

It is with a sad note that I write this column

On May 26 and 27, 2001 the Portola Railroad Museum held it's opening weekend for the 2001 season.

Several FRRS members arrived for the usual opening weekend of train operations at Portola.

Most members were in attendance for an anticipated visit from
Jim Gidley Sr.
Superintendent of Operations.

Unfortunately Jim had taken ill the week before and had been in the hospital.

It was with sad news on Sunday morning that we received word from his family, that Jim has passed away that morning.

Most members were unaware that several of us in the Operating Department had made arrangements to dedicate the days operation to Jim.

Without hesitation, during our morning safety meeting, we dedicated the day, May 27, 2001 in honor to Jim's years of service to the FRRS and the Portola RR Museum.



In Loving Memory Of

JAMES EDWARD GIDLEY, SR.

Born

April 11, 1937
The Dalles, Oregon

Entered Into Rest

May 27, 2001
Chico, California

Funeral Services

Wednesday, May 30, 2001, at 10:00 a.m.
Bidwell Chapel

Officiating - Dr. Philip Hoff

Vocalist - Regina Hoff

Piper - David Quivey

Honorary Casketbearers

Kenneth Franklin, James Thorpe, Kerry Cochran
Everett Yockey III, Daniel Yockey, Dallas Gilberson
Everett Yockey II, John Hutton, Leonard Gidley

Interment

Chico Cemetery
Chico, California

For those of you how did not know Jim very well.

I meet Jim about 10 years ago, when I came to the Museum and got involved in the Operating Department.

Over the years I found that Jim was a great guy. He enjoyed some of the same hobbies that I had. We shared some of the same interests.

Jim hosted an informal model railroad group at his home for several years. Jack Palmer and myself were able to visit Jim's home and see his rather large HO model layout.

One thing that I found out about, Jim, was he was a Scoutmaster, and Wood Badge Coordinator, and he had earned the Silver Beaver Award.

In 1993 Jim was presented the 2nd Glad Hand Award given by the FRRS for Outstanding Service.

Jim loved to help people, once you got to know him, he would give you a hand no matter what.

We will all miss Jim very much

Kerry Cochran for the FRRS