

THE R.L.S. CHRONICLE

A REPORT OF LIVE STEAM ACTIVITIES ON THE R.L.S.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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GEORGE HILDEBRANDT
BARNEY ROOT
JACK SESSUMS
FRANCIS ZAPPEN

TRACK LOCATION:
1496 Columbia Avenue
Hunter Park
Iowa & Columbia Streets
Riverside, California



Arthur Truman, Colton, passed away March 4 at the age of 78. Funeral services were held March 7 with interment at Montecito Memorial Park.

Art was one of the charter members of the Riverside Live Steamers, and his Hub City Lines 1" 4-4-2 was a familiar sight until advancing age curtailed his activities.

Art will be missed by all of his live steam friends who extend their sympathies to his wife and survivors.

COMING EVENTS

MARCH 1973

- 17..... Work Day, 8:30 a.m. until finished
- 22..... General Meeting, Engine House, 8:00 p.m.
- 24..... Work Day, 8:30 a.m. until finished
- 25..... Run Day (If the creeks don't rise again)
- 31..... Work Day, 8:30 a.m. until finished

APRIL

- 7..... Work Day, 8:30 a.m. until finished
- 8..... Run Day
- 12..... Board Meeting, Engine House, 8:00 p.m.
- 14..... Work Day, 8:30 a.m. until finished
- 21..... Work Day, 8:30 a.m. until finished
- 22..... Easter Sunday - Unofficial run day for interested members
- 25..... Board Meeting, Engine House, 8:00 p.m.
- 28..... Work Day, 8:30 a.m. until finished
- 29..... Rescheduled Official Run Day

TRACK PROGRAM MAKING GREAT PROGRESS

The accelerated track maintenance program announced last month has already produced some excellent results with 820' of track thoroughly gone over in only three days. Wet grounds on March 10 eliminated any chance for work, but it is hoped it will be dry enough to resume work on March 17. Barney Root will be the "boss man" on the next session.

Members who have turned out for one, two or all three days are: Allen, Babb, Bagley, Ken Casford, Cranford, Creighton, Easley, Jim and John Keith, Noble, McChesney, Piatt, Powelson, Ratliff, Root, Leonard Smith, and Wilson. These men have taken time to support their club, and if your name is not on this list, we hope that by the end of March you can spare us at least one day.

With a six or eight man crew, plus all of the mechanical equipment and power generators, it is surprising how fast the track can be reconditioned. At the same time, I think everyone has had a good time working together, for not only is there great fellowship, but everyone leaves with a genuine feeling of accomplishment. One of the hardest problems now is that after a bad section has been worked on, it is hard to stop at day's end for you want to keep going. One thing, however, we have enough members that we should all be able to participate in this great club project. Al Easley was down from Kingman, Arizona, to do his part. Hope to see some of you that are closer.

Once the crew has covered the main line with the present project, leveling will follow and the RLS track will be second to none. The present program will cover both the 1" and 1-1/2" trackage during the year. If Sunday is the only day you are available, grab a broom and sweep the ties clean. This is the first step in the track reconditioning program and can be done anytime.

WELCOME OUT FOR NEW MEMBER At the March Board meeting, the application was approved for Allan Ratliff. Al lives in Corona and is in sales work for a wholesale plumbing supply company. Al has already been very active in RLS activities as he has helped on a recent run day and is pitching in on the track program. Welcome aboard Al!

RAINS RAISING HAVOC WITH RUN DAYS Since the first of December, four of the seven regular scheduled run days have either been washed out or restricted by bad weather. Even with so many run days lost, RLS trains have handled 8,002 passengers since September 1, 1972. Quite a record.

4-8-4 ENGINEER APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE At the February general meeting six members applied for the engineer's examination to train for being qualified to run the Hunter 4-8-4. The comprehensive training program covers maintenance, proper firing and handling of the locomotive, operations and safety. Any member interested in undergoing the training sessions may apply to the Secretary for an application form. A \$5.00 application fee should accompany the request.

AIR COMPRESSOR BEING OVERHAULED The air compressor was removed from the compressor house at the conclusion of the February 25 run day and is currently being overhauled in Riverside. An excellent response by RLS members has made it possible to do this work, and contributions from only a few of those who have not responded so far will insure the completion of the work without tapping the general funds. If you have not sent in your \$5.00, won't you do so today?

FEBRUARY RUN DAY Only one run day this month due to rains, and the 25th saw Carl Allen (4-6-2) and Jack Sessums (4-10-2) on the 1" with Barney Root (2-8-4) and Rich and Ken Casford (4-6-2) holding down the passenger runs. Cranford (4-4-4) also running on this fine day.

The passenger trains handled 727 passengers. Members helping run the railroad were: Babb, Bagley, Creighton, Gneiting, Jim and John Keith, Kepner, Krohne, Noble, Piatt, Powelson, Leonard Smith and Wilson.

The run days are the primary reason for the existence of our club for it is when the engines are running that the live steam hobby really comes to life. Personnel manning the stations, the trains, the steaming areas are the ones who put life into RLS. If you have not joined this fine group this year, how 'bout setting the 2nd and 4th Sundays aside and come on out. Running trains is what this hobby is all about.

SAFETY CHAINS ON STEAMING TRACKS Bob Babb plans to install safety chains on a number of steaming bays soon. The use of the chains will prevent the possibility of accidental moving of equipment off the end of the steaming track. All RLS personnel are requested to use them.

NEW MAINTENANCE BOX/CAR John Keith has built a beautiful new track tool box for RLS. The size of a car, it will contain all of the needed tools for track maintenance, and will eliminate the need for "going" back to the engine house for a tool when you are on the far side of the park. Keys for the box will be with Babb, Casford, Noble, Sessums and John/Jim Keith. Ultimately, John says he may put trucks under the box so it may be rolled around the railroad.

Along this same line, John Keith with Dick Bagley assisting has marked off the 1-1/2" main line and installed mile posts. This will be a great help in determining locations, and John plans to have the entire RLS trackage marked off before too long. Many thanks John for your latest contribution to RLS. The tool box will be a great aid.

WITH THE MEMBERS: We understand through the underground that Carl Allen's new 1-1/2" 2-8-0 is really progressing. It was great having Bill Bredehoft down earlier this year from Washington. Come back soon Bill. Andy Carlson's 4-6-2 is coming right along, and Andy says it will be running again by May. Al Easley was down from Kingman and reports he has room for a railroad, but the wet winter has prevented any work being on it. Sure good to see Meda and Ken Kepner at the last run day. Ken looked great after his recent bout with illness and hopes to be more active in live steaming in the days ahead. Making plans for a new locomotive is Frank Krohne and I'll wager it won't be long until great progress is being made. Haven't seen George Lavacot with his 4-6-2 for some time, but hopefully George's hours will be back on the beam. Incidentally, George is doing a great job as Entertainment Chairman as has come up with two excellent programs in a row. Mac McChesney getting ready to start boiler on his new 1 1/2" 4-4-0. Also going full steam ahead in Fullerton is Dick Bagley's 1-1/2" 4-4-0 and it won't be long until it will be out at RLS for a spin. John Piatt is really overhauling his 4-4-2 from the rail up, and John is already itching to get it back in service. Jack Sessums has a beautiful water tank to go with his 4-10-2. Have Jack show you the pictures of the two. Well, Sir Francis Smith is now encamped at 1101 Junipero, Long Beach, 90804, 213-439-4108. We saw a disaster drill on TV recently held in Long Beach, and could not determine if had anything to do with Smitty moving to Long Beach. Phil Wiborg is now located in Sun Spot, NM. During 1972, not once were the RLS rails graced by Ron Wilkerson's 2-6-0. Maybe 1973 will see the three ailing 2-6-0's back in service.

AUCTION COMING UP IN MARCH At the March general meeting, we will auction off the three part Audel Machinists Library set that retails for \$16.95. The books were donated by Sir Francis. For those of you unable to attend the meeting, just send your \$1.00 and we will see that you have a ticket in the pot. An excellent opportunity to win.

RAILROAD BOOKS BRING FUNDS TO RLS Many fine railroad books are now on the market, and if you are planning to buy some, check with Ken Casford first. Books purchased through RLS result in a substantial portion of the purchase price being retained in our general fund. Reprints of the various locomotive and car encyclopedias have been the ones most frequently purchased.

NOTED AROUND THE RAILROAD: "Some men remind us of blisters---they don't appear until the work is done."

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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