

RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of SAN DIEGO, Inc.

P.O. Box 9351, San Diego 9.

NEWSLETTER No. 17

FEBRUARY - 1959

January Meeting Notes.....

The January meeting is normally the "Business Meeting" of the year. It is the wind up of the past year and requires a little more time for business then for pleasure, but we cut it short this year and had time for refreshments and some very good movies.

The Installation Dinner plans were completed for Saturday Evening January 10th. Information on the U.S. Gypsum narrow gauge trip was given, this trip will be run on the 12th of February. (See information in this issue) The results of the election was as follows:

PRESIDENT...L.W. "Mac" McCleary
 1st V.P.----Jack Stodelle
 2nd V.P.----Charles "Tommy" Mann
 3rd V.P.----William "Bill" Snyder
 Rec. Secty--Barbara Thomson
 Cor. Secty--Seeth "Corky" Thomson
 Treasurer---Fred Finke
 Historian---Richard V. Dodge
 Excursion---Wallace "Wally" Duthie
 Directors---Lyle Judd, Dave DeVol
 and Allen Copeland.

The Bay Area Electric Railroad Association requested the use of our street car #171 of the San Francisco Muni. for a fan trip, the members approved with guarantee of space for any of our group wishing to attend, no damage or removal of parts from the car and proper insurance. We also requested any profits be used for transportation of car to the Del Mar fair grounds. (results of this item in this issue) Progress on moving the car was given by the new Corresponding Secretary, Corky Thomson. At that time, final news of just how the car would be shipped were not available, we are working on the S.P., Santa Fe and a few trucking concerns. Notes on this meeting are not complete, as we do not have the minutes at this writing.

Refreshments were served after a short "Bull Session" with Roy. A movie taken by Roy and Daisy Miller was shown, Pikes Peak and some very beautiful scenery, also a really nice coverage of the F.E. by DeVol.

R.H.S. of S.D.

Installation Dinner.....

Saturday Night, January 10, 1959 saw 42 members and guests having a good dinner and a lot of good old fashioned tongue wagging. The purpose of the dinner was more to get the group together for a little fun and relaxation then to have a long winded stiff collar affair. The new officers were announced and officially handed the job of 1959 Society affairs. Our new President "Mac" McCleary made a record breaking "short" speech and received the gavel from out going President Corky Thomson. Members and guests came from near and far, Robert Kubach attended the dinner from Los Angeles. The drawing for the bicycle and other prizes was held with none other then Corky Thomson winning the bike, Allen Copeland won a copy of "Steam Cars to the Comstock", Murray Smith won the book "Railroads of America" and one other book was won by a member, name of book and name of the winner unknown or forgotten!! The special gift for the women was won by Mrs. H.S. Bright, a cute little grandfather clock. Those attending the dinner at Micheals in the heart of Lemon Grove were: Mr. & Mrs. Gerdes, Mr. & Mrs. Bright, Tom Matson and his mother Mrs. B. Matson, Mr. & Mrs. Sanders, Mr. R. Dodge, Fred Reif, Dave DeVol and Kay Troutman, Dick Pennick, Robert Gholson, Allen Copeland, Mr. & Mrs. Snyder, Mr. & Mrs. Seelow, Richard Main, V.O. Williams, Mr. & Mrs. J. Havlik, Bill Morgan, Bob Kubach, Mr. & Mrs. Swaine, Mr. & Mrs. H.M. Calkins, Mrs. Roberts, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Miller, Wally Duthie, Mr. & Mrs. McCleary, Mr. & Mrs. Mann, Fred Finke, Mr. & Mrs. Thomson, D.L. McLoughlin, and anyone we may have overlooked.

A movie showing miniature live steam trains in action in the L.A. area was shown, it was a very good film of this type railroading, our second film was the Ten Days of Western Steam trip in 1958. We also saw CARREZO GORGE the MAGNIFICENT.

FAN TRIP - FAN TRIP !!!!

PLASTER CITY NARROW GAUGE of the U.S. GYPSUM COMPANY TRIP.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1959

Schedule calls for our arrival at Plaster City Office by 9:00 A.M. Our train will depart for quarry by 10:00 A.M. and will be back in Plaster City by 1:15 P.M. with lunch scheduled for 1:30 P.M. A tour of the U.S. Gypsum Company plant is scheduled at 2:30 P.M., this tour will take about 1½ hours and should be over by 4:00 P.M.

The complete trip, will require members to be in Plaster City by 9:00 A.M. and departure back to San Diego sometime shortly after 4: P.M.

We have requested the tour of the plant, this was voted on by the membership, so lets all turn out for that portion as well as the rail trip. The U.S. Gypsum Co. makes the trip possible, so let us show them our appreciation by having a good turn out and make this trip possible in years to come.

The Railway Historical Society of San Diego has set up the trip with a \$1.00 service charge to members, \$1.50 non-members.

RESERVATIONS ARE LIMITED TO 30 ADULTS, MEMBERS ONLY, but we will take non-members on a first come, first served basis to fill any vacancies.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE IN BY MIDNIGHT FEBRUARY 6, 1959- if we don't have the 30 reservations filled at that time, we will accept non-members applications to take trip at \$1.50 service charge, deadline Feb. 10, 1959

LUNCH RESERVATIONS....Those desiring the Commissary Lunch at the low cost of \$1.50, must include this amount with their reservation. We must know how many wish lunch in order to notify the company.

Since transportation to Plaster City from San Diego will not be provided, please advise whether you can provide(or will need) transportation and we will try to set up the most convenient arrangements. Share-the-ride terms will have to be settled between the individuals concerned. (NOTE: Greyhound schedule from S.D. is not suitable for this trip, the earliest bus east is 11:00 A.M.)

If you plan to drive your own car and would be interested in taking anyone with you, please contact Excursion Director Wally Duthie at his home, 3380 Granada Ave., San Diego 4, CY-5-3403 - after 5:30 P.M.

RESERVATION BLANKS ON LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.....

R.H.S. of S.D. NEWS NOTES:

A note from Fred Ticknor tells us of spending Christmas out on the desert and running across our old friend Ed Shedaker at Desert Center. Ed says you just can't get any free rides on the ore trains in or out of the Kaiser mine.....Fred also mentioned seeing a 90 car train of coal up near Baker, something you don't see often out here.....Our locomotive # 104 at the fair will be moved soon and a slab of concrete put under her to stop the problem of settling. More ties and ballast too. The final arrangements for the 171 to be shipped from San Francisco are being made. It looks like it will cost the society a few dollars, but will be well worth it. More news on that at the meeting, FEB. 2, 1959.

Continued from column 1....

The Muehleisen Mfg. Co. has let us know that it is not within their advertising budget to donate a cover for the #54, but they would like to quote us a price on one. This will be taken care of shortly and maybe old 54 will be covered from the train for the first time in many a year.....The 1½" scale railway to be built at the fair grounds has been approved and construction is under way by the Pacific Beach Model RR Club. Many of the members of the P.B. Club are also RNS of SD members as well, future operations of this outdoor live steam railroad will be enjoyed by both groups year around. During the fair, it will run on a paying basis, \$.50 for adults and \$.25 for children under 12.

News Notes continued.....

P.B. Club and $1\frac{1}{2}$ " scale railroad. The new line, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inch gauge, will run around the inner portion of the fair grounds with future extensions planned. The first portion built, and it is hoped by P.B. members to be ready for the 1959 fair, will be a total of 5,400 feet of track. There will be a turn table and steaming tracks west of the Harvest Hall, an area for storage of equipment will be inside the building that now has the P.B. Club HO layout. Tracks will run down the Avenue of Flags and along the side of Bing Crosby Hall and Harvest Hall. There will be a passing track and station stop right in front of the 104 & 050. The regular start and stop point during the fair will be in front of the building housing the HO layout. The P.B. club plans on running the railroad about once a month on a Sunday afternoon the year a round. Plans call for a meet occasionally with other live steamers from the L.A. area, this would mean quite a variety of steam locomotives could be seen and enjoyed. For those that like them, there will even be $1\frac{1}{2}$ " scale models of diesels, maybe some street cars in years to come??? The track will be set in black top so anyone that wishes to build a battery operated street car will have a very natural appearing place to run it. Our good friend Eric Sanders pondered the thought of a gas-electric coach in $1\frac{1}{2}$ " scale.

The line will also have one section built with triple track, this will take $1\frac{1}{2}$ " trains or 1" scale on the same section of track, it will have the appearance of standard and narrow gauge. It is possible to build $1\frac{1}{2}$ " scale narrow gauge trains by using 1" scale running gear, so the section (loop) of dual gauge track will work out fine. Our member Roy Miller is in 1" scale, so he will be able to operate his locomotives at the Del Mar track. (train track that is, no horses.) Members Bill Morgan and Ronald Morgan both are building locomotives of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ " scale, they are not related, one is building a steamer, one a diesel!!! Member V.O. Williams is also building a steamer.

MEETING NOTICE.....

The February meeting will be at 8:00 P.M. in the Santa Fe Station, Kettner at Broadway in San Diego, upstairs in the safety room.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1959 - 8 PM

There should be very little time consuming business, refreshments & some 8mm films and some slides. The movies will be a bit unusual, one on the logging railroad in Northern Calif. is a gem, some of the shots are not the best but.....taken from cab!!!! Some shots you don't often see, Wally Duthie talked his way onto the engine and a ride with his movie camera. We have had a request to show some $2\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ slides, whoever has the projector to show that size is requested to bring it to meeting, if two members have slides to show, so bring them. If time permits, we still have a movie of the P.R.S. CALICO TRIP, not yet shown. Also, as a reminder of last years activities, a film covering the RHS of SD in 1958, moving the 528 to Del Mar, the 54 to the frog farm, etc.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1959 - 8:00 PM

MONEY * * MONEY * * MONEY * * * *

We need some cash....it will be a bit expensive getting the # 171 down here from San Francisco. By the night of the meeting, we will know for sure, the figure required to haul her down. Plan now to come up with a good fund raising or a good donating scheme. We will have to do a little fund raising to complete the 171 project. Paxton Truck Co. will load and haul to the fair grounds for \$589.20 - that should give everyone an idea of what we are up against. This is actually a very reasonable rate, but still, quite a chunk of capital.

RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY of S.D.
P.O. Box 9351, San Diego 9, Calif.
NEWSLETTER, official monthly publication of the RHS of SD, Barbara & Corky Thomson, Editors.
DISPATCHER, published 4 to 8 times per year by the RHS of SD, Mr. Eric Sanders, Editor - 7861 Normal Ave., La Mesa, Calif. Membership open at \$2.50 per year, includes Dispatcher and Newsletter.....Dispatcher for \$1.00 per year to non-members.

More news of here & there.....

Eric Sanders, Editor of our fine publication the DISPATCHER announced that sales of issue #19 have been good, but not good enough. It takes many sold copies to pay for printing the Dispatcher. That is where our own membership helps, the more paid members we have, the bigger the percentage for printing the Dispatcher. Non-members may subscribe to the Dispatcher for \$1.00 per year. Regular, Sustaining and Junior members of the RHSoSD receive the Dispatcher as part of their dues.....

By the way, members and almost ex-members, lets get those 1959 dues in and renew those memberships. We have a bigger and better year planned but it takes members and dues to make it possible to run the society properly. Last month the Newsletter back page had new and renewal blank, we are putting on another membership blank this month, on a page designed for just that purpose, also you will be favored with a reservation slip for the February 12th narrow gauge trip on the U.S.Gypsum RR. \$1.00 service charge to members, \$1/50 to non-members, lunch available in company commissary at \$1.50, all reservations must be in by Feb. 6th.(see page 2*) Our 1st V.P. Jack Stodelle was out wandering around during the holidays and reports a trip through the gorge via box car and some wanderings up in Nevada gold and silver country. Some slides available for the meeting Jack????.....Wally Duthie has an excursion on narrow gauge here in our own back yard cooking for some time in late April or in May, wait and see, something a little on the unusual, should be fun.....Hey Roy Miller, what ever happened to that steam driven monster you got hid out up north? We haven't heard anything about it lately. Fire it up and run it down on its own!!!! might even pull the 171 along from S.F. --- With the use of electricity dropping as a means of power for railways in this country, our boy Al Copeland is turning to HO for traction type equipment. How many of our members are also model railroaders?? We have quite a few from the P.B. club, but how many are lone wolf type model RR operators??

Board of Directors.....

The first meeting of the board since the election of new officers, was held at the home of our new President, Mac McCleary, Jan. 16th.

Our President feels that we have enough equipment to keep us busy at present and should not try to get any other major projects started. Completion and maintenance of our present equipment is plenty to keep us all busy.....We should be keeping a record of present day doings on the railroad as it will be history tomorrow, even the diesels!!! We need titles on our 16mm movie of Carrizo Gorge, later possibly sound. More publicity for the RHSoSD, and possibly we can take part in the big National Model RR Assoc. convention to be held here in Aug. '59..... Business to be held to a minimum at regular meetings, the board should handle the long winded stuff..... The Society is still interested in a museum site, National City, on Kearny Mesa or at Del Mar. The Del Mar site is at present the best, as the fair grounds has been the most helpful and the equipment seems to all end up there.....We will get a safety deposit box for all society papers of importance.....board decided to make Robert Day and Ward Kimball Honorary Members.....a discussion followed about our having a plaque, design, shield or what ever you want to call it, made up for the RHSoSD.....Decided to make a contest out of it, so....members, get on your thinking caps for a nice emblem for our society. We will dicuss the idea of making it a contest for the best design at the next meeting.

SAT. FEB. 14th - P.R.S. trip to INDIO by way of the S.P. Railroad to Riverside Fair & Date Festival.

A DAN-DAN DANDY, new book, UNION PACIFIC MOTIVE POWER, loaded with pictures and information, all U.P. power from the first to latest 85,000 HP Gas Turbines. \$10.00 to 2566 Farnam St., Omaha, Nebr. ---OR from Bill Kingston (member RHSoSD) at The Whistle Stop, 3819 Sixth Ave. San Diego....We failed to mention this, BUT....BILL DONATED THE THREE BOOKS for the Installation Dinner, Chuck Gerdes donated the bicycle!!

RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY of SAN DIEGO, Inc.
INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PAGE.....

This page is designed to be cut up, without ruining your Newsletter.
CLUBS AND PUBLICATIONS....

Northern Calif-----

Bay Area Electric Railroaders Assoc. 2119 Marin Ave., Berkeley 7, Calif.

California-Nevada Railroad Historical Society, Arthur Lloyd Jr,
974 Pleasant Hill Road, Redwood City, Calif.

Central Coast Railway Club, P.O. Box 783, San Jose, California

Northern Calif. Railroad Club, 112 Arguello St., San Francisco 18, Calif.

Pacific Coast Chapter, Railway & Locomotive Historical Society,

469 Crescent St., Oakland 10, California

THE WESTERN RAILROADER, P.O. Box 668, San Mateo, Calif. (10 issues \$1.00)

Southern Calif-----

Los Angeles Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, P.O. Box 3311

Terminal Annex, Los Angeles 54, California

Pacific Railroad Society, Box 5279 Metro. Sta., Los Angeles 55, Calif.

Southern Calif. Chapter, Railway & Locomotive Historical Society,

2304 Melville Ave., San Marino 9, California

Southern Calif. Division Electric Railroaders Association, P.O. Box 3292

Terminal Annex, Los Angeles 54, California

Orange Empire Traction Co. Inc. 3564 Josephine St., Lynwood, Calif.

PACIFIC RAILWAY JOURNAL, P.O. Box 91, San Marino, California

DISPATCHER, 7861 Normal Ave., La Mesa, Calif. (c/o Eric Sanders)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 1959 - - - - - (please print) - - - - -

RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY of SAN DIEGO, Inc.

P.O. BOX 9351, SAN DIEGO 9, CALIFORNIA

CARD NUMBER:

1958- 1959-

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL _____ * DISPATCHER SUBSCRIPTION ONLY _____

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP at \$2.50 _____ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP at \$3.50 _____

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP at \$1.50 _____ SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP \$2.50 _____

(* Dispatcher only, 4 to 8 issues per year, \$1.00)

RESERVATION FOR FEBRUARY 12th 1959 - - - - -

U.S. GYPSUM COMPANY NARROW GAUGE TRIP and PLANT TOUR.

9:00 A.M. at

Railway Historical Society of San Diego, Inc.

Plaster City

Wally Duthie, Excursion Director

(Leave S.D.)

3380 Granada Ave., San Diego 4, Calif. (CY-5-3403)

by 7:00 A.M.)

I WISH TO GO ON THE U.S. GYPSUM NARROW GAUGE TRIP....

There will be _____ persons in my party, (or) just myself _____

I will drive my own car _____ I will have room for additional

(yes or no) members in my car _____
(yes or no)

I can transport _____ people in my car.

(number)

I plan to have lunch at the plant commissary at \$1.50 _____

I would like to take the plant tour _____ (yes or no)

(yes or no)

ENCLOSED IS PAYMENT FOR.....TRIP ONLY \$1.00 (\$1.50 non-member) _____

ENCLOSED IS PAYMENT FOR TRIP AND LUNCH INCLUDED FOR \$2.50 _____

(enclose self addressed, stamped envelope with all reservations)