

DAVID G. BLAINE

David George Blaine was born in New York City, May 5, 1918, the son of Edward Blaine, M.D. and Edith Walter (Packer) Blaine. Early in his life the family moved to Oak Park, IL and in 1930 to Pasadena, CA. The Blaine home in Oak Park was only one block from the Chicago & North Western and Dave became intrigued with trains at an early age. He believed his first train ride was probably on the old Chicago Rapid Transit.

Dave started railroading with the Southern Pacific at the Los Angeles Shops in 1936, and soon, at the suggestion of the Shop Superintendent, started a pre-engineering course at UCLA. After 3 1/2 years he enrolled at Purdue University, which at that time had a railroad mechanical engineering course. Dave graduated from Purdue in 1941, cum laude, with a B.S.M.E. degree, and that same year started a 42-year career with the Westinghouse Air Brake Co. His initial rate was \$135 per month, a princely salary compared to the \$75 per month offered by his former railroad employer.

At WABCO he served as a test and research engineer (1941-1945), commercial engineer (1945-1947), field engineer (1947-1951), representative (1951-1954), district engineer (1954-1960), manager, value analysis (1960-1961), Western district engineer (1962-1966), senior district engineer (1967-1973), and senior marketing representative (1973-1983). Following his retirement from WABCO, Dave served as a consultant to the Association of American Railroads and several individual railroads. He was a member of ASME from his student days, and later was an active participant in the Air Brake Association and several other professional groups. The ABA elected him a life member (only the third life member in that organization's over 90 year history).

Dave published many articles over his long career, under the auspices of the ASME and the ABA. He authored the air brake section of Mark's Mechanical Engineer's Handbook, 9th and 10th editions.

David G. Blaine died on January 5, 2002.

(written by Charlie Smith)