

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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PSRHS Activities & Events...

Editor's Comments

NOTICE:

The field trip to the **State Railroad Museum** in Sacramento has been postponed to a future date, probably in October.

We will have our regular September meeting on September 28, 2006.

Please forward any comments, suggestions or ideas for trips or other activities to me for consideration and information.

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Monthly Meeting...

The next PSRHS meeting will be held at 7:00PM Thursday, September 28th, in the Multipurpose Senior Citizen Center on D Ave. at the Dewitt Complex in Auburn. Call (530) 346-9607 for more info.

Membership Information

Individual Members = \$20.00
Family Membership = \$25.00
Monthly Newsletter
Member Activities,
Presentations and Field Trips
Display & Restoration Projects
PSRHS, P.O. Box 1776
Colfax, CA 95713

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

Monthly Newsletter

August Meeting Notes

Tour of Sacramento Railroad museum proposed for September 23. **(Since Canceled as Ken Yeo will not be available)**

October meeting (now moved to September). Expected to be a recap of this past year's field trips.

In November, we will have our pot-luck dinner at our regular meeting room at DeWitt.

August Program

Randy Cape has researched the SP's carrying the mail for the Postal Service. He focused on the years between 1947 to 1967. The mail had been carried by the railroad since the transcendental link was completed but this was beyond the scope of his research..

The trains that carried the mail were SP's trains #21 & 22. The steam powered trains changed out the engines in Roseville and Sparks. At Ogden the trains cars would be switched.

The trains carried Working and Non-Working mail. Non-working mail would include mail that had already been sorted, or bulk mail that didn't need sorting. Some of this pre-bagged mail was handled by the baggage car-man.

Another class of mail was Railroad Tariff Items. This could include checked bags of mail, milk and cream shipments, newspaper bundles, human remains in caskets and

Company mail and materials. Some passengers and RR personnel could also be carried on an express train.

The Railroad Express Agency, (REA), was a private company. They would ship almost anything, with valuables being a major part of their business. Fresh fruits and vegetables were also often shipped by REA. Some express was shipped in sealed cars as "Sealed Express". The cars would be loaded and sealed, and the contents would not be touched until it arrived at its' destination.

A video is available about these mail train, "The Ghost Trains of SP's Overland Route", "Trains No. 21-22, 1947-1967"

September Program:

Gerry Lutz is a former Southern Pacific Railroad Fireman who worked between Roseville and Sparks Nevada. He was hired out in 1946 and worked in snow service firing the Mallets as they would plow snow over the Sierras. Gary will talk about his experiences as a fireman on "The Hill" and how he kept the Mallets hot in cold winter snow. He also will speak about the hand signal used in the old days before rolling stock was equipped with radios. Some of his challenges while working on the snow job was pushing through slides which were higher than the cabs of the locomotive. He also worked on helper engines based in Truckee. He mentioned that crew members often lost their hats on the right of way while sticking their heads out of the windows looking for signals and etc.