

CMO Report

By Hank Stiles

We have had a very productive year at the museum. With this I am not only speaking as CMO but also as a member of the Board of Directors. Your Board of Directors has taken many steps to improve the museum and become more businesslike in the management of the museum. I am proud to be part of this; it is an exciting time for our museum. Please come to a meeting and put in your two cents worth.

(Stand down from soap box).

This year has also been very productive for the Mechanical Department. New faces have been seen peering into the innards of many of our locomotives. New people have brought new skills to use and to teach. I, myself, have learned much from these people and I for one wish to say thank you to those who have come to the museum and taken the time to teach me more of the ins and outs of motive power. The satisfaction of taking a machine that will not perform correctly, diagnosing the problem, making necessary repairs and then seeing it run as it should, make all the blood, sweat and busted knuckles a small price to pay.

Projects that are now going on in the Mechanical Department include more work on the cylinder liner on the WP 608 that was leaking, rebuilding the right battery box on the WP 725 that time and battery acid have removed a large part of, more work on the WP 2001 electrical control systems, cylinder liner leaks on the WP 805-A and air compressor repairs on VIA 6860, just to hit a few at the top of the list. Helping on these and other projects on the weekend of October 19 & 20, 1996 were Dick Hulbert and his friends from the Sacramento area, Al Onodera, David Burke, Paul Sanger and Ben Hale. They jumped in with both feet and I hope they enjoyed being in Portola as much as we enjoyed having them.

Thanks go to the many people who have come up to the Locomotive Maintenance Clinics this year; they have been a big help with keeping things running as well as they do. The clinics are all done for this year, but they will be back next year on the first full weekend of every month, April thru October. I hope to see many of you there to help. Just think when we get all the repairs done on all our equipment we will have nothing to do but take them out and run them, I mean test them.

Things are slowing down in Portola now, but they don't stop. Anyone that would like to come up is welcome. Call me (my number is on the front of this Train Sheet) and maybe I can meet you up there or at least I can point you to things that need to be done. You may call if you would just like to talk about things in the Mechanical Department, or the museum in general. If anyone has some project that they would like to see started please talk to me and we will develop a plan to get that piece of equipment up and going, I need more project managers. Ideas and suggestions are gladly accepted.

Hank.

Movie Time

Except for two non-profit PBS-TV filmings we have not had a commercial film organization using our museum equipment. This changed October 19, 1996 when AXIOM Entertainment shot a film for a TV commercial. The film was done on speculation, but had a story line featuring Levi's 501 Jeans. Most of the filming was done in our Santa Fe diner with the VIA sleeper and heavyweight Pullman as support cars. SP GP-9 2873 was the power with a run-by shot of

805A-925C and 921D pushed by FM 1857. Judy McGrath, Steve Habeck and Gordon Wollesen were the crew members. Hap Manitt, Ken and Missy Iverson were involved as actors, Norm Holmes and Gordon worked the run-by shot.

We have lots of equipment that could be used in filming and hope we can obtain more of this work in the future.

Donations

We received from Frank Rowe: 6 Kerosene marker lamps, 3 brass long neck oil cans, 2 luggage racks, 1 hand crank telephone, 1 telegraph sounder, 2 ticket daters, the front number plate from WP 158 and some posters. Frank was the agent for WP in Reno before he retired. From Mrs. John Borgsteadt we received a very large 1911 PUC railroad map of California. From Bill Breiner, former WP Train Master, we received a set of 4 neckties that were given to shippers in the 1950's and a number of photographs of train accidents. We really appreciate the thoughtfulness of these donations.

More Help Wanted

We are still in need of someone to write grants for our museum. There is money out there just waiting for us to ask for it. We just need someone who has the ability and time to make the application.

We have at least 3 dozen fire extinguishers that need repair and/or recharging. This is something that someone with the skill and knowledge can take home, fix and return at their leisure. There are a lot of small jobs here that could be taken home to do such as painting our folding chairs. If you would like a project contact Steve, Gordon or Norman and we're sure we can find something for you to do.

Photo Call For FRRS 1997 Calendar

Black and White photos are needed for next year's calendar. Anything in the Western Pacific theme is preferred. Black & white only.

Send To:

Vic Neves, FRRS VP
P.O. Box 23721
Oakland, CA 94623-0721

Show Time

This is the time of the year when we sign up for railro-diana shows. Already we have had a GATS show in Costa Mesa and Reno and the Southern California meet at La Habra. We want to thank Ken Hitch for doing the So. Cal. shows and Lolli Bryan and Linda Lippincott for doing the Reno show. Coming up are:

The International Railfair in Roseville November 9-10.
GATS show in San Bernardino November 16-17.
GATS show at the Alameda County Fairgrounds Nov. 23-24.
GATS show in Vallejo December 8.

For members living in the area where the shows are scheduled, this is your opportunity to visit our table and talk to our representative and purchase our merchandise. All our people are volunteers and all proceeds go to forward our museum collection.