

CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

MS 726 FRANK AND BETTY SAARNI COLLECTION

1905-1997. 3 boxes + 3 oversize boxes

Consists of construction lists for various locomotive builders, correspondence, notes on railroad photography trips, research materials, employment paperwork, ephemera, and albums of tickets and photographs. The correspondence relates to collecting and purchasing of builder's plates, as well as to Saarni's work with the California State Railroad Museum. Employment paperwork relates to Saarni's work as a brakeman with the Great Northern Railway. The locomotive builder lists are handwritten and organized by construction number. Notes on photography trips consists of a trip recapitulation listing road numbers of engines photographed by Saarni. Among his research materials is correspondence mostly to Virgil Bogue, from Arthur W. Keddie and others, regarding construction of the Western Pacific Railway.

Photographic prints that were not affixed in albums have been removed and filed with the general photograph collection. Corresponding negatives were not included in the donation. Employee timetables have also been cataloged separately.

PROVENANCE Gift of Mrs. Frank A. (Betty) Saarni (387-2224), 2013

HISTORICAL INFORMATION Frank Arthur Saarni was born Aug. 3, 1926 in San Francisco and died Jan. 21, 2013 in Berkeley. Beginning as a teenager, Saarni assembled one of the major and most significant builder's plate collections in the United States and North America. Saarni also created accurate reproduction builder's plates for equipment being restored during the development of the California State Railroad Museum. As he collected, he kept meticulous notes and gathered research material on railroad history, which comprise this collection.

BOX LIST

Box 1 Locomotive builder construction lists for the following locomotive works: Brooks, Cooke, Danforth, Dickson, Manchester, New York, Richmond, Willamette Iron and Steel, Lima, Lima-Hamilton, Rogers

Box 2 Locomotive builder construction lists for the following locomotive works: Rhode Island, Pittsburgh, Schenectady

Box 2 Southern Pacific locomotive log arranged by road number and trip recapitulation (1940-1959) with list of engines photographed

Box 3 Folder 1 Brakeman certification and timebook, Great Northern Railway, 1944

Box 3 Folder 2 Correspondence received, 1962-1997

Box 3 Folder 3 Correspondence from Department of Parks and Recreation, 1978

Box 3 Folder 4 Virgil Bogue correspondence regarding construction of Western Pacific Railway, 1905-1908, arranged chronologically

Box 3 Folder 5 Tickets and ephemera from excursion train trips

Box 3 Folder 6 Miscellaneous freight bills, 1902-1924

Box 3 Folder 7 Locomotive inspection reports, various railroads, 1933-1952

Box 3 Folder 8 Receipts for purchase of builder's plates, 1940-1954

Box 3 Folder 9 Tickets from various railroads and streetcar lines

Box 3 Folder 10 Transcript of time books of Walter F. Johnson, 1936-1954, compiled by Tom Moungovon from material loaned by Ralph Domenici November, 1996, typescript

Box 4 Photograph albums: Oregon and California Railroad, Southern Pacific Portland division

Box 5 Loose photograph album pages: Denver & Rio Grande, Northern Pacific, Southern Pacific, Tidewater Southern, Western Pacific

Box 6 Album: tickets and public timetables from various railroads pasted onto album pages

Filing Location: Statewide Museum Collections Center I2.211.E4 I2.211.E5 ID 2823