

Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

P.O. Box 1776

Colfax, CA 95713

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March 2008



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To:

PSRHS Activities & Events...

Editor's Comments

Scheduled Events:

March 27-Ken Yeo will present a program on the railroads of Placer County.

April 24-George Lay, PCHS, will present a history of Clipper Gap and Applegate.

May-Field Trip to Newcastle.

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

Editor: Lyle Brown, (530) 885-6997
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In this Issue...

Monthly Meeting...

The next PSRHS meeting will be held at 7:00PM Thursday, March 27th. in the Multi-purpose 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

March 2008 Newsletter

February Meeting Minutes:

Announcements/Updates:

Colfax Caboose – A renovation work group will meet on Saturday mornings at 9 am to work on the caboose. Volunteers are needed and welcome. Call Jim Wood for details if interested.

PSRHS member Maurice Wharton made a *generous* cash donation towards the refurbishing of the caboose. He also strongly recommends changing the name on the side of the caboose from Northwestern Pacific to Southern Pacific. The proposed name change idea has been taken to the Colfax City Council for approval.

Fieldtrip:

The **spring fieldtrip** is scheduled for May 31 and will be to the Newcastle area. Final details will be forthcoming.

Future Program Suggestions – Members suggested that they would be interested in programs about the “Railroads of Placer County” (See this month’s program-ed.), and in the history of “Clipper Gap” (Scheduled for the April meeting-ed.).

Issue No. 3 of DONNER CROSSINGS was distributed to members at the meeting by it’s editor, Roger Staab.

February Program:

This program of **Cape Horn Construction: Facts, Fiction and Legends** was presented by member Jack Duncan. The actual 1865 construction the 1000 feet of track around

the rocky prominence above the American River Canyon took 4½ months to build.

Jack started with an in-depth field analysis of the actual site. He then analyzed many of the historical writings, stories and legends, many coming from the popular Travel Guides of that era, regarding the planning and building of track around Cape Horn. This allowed him to be able to predict which of these items were probably true and which were more likely fiction, or as he called them, lies!

Jack concluded that the stories about Chinese workers hanging over the edge of a cliff in baskets were nothing more than just part of the folk lore from that era. The evidence does not support that this method of work could really have occurred at this site.

His presentation included many interesting slides showing various historical roadbeds and features of this site.

Shirley Belleville, Secretary

March Meeting Program:

Ken Yeo will present a program featuring various railroad lines that operated within Placer County. Ken will show photos not only of the mainline Central Pacific but also of some lesser known short line railroads. These roads branched off the mainline between Roseville and Truckee and include such railroads as the California Central Railroad which pre-dated the construction of the Central Pacific.

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