

# Donations, Donations...

Union Pacific Railroad donated another crane to our museum. This 40 year old relic was retired by the railroad as in need of repair and no longer needed, being replaced some time ago by newer, larger capacity equipment. KK 10 is a rubber tired boom truck crane built by Silent Hoist & Crane, Chicago Mfg. Co., date unknown. It has a capacity of 10,000 lbs. and has hydraulic controls. It was last used by the car department in Portola. At least one other Krane Kar was owned by the WP and was last seen in Stockton painted WP green and orange.

We made some repairs and the unit has already been used to move some track material for Ken Roller. Its long boom makes it handy to reach across a track or into a box car and its rubber tires enable it to maneuver more easily around our facility. We are now well equipped with cranes having the 5 ton Burro, 50 ton Industrial Brownhoist, 200 ton Industrial Brownhoist, all on railroad wheels and our 20 ton Little Giant rubber tired truck crane. Our other material handling equipment includes a 4,000 lb. capacity fork lift truck and a 3/4 cu. yd. front end loader. It takes a lot of equipment to help us with our work at the museum and thanks to Union Pacific and government surplus we are well equipped.

Other donations: Herman Schultze donated two trolley pole end sections from a Sacramento Northern interurban car, an air tank, several steam gauges and a WP locomotive diagram book. Rick Joy and Joy Engineering donated several hours of grading time to spread gravel on our entrance road and to level an area where we will build more car storage tracks.

Ed Warren decided to move from Massachusetts to Nevada a few years ago and volunteered to help our museum by keeping our membership files up to date and to be editor of our bi-monthly newsletter. Ed is a "computer nut" and has kept all our records with his Apple Macintosh computer. Ed bought a new Mac computer and asked FRRS President Norm Holmes if he could use his old MAC Plus. Norm had been using a 30 year old Royal electric typewriter and keeping Gift Shop and museum records on paper at the Museum's office in his home. Norm had reservations about accepting Ed's offer as it's hard to teach an old dog new tricks. However, in trying to keep up with progress, Norm accepted the offer and is now learning at a speedy pace all the tricks that a computer can do.

Donations are not all one-sided. On May 28, 1992, fourteen patients from the Eastern Plumas Hospital were brought to the museum for a tour and train ride. Patients in wheel chairs were helped onto the cabooses. No charge was made for the ride which was really enjoyed by all.

David Dewey learned of a cable car truck on a farm near Chico. The property was being sold and the owner wanted to get rid of the junk. David asked if we were interested in acquiring the truck, and although a cable car truck does not fit into our collection, we felt it should be saved. Hank Stiles drove our pickup and trailer to Chico and brought the truck to Portola. It was determined the truck belonged to Market Street Railway, Sacramento & Clay Street cable car No. 25, built in 1908. The cable car route was abandoned in 1942 and the cars disposed of in 1944. All the cars were scrapped, probably, except for No. 19 which is part of Muni's historic collection and No. 16 which until recently reposed on the roof of the Emporium at Fifth & Market.

The Market Street Railway was bought by the City of San Francisco in 1944. The new Market Street Railway is a group of electric railway enthusiasts who acquire, restore and operate equipment on the Municipal Railway of San Francisco trackage. The MSR acquired cable car 16, had it removed from the Emporium's roof and plans to restore the car. It had only one truck. Guess what? We have a truck which we gladly donated to the MSR group.

Earlier this year we overlooked the donation of an important addition to our permanent collection of historical equipment. Back in December, 1984, John Ryczkowski bought a 40 foot wood WP-PFE refrigerator car body from a dealer in Stockton. Included in the deal was a pair of trucks and couplers from WP box car MW 8111. The refer, PFE 52138 built 4-1924 and rebuilt 11-40, was sold for a storage building when WP disposed of its refrigerator car fleet in the early 1950's. Most of the cars were burned at West Stockton yard. A few of the car bodies were sold for various uses, most had their steel frames removed. Lucky for 52138 it still had its frame. John moved the car to Portola and intended to rebuild it before donating it to the museum, however other pressing demands on his time led to his decision to donate the car to FRRS at this time. Thanks to John's foresight another piece of WP's equipment had been preserved.

(Now here is a rebuilding project for someone to tackle, any takers???)



We regret to inform you that Bill, one of the museum's pet cats, passed away on June 3, 1992.

Bill was given a complete veterinary exam on March 28, 1992 and was given a clean bill of health at that time. Just after that, Bill wandered off from the museum. A week later returning from this week of "retreat," Bill was sick, run down, in a weak condition and had an injury that appeared to have been caused by an animal attack. Hap Mani and others fed and took care of Bill who took off again on May 28, 1992. On June 2, 1992, after returning this time, Bill looked so much worse than before that Hap knew he had to make the trip to the vet in a hurry.

On June 3, 1992, the vet reported that Bill's blood count was so low that he would be unable to do further tests and that there was no hope of ever having Bill be a healthy cat again. With no other choice, Bill was put to sleep at 6 PM on

this day.

A fact that many people did not know was that Bill was a female cat. The remaining museum pet cat, Bandit, is an offspring of Bill.

Marie Lindley, the owner of Bottle Annie's Shop, had a fund for a stray pet shelter, which instead she had donated to the museum some time ago to take care of the 2 museum cats. This fund's purpose has been to pay only for vet bills; cat food is donated by generous members. Because of Bill's recent vet bills, this fund is now totally depleted. Hank Stiles and Hap Mani have made donations to help rebuild the fund. Please send us your donation (and mark it "The Cat Fund") so that we may continue to pay for Bandit's vet checkups, etc. Bandit, and up until now, Bill, have always added character to the museum.