

Operating Department

Now that the operating season is drawing to a close, I can say 1999 has been a very full year. With crew training beginning on April 24th and continuing on May 2nd 1999 full operations began on May 29th.

In June, members of the operating department worked 11 days at 12 hours per day with the WP 2001 during Railfair 99 in Sacramento. It seemed as though the line was endless at times as visitors came through to tour the cab of the locomotive and receive information about the museum. A very big "Thank you" to all of the members, past and present, as well as the wives who helped with the visitors at Railfair 99. Our Operating Department did an outstanding job.

Caboose train ridership has shown an increase again this year. Although at times slow in the mornings it always became busier in the afternoons.

Members of the operating department would also like to take their hats off in thanks to Sue and Bruce Cooper for operating the Beanery this year. Those hot lunches and cool drinks helped us make it through the season.

The Operating Department has logged over 1,853 hours of service with thirty-four members participating so far this year.

Beanery Report

First I would like to say we are glad to be back, and would like to thank everyone who came up this summer. It was a pleasure seeing all of you and we hope to see you again next year. Altogether, we served about 425 lunches for crew this season.

I would like to thank Ken Roller for his assistance with sweeping and mopping the floors every Friday and Monday. Thanks Ken. I would also like to say a big Thank You to Edna Ede who volunteered her assistance on some of the busier weekends. Thank You Edna. Bruce and I are looking forward to returning next year just so we can see all of your smiling faces and meet more of the membership as you come up to visit and work at the museum.

What can I say about Bruce? He endured the heat of the kitchen to ensure you had the best-cooked lunch ever. Not to mention some of the verbal bantering that took place. Thanks for being the chief cook! Our plans for next year include replacing the table covers and possibly a couple of other surprises.

As a reminder we will be serving cookies, coffee, and cocoa on the Santa trains in December. Bring the family and enjoy the trains during the last runs of the year.

See you there.
- Sue Cooper

Newly qualified Operating Department members for the 1999 season are:

Kerry Cochran	Passenger engineer
Dave Bergman	Yard engineer
Don Borden	Yard engineer
Melissa McGrath	Yard engineer
Paul Finnegan	Fireman
Chris Simpson	Fireman
Lew Barard	Brakeman
Jeanne Collins	Brakeman
William McGrath	Brakeman

Congratulations are also in order for Don Nelson who has been appointed Assistant Trainmaster.

We plan on having new rule books ready for the start of next years operating season. All Operating Department members will receive this in the mail. If you are not a part of the Operating Department come on up and take the open book test. We enjoy having new faces and the rewards include self-satisfaction as well as a feeling of achievement once you complete the training. Openings exist in many positions.

In closing, I and the rest of the Operating Department crew would like to pass on a really big "Thank you" to all of the members who have donated time to the Portola Railroad Museum so far this year.

- Jim Gidley

Gift Shop Report

Three new video tapes are now available from the Gift Shop.

1. California Zephyr. Rare 16 mm archival film footage and personal recollections of those who worked on the train including Ernie and Kathy Von Ibsch, Arthur Lloyd and Virgil Staff. By Copper Media - 55 minutes - \$19.95 includes compact CD with sounds of WP CZ.

2. Western Pacific - The Last Decade. WP in the diesel years, CZ, freight, locals and switchers. Includes a brief history of why the railroad was built. By Charles Smiley - 68 minutes - 24.95.

3. A Look Back in Time. Transfer of two old WP 16mm films, one Destination America, a journey across the WP from Oakland to Salt Lake City by a prospective employee filmed in the early 50's. The second, Railroading with Safety, a rule book review filmed in the early 60's. Both show early WP diesels in orange and silver. Also includes 2 WP CZ radio commercials. By Western Star Productions - 56 minutes - \$24.50.

Order through the Gift Shop, Visa and Master Card accepted. Please include \$3.50 S&H and CA sales tax (7.25%) if applicable.

- Norm Holmes