

501 IS PRESERVED

The jewel of our locomotive collection arrived February 13th on the STSC from Stockton. The former WP 501, WP's first diesel locomotive, a 1939 SW-1, was donated to our Rail Society by Corn Products Company who used it to switch grain cars at their Stockton plant. The 501 needed some wheel work, which Union Pacific did for us at the Stockton Diesel Shop. The unit was brought into our facility soon after it was set on our interchange track and was immediately the center of attention. As the unit was in running condition when donated, we filled the radiator with water and with a boost from 608's batteries the engine came to life and moved under its own power; the first time this engine operated in Portola in 49 years! It's almost funny to look at the V-6 engine block when you are used to seeing V-16's, but those 6 cylinders put out enough power for our needs. On Sunday some detail work was done including cleaning corn starch from the horn and bell, replacing the engineer and fireman seats and the door handle repaired. The independent brake valve was overhauled and returned to its proper function. Norm Holmes, Debbie Joyner (new member and volunteer who enjoyed her first day), Jim Ley, Dan Robirds, and Hank Stiles were doing the miscellaneous detail work. Later Ken Roller cleaned the cab and washed the exterior. Dan Robirds found a leak in an air brake cylinder and decided to go through all four cylinders and replace diaphragms, etc. We have a nice little switch engine and a very historic addition to our collection, thanks to Corn Products Co.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Our revised By-laws call for the election of three of the seven members of the Board of Directors to take office in June, 1988. John Ryczkowski, Dave McClain and Jim Ley's terms expire. Anyone wishing to run for these vacancies is asked to submit a short biographical statement with their names. To be eligible you must be an active, family or life member. Deadline for applicants is May 1, 1988. Ballots will be mailed to eligible members to be counted at the June 18, 1988 membership meeting. Applicants are expected to attend monthly Board meetings and be active in museum work.

TICKETS FOR GUATEMALA TRIP

Enclosed are two tickets for the Guatemala Trip from Charter Tours who have donated this adventure to benefit our fundraising for the new depot. You are not obligated to buy them but if you decide to do so they are \$2.00 each or 6 for \$10.00. Refer to last TRAIN SHEET for details.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for bearing with us while we learn the ropes of putting out a newsletter. We had some unexpected help in the form of our cat, Sam, who kept rearranging the articles on the page. I hope you will be patient with us in the future while we are learning.

From Shannon and Robin Smith