

RIDING THE RAILS

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 9th, 10th, and 11th
Meet Friday, May 9th, 7:00 p.m. at 1320 7th Avenue--DOORS LOCKED
AT 7:10 P.M.

How many of you know how the old U.S.A., reputedly the richest, most powerful nation on earth, attained its unchallenged pinnacle of success? Come now--who can tell us exactly how we so colossally outdistanced the Limeys, the commies, the Jerris, the Vatican, the Spaghetti Benders and the combined Zulu nations? Do you know the main reason we are so stinkingly, oozingly, undeservedly wealthy? Was it George Washington Carver's peanut? No! Was it Jack Daniels' distillery? No! Was it Teddy Roosevelt's influence on the doll market? No! Was it slave labor? Well, probably. But most importantly it was Rock Island, Erie, Clinchfield, Southern Pacific, the Milwaukee Road, Santa Fe, Union Pacific and Burlington Northern railroads.

Their names alone have that lyrical quality which carries a magic all its own, conjuring images of a frontier long since tamed, a nation built across valleys and plains where a train whistle at dusk was a sad and wonderful sound. It spoke of places far away, it called to the wanderlust in all men, it spoke to that tiny, wondrous, child-like thing in all of us which dreams of what lies beyond the next hill, and the hill after that.

For over a century, the boxcars and flatcars and locomotives bearing those names have rumbled across America. They carried the natural resources ripped from the bowels of the earth. They carried machines and fuel for our thriving industries. Livestock, grain, cotton, vegetables, they all went by rail. And, in periods of economic blight (as well as most other times) poor slobs like you and me went by rail.

This is the chance to live out the fantasy sketched in song by Woodie Guthrie, Jimmy Rodgers, and Hank Williams, and in a story by Jack Kerouac and Neal Cassady. A chance to forget freeways and gas gauges and Triple-A maps, to ride bouncing and clattering into our cultural past, a chance to let that kid inside you still called by the lure of train whistles at dusk get up and run away from home and responsibility--if only for two days.

We'll be taking off for the entire weekend to hop a freight and ride the rails. We'll be leaving from the Bay Area Friday night, will ride a freight train as far as Roseville, California (near Sacramento) or possibly to Reno (depending on the train schedules) and will return by bus (or hitchhiking--whichever you prefer) by Sunday night.

The logistics of getting thirty (or more) people into a boxcar will be comical, challenging, and incredibly rewarding once we rumble on our way. The event will not be very physically strenuous, but certain points must be borne in mind:

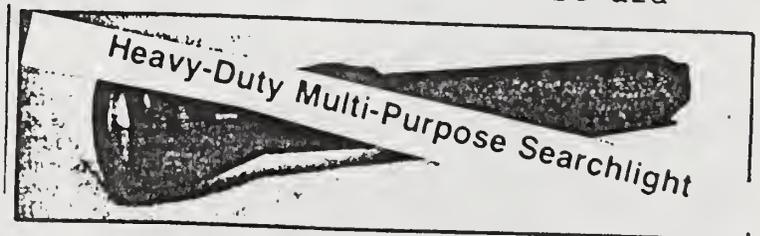
1. We'll have to move quickly and quietly around the freight yard.
2. We may have to wait quietly for a very long time in a dark, cold boxcar 'till we get a train out; patience is a necessity.
3. Once we get going, we're stuck together in a boxcar for at least eight hours, so you can't suddenly decide you'd rather catch the midnight show at the Strand.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. SLEEPING BAG - Preferably a small down stuffed one. The lighter and more compact the better. However, be aware that it may get awfully cold. We suggest you check the weather maps in the paper for Roseville, Reno and all points in between as a guide.
2. SLEEPING BAG (INSULITE) PAD - The floor of the boxcar is cold and hard. Without a cushion you won't get many z's.
3. FOOD for 1 1/2 to 2 days.
4. 1 QUART OF WATER IN AN UNBREAKABLE CONTAINER - Bring more if you tend to get very thirsty.
5. A WORKING FLASHLIGHT - Small are better than large, heavy and bulky, but check the batteries or buy new ones beforehand. It gets awfully dark in them boxcars at night.
6. WARM, LAYERED CLOTHING THAT CAN GET DIRTY AND DUSTY - Maid service on the boxcars is sporadic at best. Leave your white twill pants at home.
7. STURDY SHOES.
8. A SMALL STURDY BACKPACK TO CARRY THIS ALL IN. PACK LIGHT! You will have to move quickly at times and jump from a height of two to three feet. Leave extraneous items at home.
9. YOUR HANDS MUST BE FREE! Your packs should be solid and fit securely. However, leave the big frame packs at home.
10. MONEY FOR BUS FARE HOME - (unless you definitely plan to hitch) and other potential expenses. Fare from Roseville to SF is \$8.57. From Reno to SF is \$21.30.
11. \$.50 TO \$1.00 MATERIALS FEE - To cover the cost of a first aid kit we will bring along.
12. ID AND NO DRUGS

SUGGESTED ITEMS:

1. A good book to read.
2. Gloves.



Designed to give policemen, security guards, contractors years and years of dependable service. This rugged, shock-proof searchlight molded of yellow polypropylene has a 3-position switch with definite on/off plus instant on/off button for critical situations. It's perfectly weighted. Light beam is broad and long range. Searchlight requires just 5 standard flashlight batteries (not incl.) for 7½ volt power. 15¾" long. Extra bulb in end cap. Shp. wt. 1¼ lbs.
 10-107 Multi-Purpose Searchlight\$12.65 ea.