

From the Desk of the President



As I'm writing this, it has been over six weeks since the devastating floods of New Year's week in northern and central California, and western Nevada. This area is home to the vast majority of the FRRS membership, and we have heard many stories from many of our friends and members who have been impacted by these floods in some way. We sympathize with those who have suffered losses; we also realize that we were lucky. The Museum grounds, separated from the river by the UP yard, were spared the flooding that properties along the river in Portola endured. During the height of the storm, all highways to/from Quincy were severed, isolating that area for three days. Portola was also tough to get to for a time, with the Two Rivers slide to the west, minor slides on highway 89 toward Truckee, and flooding in the Sierra Valley to the east.

But, through determined efforts by CalTrans and their contractors, most of the roads are now open. Even the Canyon may be open to controlled traffic around the clock by April, and if you haven't seen the extent of the damage in the Canyon, you would be amazed that it's even open at all. The UP is expected to be running trains again in the Canyon by the time you read this; even the railroad's shutdown lasted over two months, compared to a two-week shutdown after the flood in 1986.

The Museum is slowly being awakened from the slumber of the off-season. Several projects are already in progress, as weather and manpower allow, and preparations are starting for the upcoming season. Plan on coming up and seeing what's going on; the remaining evidence of the floods will still be impressive, and we might even have some surprises for you. Remember, it's your support that makes it happen.

Steve Habeck

A Word From the Executive Director

Nineteen-ninety-nine is the 90th Anniversary of the completion of the Western Pacific Railroad. It is also our organization's 15th anniversary and the state of California is planning to celebrate its sesquicentennial.

It would seem appropriate that our museum have an event to go along with California's celebration. We would be interested in having your input as to ideas. It's not too early to start planning.

Norm Holmes

Funds Report

	Additions	Balance
Building	2142.25	16,665.25 (1)
WP 805A	-	-
WP GP-9's	200.00	11,754.75
SP 1215	1,265.00	2,535.22
UP 737	-	-
IR 110-1	-	-
UP 105	50.00	50.00 (2)
CTC Board	-	200.00

(1) Income from raffle tickets

(2) Memorial donation for Roger Aten

The FRRS Needs You

(And Annual Meeting Date Change)

Once again, it's time (already) to start thinking about coming to the forefront in shaping the future of your Society. We are now soliciting volunteers to step forward and run for election to the FRRS Board of Directors.

This year, the Board seats currently held by Bruce Cooper, Sue Cooper, Clyde Lippincott, and Wayne Monger are up for election. Per the terms of the Bylaws change passed by the Membership in 1996, the candidates receiving the three highest vote counts in the upcoming election will be elected to three-year terms, to expire in 2000, and the fourth-place candidate will be elected to a one-year term, to expire in 1998. The election results will be tabulated at the FRRS Annual Meeting and Dinner, which will now be held at the Museum on Saturday, June 14, 1997. Note that this date is changed from what was put out on the FRRS Calendar of Events that was sent out with the last Train Sheet. This change was necessary due to the FRRS involvement in a "Dunsmuir Daylight" Amtrak excursion (Sacramento-Dunsmuir-Black Butte and return) being planned for Saturday, June 21, 1997, in conjunction with Dunsmuir's summer-time event. (For more on this excursion, see Norm's article elsewhere in this issue.)

The Society really needs people who are concerned about the future of the FRRS and the Portola Railroad Museum to consider running for a Board seat. There are no special qualifications required to serve on the Board; the ONLY requirement is that you be an FRRS Member in good standing, at the Active membership level or above (only Associate and Historical members are NOT eligible). Of course, it is desirable that you are able to attend most of the monthly Board of Directors meetings, normally held on the third Sunday of each month, in or near Portola. It is at these meetings that the direction of the FRRS is being determined.

If you, or any member you know, are interested in running for election, we need to hear from you. Send your name, and a candidacy statement (preferably 100 words or less) to President Steve Habeck by US Mail to the FRRS address (P. O. Box 608, Portola, CA 96122) or by E-mail to my address (it's in the masthead of each issue of the Train Sheet). The deadline for submission of names and candidacy statements is May 1, 1997, to give us time to prepare and send out the ballots to the Membership before the Annual Meeting.

I challenge you, the members, to become more active in deciding the future of the Society. It is a serious responsibility, challenging at times, but also exciting and rewarding. It is an opportunity to help shape the future of the FRRS, and of railroad preservation. Thank you.

Steve Habeck

AGAIN

The date of the FRRS Annual Meeting and Dinner has been changed to Saturday, June 14, 1997. Note that this date is changed from what was put out on the FRRS Calendar of Events that was sent out with the last Train Sheet. This change was necessary due to the FRRS involvement in a "Dunsmuir Daylight" Amtrak excursion train.