

CMO Report

The WP 2001 was fired up at 1:13 PM. Tuesday the 11th of May. Smoke poured from the stack and loud cheers came from the mouths of all present. All radiators are watertight and the engine runs well. A through systems check will be made before it is pronounced serviceable. One of our members, Oden Lorimer, has volunteered to paint the zebra strips on the pilot, so this project is coming together well.

As reported in the last Train Sheet, WP 512 needs two cylinder heads changed out. This work has now been started only to stop when we found that some special tools and a "Head/ liner seating tool" are needed to complete the job. I am happy to report that these tools are now ordered so work will resume in the near future.

Work has started on servicing our locomotives for the 1999 season. The Locomotive Maintenance weekends have been a success so far this season. We can always use more people to help out with this work and no experience is required, so please come on up and you to can and help with this important work.

- Hank Stiles

Operating Department

A large number of members showed up to take the annual rules exam. One disappointment was the lack of new trainees. Because of a shortage of personnel in the operating department we have posted "Help Wanted" signs in various locations. There are currently days in the crew mark-up book with a critical shortage of qualified crew members or no crew members signed up at all. The Operating Department and the FRRS need your help. Crew training is fun and a good way to meet other members.

Newly qualified for 1999 are Don Bordon – Yard Engineer and William McGrath – Brakeman. Congratulations on your new qualifications.

- Jim Gidley Sr., Trainmaster

Gift Shop Report

Sales in the gift shop are slowly picking up. New book and video stock has been received. There is a new video tape covering the WP on hand and from my review it looks good. Trains didn't think it exactly lived up to its title because it covers an earlier period of the WP in addition to the "green era."

- Norm Holmes

Facilities Report

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Plans are under way for cleaning out two boxcars this year. This sounds like a minor venture but the contents of many of the boxcars at Portola are a mixture of stored material. It is not unlike cleaning out one's own garage. Imagine that chore then double or triple the effort.

Another project on tap is the scraping of a great deal of steel and other materials that have accumulated on the property. The present plans call for the placement of two scrap boxes and the disposal of scrap into the boxes until they are full. Materials are deemed useful will be retained and placed into storage racks. The goal is to clean out the tear-shaped median between the rip and track 1 on the West End so that displays of rip track parts and other items of interest can be set up.

There are many more projects under consideration. Volunteers are always needed for these projects. If you have the desire to participate your help will be appreciated. Our master goal is to clean up the property and make it safe and presentable for all who take the time to come to Portola.

Shop personnel are in the process of attempting to identify proper ownership of tools and equipment at the museum. If you have personal items at the museum please let us know and make arrangements to have those items marked and recorded. After 8-31-1999 any unidentified items will be considered FRRS property and subject to be marked as such.

- Doug Morgan