

As I see it...

By T. L. WAGENBACH, General Manager

Trains have fascinated most of us since we were youngsters. Train whistles, too, intrigue many of us, although some of us prefer to hear them from a distance and some like the old steam whistle better than the blasts of the big diesels.

Whatever your own preference, remember that train whistles never are sounded "just for fun." They are the voice of the locomotive engineer, who is saying something important every time he blows the whistle.

Some signals combine long and short blasts. Most common is two longs, a short and a long. This warns motorists and pedestrians, "I am nearing the grade crossing! Let me go by!" Three shorts and one long tells the flagman to protect the front of the train. The reverse signal tells him to protect the rear.

One series is made up of all short toots. One short means, "The train is stopping." Two shorts is always an answer to any signal not otherwise provided for. Three shorts when the train is standing means, "I am going to back up." Four shorts is a request for instructions. A number of short rapid whistles is a warning to persons or livestock on the track.

One long notifies the crew that the train is approaching a station, junction, drawbridge or mail crane. Two longs means the engineer is releasing brakes and saying, "Let's go."

These are the most commonly used signals. Some are heard less today in switching yards where radio and telephone are used by crews. But the locomotive whistle still is an important part of the work of moving many people and needed supplies by rail, and it is interesting to listen in on the conversation if you know the language.

Shop more between 10 and 4—the carefree, car-free PE way.

Your purchase of 1953 Easter Seals this month helps crippled children.

PERYSCOPE

MARCH

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MARCH CALENDAR

For information about Pacific Electric service to these events phone TUCKER 7272.

All Month: WILDFLOWERS BLOOM in deserts, valleys, mountains.

WORLD'S LARGEST WISTARIA VINE in bloom, 201 W. Carter Ave., Sierra Madre.

L. A. PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, March 5, 6, 19, 20, 26, 27.

STATE PICNICS. At Sycamore Grove Park, L. A.: March 8, Colorado; March 15, Missouri; March 21, Michigan; March 29, Wyoming. At Bixby Park, Long Beach: March 22, Montana; March 29, Missouri.

PASADENA PLAYHOUSE. "Night Shade" opens March 12.

March 14: KITE DERBY, Glendale. 350 boys and girls compete.

March 14: UN FOLK BALLAD JUBILEE, songs of 20 nations, Philharmonic Auditorium.

March 14-22: INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW, Hollywood Park, Inglewood.

March 19-29: NATIONAL ORANGE SHOW, San Bernardino. World's championship orange packing contest; world's biggest contest for lemon pie and orange cake bakers.

March 20: SPRING BEGINS.

March 20-29: HOBBY SHOW, Shrine Auditorium, Los Angeles.

March 29: ALL-BREED DOG SHOW, Glendale.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

If you need transit information en route ask your Pacific Electric operator or conductor. It is part of his job and training to give you a friendly, accurate answer.

It also is the operator's duty not to engage in unnecessary conversation with patrons. He has your safety in mind and is obeying the law when he avoids distractions which might contribute to an accident.

Give So That Others May Live! Give to your Red Cross during the annual fund campaign now in progress.

HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?

Little Roger proudly explained that he had won a prize at school for telling the teacher that an ostrich has three legs.

"But, darling," protested his mother, "an ostrich has only two legs."

"I know, mother," answered Roger, "but all the other kids said four, so I was closest."

"The divorce rate is making America the land of the free, all right," commented the visiting Englishman.

"Yes," said the American, a henpecked husband, "but the marriage rate is increasing too, proving that America is still the home of the brave."



DID YOU KNOW?

In Munster, Germany, there are seven rates for streetcar travel. Passengers pay according to age, position in life and species. For humans the fares are lowest for children, disabled veterans and pensioners. Infants in arms ride free, as do dogs up to the size of dachschund or scottie. Police dogs must pay the ordinary rate. St. Bernards, Newfoundlands and Great Danes are charged double rate. Mastiffs are denied transportation at any price.

WE POINT WITH PRIDE



To—E. P. THOMMES
Badge #1512
Sierra Vista Line

"I've been observing #1512 on the Sierra Vista bus for several months. He is particularly friendly, polite, considerate, dignified, keeps his eyes straight ahead though some of the passengers talk to him. He doesn't snub them but answers only in a few words, never looking backward to do so. He is very smiling patient with everybody. It's nice to hear his cheery 'Take it easy, be safe. Goodnight now' or his 'Hello, stranger, I missed you.'"

Lillian E. Moore
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