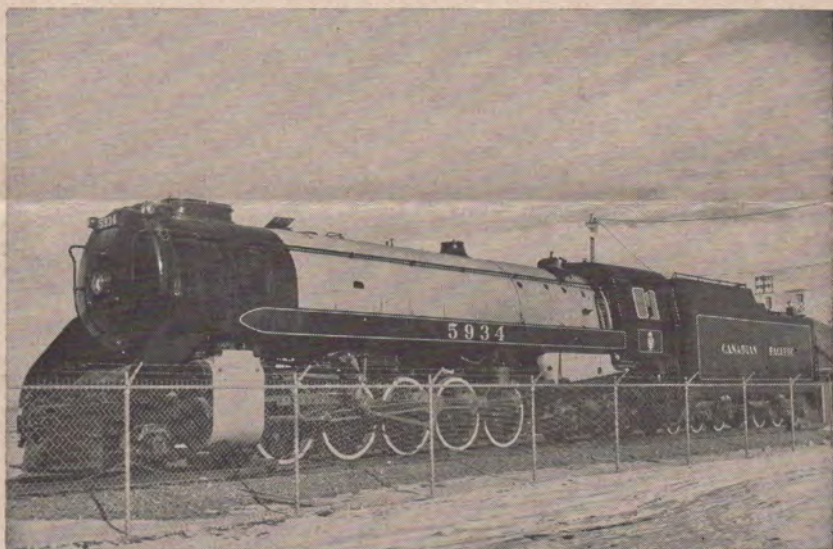


Giant Engine Recalls Colorful Railway Era



A giant locomotive that once chugged its way through “roller-coaster” terrain of the Rocky and Selkirk Mountains between Calgary and Revelstoke, B.C., has become the newest visitor attraction in the City of Calgary.

It stands on rails at a site in Mewata Park in the central section of the city facing the mountains it was built to conquer. Adding to the glory of the steamer is full-scale replica of a pioneer station house, complete with hardwood benches and pot-bellied stove. The station acts as a tourist information centre and is the headquarters of the Calgary Tourist and Convention Association.

The locomotive is one of the famous “5900’s”, an engine designed to challenge one of the toughest sections of railway in the world. A total of 35 of these giants were built and were in service on the Canadian Pacific Railway’s transcontinental line from 1929 to the early 1950’s when they gave way to smaller, more efficient diesels.

The 5900’s were the biggest locomotives in the British Commonwealth. The driving wheels are 5 feet, three inches in diameter. The distance from the pilot to the back of the tender is 98 feet while top to bottom height measures 15 feet, six inches.

The loaded weight of the engine in service was 447,000 pounds. The tender weighed an additional 284,000 pounds. An oil burner, the locomotive carried 4,100 Imperial gallons of oil and 1,200 Imperial gallons of water.

The engine on display at Calgary is the “5934”, second last of the series to be built. It was obtained by Calgarians through civic funds and public donations and the co-operation of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Photography platforms are to be erected early this year and will enable visitors to take pictures of the steamer from various points of advantage. The cab will be open to inspection.