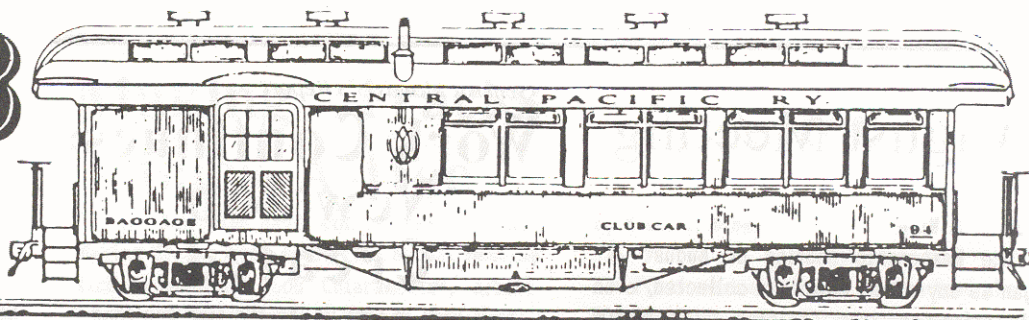


THE CLUB CAR



Bulletin #291

Pacific Locomotive Association

September 1987

New Fund And Membership Drives

It's September and summer is coming to a close. There's only a few months left before winter and the rains come. That means we've got a lot of work to do. In an effort to raise the resources (money and people) to get us through the fall, we are going to have another fund raising drive (groan!) and a membership drive (Yeah!).

The reason for the fund drive is that we have a lot of projects that must be done and bills coming due in the next few months. Following is a list of these and an estimate of their costs:

--Conversion of the Tool Car to the Company Store: The ex-ATSF tool car will be converted to the company store. It needs to have the truck installed, be repainted and have shelves and tables installed. \$500.

--Back-A-Hoe: The second installment for our backhoe is due in December. \$4,333.

--#3: Our 0-4-0T Porter needs lagging, paint and a boiler inspection before it can be run. \$1,000.

--Fence Rental: We need a fence to surround the Brightside facility. \$1,000.

--Passenger Cars: The five passenger cars in storage need to have the roofs repaired before water damage occurs. \$1,000.

--Liability Insurance: We don't know what our next bill in December will be like, but our bill for last year was \$7,000. Rates go up, but they don't go down, and lately they've been going up a lot. \$7,000 + ?

--#233 and #30: The Central Pacific Ry and Sierra RR locomotives need to be moved out of Castro Point. \$2,000.

--Brightside: Heavy grading has to be done. This includes the roadbed for a siding and a gravel road for access. We are trying to get a reserve Seabee or Army Corp of Engineers unit to do this. To do this commercially could cost up to \$1,300. We

also need permits for any construction we do and we don't yet know the cost of this.

--#M-200: We need to get the diesel railcar ready for use and get it moved to Brightside. Because of its length a special trailer is needed to move it. \$1,000.

--Sunol: Our passenger facility in Sunol will need a gravel parking lot and a passenger loading ramp. The current plan is to construct the ramp out of ties and dirt with an asphalt walkway. \$1,000.

The total for the itemized costs is \$18,333+ and it doesn't include the Brightside work, the cost of ties and other track material we may need in the canyon, the rental of equipment, this newsletter, our public storage locker, and all the other cost involved with running this organization. The cost of some of these items could be reduced by donations of materials or transportation and the PLA is actively seeking them. However, even if some costs are eliminated, the total will still be huge.

These expenses are not the result of improper planning or misuse of past donations. Building a railroad is an expensive business; hundreds of tons of rail, ties, and other material are needed and some jobs require heavy construction equipment. While we've been getting donations where possible, there is still the cost of transporting the donated material to where we need it. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated, and the payoff for all of us will occur when steam whistles again echo through Niles Canyon.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE STARTED

In the past the PLA has asked the membership for money and you've responded. However it was felt that its important to do

more than ask the same people for money again and again, so a membership drive was proposed to encourage members to go out and bring new people into the PLA. A larger membership base will make it easier to build the Niles Canyon Railway.

As an incentive for members to go out and sign up new applicants, there will be prizes for the two members who bring in the most applications for Associate Membership. The prizes will be credit in our company store worth \$50 for first place and \$25 for second. In the case of a tie the prizes will be split.

Although two members sign a form, usually only one person "instigates" the application by telling a friend about the PLA. The instigator will be the one who gets credit for the application and should clearly mark his or her signature by circling or putting a star by it.

In this issue a special membership form was included. It has a special identifying mark on it to distinguish it from applications that went out before the beginning of the contest and from applications that are given out at shows, since the purpose of this contest is to encourage members to bring interested people into the PLA. These may be friends from work or a club or the corner bar; all of us probably know some people who are interested, but haven't joined because they "haven't gotten around to it." Well, we need their help now, and now you can win a prize for getting them to join.

If you need more applications, feel free to make as many as you need, or contact Jim Evans for more applications. The rules of this contest are inside this issue of the Club Car.

General Manager's Report

August Meeting

By Brian T. Wise

The Membership Meeting of August 21 began as any other, calm and collected, even as Planning Committee Chairman CRAIG WILSON spoke of the importance of everyone submitting ideas for our maintenance facilities at Brightside. Please don't keep ideas to yourself! It's your railroad too!

Voted into Associate Membership were GARY CLARK of Tracy, ROBERT COLLIER of Hayward, JACK DORITHY of Shingle Springs, JOHN KELLY of San Leandro and CONNIE LUNA of Walnut Creek (who is also a terrific cook).

DEXTER DAY stated that the new Hand Car Rules have been completed and are ready for printing. As soon as #M-200 arrives in the canyon, he will begin briefing crews.

Also, RAY McALLISTER said that the new air brake system for the tool car would be finished that weekend. After JIM EVANS announced that the Army has given the OK to store Sierra #30 on their property in Oakland, Mac said the move was on the horizon.

Eventually, the discussion turned towards our lease agreement with Alameda County. Tempers flared. Due to the commitments that are stated in the agreement, many members thought it best that the general membership review the document before the Board is allowed to sign. Several members expressed their faith in the Board, but a motion was raised to have a special meeting. The motion did not pass, although RICH GILL said he would make copies of the agreement for anyone who was interested.

Strangely enough, there was no old business or new business, so the meeting was concluded with a film shot by HENRY LUNA of the Royal Hudson in the U.S. CHARLES HEIMERDINGER, JR. narrated.

Work Continues; New Job Created

If luck is with us, by the time you read this we may have our license from the county. We are finally close to opening the Niles Canyon Railway and are gearing up to have everything ready as soon as possible.

Much has been accomplished since the August meeting. Crews lead by DEXTER DAY and TIM FLIPPO have completed the unloading of the gondolas of track material at Shinn Street in Fremont. ED POWELL and company have completed the blowing and plugging of ties at Vallejo Mill. That leaves about a mile of tie plugging before that phase of work is completed. Way to go everyone!

Our Mechanical Department, headed by RAY McALLISTER, is almost ready to drop the tool car back on its trucks. Ray is already preparing to make #M-200 ready and move it to Brightside. The other equipment at Vallecitos needs to be relocated immediately. If you can help, please contact Ray.

HOWARD WISE still needs help with roof repairs on the passenger cars at Oakland. We need to get them sealed before the rains come. If you can help, please contact me or Howard.

JIM DINKEY is now the primary backhoe operator. If you'd like to be trained or checked out on this machine, contact Jim.

Please contact V-P MADELINE IVERSON or myself if you have club property you would like to move into our storage locker. Things might get easier at home if you clean out your garage of club owned items.

I am creating a new office to support our activities. The position is that of Chief Station Agent and includes supervising our station agents, parking control and

Company Store

By Carol Sullivan

Thanks to PETER SCHULZE, our treasury became \$419.80 richer in August. He persuaded the Union Pacific RR main offices to use our giftshop as the source of game and door prizes for the local UP track crew's Family Picnic August 1. I think it would be appropriate to see the money, or at least the profit, go toward our track construction and maintenance needs.

Also in August, MARY PATTERSON forwarded another check from the Railtown Docents. (Last summer we "advanced" some of our stock to help them start up their giftshop operation.) The two checks received this summer total \$340.20, representing payment for our items sold in May and June 1987.

And . . . at the Niles Flea Market we took in \$540.70 - NOT BAD!

Coming appearances for our "traveling marketplace" are Ohlone Flea Market, 9/12; Great American Train Mart, Vallejo 9/13; General Meeting, 9/18; Sunol Street Fair, 9/26; General Meeting, 10/16; and Great American Train Mart, Vallejo 10/25.

Thanks to star salespeople LIZ REIMERS, FLO NOBLE and HEATHER NESMITH, and to PR pros ALAN RAMSAY and JIM NOBLE.

And have you seen our Western Pacific Feather River Route dishes? We sold a few at the August meeting. We have only B&Bs and a few little bowls left. Maybe we'll find some more to sell someday.

crossing guards where called for. If you are interested, please contact me.

That's all for now. See you in the canyon.

PACIFIC LOCOMOTIVE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President Michael McQuaid, (415) 846-4082
- Vice-President Madeline Iverson, (408) 727-7230
- Recording Secretary Brian T. Wise
- Membership Secretary Jim Evans
- P.O. Box 451, Burlingame, CA 94011-0451
- Treasurer Burneda Koenig
- General Manager Frank Presley, (415) 796-3094

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
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(415) 455-1269

Just Items At Large

By "K.C. Bones"

Those people interested in checking on things at Red Rock will find the entering gate at Western Drive will be locked from 6PM to 6AM on weekdays and all the time on weekends. If you need to get in, call the number on the gate or go to the main gate at the Chevron refinery and tell them you want into the area. Be sure to have your PLA card.



While on vacation in Maui, I checked out the Cane Train again. This time I wanted some shots of the new boiler that was fabricated for the engine "Anaka". Things have gotten a lot simpler from the days of riveted joints to welded: There are two 2" washout plugs per corner instead of on the radius bend in the mud ring, and solid stay bolts are welded in with no tell tale hole on the bolt. I asked about this, and the master mechanic asked the State Inspector who said it was OK. The boiler was fabricated in L.A. so the situation should apply to us also.

Not being satisfied with the look see on Maui, I flew up to Honolulu for a Sunday work party day on the Oahu Railway and Land Co. Their people are like ours. The first ones ready to go was the track gang so I went off with them. They used a small diesel engine, a flat with a compressor and tools and a flat with ballast. About two and a half miles from the yard we had to ballast and tamp two 20-foot areas on a siding. I guess they want to stay slim because they don't stop for lunch. The only time they stopped was to drink another can of ice tea.

At about 3:00 I headed back to the yard to take some pictures and then to the airport to catch my plane back to Maui. By the way, the only place they use tie plates are on the road crossings and switches.



We have every changing faces on the track crews so we must be more alert about leaving tools and material on the job site. The crew leader will check most of the time, but if more than one truck is hauling equipment it is harder to control. Moving up the right of way while working makes it very easy to misplace tools, bolts etc.

Bolts, nuts and washers are going to be in short supply, so if you see some laying

Making Tracks Back-A-Hoe

The following have contributed to the Making Tracks Fund since the August Meeting: Richard Anderson, Lou Chiaramonte*, Albert Fowler, Michael Hamer, Patrick McNamara, Stephen Slabach, M.L. VanDresser. (* Contribution of \$100 or more)

Contributions in the Memory of Len Coffin: O.M. Barlow, Ernest Dohner, Dan Henderson, George Jacobson, Norma Webb, Salli Wiley.

Contributions to the Back-A-Hoe Fund in July: Leslie Clark, Richard Gill, Ray McAllister, Jim Noble, Stephen Slabach and Charlie Smith.

Membership Drive Rules

- 1) The Membership Drive contest is open to all Active and Associate Members and will end at the General Meeting on December 18.
- 2) The person who instigates the application by finding a prospective member will receive credit for the application and should clearly mark this next to his or her signature when signing the sponsor box.
- 3) A contributing sponsor who upgrades to Associate membership will receive credit for his or her own application. Once voted into membership that person will be eligible for the contest.
- 4) The first place prize for the member finding the most applicants will be \$50 in credit from our Company Store. Second prize will be \$25. In case of tie, the prizes will be split.
- 5) A specially marked membership form will be included in the September club car. Forms distributed before the contest or at PR booth at shows will not be eligible. Feel free to make copies of this form (it has an identifying mark) or contact Membership Secretary Jim Evans for more copies.
- 6) The contest will be run by the Membership Secretary and assistants appointed for this contest. None of these will be eligible for prizes. The ruling of the judges will be final.

loose, pick them up and put them in the proper cans or return them to the tippie area.

PLA Roll Call

By Brian T. Wise

For some inexplicable reason time sheets dated two months ago keep turning up in the mailbox at Brightside. That's good because now they can make their way into my brand new filing cabinet for posterity. This month's roll call, therefore, is a review of those members who worked at least one day between June 1 and August 22.

They are: Bob Adam, Richard Anderson, "Bones" Andrews, Charles Barnes and son, Charles Blake, Buzz Berger, Ron Brown, Mike Bozzini, Dave Burla, Ed Chase, Dexter Day, Len Davis, John Dillman, Jim Dinkey, Rolf Dyce, Tim Flippo, Al Fowler, George Gavoletz, Rich Gill, Bob Graham, Madeline Iverson, Henry Luna, Pat Lewis, Matt Maksel, Ray McAllister, Mike McQuaid, Kevin Moran, Mike NeSmith, Herb Norleen, Phil Orth, Jeff Otto, Ed Powell, Ed Ryan, Alan Ramsay, Frank Presley, Alan Siegworth, John Schruaffer, Steve Slabach, Jeff Williams and Brian Wise.

Please accept my apologies for any omissions or mis-spelled names and thank you for all of your efforts.

New Editor Needed

Have you ever dreamed of being Lou Grant? Does ink run through your veins? Do you know English and have a pulse? If any of these apply to you, have I got a job for you.

I will be resigning as editor at the end of the year and am looking for a replacement. Two years in any job is a long time and I'd like to do other things for the PLA.

The editor is responsible for collecting the articles for an issue, editing them and pasting up a camera-ready copy for the printer. Access to word processing or typesetting equipment is almost a necessity. If you are using a PC, you will need a printer that produces sharp, dark type.

Like anything else in the PLA, experience or skill isn't a prerequisite; enthusiasm and dedication are. I'll train anyone who wants to do the job and will help out with writing and photography.

If you're interested in being editor, please contact V-P Madeline Iverson or me, Alan Teruya.

Meeting

Three people will be considered for membership at the September meeting: Michael R. Biehn of Hayward, Richard Anderson of Palo Alto and Stephen A. Ferrari of San Jose.

Michael Snyder of San Lorenzo will be considered for Active Membership. Mike has been very active in Niles Canyon work in addition to serving as a second counsel to the PLA on many legal issues.

Entertainment for the meeting will be slides of the Railfair in San Francisco last April. If you would like to show off your slides, bring them to the meeting.

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

- September 18.Regular Meeting
September 26.Sunol Street Fair
September 28.Club Car Deadline
October 1-4PLA Royal Hudson Trip
Vancouver, BC
October 16.Regular Meeting
October 25. . .Great American Train Mart
Solano Co. Fairgrounds, Vallejo
November 20Regular 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 9:00 on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

For work projects in Niles Canyon please contact General Manager Frank Presley (415-796-3094) for details. For projects at Castro Point contact Master Mechanic Ray McAllister (415-479-5249).

Are Your Dues Due?

Notice to All Members: Please check your membership card to see if it is time to renew your membership. Please send all renewals and changes of address to Membership Secretary Jim Evans, P.O. Box 451, Burlingame, CA 94011-0451. Please do not send renewals to our Niles Station mailing address or delays may result.

To be eligible for Active Membership one must have been an Associate Member for at least six months and have regularly attended meetings in that time. The number of Active Members is limited to ensure a quorum at club meetings.