

a transfer cut to get to UP Stockton yard. After arriving Phil had to intervene again to prevent it being returned to BNSF. Finally we got the car in a train going to Portola, however it was set out with other cars in Oroville where it rested for three days. It made it to Portola on Christmas eve. It will be set over to museum trackage when the UP gets the opportunity.

We have four locomotives acquired during the year that are not yet at the museum. Former Alco S-4 WP 563 from Foster Farms, Quincy RR 44 ton GE No. 3 and Alco S-1 No. 4, former WP 504 and another GE 44 ton for parts only, SLG&W 2. The 563 is in process of moving as we speak, the other units will be moved as soon as possible. Already at the museum is a 60 foot TTX flat car that we used to transport the UP 737/SP216 4-4-0 from Scranton. This car was donated to our organization by TTX. The car still has some time in its 40 year life so can be used if needed.

## **BOARD CHANGES**

As reported in the Sept-Oct issue of the Train Sheet, Steve Habeck resigned from the Board of Directors and from President of the FRRS. Harold "Skip" Englert stepped up from first Vice-President to the position of President. Skip was instrumental in helping Norman Holmes' efforts to obtain the 921-D which essentially started the Portola Railroad Museum. Skip was also the man who started Feather River Railroad Days in 1983. He always supported the museum and has most recently been involved with our run-a-locomotive program. Steve has been looking for employment out of the area and this is why he reluctantly resigned. At this writing he is still living in Spring Garden and working for Sierra Pacific Industries.

To fill the vacant Board position the members present at the November Board meeting appointed Tom Graham to fill the vacancy until the next election in June, 1998. Tom has been involved with

the museum since 1991. He lives in Santa Rosa and purchased a house in Portola to have a place to stay when working at the museum.

Bruce and Sue Cooper resigned from the Board effective 12:01 AM December 15. Their positions were filled at the December meeting by Martin "Marty" Anderson and Don Borden. They also will serve until the June, 1998, elections. Marty is the manager for PG&E operations in Quincy and Don is a fire captain from Redding. Both have been active in museum operations for a number of years.

## **RAFFLE**

Five opportunity drawing tickets were enclosed with the Sept-Oct issue of the Train Sheet. Chris Skow generously donates a free trip on any of his Train Unlimited, Tours each year. The winner has the choice of any of the North American tours offered in 1998. Over \$16,000 has been raised for our building fund by this method. You are encouraged to participate in this fund raising effort by sending in your five ticket stubs with \$30. Additional tickets are available by making a request to the museum address. You have a much better chance of winning than by entering a sweepstakes or the lottery. Winner will be announced May 2, 1998.

## **A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Another year has passed and while our accomplishments were not as great as I had hoped for we none the less had a good year. Our run-a-locomotive program did better than in 1996, our visitor count was about the same and our membership seems to have stabilized at a little over one thousand. 1998 will bring changes and improvements. I would like to see progress in our restoration department, particularly. People like to see things painted. Even if the mechanical work isn't done appearance counts, it

looks like we are doing something. The two WP GP9's are my first choice for paint.

Our Board of Directors make up has changed and the new people have new ideas. These ideas need to be directed to the betterment of the Society and the museum. Our visitors like what we have and enjoy the freedom to roam around our facility. While we are not a pristine museum like Sacramento or Carson City, we are different because we represent a railroad facility, but we still need to be visitor friendly.

Our Western Pacific Railroad Historical Society arm has presented a proposal to establish a library to store, catalog and make available our archives. We need to find a suitable location for this to be accomplished. Our endowment fund is growing and the income from this, when our goal is reached, will give us the funds to have at least one paid staff member. We have the opportunity to apply for two Federal grants and there are private foundation grants that might be available to our organization. We just have to try.

Volunteers are the back bone of our organization and we are very grateful for all the hours they put in. They could be at home doing "honey-do's" or fishing or something, instead they come to the museum at their own expense to help preserve the industrial technology of railroading for the public to enjoy. I can never thank these people enough, for without them we would have to close the gates.

Thanks to all who have sent Christmas cards, Barbara and I hope you all have a wonderful New Year.

—*Norm Holmes*

PS: Those of you who visited the museum during the past eight years may have met our dog "Goldie". I am sorry to report she is no longer with us, having died from an enlarged heart. She is missed.



Courtesy John Ryczkowski

## CABOOSING BY HAP MANIT

### Some activities at the museum...

**November 1,3** Tom Graham, Melissa McGrath painted battery house interior.

**November 2** Contractor installed electric service to office (guard) car.

**November 3** Doug Morgan and Ken Iverson loaded batteries to ship to rebuilder in Sacramento.

**November 4** Doug Morgan hauled batteries to Sacramento.

**November 8** Doug Morgan, Don Nelson and Ken Roller worked on ramp track, Steve Habeck, Gordon Wollesen and Nancy Parsons prepared locomotives for winter.

**November 10** Contractor installed phone service in office car.

**November 13-15** Doug Morgan set up phone etc in office car.

**November 16** Boy Scout Troop stays overnight in Troop Sleeper.

**November 23** Hank Stiles brought table saw and pallets from State Surplus in Sacramento.

**Nov-Dec** Doug Morgan, Ken Iverson and a paid mechanic worked on our dump truck and borrowed Whiting jacks in preparation for moving WP 563 from Livingston. Ken Roller escorted visitors and showed model railroad. Lolli Bryan, Hap Manit and Norm Holmes opened Gift Shop for visitors. Gordon Wollesen prepared plumbing for winter and did treasurers work. Norm Holmes did museum office work.

### —GIFT SHOP NEWS—

Ken Hitch represented our museum at Great America Train Show events in San Bernardino and Costa Mesa in October, Barbara and Norman Holmes worked a GATS show in Pleasanton and the International Railfair in Roseville in November. Ken will work a GATS show in Santa Barbara January 3-4, and a Bakersfield MR club show January 17-18.

Barbara and Norman will have GATS shows in Sacramento January 24-25 and in San Francisco February 14-15. If you are in the area stop by and say