

RAILROAD DAYS A SUCCESS

For a while it looked like the Feather River Railroad Days event would not happen this year. Then John Steffanic, last year chairman, agreed to head this year's event. It was decided to have the event only on Saturday, August 26. A parade was scheduled for 11 AM, spike driving at 2:30 PM and other events throughout the day. Meadwhile at the museum we had spent the previous two weeks readying the building & grounds for the crowds. The paint booth was removed and the pit covered with wafer board, the walls and floor were washed, garbage cans placed, our new museum owned porta-potties (portotoilets?) serviced and numerous other odd jobs completed.

On Friday afternoon three model railroad clubs began setting up their layouts. The Nevada Railroaders from Carson City and Thunder Mountain from Sacramento, both regulars from previous years in HO gauge. New this year was a group of O guage model enthusiasts from Sacramento. The layouts pretty well filled the diesel house.

We had music again this year with the Union Pacific quartet invited by Skip Englert and the Good Time Guys friends of Maylou Smith alternating on Saturday afternoon. They performed from a stage made from a flat car moved onto track two. On Sunday the Good Time Guys played from the stage and also on the trains. This may be the last time we hear the quartet as UP is disbanding the group.

Train service operated from 11 AM to 5 PM on Saturday with three diesels alternating with two train sets. Most trains had capacity loads. On Sunday steamer No. 8 joined two diesels which operated from 10 AM to 4 PM. We had a full parking lot both days, but as there were no city park activities on Sunday our passenger count was about one-third of Saturdays.

We are greatly indebted to five Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum of Carson City for their assistance. These people helped in various positions both days and showed us how professional and dedicated they were. Without their help our work would have been much harder. We hope we will be able to return the favor next year at one of their events. We wish also to thank all those Rail Society members numbering over 30 who helped make the event a success. We especially wish to thank Steve Habeck who spent most of his summer time off at the museum, driving all the way up from Los Osos and Ed Crary from Mtn. View who came up for a few days and spent several weeks.

We now have a new directional sign on Road A-15, replacing the "temporary" sign erected five years ago. The new sign, painted by Gentry Signs, was installed by Norm Holmes and Gordon Wollesen.

The plastic paint booth is no more. The morning of Aug. 17, 5 members of the Outlaws, co-ed soft ball team along with six Rail Society members took down in one and one-half hours what took three days to build. The plastic had deteriorated, the space was needed and painting within the structure would have required exhaust fans and breathing apparatus. Besides a lot of locomotives are painted out of doors. Most of the lumber was salvaged for future use. The ball team wanted to help to get things ready for Railroad Days. Maylou Smith, a neighbor told them of our needs and they responded. Thanks...

Norm Holmes and Dean Hill drove to Westwood July 4th and returned with a gas powered welder and 250 gal. fuel tank donated by George Crandall. Dean has painted the tank and eaves of the oil house silver.

Brian Challender welded cracks in the low bed trailer. Phil Webb worked on the east roll-up door, replacing the side guides.

APPOINTMENT

George Oels, retired WP engineer has been appointed Road Foreman of Engines, replacing Bob Larson. George's first duty was to make test runs with Hank Stiles and Steve Habeck to qualify them as passenger train engineers. Both Hank and Steve have now been ok'd by the Portola City Council.

LIFE MEMBERS

Tom Brann and Drew Lewis (Pres. of UP Corp.) are our latest life time members. Welcome and thank you.

TRAIN SHEET EDITOR

We are again without a Train Sheet Editor. Dave Waters has been unable to devote the time necessary to get our publication back on time and has resigned. He did a beautiful job with computer graphics etc. and we thank him for his work. Anyone interested in helping in this department?

We wish to thank our membership for their patience during this period. We will do the best we can to get the Train Sheet to you ASAP. John Ryczkowski's HEADLIGHT also is delayed, but John promises an issue before year's end...