



THE WEBFOOTER

**SINCE 1966 - THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WEBFOOTERS POST CARD CLUB IN PORTLAND, OREGON**

“Every subject known to man can be found on a post card” – Club Motto

www.thewebfooters.com

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REMEMBERING THE RED ELECTRICS



Known for their bright red color, Southern Pacific's Red Electrics began service from Portland on January 17, 1914. Painting by Bill Pirie for the Tom Dill and Walter Grande book, *"The Red Electrics."*

See page 3 for the story of Southern Pacific's Red Electrics

Next Meeting – August 16, 2008

At Russellville Grange - 12105 NE Prescott Street

10:00 am to 4:00 pm – Card sales to begin at 10:30



President's Corner

It is with much sadness that I report the passing of two longtime Webfooters: Edouard Pecourt and Howard Mader. Edouard Pecourt (1925 to 2008), member number 749, died peacefully on July 27, 2008, at age 83 after battling lymphoma for 1-1/2 years. He enjoyed his music and his friends until the end. There will be no funeral service now, but a tango memorial/celebration of Edouard's life will be held sometime later. Our deepest sympathy to his wife, Jocelyn Howells, member number 138. We also report the passing of Howard Mader (1925 to 2008), member number 29, who died peacefully in his sleep on July 30, 2008. He was a lifelong farmer as well as a stock broker and college professor. Howard was a historian and avid collector of Western postal history. He also collected real photo views of Oregon and Washington. We offer our prayers for his wife of 56 years, Jackie Mader.

A very big "Thank You" to Deborah Lane who stepped in at the last minute to provide a very hearty lunch at a recent meeting when the person who had signed up to provide refreshments had another commitment that prevented her from being at our meeting. If you have missed our lunches lately, you have been missing really good food. Thanks to all of the folks who have been bringing refreshments. In recognition of the work and expense our folks are going to, the board members voted to increase the monthly reimbursement to \$30. Thanks also to Terry Weis for bringing the donuts.

Steve Bieler announced that he cannot continue as Membership Chair in 2009, so we will need to find someone who can step in to fill this important position in The Club.



Members In The News

Jason Thorp (member #1715), right, was featured in the Portland Tribune on Thursday, July 17, 2008 for his work in restoring older homes. Jason owns Thorp Construction Company and he collects old tools and antiques as well as post cards. Also, Jason and his wife Rae became the proud parents of their first child on July 11, 2008: Meadow Brynne Thorp.



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Karen Bowers of Unique Estate Appraisals, (member #945), was featured in a recent episode of *Antiques Roadshow* with some documents that she discovered which were signed by Abraham Lincoln.

Roster Additions

We welcome 2 new members!!

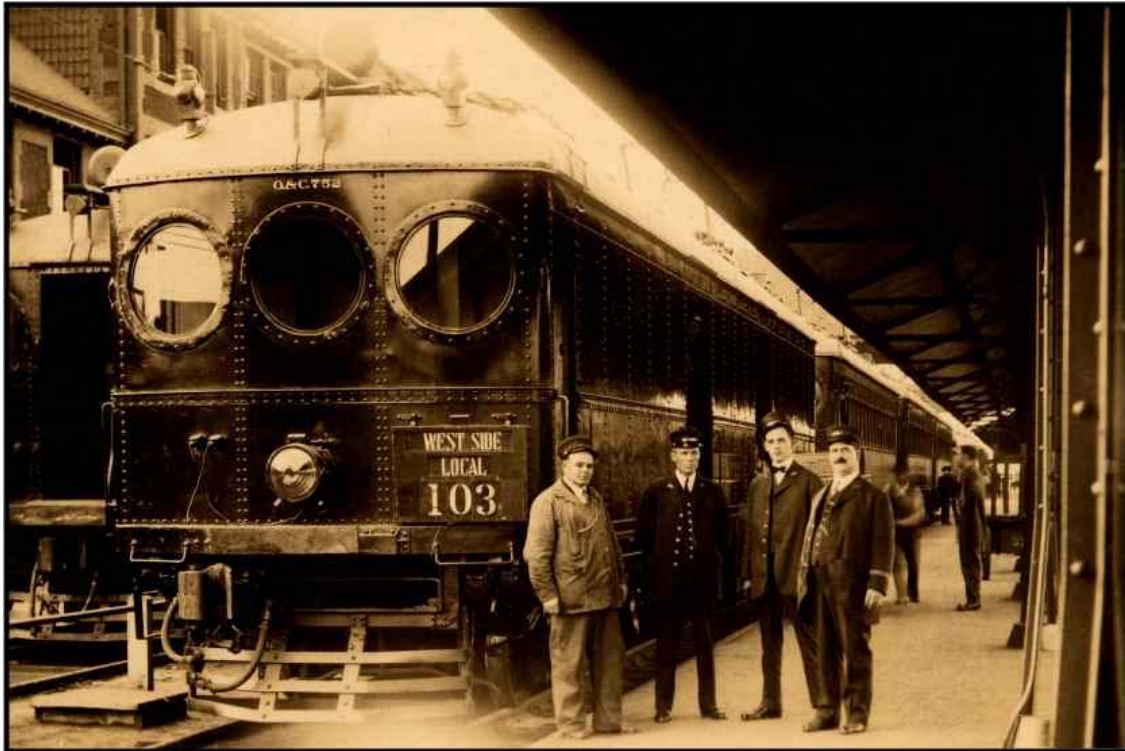
Boyer Leroy	1745	
Boyer Cheryl	1746	Portland, OR

Collect: Thanksgiving; Christmas; World's Fairs; New Year's; Patriotic; Oregon



The story of

Southern Pacific's Red Electrics



Built in 1913 by Pullman, this Southern Pacific West Side Local Train 103 is shown at Union Station in Portland. Pictured are (left to right): Ike Smith, Conductor; L. Hammer; J. Pitman and B. Tibets.

The Oregon Electrics began providing passenger service to Salem in 1907, and Jim Hill of the Great Northern Railway purchased the line in 1910. The line opened to Albany on July 4, 1912 and on October 15, 1912, service began to Eugene.

Southern Pacific, which virtually controlled steam lines up and down the Willamette Valley and South to California, decided to electrify some of their steam lines to give the Oregon Electric some competition. Service from Portland to McMinnville was inaugurated on January 17, 1914.

The Harriman Group, which owned Southern Pacific, operated the Red Electrics, with their distinctive round windows. These trains served communities surrounding Portland with two main lines, making the Yamhill or McMinnville Loop south and west from Portland's Union Station. The line went south from Union Station on Fourth Street to Jefferson Street where it split into two lines. Both lines met at St. Joseph, just north of McMinnville.

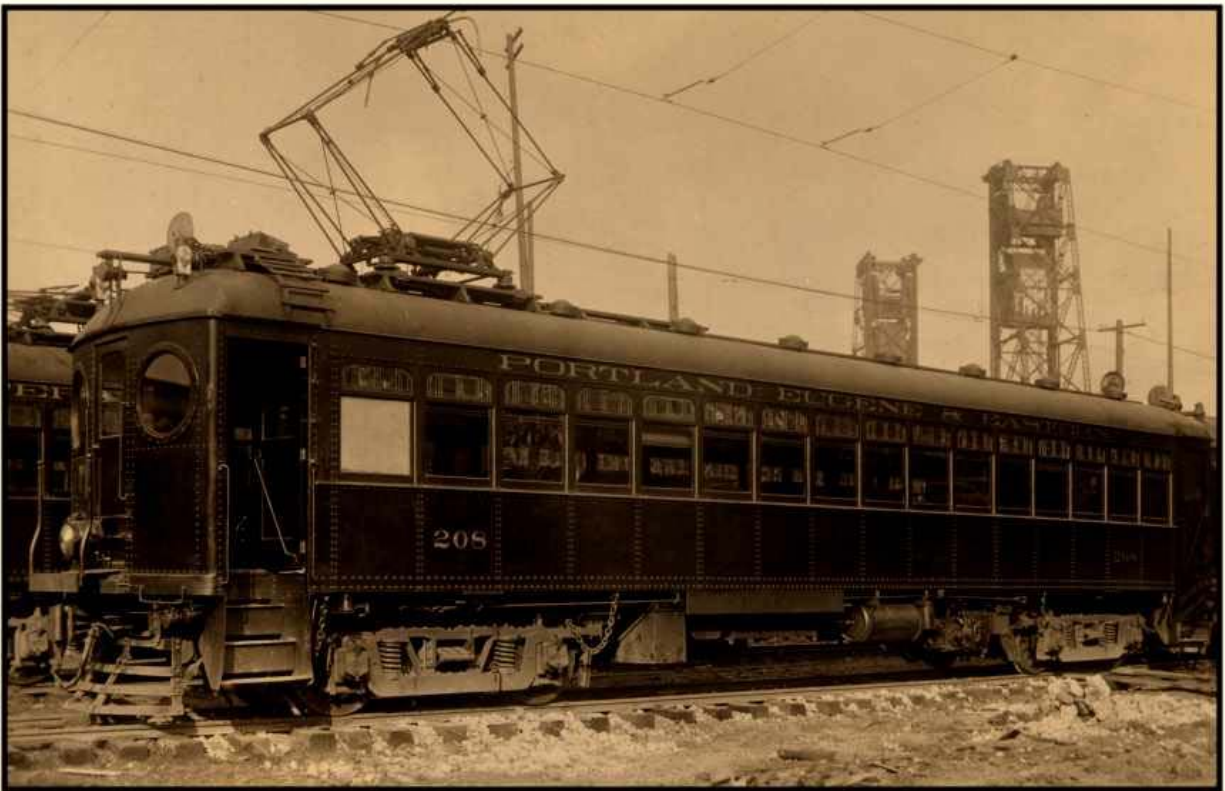
The *West Side Local* continued through Portland's West Hills along present-day Barbur Boulevard through Burlingame to Bertha (now Hillsdale) to Beaverton, Hillsboro and Forest Grove, then south to McMinnville. The *East Side Local* followed the Willamette River to Oswego, then west to Tualatin, Sherwood, Newberg and McMinnville.



Brakeman Dave Stevens (far left) and "Jake" pose with an unidentified conductor and engineer next to the No. 2 end of the baggage express motor.



Newberg Local No. 323 waits on track No. 1 at Union Station in 1914. The Southern Pacific's first car order from the Pullman Company of Chicago included 13 passenger cars, 17 combination baggage and passenger cars, five baggage express cars, and 11 passenger trailers.



Originally called the Portland Eugene and Eastern Railroad, the name was changed to Southern Pacific on July 1, 1915. The Steel Bridge can be seen behind car No. 208, a standard 60-passenger car built by Pullman in 1912. It was placed in service on March 25, 1914.



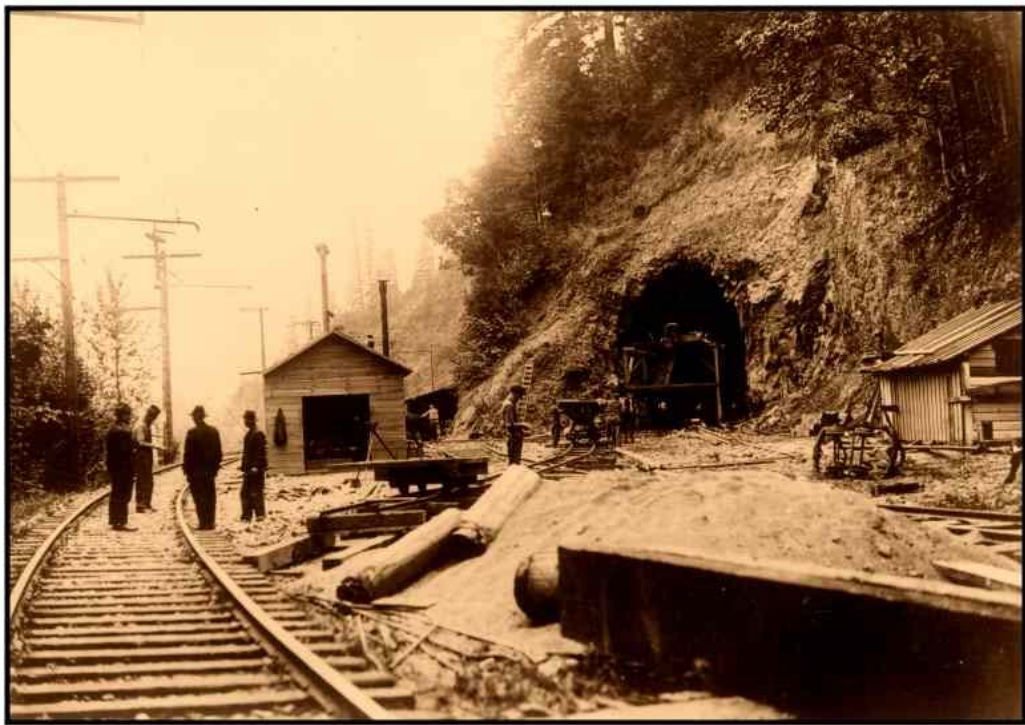
The *West Side Local* cut through Portland's West Hills along present-day Barbur Boulevard through Burlingame to Bertha (now Hillsdale).



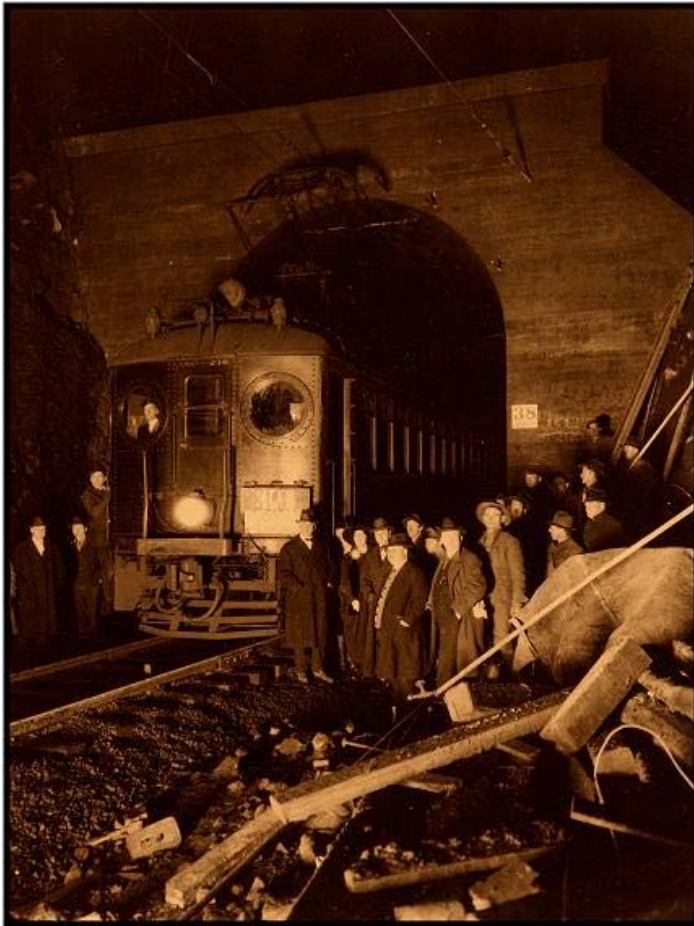
The *East Side Local No. 359*, which followed the Willamette River to Oswego, is seen westbound near Fulton in 1922. The train continued west from Oswego to Tualatin, Sherwood, Newberg and McMinnville.



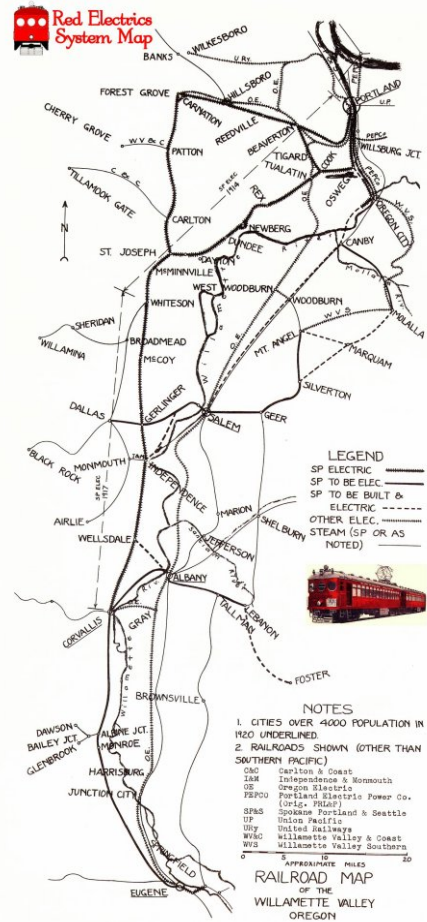
Falling rocks frequently obstructed the tracks and occasionally damaged the trains on the 1400-foot Elk Rock Trestle which opened in 1888.



After an incident when a rock crashed through the coach and hit the forehead of Mrs. Ella Newlands, the wife of the president of the Oswego Cement Company, it was decided that a tunnel should be dug through Elk Rock. Mrs. Newlands was a bit shaken and the cuts required several stitches. It is said that she had to wear a wig for some time after the accident. Shortly afterward, work began on the Elk Rock Tunnel. The northern end of the trestle is visible to the left and construction of the tunnel is shown on the right.

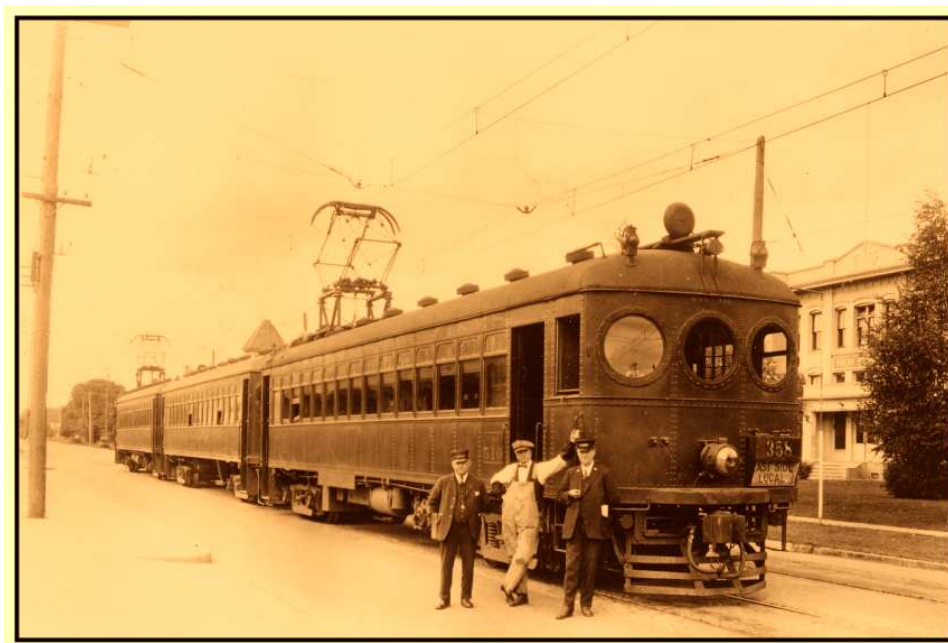


Allowing trains to bypass the dangerous Elk Rock Trestle, Elk Rock Tunnel opened on December 5, 1921.





Southern Pacific Electric train at McMinnville Depot in 1915.



On June 17, 1917, service was added for a three hour and 15 minute ride to Corvallis on a total of 180 electrified miles. East Side Local Train No. 358 is shown above at Corvallis in 1925.

By 1920, sixty-four Red Electric trains operated daily. The Red Electrics were the finest passenger cars in the Pacific Northwest and their service was second to none. The interiors were trimmed in mahogany and the beautiful plush green upholstered seats made the ride fairly comfortable.

Southern Pacific was the only major steam passenger railroad company to convert some of its lines to electricity. The main line to California was not electrified and it continued as a steam line till the 1950s when diesel trains took over the service. Union Pacific still uses the line today for freight service.

The distinctive round windows were actually developed by Southern Pacific as a safety feature. In case of a crash, this design gave more protection for a motorman. Though they only lasted 15 years, the Red Electrics provided modern, fast, quiet and efficient passenger service for the citizens of the Willamette Valley. Buses began to operate in the mid-1920s, and after several years of declining revenues, the Red Electrics made their final run on October 5, 1929.



Board Meeting Minutes

Attending the July 16, 2008 Webfooters Board Meeting, held at Elmer's Restaurant were: Mark Moore (President), Tony Roberts (Vice President), Arne Soland (Treasurer), and Maggie Parypa (Secretary). After a call to order at approximately 7:00 PM, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

Financial Report - Arne Soland gave a report of The Club's finances.

Report of Standing Committees

Membership - Maggie reported for Steve Bieler that there are 220 Active Members (103 individual Members, 83 Family Members, 27 Patron Members, 6 Honor Members and 1 Charter Member). Unfortunately Steve Bieler will not be able to continue as Membership Chair next year. Please consider filling this important roll for our club in our upcoming election. Arne Soland can accept dues for membership if Steve is not available at the meetings.

Refreshments - Reimbursement of up to \$30 is available for those contributing this service. If you are providing refreshments don't forget to save your receipts for Arne.

Auction/Show - Mark has been working on the 2009 show card. This will be of children being carried in a goat cart. It has gone to the printers and should be available by the beginning of September.

New Business

Nominating Committee - Mark appointed the current board members to the nominating committee as our slate of officers needs to be read at our September Membership meeting. A motion passed to induct the current slate of officers. (Since the meeting, it was learned that Steve Bieler cannot continue as Membership Chair.)

Table Rent at Meetings - Since our rent at The Grange has doubled for the meetings this year, it was suggested that table rent at meetings be increased to \$7.00 for a full table and \$4.00 for half tables. The motion passed at the club meeting in July and it will become effective in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

The next board meeting will be held on September 10, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Parypa, Secretary



Club Officers

President/Editor.....Mark Moore
 Vice President.....Tony Roberts
 Secretary.....Maggie Parypa
 Treasurer.....Arne Soland
 Membership Chairman.....Steve Bieler
 Members-at-Large.....Irene Adams, Brian Hansen and Phyllis Palmer
 Historian.....Joe Macdonald
 Librarian.....Steve Kuryk



Calendar

August 16 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange
 12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

September 17 – Webfooters Board Meeting at Elmer’s Restaurant (no host)
 10001 NE Sandy Blvd – 6:30 pm (Board Meetings held every other month)

September 20 – Webfooters Post Card Club Meeting at Russellville Grange
 12105 NE Prescott St near 122nd & Sandy Blvd – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

For the latest news, visit our website:



www.thewebfooters.com



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