last five years.

Over the last few months the political positions of prospective candidates has become an issue. Some candidates advocate a tourist-type operation and others a Castro Point-type operation. Because we will be working with Alameda County we need more than we had at Castro Point. Because we will initially be working out of Sunol with a very low key operation we cannot run a tourist-oriented, high-powered operation. I advocate a middle position. I especially don't want to lose sight of three assets we had at Castro Point. The first asset was CONTROL. I want to ensure that we can comfortably handle the finances and projects we take on. (Railtown taught us a good lesson here.) The second asset we had at the Point was LOVE OF WHAT WE WERE DOING--restoring and operating railroad equipment. The third asset followed from the second: OUR PUBLIC FOLLOWING WAS MADE UP OF FRIENDS who realized that we ran our trains, not for money but because we wanted to share what we did. While we will do more than pass the donation box, I don't want to see us get expansion-crazy. We need to concentrate on doing things safely and well. I don't think we have another choice if we want to succeed.

Remember that the club officers don't make the big decisions, you do. Elect them on the basis of how effectively that will perform the duties of the offices to which they are elected. You are the PLA; the board handles the mechanics for you. Be sure your choices are well-qualified for the duties of the specific office.

Burneda Anderson, Treasurer:

As Dave Rousar has decided not to run again for the office of Treasurer, I would like to urge consideration of my extensive qualifications for this important position.

I hold a college degree in accounting and additionally business school certificates in business law, business management and cost accounting, including broad involvement in non-profit corporation record keeping.

Presently I am employed as Corporate Comptroller for a major mechanical construction firm with a monthly cash flow in excess of six million dollars. I supervise a bookkeeping staff of seven and an office staff of ten. We have ongoing construction projects in over seven California counties.

Please note that I have worked with the current PLA treasurer to set up an all new expanded chart of accounts and a complete set of very detailed books for the Association. As a result of this, I have an extensive working knowledge of our financial records and new procedures. I have been a member of the PLA's Finance Committee for the past two years since it was formed, including having served as Chairperson.

Brian Wise, Recording Secretary:

Jim Evans, Membership Secretary:

[Neither candidate submitted a statement. (Evans ran unopposed)]

Are Your Dues Due?

By Jim Evans

As we enter the new fiscal year I would like to remind all Active and Associate Members to check their membership cards to see if they remain in good standing with regard to payment of dues.

At this time in the history of our organization, membership dues are a major source of income for us. If you receive a yellow or red notice with your Club Car this month, please take the time to write a check to the PLA. Send your check to Membership Secretary Jim Evans, P.O. Box 451, Burlingame, CA 94011-0451.

July Meeting

A record number of applicants will be considered for Associate Membership at the June meeting: Kim Land of Newark, George Burnley of Alameda, Steven Carpaneto, Mike Metz and Will Wredberg of Fremont, Ronald Brown of San Jose, Walter Halland of Orinda, Diane Thur of Hayward, James Sofford of Concord and Paul Wilcox-Baker of San Francisco.

Entertainment will be by Associate Member Randy Cape. He will show a 20 minute 8 mm sound movie of the Operation Lifesave Train last April and May. Featured motive power is SP E-Unit #6051, including footage of it running light to Colfax.

Regular meetings are held at 8:00 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

July 17 Regular Meeting
July 27 Deadline, Aug. Club Car
August 3. Club Car Goes to Printer
August 21 Regular Meeting
Sept. 18. Regular Meeting

Work Parties meet each Saturday and Sunday at Brightside in Niles Canyon. Take Hwy 84 west from Sunol and I-680 or east from Mission Blvd. in Fremont. Meet at the tool car (visible from the highway) at 9 on Saturday and 10 on Sunday.

For work projects in Niles Canyon please contact Operations Manager Dexter Day (415-345-1790) for details. For projects at Castro Point contact Master Mechanic Ray McAllister (415-479-5249).

Making Tracks Fund

The following people donated to the Making Tracks fund since the last Club Car went to press. An Asterisk denotes a donation of \$100 or more: Herb Norleen, Peter Groom, Alexander Heitman, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Harvey B. Gregory, Sam McCracken, Hyland Morrow, Richard Anderson, William Gardner, Stephen C. Clearwater, Robert & Velma Harreschou, Donald Tustin, J.A. Easton*, Michael A. Carlisle, Timothy J. Low, Henry J. Principe, Robert & Jane Mowbray, Robert E. Waters, Olive T. Parker, Gordon & Mildred Atkinson, Katherine Burla, Charles Barnes, Michael Travis, Donald Tustin, Craig L. Miller.