

Mike Burdett Union Pacific Memorabilia Collection

Mike Burdett was one of the founding members of the Golden Spike Chapter of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society and spearheaded a number of historical preservation projects within the railroading community in Utah. He donated his collection of railroad dining car china and railroad memorabilia to the Golden Spike Chapter for the purpose of fundraising for the restoration of D&RGW 223. The entirety of the Union Pacific portion of the collection was donated to the Western Crossroads Railway Museum on September 6 2020.

Mr. Burdett's obituary follows below:

Wm. Michael Burdett | March 14, 1940 ~ September 2, 2020

When thinking of Wm. Michael Burdett one word comes to mind, Christ-like. Mike wore many hats during his 80 years including: student, dentist, Lt. Colonel with U.S. Army Reserves, musician, railroad enthusiast, and cook. But the roles he is best known for are son, husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Mike's family and faith in Jesus Christ were the foundation he built his entire life on and helped him endure as the end of his life grew near.

Mike was born in Ogden, Utah on March 14, 1940 and attended Ogden High School. As a college student at Weber State he was a Student Body Officer along with his future wife, Donna. After completing an Associate Degree he served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the British Isles Mission. Following his church service he married Donna Lee Sparks in the Salt Lake City Temple. He graduated from The University of San Francisco as a dentist and went on to complete a medical anesthesia residency at the University of Utah. In addition, he completed a master's degree in public administration at Brigham Young University. Mike was a lifelong learner and after his formal education he worked to build his own personal library. He also had a "lending library" within his dental practice for his patients to check out books.

Mike operated a successful dental practice in Ogden for over 30 years. He was a skilled clinician and beloved by his patients. He provided discounted dental treatment for those who could not afford to pay full price. He also provided dental anesthesia for patients with disabilities. After he retired he continued to provide dental services for the homeless. Mike was also a proud member of the Army Reserves and enjoyed providing dental services to the military men and women.

Trains and railroads were another passion of Mike's and he worked toward relaying the rails to Promontory Point. He also worked tirelessly on restoring an old hospital train car. If you were looking for Mike on a Saturday morning, you could probably find him at Union Station.

Mike also loved to cook and his family could always count on him to make his homemade turkey soup the day after Thanksgiving. He enjoyed growing his own grapes and canning homemade grape jelly each year. Mike was an accomplished musician. He enjoyed playing the accordion, concertina, and tuba. He also sang in many choirs including the K-Star Singers. Mike was an active member of the Kiwanis club and was always full of fun facts and trivia.

Mike peacefully departed this life on September 2, 2020 after faithfully enduring years of Alzheimer's Disease. He was preceded in death by his mother, Mickey; father, Bill; and sister, Mary Ann. He is survived by Donna, his wife of 58 years; his daughter, Diana (Bryon) Talbot; his sons, Wm. Gregory (Janice), Daniel (Jennifer) and his daughter, Maren (Tyler) Wood; his 12 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and his sister, Catherine Ford. Mike will be remembered for being a friend to all, serving selflessly, being even tempered, genuinely kindhearted and always engaged in a good cause. He set an amazing example of Christ-like charity.

Collection Catalog

Pattern histories from The Railroad Commissary site <http://www.rrcommissary.com/SuppUPinfo.html>

Streamliner Pattern

Despite the number of different maker's marks born by this pattern, Winged Streamliner was only produced by three makers, at least in one sense. They were as follows:
Syracuse seems to have been the earliest maker. They produced the pattern throughout the 1940's and as late as the mid-50's.

Scammell's, while never dated their pieces, appears to have started getting orders for this pattern in the late '40's, maybe the very early 1950's. In 1954, Sterling China bought out Scammell's. It is unclear when this change was actually reflected on the china (surely by 1959), but when the change came, Sterling used the name "Trenton China" (the same as the previous backstamp, but without the "Scammell's" name). In about 1965, Sterling changed the backstamp to their own name. The use of the Sterling backstamp lasted at least through the 1970's in all its various forms – including the current stylized "S" logo. This is the only pattern of authentic railroad china to carry stylized "S" Sterling backstamp. Mind you, that one can't really call any Winged Streamliner china made after 1971 "regular dining car" china, as 1971 is when UP turned its dining car operations over to Amtrak, but UP continued to buy the pattern, for whatever reason (special trains, business cars), apparently at least into the 1980's. Beginning in the mid-1960's, Homer Laughlin was occasionally tapped to produce Winged Streamliner pattern china. Through the 1970's, and maybe 1980's, Homer Laughlin took a few of the orders. The Homer Laughlin china is distinct in that the logo is all brown, not green and red as found on all other Winged Streamliner china.

Items in this pattern:

Sherbet cups: total (7)

Sherbet cup lids: total (4)



4" dessert bowl: total (1)



6.5" plate: total (1)



7.5" Soup bowl: total (1)



10.5" dinner plate: total (1)



Unused case of paper drink coasters



Desert Flower Pattern

This pattern is often cited as an "exclusive use" pattern, but it was only an exclusive use pattern for the years that it was being ordered by the UP. Indeed, there are even pieces of this exact pattern backmarked for restaurants! Without careful study, only UP backstamped pieces can be known to be railroad dining car china. Most china in this pattern is not backmarked. Backstamped pieces are more expensive, but a better value in the long run, as their railroad heritage can easily be established beyond doubt.

Items in this pattern:

6" Salad bowl: total (1)



8" Oval platter: total (1)



10" Oval platter: total (1)



Harriman Blue Pattern

7" Plate: total (1)



Silver plate covers: total (4)



Toothpicks, individually packaged



Red napkins: total (4)

Silverware and linens



Bundled silverware set: dinner forks and spoons: total (1)



Bundled silverware set: miscellaneous silverware: total (1)



Menus

Luncheon Menu – Ohio World's Sunday School Party Special Train: total (1) – Ogden Canyon themed, dated 6/25/1928

Dinner Menu – City of Los Angeles: total (1) – Colorado themed, dated July 1970

Amtrak Breakfast Menu: total (1) – dated June 1976

Amtrak Luncheon Menu: total (1) – dated April 1977

Amtrak Dinner Menu: total (1) – dated April 1977

Time Tables, maps and freight rate guides

Tourist's guide pamphlet: total (1) - “Along the Union Pacific Railroad” dated 1959

Tourist's guide pamphlet: total (1) - “Las Vegas – Hoover Dam – Lake Mead National Recreation Area”, dated 1950s

Union Pacific Railroad Time Table: total (1) - dated December 7 1969

Union Pacific Railroad Map: total (1) – dated 1978

Union Pacific Import-Export advertising pamphlet: total (1) – 1970s

Freight Rate Territorial Map of the United States: total (1) – dated 1979

Employees List of Freight Car and Locomotive Ownership: total (1) – dated January 1977

Miscellaneous Memorabilia

Matchboxes: total (2) – bulk matchboxes packaged in boxes decorated as a Union Pacific covered hopper dated “NEW 1971” – presumably a Pullman-Standard car. Information about improvements to UP's covered hopper fleet is noted on the bottoms.



Luggage tags: total (6) – Form 6667 with UPRR shield on front and image of a streamlined diesel on rear with slogan “Dependably better for freight / comfortably better for you.”



Golf Tee set: total (1) – image of EMD DD40AX diesel locomotive and train on front with the slogan “What America wants...UP delivers”



Notepad: “While you were out” phone message notes – several loose leaves.



Notepad: 1969 Golden Spike Centennial commemorative lined notes

