PACIFIC SOUTHWEST RAILWAY MUSEUM ASSOCIATION, Inc.

REPORT

ISSUE 96 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA JUNE 1973

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We need more support from the community to achieve our goals; but right now we need the support of our own members to educate the community.

So please, check the special insert, indicate when you can work at the Fair, and make sure you write your name and phone number at the bottom when you return the questionaire.

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FROM THE CAB
Dick Pennick, General Superintendent

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(continued on page 3)

THE VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA
H. Chalmers Kerr, Jr., President

WHAT IS A RAILWAY MUSEUM - Continued

In the March '73 issue of REPORT I discussed in general what a railway museum might consist of. Continuing from that point, in which broad concepts of railway museum organizations were discussed, I offer a capsule description of the eight largest railway museums in the United States as examples for further study:

1. B & O TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM in Baltimore, Maryland. No operations. Passenger-car roundhouse with central turntable houses 95 percent of museum collection. Over 35 steam, diesel, and electric locomotives; cars; models, small artifacts, and an operating model railroad.

2. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT in St. Louis, Missouri. No operations. At present 50-plus steam locomotives, 3 diesels and several electrics. Dozens of passenger and freight cars out in the open along with trucks, buses, fire equipment, and aircraft. A small building now serves as headquarters. On the forty acre site $4.5 million is to be spent for four exhibit buildings to house all the equipment plus an administration building and small park. A major educational program is in operation and a 6,000 volume library is assembled.

3. RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA in Strasburg, Pennsylvania. No operations. Presently a 100-foot turntable is served by 18 tracks to display 19 steam locomotives, 12 passenger cars, a few electric locomotives, and freight cars. Future plans call for a single building to enclose the entire collection.

4. STRASBURG RAILROAD in Strasburg, Pennsylvania. Features regular operations on a 4.5 mile railroad. This common-carrier museum railroad is co-located with the museum in Number 3 above. Four steam locomotives and several coaches and freight cars utilized in operations.

5. STEAMTOWN, U. S. A. in Bellows Falls, Vermont. The world's largest collection of steam locomotives with over 55 on ex-

(continued on top of next column)

hibit and others yet to be moved to the site. Passenger and freight cars and other steam age relics such as fire engines, farm machinery, and river boats are featured. Has a 95-foot turntable plus 15 tracks. Plans call for an 18-stall roundhouse to display equipment. Now has a depot-store building and an engine house for 6 or 8 of the most ancient relics. Operates regularly a 22-mile ride on the Green Mountain Railroad adjacent to the museum.

6. NATIONAL RAILROAD MUSEUM in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Operates a two-mile ride around the museum grounds. Exhibits include 15 steam locomotives, 17 passenger cars, and many freight cars. Just completed a 600-foot train building with six tracks to house a majority of the equipment.

7. MID - CONTINENT RAILROAD MUSEUM at North Freedom, Wisconsin. Eighty pieces of equipment including 9 steam locomotives all stored in the open. Operates a 4.5 mile train ride.

8. CANADIAN RAILWAY MUSEUM in Montreal, Quebec (okay, not a U.S. operation, but another good example of what has been accomplished in this area). No operations. Over 100 steam, electric, and diesel locomotives plus passenger and freight cars, streetcars, and interurbans, all housed in a large, modern building.

Prompted by the March discussion, several PSRMA members took the time to write or call me offering their ideas on how our museum should develop. Naturally a wide variation exists in what goals PSRMA should pursue. As additional inputs are received, I will organize the ideas and present them at a future General Membership meeting or at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Museum Development Committee.

All museum concepts so far expressed have one main thread of commonality-PSRMA must develop a MUSEUM, i.e., an educational institution as opposed to an amusment ride or a railfan club. We are so committed, legally and morally, by our articles of incorporation, by our tax status and the donations received there-

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EXPOSITOIN
and
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR
June 22 - July 4, 1973

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