

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society



[www.psrhs.org](http://www.psrhs.org)

March 2012  
Newsletter

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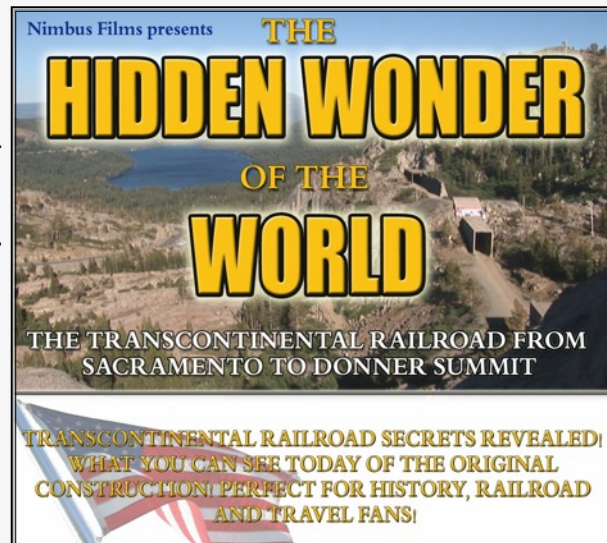
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## Scheduled Events & Notices



- Mar 22 Monthly Meeting and Presentation – **Bill George's** film, "The Hidden Wonder of the World, the Transcontinental Railroad from Sacramento to Donner Summit".
- Apr 26 Monthly Meeting and Presentation – Topic to be announced.
- May 12 AMTRAK's 5th annual National Train Day [www.nationaltrainday.com](http://www.nationaltrainday.com)

**PSRHS Logo Apparel:** Members who are interested in ordering custom embroidered Polo Shirts, Nylon Windbreakers or sport bags as displayed at the last two meetings may leave their name, email, phone number along with size and color of the item with **Ron Wong, email [goldnuggets1849@yahoo.com](mailto:goldnuggets1849@yahoo.com), phone (916) 716-3847**. The price of the Club Polo ranges from \$13 to \$29; the jacket between \$18 to \$36. The embroidery company runs 1 day specials from time to time. When there is an exceptional deal Ron will go over the list and notify the members with details and seek their approval. The goal is to be patient and wait for a deal in the lower price range. The minimum order is 4 items as compared to other companies requiring at least a quantity of 25 of the same item before accepting an order. For more information see Ron for details. Eventually, we could have a supply to sell to the public on Railroad Days and other special events to raise money for our club.

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## March 2012 Newsletter



### March Meeting – Thursday, 22 March, 7:00PM - DeWitt Senior Center

**March Program:** Bill George will present his newly released film, "The Hidden Wonder of the World, the Transcontinental Railroad from Sacramento to Donner Summit." "For the first time the hidden wonders of one of America's greatest construction and engineering feats are revealed on camera. Come along and visit the abandoned granite tunnels, stunning trestles, gigantic cuts and breathtaking scenery traversed by the Transcontinental Railroad. Now you can travel to the summit of the Sierra Nevada and marvel at how the master engineers and builders of the 1860s accomplished this heroic deed."

The film was previewed at Colfax Railroad Days, and was recently aired on KVIE-TV. **Note:** This program is rescheduled from our January meeting.

### Summary of February Meeting

**Results of Board Meeting.** Results of the board meeting held February 16 were summarized by Malcolm Frost. Highlights include:

1. Officers were elected for 2012. See February newsletter for listing of officers and board members.
2. Starting in 2013, membership dues were increased from \$20/yr to \$25/yr. Instead of continuing to offer family memberships, additional member cards can be obtained if desired for \$5/yr per card.
3. Initial planning for Colfax Railroad Days 2012. Ideas are being sought to begin raising funds to cover costs associated with the event. Board member Tony Hesch volunteered to serve as liaison with the City of Colfax and the Chamber of Commerce. The board agreed to tie the theme of this year's event to UP's 150th anniversary celebration, and to try to bring some UP equipment for this year's displays. Dates for the 2012 Railroad Days will be Oct. 6 & 7.
4. Treasurer Peter Hills reported that with dues payments to date and several donations, expenses from last year's event have been covered and the club has a positive balance. Thanks to those members who have renewed or made donations to support club activities.
5. The board agreed to have a table at Winterail.

**President's Message.** President Jim Wood discussed some of the things being considered for 2012 Colfax Railroad Days, including seeking UP equipment for display, and a Porter narrow gauge steam engine. Jim asked for volunteers for a PSRHS table at Winterail, and discussed possible timing for field trips.

**Colfax Caboose Update.** Tony Hesch reported that the club has received positive response from an article on the caboose work and request for donations that appeared in the Foothills Direct newspaper. Thanks to member Teri Andrews-Murch for writing the article and getting it published. Several individuals have purchased windows as a result of the article. These donations will be recognized with plaques in the refurbished caboose.

**February Program:** Jim Rutherford presented a slide show and discussion on "The Quincy Railroad". Jim showed views of the engines that have operated on the line, and scenes along the 6-mile route from the town of Quincy in Plumas County to Quincy Junction and its sidings, where the line connected to the Western Pacific (now UP) mainline. Also covered were the mills and other businesses in Quincy that supported the line from its creation to present-day operations.

After his slide presentation, Jim discussed several smaller logging railroads that operated in the upper Feather River region near Bucks Lake and Indian Valley.

### Winterail Saturday March 10

The Society decided to obtain a vendor table at Winterail in Stockton for the first time this year. The goal was to promote and disseminate information about the activities of PSRHS. The table was manned by Jim Wood, Walt and Bonnie Wilson. We had a number of miscellaneous items for sale at the table to offset the fees for the event. We sold numerous Donner Crossings publications and handed out dozens of Colfax Railroad Days fliers and PSRHS membership brochures. We also received the proceeds from the sale of several RR books and magazines donated by Mike Pechner as well as some of Brendan Compton's new Rotary videos. Thanks to all who contributed – mission accomplished.





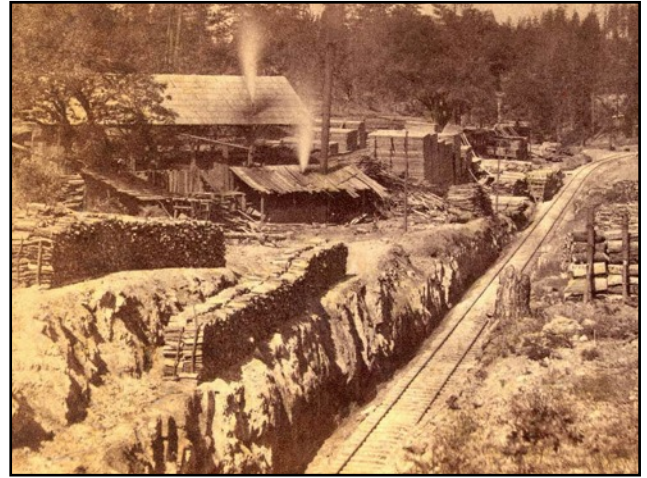
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### *FROM THE ARCHIVES*

**February's Mystery Photo:** The photo at right is Cape Horn Mills (looking westbound), an operating mill and station stop dating from 1868. The mill was located east of Cape Horn, about five miles east of Colfax. When the staff system was implemented in 1904, the staff station at this site was known as Caporn. After double tracking in 1914, the name became Cape Horn.



At left is the same scene today. The cut beyond the tracks is similar to the cut in the photo above. Nothing remains of the mill except a relatively flat clearing. The tracks curve to the right in the distance and cross Cape Horn Road. *Station name info from Lynn Farrar. Hart photo above from PSRHS collection. Photo at left by Roger Staab.*

**March Photo** – The photographer in the scene at right is dwarfed by a rotary plow as it makes its way past this snowed-in station. The image may be familiar to many – what station is this, and where was it located? Answers in April newsletter.

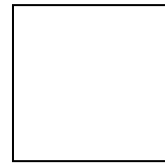
*Photo from the Ken Yeo collection.*



**CPRR/SP Donner Route Timeline:** On May 13, 1865, Central Pacific opened 36 miles to Auburn. Tracks reached Clipper Gap June 10. During the construction from Newcastle to Clipper Gap Chinese workers were first hired by Crocker and Strobridge, and were initially assigned to the menial task of loading dump carts. The Chinese soon proved to be more reliable than the Irish crews, who tended to disappear after payday or leave to try their luck at mining.

Please forward any comments, suggestions or information for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter. Next Issue Deadline – April 16:  
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(530) 346-6722  
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To:

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Crews from Dobbas and UPRR are shown removing the yard switch from the # 2 track in front of the Colfax Depot on March 2. Before the switch was removed, the TRT-909 laid new concrete ties and track westward on the #2 track from this switch (note new ties at the feet of the man at left). Crews removed old track and ballast from this yard switch to the crossover east of Grass Valley Street. After grading, they moved new prefab switch and track sections into place and brought the #2 track through Colfax back into service on March 6.

*Roger Staab photo*



### ***Monthly Meeting...***

The next PSRHS meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on **Thursday, March 22rd** in the Multi-purpose Senior Citizen Center at the Dewitt Complex in Auburn (enter on D Ave.). See Extra Board section on web site for map and directions.

### **Membership Information**

Individual Members = \$25.00/yr  
Each Additional Member Card = \$5.00/yr

- Monthly Meetings (4th Thursday) and Newsletter
- Member Activities, Presentations and Field Trips
- Display and Restoration Projects

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