

REPORT

OF THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST RAILWAY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION, INC.

Issue 16

La Mesa, California

February 15, 1965

PSRMA INC. MEETS THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 AT 7:30 P.M. in the Old Library Building in the center of the triangle on Prescott Street just south of Main Street in El Cajon. Because the meeting date is on a holiday weekend and there may be a few absentees, it is imperative that all who can attend should do so. Stanton Kerr, newly elected president, has a "State of the Union" message which includes comments about goals and projects. Indeed, he has one particular work project to suggest which should be of interest and attract volunteer help. He'll tell members what this is all about! Walter Hayward will give the Museum Committee report and Wallace Duthie has some interesting excursion news to report (see story on another page). Kerr reminds members that because planning has reached a critical stage it is desirable that each member attend each business meeting, offer ideas, and volunteer aid as needed.

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 13 BUSINESS MEETING are as follows:

1. Terry Durkin reported that as authorized he is negotiating with A. K. Johnson of the Santa Fe for office space in the San Diego Santa Fe station;
2. Members approved installation of a telephone in the office if and when the facility is available;
3. Approved purchase of an addressograph for Association and excursion mailing;
4. Heard that Attorney J. Lightner reported the excursion contract with W. L. Duthie was legal and that both parties have the powers provided for in the contract but suggested that for the protection of both parties the contract should be drawn up in a professional manner by an attorney;
5. Heard that the attorney advised the PSRMA to fully investigate liability problems pertaining to any and all projects operated under the PSRMA name and that casualty insurance agents should be contacted;
6. Learned that individual members are normally not liable but the Association is;
7. Changed the Calico excursion date from April to October; and
8. Elected the 1965 officers (see list elsewhere).

FEBRUARY 8 BOARD BRIEFS IN PART ARE AS FOLLOWS: 1. Museum activities were discussed in detail and by-laws will be reviewed; 2. Board will recommend to the membership that PSRMA Inc. advance up to \$75 to the Dispatcher for the purchase of a spirit duplicator on a long term basis and providing PSRMA will have access at cost to the facility; 3. Discussed a proposed work project which will be outlined at the next regular meeting; 4. Reviewed the implications to PSRMA of a proposed privately sponsored museum land fund raising project.

THERE IS MUSEUM ACTIVITY IN AND AROUND SAN DIEGO. A Northern County group has been reported checking out a possible location for an operating railway museum - not necessarily in competition with PSRMA....As reported elsewhere on this page a similar project may materialize in the San Diego metropolitan area....There is no further news at this time of the Coronado steam railroad project reported in Issue 15.....Richard Pennick is looking into the possible purchase of a small steam locomotive. Editor Corky Thomson of the RHSofSD Newsletter wrote the following article in combined January-February issue: "Somewhere to store and display many, many items of historical interest, that is what we need in San Diego. An outdoor operating type museum sounds great but requires time, money and help which we don't seem to have locally. Roy Miller brought up the fact that there are photo collections, of all types regarding railroading in this area....but no way for them to be seen and appreciated. There must be a good place, a safe place, to display and keep these priceless items. Many will donate collections if they know the items will be used properly and preserved....and not fall into the hands of some individual that will hoard them away. This is the present goal we must work toward, a good permanent display of railroad history in this area.".....Southwest Railway Library which will meet February 26 may have an announcement soon about a "permanent temporary location" for a small research type library which will include the Dodge collection.

PSRMA REGULAR MEMBERS AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 1965

Adams, Lee B.	4880 Beaumont Drive, La Mesa, Calif.	466-0681
Andert, John H.	585 Otis Street, Chula Vista, Calif. 92010	422-6336
Carlisle, Robert W.	Box 1663, San Diego, Calif. 92112	
Cook, W. Vernon	585 Hilltop Drive, Chula Vista, Calif.	422-9086
Couch, Dwight	3174 Chollas Road, San Diego, Calif. 92105	264-1920
Coye, Robert H.	P.O. Box 3326, San Diego, Calif. 92103	276-0229
Diamond, Al	1310 29th Street, San Diego, Calif. 92102	233-0383
Duncan, Douglas	3671 Rose Lawn, San Diego, Calif. 92105	284-0333
Durkin, Terry	1521 W. Camino Del Rio, San Diego, Calif. 92110	298-0407
Duthie, Wallace	3380 Granada, San Diego, Calif. 92104	295-3403
Ekholm, Charles I.	COMPHIBPAC, Flag Allowance, San Diego, Calif.	
Gerdes, Charles	10642 Garden Way, Spring Valley, Calif. 92077	466-1537
Geyer, George	2928 Fir Street, San Diego, Calif. 92102	234-0555
Hayward, Walter	12067 Riverside Drive, Lakeside, Calif.	448-2954
Jensen, Cliff	P.O. Box 64, Sunnyside, Calif.	
Johnson, Gary	4665 34th St., Apt. 3, San Diego, Calif. 92116	281-9145
Kent, Charles	4065 47th St., San Diego, Calif. 92105	281-6846
Kerr, Stanton	10830 Fuerte Drive, La Mesa, Calif. 92041	444-8521
Koenigsberg, Vic	5573 Forbes Ave., San Diego, Calif. 92120	582-6780
Laing, Elinor	630 12th Street, Imperial Beach, Calif. 92032	424-9543
Mardock, Everette	2348 Tulip Street, San Diego 92105	281-5873
Matson, Thomas	2718 Upas Street, San Diego, Calif. 92104	295-1219
Pennick, Richard	9460 Haley Lane, La Mesa, Calif.	466-8209
Robbins, Larry	1846 O Avenue, National City, Calif.	
Sanders, Eric	7861 Normal Avenue, La Mesa, Calif. 92041	469-1208
Stodelle, Jack	4666 Ashby Street, San Diego, Calif. 92115	582-4636
Wootton, William	1828 Gateway Drive, San Diego, Calif. 92105	264-7876

HONORARY MEMBERS

Nigro, Louis V.	5751 Malvern St San Diego, Calif. 92120
Sefton, Thomas	3910 Henry Street, San Diego, Calif. 92103

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS - A PARTIAL LIST

Cook, Mrs. A. E.	1160 Lack Hill Drive, Vista, Calif.	
Gaddie, Robert L.	Rte. 2, Box 21, Corona, Calif. 91720	
Geradchand, Miss Emma	2811 Boundary Street, San Diego 92104	
Gordinier, Riley	5335 Remington Rd. #305- 2, San Diego, Calif. 92115	582-1366
Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Emil	6357 Wunderlin Ave., San Diego, Calif. 92114	264-9365
LauFerski, Lt. Co. S.R.	1128 Devonshire Dr., San Diego, Calif. 92107	222-9487
Ondrovic, Ann	5067 E. Mountain View Drive, San Diego, Calif. 92116	
Willoughby, D.F.	7571 Orien Ave., La Mesa, Calif. 92041	469-5528

Officers:

Stanton Kerr, president
 Terry Durkin, vice president
 George Geyer, secretary
 Charles Gerdes, treasurer
 William Wootton, past president
 Walter Hayward, chairman of Museum Committee

PLEASE, FOLK, REPORT ANY AND
 ALL ERRORS - OUR FILES NEED
 MUCH, MUCH CORRECTING! WE
 REGRET ERRORS AND WILL SOON
 ISSUE A CORRECTED ROSTER

Other: Wallace Duthie, excursions; Eric Sanders, editor of Report

I. The effect of the passing of Proposition 17 in the last election (what was Prop. 17, you ask!) was not long in appearing and many skilled workmen in the form of Locomotive Firemen are now looking for jobs (if any of you have use for any first class Locomotive Firemen, please contact the writer). A few were given "comparable" jobs, mostly switching, but how many such are there in an industry that is reducing its forces all the time due to automation and other efficient practices?

Most took severance pay, fairly generous, but small compensation to men who wanted to railroad because they loved the job and most of whom were fulfilling a boyhood ambition of working up to Locomotive Engineer.

A man must love railroading to stick with it as there is little attraction in the hours, time away from home, lack of real family life, and considerable hazards; any workman who loves his job is a better workman than one who is just putting in his time until payday.

The writer, one of the lucky ones who did achieve his ambition and stuck with it in spite of the drawbacks above plus six years of being furloughed during the depression, feels deeply for these men, many of whom he has worked with, and their innocent part in the present day "American Tragedy,"

II. Engine watchers have noticed that the San Diegans are mostly powered by single "Alcos" for trains up to eight cars. As, from Monday through Thursday, most of the trains have only six cars, it is no trouble to make the time, even making up ten to twelve minutes under favorable running conditions. Eight cars takes all the breaks to bring in on time, but in a way is an easier job for the engineer as there are only two positions used for the throttle, closed and wide open.

Most of the enginemen prefer EMD power as it is quieter and much more responsive, but one has to respect the Alcos; they smoke and cough and are as responsive as a span of oxen, but they will move a train. Also, they ride much better (six wheel trucks) and we like that long nose out in front of us just in case someone disputes the right of way with us. However, the company doesn't consult the enginemen as to what power to buy or use on the trains, so we take what's there and take of into the smoggy yonder.

RAILFAN ORGANIZATION OFFICERS

RHSofSD Inc. Dwight Couch, president; Jack Stodelle, first vice president; Walter Silberhorn, second vice president; Mrs. Gladys Skeen, third vice president; Robert Coye, recording secretary; Mrs. Barbara Thomson, corresponding secretary; Fred Finke, treasurer; Clifford Skeen, historian; and Corky Thomson, excursion director. Earle Swaine, Charles Rezek and Donald Decker are directors. Publications are: Newsletter, Corky Thomson, editor; and Dispatcher, Eric Sanders, editor.

PSRMA Inc. Stanton Kerr, president; Terry Durkin, vice president; George Geyer, secretary; and Charles Gerdes, treasurer. Board members also include William Wootton, past president, and Walter Hayward, museum committee chairman. Publications are Report, Eric Sanders, editor, and affiliation with Dispatcher. Excursions are in charge of Wallace Duthie.

SOUTHWEST RAILWAY LIBRARY - Phil Middlebrook, president; Eric Sanders, secretary-treasurer.

ORANGE EMPIRE TROLLEY MUSEUM - Raymond Ballash, president; E. J. Von Nordeck, vice president; James W. Walker, Jr., secretary; Newell McCracken, treasurer; Roger D. Fogt, Norman Johnson and William Bauer, directors.

Addresses: RHSofSD: P.O. Box 9351, San Diego 9; PSRMA - 10830 Fuerte Drive, La Mesa; SRL - 2744 Columbia, San Diego; O.E.T.: Box 501, Perris, California

REPORT: Mail to 7861 Normal Avenue, La Mesa, Eric Sanders, editor. 15¢ per copy.

REPORT 16-4

WALTER HAYWARD, MUSEUM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, REPORTS that his committee inspected a possible right-of-way in the Otay Ranch but has made no official contacts regarding the property. The Committee is awaiting further word about the Silver Strand project. Stanton Kerr, Charles Gerdes and Walter met to discuss the work project mentioned previously. Committee will re-survey members' interests and aptitudes.

TERRY DURKIN, DWIGHT COUCH, VIC KOENIGSBERG, BILL WOOTTON, AND GEORGE GEYER went up to O.E.T. January 24, 1965 for a work party. They removed a frog from the standard MW spur and put in straight track. The group will go north again Sunday, February 28, 1965 for the Seventh Anniversary. Call Bill Wootton at 264-7876 if you'd like to go. It'll be a grand day at O.E.T. as much operation is planned. (Feb 27 also.)

TERRY DURKIN, WALTER HAYWARD AND WALLY DUTHIE combined forces to provide motor equipment and arrange for railway permission for a grand outing on Sunday, February 7. Three motor or section cars, one with a trailer, left the Mexicali station and made it to El Doctor with stops for radiator problems, one broken drive belt and a bad order gasoline float. Looked bad at El Doctor - one car possibly with a damaged motor and another with a gasoline float out of commission. The motor was not burned out and some tape fixed up the gasoline float unit. The return trip was uneventful except that the three section "train" made it into Mexicali just 10 minutes ahead of the departure time for the southbound passenger train. About 12 fans and two FSBC employees made the trip. On behalf of the guests the editor says "thank you."

THE INTER-CAL IS NO MORE. For two or three miles south of the border Inter-Cal's rail is now in a middle reserved section in a divided highway. The old Inter-Cal station is gone and apparently the General Office is now being used as an uptown FSBC ticket office. Ferrocarril Sonora-Baja California has taken over and SP locomotives no longer cross the border --- except perhaps for interchange work. Several FSBC locomotives were seen February 7 in the FSBC yards. We're not sure of the details but SD&AE's Welton Grosdidier said Inter-Cal no longer has any employees and the change was effected in mid-1964. How did we miss that? Switches at the FSBC Mexicali station and at Pascualitos are now lined for FSBC trains.

FERROCARRIL SONORA-BAJA CALIFORNIA. Coahuila now has a train length concrete platform complete with light standards. Switches are in at both ends for the installation of a southbound track on the west side of the station....New rail and ties are being installed between Riito and El Doctor - at least for a good portion of the distance.

WE ALMOST FORGOT THE EXCURSION NEWS. 1. RHSofSD Santa Fe trip to O.E.T. at Perris has been postponed. Real good reasons - no equipment and O.E.T. very busy. 2. Good news! Wally Duthie's Roaming Tours is running a special train on a one day excursion May 30 from Mexicali to Puerto Peñasco and return. Train will stop 20 minutes at the death-site graves of the surveyors who lost their lives. Crosses at the graves are faithfully maintained. Then there'll be a 90 minute layover at the far end of the Puerto Peñasco "branch" - right in town. 3. PSRMA may run its Calico trip on October 24. At least it is tentatively scheduled for that date.

PSRMA MEMBERS. With the duplicator which PSRMA is helping Dispatcher acquire we hope to issue Reports regularly every second month & we hope to run local rail news on a regular basis. You can keep us provided with information. We have such news but this time it will be run with Dispatcher - which we're working on during the next two weeks. If you haven't subscribed to Dispatcher please remember that PSRMA urges you to do so. \$1 for four issues - and there'll be three between now and December 31. Charles Kent has sent us some news which will be in the next Dispatcher, including the exact consist of a SD&AE mainline train. It's interesting to examine. Those of you who watch the Santa Fe and the lines up Los Angeles way send us the news.....Finally - editors of exchange publications: let us know which issues of Report we failed to forward you. We got sort of careless. (Eric S.) Many, many folk owe dues to PSRMA, to RHSofSD, and to O.E.T. and E.R.A. Pay up!