

Old steam locomotive starts second career

"Do you think it will go?" asked Recreation Minister Jack Radford as he looked at the hissing iron horse.

"It will go all right," Premier Dave Barrett answered him. "It's like our government. You just have to kick it once in a while."

Barrett and Radford stood back to let Labor Minister Bill King climb aboard steam locomotive No. 3716, which was building up steam on the CP Rail tracks in Vancouver.

The ministerial trio, generating a curious mixture of historical respect and sheer boyishness, were presiding over the debut of the old steam engine Tuesday.

The locomotive, a relic from a more romantic railway era, was retired for permanent exhibition in Port Coquitlam several years ago, but it began to deteriorate. Last year, the city offered the steam engine to the province for a token \$1, so it could be restored.

After refurbishing it at the CP Rail roundhouse, the government decided that Port Coquitlam residents should be the first to view it.

The locomotive, pulling about five passenger cars including the personal rail car used by former premier W. A. C. Bennett, took about an hour to make the run from Vancouver to Port Coquitlam.

Waiting at the old Port Coquitlam station were about 300 people, city officials,

and several veteran railway men who remember the days when No. 3716 was the Cadillac of the rails.

During a brief ceremony, Barrett formally transferred the locomotive to the department of recreation. The department will make it available to the B.C. provincial museum, which plans to use it to pull a rolling stock museum.

The travelling museum, which will have the History of Steam in B.C. as its theme, will be put on display in Burnaby and then circulated throughout the province.

When completed, the museum will consist of the locomotive and tender, a water car, boxcar, two flatcars each with live steam machinery, two exhibition coaches, a theatre coach and a crew accommodation car.

Cost of the entire project, including operating costs is about \$500,000. During its first year of operation, the train will cover Greater Vancouver, the Central Interior, the Peace River district and parts of Vancouver Island.

Restoration of the engine and preparation of the museum is being supervised by Robert Swanson, the British Columbia Railway director, who was the inspiration behind the Royal Hudson excursion train to Squamish.

Recreation department officials emphasize that the museum train, unlike the Royal Hudson, will not be used for regular passenger travel.

GOVERNMENT TO STAY OUT OF AUTO PARTS BUSINESS

The Insurance Corporation of B.C. has told the auto-wrecking industry that it has no intention of going into the used parts business after all, industry spokesman Frank Jerema said Tuesday.

He said in an interview that Frank Scrivener, ICBC senior claims executive, told industry representatives at a meeting Friday that ICBC would not consider the

idea without consulting B. C. auto-wreckers.

It was reported earlier that ICBC general manager Norman Bortnick told the legislature's public accounts committee that the corporation was studying the possibility of selling used parts from damaged cars.

Most Kamloops body shops reported closed by strike

Sun Staff Reporter

KAMLOOPS — A spokesman for auto body shops here said Tuesday that most of them are closed or are operating with skeleton staffs as a result of the strike of Insurance Corporation of B.C. office workers.

Angus Currie, president of Eveready Mercury Sales, estimated that each of the 20 Kamloops body shops will lose \$10,000 per month for the duration of the strike by Office and Technical Employees' Union Local 378.

"Most of the body shops are shut completely or are operating with only one or two people," he said in an interview. "Those that are still open are rapidly running out of work."

He said the body shops will remain "neutral" in the dispute and will not do any work for ICBC. Body shops that have co-operated with ICBC during the strike have been picketed by OTEU members.

"We're desperately hoping the strike will be settled because the financial strains are severe," Currie added.



BARRETT ABOARD . . . engine restored

—Glenn Seale Photo

Woman fails in bank job

A woman carrying a bible in one hand tried to hold up the Bank of Montreal, 4226 Fraser, Friday.

She was spotted by another bank employee as she made her demands for money and the bank manager detained her until police arrived.

ARMY & NAVY

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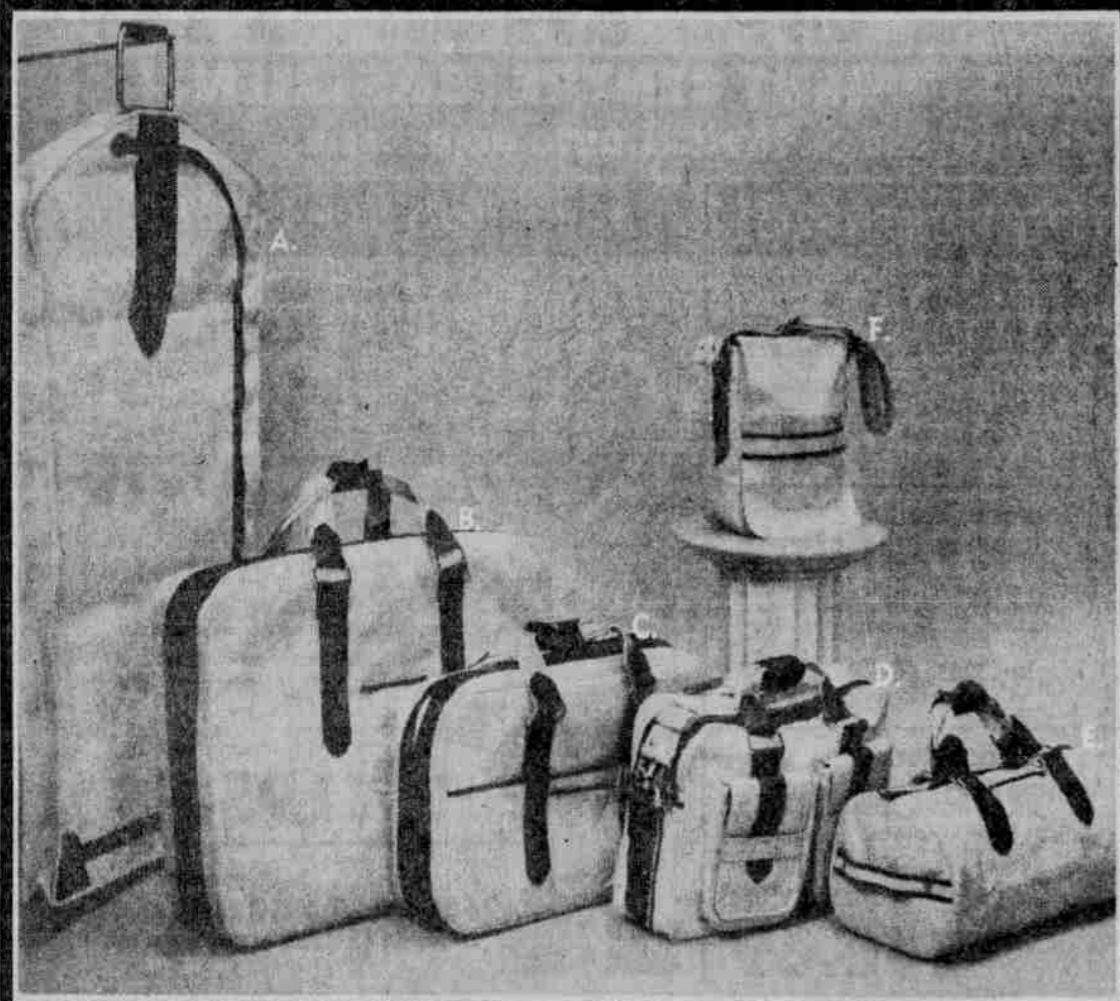
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