

New Shop Wiring

Thanks to a grant from Bank of America, we were able to have the work shop bays wired for the shop machinery located therein. Local electrical contractor Dave Siler took on the job which started May 19, 1996 and he finished the job June 24. He has another business, so he was able to work only on Sundays and Mondays. Now we can finally eliminate the extension cords and have our shop in order. A considerable amount of money was saved when Norm found a supply of new disconnects at the State Surplus yard in Sacramento.

1996 Operating Season Opening

The weather cooperated this year except for a short period of clouds so that our season opening was well attended. Our members cooperated too inasmuch as we had enough people to fill all the positions needed. The train crews consisted of Don Borden, Kerry Cochran, Bob Felton, Paul Finnegan, Tom Graham, Jim Gidley, Sr., Steve Habeck, Norm Holmes, Ken Iverson, Harold Lantz, Judy and Melissa McGrath, Jack Palmer, Hank Stiles and Gordon Wollesen. The Beanery was staffed by Sue and Bruce Cooper, Lolli Bryan, Shirisha Lantz and Emery Godard. In the Gift Shop Barbara Holmes was assisted by Norm and Hap Manit.

Sounds

On June 13, 14, 1996 two men from Germany arrived in Portola to record engine, horn and bell sounds for Marklin Trains. The recordings will be used to set up digital train sounds for their line of model railroad equipment. The units used were F7 921D, FPA4 6776 and SD9 4404. Arrangements for the recording session were made by Dr. Thomas Catherall, a professor at Brigham Young University. Norm Holmes ran the units, blew the horns and rang the bells. Our neighbors probably wondered what was going on. Five hours were used to make the recording. Payment was at the rent-a-locomotive rate. They said it was very hard to find these early diesel sounds and were very pleased with the session and cooperation from our museum.

Publicity

Jonathan Mumm from Channel 10 in Sacramento came to Portola and did a short segment, called a "post card" showing our locomotive rental program. That same night Skip Englert, received over 60 calls and booked a large number of rentals. This type of publicity is very valuable and often unattainable.

A week later, Bob McKenzie from Channel 2 in Oakland came to Eastern Plumas County to do a segment and visited the museum.

Charters

We operated eight school charters during May and June. The students are given a caboose ride twice around the balloon track and Ken Roller then takes them on a guided tour of the Museum.

New FRRS Life Member

The following person is the newest FRRS Life Member:

Douglas Grigg

More Rail

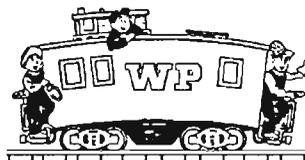
Last year we purchased 108 lengths of 85 lb. rail from the old mill at Grays Flat, which is near Twain, in the Feather River Canyon. This rail had been pulled up and disconnected.

The remaining rail was still spiked to ties and bolted together. On June 8 and 9, 1996, Norm Holmes, Wayne Monger, Doug Morgan and Vic Neves pulled the spikes, unbolted the angle bars and broke loose the rail encrusted in two crossings. Our air compressor that Bruce Cooper had just finished overhauling the engine on was towed to Grays Flat and with our one-inch impact wrench made unbolting the angle bars much easier. This is hard work and in Doug's words, "You couldn't pay me to do this." Next will be to drag the 43 pieces of rail into piles for loading and transporting to Portola.

New FRRS Members

Please welcome the following new FRRS members:

Ken Anderson, Jim Baker, Gerald Bernard, Frank Brehm, Colorado Railroad Museum, Alan Dahl, Doug Dickson, R. & J. Eaton, Peter Ehrlich, Mark Fageol, Marc Kay, Larry Koenig, Doug Macomber, Paul Mangelsdorf, Rich Mehr, Jim Misch, Paul Osman, Gregory Smith, Jack Sypolt, Lawrence Udell, Franklin Whitman, John Wilson



Caboosing

...with Hap Manit

The Museum's Diary

- Some of the activity going on at the museum:
- April 27-28, 1996 Tom Graham with help from several other members moved the parts washing tank into place and worked on the shop area.
 - May 3, 1996 Hot water exists at last in the rest rooms thanks to Gordon Wollesen.
 - May 5-6, 1996 Peter Layman worked on electrical system of engines 707 & 731.
 - May 10-11, 1996 Tom Graham and Ken Iverson repaired water leak on 6776, Clyde Lippincott and Bob Lindley worked on shower car.
 - May 12-13, 1996 Ken and Missy Iverson collated Train Sheet.
 - May 14-15, 1996 Norm and Barbara Holmes mailed Train Sheet.
 - May 14, 1996 Ed Powell repaired steps to 6946 and troop sleeper.
 - May 17, 1996 Gordon Wollesen put power to VIA sleeper.
 - May 18, 1996 Lolli Bryan, Terry Decottignies, Steve Habeck, Norm Holmes, Ken Iverson, Clyde Lippincott, Doug Morgan, Vic Neves, Hank Stiles and Gordon Wollesen cleaned shop building for season opening. Clyde graded entrance road and parking lot.
 - May 21, 1996 Ken and Doug leveled shower car which was 1 1/2 inches out of plumb.
 - May 25, 1996 Ken repaired headlight for steamer 737, Ken and Norm placed headlight and diamond stack on locomotive.
 - June 16, 1996 David Dewey delivered a 300 pound supply of bolts bought from a hardware store in Oroville that went out of business.