

# Placer-Sierra Railroad Heritage Society

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<https://www.psrhs.org>

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## October 2023 Newsletter

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*Antelope & Western #1 appears in our October program featuring two vintage narrow gauge railroads. See page 2 for details.*

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### Scheduled Events & Notices



**Oct 24 PSRHS Monthly Meeting and Program, 7PM - Program – Two Vintage Movies of Hal Wilmunder's Antelope & Western and Camino Cable & Northern Narrow Gauge Railroads plus Current Video of Antelope & Western #1 in action**

**Nov 17-19 Northern Nevada Model RR Layout Tour**  
Contact Jim Petro at [jpetro328@gmail.com](mailto:jpetro328@gmail.com) for more information

**Nov 28 PSRHS Potluck Dinner Meeting and Special Program, 6:30PM**  
**No Meeting in December**

**Jan 23 PSRHS Monthly Meeting and Program, 7PM**

Your annual PSRHS membership helps fund purchase of historic photos, publication of railroad history documents, field trips, and other historic preservation activities.

*Preserving Railroad History on the Donner Pass Route*

### PSRHS MONTHLY MEETING OCTOBER 24, 7PM

**October Program:** We will view two vintage movies of **Hal Wilmunder's narrow gauge railroad** ventures from the 1960's, the **Antelope & Western** and the **Camino Cable and Northern**. The videos were captured from 16mm movies, some with sound. They include footage of the start-up ceremony and shut down of the Antelope & Western, construction of the Camino Cable & Northern, operations on both lines, and an interview with Hal Wilmunder.

An added attraction will be recent video of Antelope & Western #1 operating at NCNG Railroad Museum.

Hal Wilmunder created a small brochure that described his Antelope & Western Narrow Gauge Railroad project. The brochure contents are described in more detail at the end of this page and on pages 4 & 5.

Our meetings are open to all who are interested. See our web site for updates on future meeting topics and directions to the meeting location.

### COLFAX RAILROAD DAYS RECAP

Five PSRHS members helped staff the Colfax caboose at this year's event. We had good crowds and nice weather for both days with lots of parents and kids enjoying their visit aboard "a real train". UP displayed its fire train setup near the passenger depot but it was viewable only from a distance with no access to the cars or locomotive. Except for Saturday morning there was no information provided by UP at the display site to explain the significance of the train set that likely appeared to most visitors to be an ordinary work train. To counter this apparent oversight and explain the significance of what was on display, PSRHS created an impromptu photo display in the Colfax museum of the fire train in action.

Back at the caboose, the donation box next to our table of free books, magazines and other railroad items netted our club \$208, along with another \$21 in donations from visitors inside the caboose.

### PSRHS WEB SITE ENHANCEMENTS

PSRHS board members have been pursuing some enhancements to our web site. The main objective is to add information from our collection that may be of interest to researchers and casual readers, and to make those items easier to find by better groupings within the web site structure.

A revamped **HOME PAGE** highlights main activities of the club, starting with coming monthly meetings and field trips. There are also directional notes to help steer the reader to major content locations.

Under the **LOCAL RR HISTORY** menu tab, a new page - **HISTORIC RR ARTICLES/ MAPS/ IMAGES** - has been added. This page features documents, maps, etc., in our collection that contain important information related to local railroading. These entries supplement PSRHS-created documents that are listed in other sub-menus under the **LOCAL RR HISTORY** tab.

Under the **PUBLICATIONS** tab, another new page has been added - **ARTICLES & VIDEOS FROM OTHERS**. As the name implies, this page features articles and videos that have been produced by others.

These changes are a work in progress that we hope will make our web site more useful as a research tool and more informative to our readers. We encourage you to explore the site and watch for future additions as we import more content from our collection.

### ANTELOPE & WESTERN NG RAILROAD

The photo on page 4 and article on page 5 come from a small brochure in our collection that was created by Hal Wilmunder circa 1960, touting his Antelope & Western Narrow Gauge Railroad and NG Museum. Discovering the brochure led to a search for more information on the Antelope & Western. This in turn resulted in finding the two vintage movies that will be featured at our October meeting. The brochure content provides background for one of the videos.

*See brochure text on page 5* S







### Passing Scene - Central Pacific Promontory Point Private Varnish at Colfax

On October 5, 2023, two private varnish railcars were spotted in Colfax on westbound Amtrak. The car featured in this month's newsletter is labeled Central Pacific Promontory Point. Yes, we know the rails were joined at Promontory Summit, not Promontory Point, but it's a cool railcar none-the-less.

A web search of trains.com revealed the following about the car's history: "Built by Pullman in 1953 as a six-roomette, four double-bedroom and six-section sleeping car named the Loblolly Pine for the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad. The C & EI sold the car to the Louisville & Nashville Railroad in 1969. In 1974, it was converted to a business car. Missouri Pacific acquired the car in 1976 as MP #2. After the merger of the Union Pacific and Missouri Pacific in 1985, the car was renamed by Union Pacific and ultimately renumbered as UP #105. Union Pacific sold the car in 1997 to its current owner Michael Margrave, an attorney based out of Scottsdale, AZ. He renamed it Promontory Point. " <https://cs.trains.com/trn/f/740/t/267426.aspx>



*Photos by Roger Staab*



#### Membership Information

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

- Monthly Meetings (4th Tuesday) and Newsletter
- Member Activities, History Pubs and Field Trips
- Display and Restoration Projects

PSRHS, P.O. Box 1776, Colfax, CA 95713  
or join/renew online at <https://www.psrhs.org/>

Reader comments, additional details, etc., are invited on any newsletter items or photos. Please forward comments, suggestions or information for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter to:

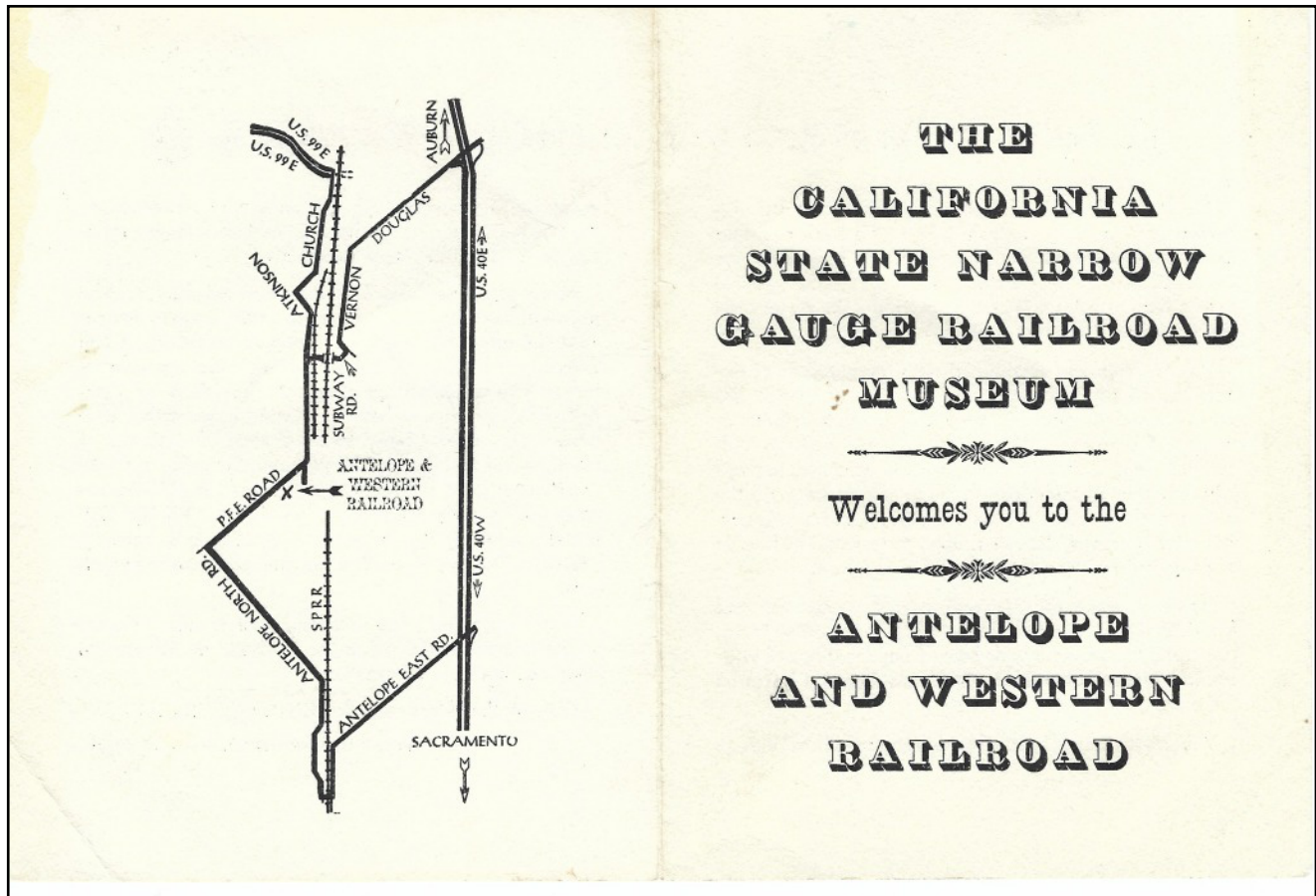
[roger.staab@psrhs.org](mailto:roger.staab@psrhs.org)





### From the Archives - Antelope & Western Railroad & Museum Brochure

This image is a scan of the front and back covers of Hal Wilmunder's brochure on his Antelope & Western Narrow Gauge Railroad. He envisioned his railroad as a narrow gauge museum, and indeed it was during its short life, providing first-hand experience riding on and helping operate a steam-powered narrow gauge train. Hal's brochure was 3-3/4" x 4" when folded. The brochure text is reproduced on page 5. *PSRHS Collection*



**Accidents/Other Incidents.** *The Press Tribune, Dec. 17, 1935.* **"SOUTH ROSEVILLE OVERPASS WILL BE ERECTED AT ONCE.** Announcement of the projected construction of a \$14,000 steel overpass west of Dry Creek, near Roseville, was made yesterday by officials of the Southern Pacific Company. The movement for the project has been under way for several months, according to R.W. White, local manager for the South Roseville tract, owned by P.B. Rackliffe. The bridge, which will cross the railroad tracks of the company, is being built primarily for the employes (*sic*) of the Pacific Fruit Express Company. The latter now are obliged to use a circuitous route in reaching the company's plant from Roseville. The overpass will greatly shorten the distance. The expenses of building the bridge are to be shared by the Southern Pacific Company, Pacific Fruit Express Company and the owner of the property in the vicinity of the structure. The railroad's share of the appropriation already has been made. Construction is expected to start within the next four weeks."





### ANTELOPE & WESTERN RAILROAD BROCHURE

(Text Transcribed from the cover and interior of the circa 1960 Brochure)

## THE CALIFORNIA STATE NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD MUSEUM

Welcomes you to the

### ANTELOPE AND WESTERN RAILROAD



**Re-live the Age of Steam with the Antelope & Western R.R.**



The Antelope & Western brings to life the glory of a golden era: the age of steam power. Through this museum, generations of the future will not be denied the earthshaking thrill of watching snorting “steeds” wind about a diminutive iron roadway; of riding the steam cars; and of brushing a sentimental cinder or two from the eyes.

The Museum was established with the purchase of Engine No. 1 from the Sacramento Brick Co., in 1948. It has grown with the serious efforts of its founder, Hal Wilmunder, and the endless patience and assistance of Betty Wilmunder. Shop facilities are increasing to accommodate properly four steam locomotives, gasoline equipment, and the rolling stock. In addition, the one-and-a-quarter mile narrow gauge track may be called upon to support the burden of an articulated locomotive in the near future.

However, even the Museum cannot escape the real world. Railroads, steam or otherwise, are expensive to improve and to operate. Funds come from donations of visitors and Museum members. There are donation boxes on the cars.

You are invited to become a Museum member. With an Associate Membership, you will receive an endorsed certificate describing your position in the Museum plus meeting notices and other announcements.

Since Mr. Stevenson first demonstrated his practical means of locomotion, man has been called upon to demonstrate his powers of originality in coping with standard and unique problems to “Keep ‘em rolling”. Identify your interests with this challenge of steam! The delight of bringing a brass locomotive bell to a blazing luster with a little polish and a good elbow, the satisfaction of alignment of the same rail first handled by pioneers, the pride of finishing rich woods in a passenger coach await you! These activities are usually performed on weekends. Call Hal Wilmunder at Roseville (SUNset 2-6627) or Sacramento (Hickory 7-5020) to confirm the time you wish to participate. Your club, Scout troop or organization is most welcome at the Museum. Dial either the Roseville or Sacramento to phone number for information.

Observe the safety rules and ENJOY YOURSELF!

THE STAFF OF THE ANTELOPE & WESTERN

