

contribute whatever amount that you can. Every dollar we raise will help us towards having an engine that we can be proud of at RailFair '99. So please make your checks out to FRRS, 2001 Fund and mail them to 2001 Project, Portola Railroad Museum PO Box 608 Portola CA 96122-0608. When you see the 2001 at RailFair '99 this year you will know it was a wise investment on your part.

I trust that all of you had as good of a holiday season as I had with my family and that your New Year is looking bright.

Thank you!

—**Hank “Flat Iron” Stiles**

OPERATING DEPARTMENT REPORT —JIM GIDLEY, SR.—

Have you ever been to the PRRM and seen the caboose train running with happy people riding it, or the switching of cars or engines? Have you thought to yourself, boy how I would like to be on the train crew and do that?

NOW IS THE TIME!

The 1999 Operating Dept train crew training date is April 24. This is on a Saturday. You may want to stay overnight at the museum and help around the museum on Sunday. The second training date is May 2. This is a Sunday, so you may want to help around the museum on Saturday, staying overnight and taking the crew training on Sunday. You will need to have a pencil, gloves, leather foot wear that protects your ankles, sack lunch or lunch in town, if staying overnight a sleeping bag, etc.

The crew training and annual rule exam will start at 10:00 AM, first with the rule exam. From 1:00 to 3:30 PM we will cover the qualification book, hand signals, how to throw switches, getting on and off moving trains, how train brakes work, and how to couple cars.

We do need your help. As the 1998 operating season wound down we did not have enough crew members to safely run a full caboose train and had to cancel them. With RailFair '99 going on in Sacramento June 18-27, we will be very short of crew members.

RailFair '99

RailFair '99 will be held in Old Sacramento for 10 days. PRRM will have #2001 there along with a Portola information booth. This is a great opportunity for you to help us. The information booth will have to be manned along with baby sitting the 2001. You do not have to be a member of the Operating Dept to help. Please bare in mind the museum in Portola will

also be open with trains running. Please let us know if you can be of help with dates and what you are willing to do in Portola or Sacramento. Thanks!

—**Jim Gidley, Sr.**

Senior Trainmaster

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—MAGNOLIA TOWER—

A fund has been established by the Feather River Rail Society to help save the former Magnolia Tower that protected the movements of trains between the WP and SP. Located in Oakland, this SP operated tower controlled the movement of SP trains between Kirkham St and Elmhurst Jct and the movements of WP trains across the SP into their Oakland yard. The tower at its closing had 10 power switches, 12 signal levers plus other misc. equipment. This tower operated from December 29, 1912 to June 23, 1994.

Currently an effort has been resurrected by Mike Huggins to save the tower in cooperation with the Port of Oakland, City of Oakland and the Union Pacific RR. FRRS would like to maintain the tower as a support to this effort. A preliminary site has been chosen along the mainline in Jack London Square, but a volunteer group would be needed to man it. The FRRS has been chosen for that group. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, please make it to the FRRS with a memo stating it's for the Magnolia Tower Fund. Please send it to FRRS, PO Box 608, Portola CA 96122. A special plaque will be displayed inside the tower recognizing everyone that contributed. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please drop me a line at PO Box 23721 Oakland CA 94623-0721 or E-mail me at Winterail@Compuserve.com.

—**Vic Neves, Director**

—FRRS 1999 DATES—

Feb20 Board Meeting.

Mar20 Board Meeting.

Apr03 Locomotive Maintenance Workday.

Apr10 Board Meeting.

Apr16-17 Historical Convention.

Apr24 Crew Training.

Apr25 Workday.

May01 Locomotive Maintenance Workday.

May02 Crew Training.

May15 Board Meeting, Annual Meeting, Election.

May29 Memorial Weekend, Opening Weekend

Jun05 Locomotive Maintenance Workday.

Jun19 Board Meeting.