

From the Chairman

By Andy Anderson

As the winter season moves in there are several projects in the works that we will be pursuing that will hopefully improve the inner appearance of the museum building. I am pleased to report to you that the roof of the engine house has been completely refurbished recently. A "Great Thank You" is extended to the City of Portola and the County of Plumas for this accomplishment. Without their participation and interest in our museum this project could still be in the planning stage.

As I mentioned above our Facilities Manager Ken Iverson has several projects to keep him busy this winter and with luck bring to completion. Among them are refinishing the floors in the Beanery and the Gift Shop, replacement of two of the large roll up doors as well as upgrading the heating system in the Gift Shop. The doors are especially important because of safety concerns with the present doors. Other areas that will receive attention are compliance with ADA requirements and clean up of the oil house and the engine pan. As you can see there are many areas that will receive attention and I'm sure Ken would like to have any and all help you may be willing to give.

The Society is in the process of establishing a "Grant Writing Team" which will be in charge of writing grant proposals for submission to the many organizations that support 501(c)3 groups like ourselves. We are hopeful these submissions will lead to approvals, which will enable us to receive grant money. With grant money we are hoping to accomplish some of the goals and objectives that up to this time have been in the "I wish we could state".

One project nearing completion is the movement of Magnolia Tower from the Bay area to the museum grounds. Some unexpected delays have postponed the dismantling and movement of the tower but we are hopeful that this portion of the project will occur in the very near future. We must again thank the community for the support they have shown by having the insight and willingness to help save this historic building from the wrecker's ball.

We have many exciting projects that have been discussed but have languished for lack of volunteers. Some just need a push with a member volunteer to assume the lead in planning, coordinating, working, and seeing the project through completion. I am hoping this will improve in the next year with many more members becoming involved with the Society.

In closing I would again stress that volunteer help is the backbone of our Society and efforts. I would like to remind you that any and all members are encouraged to participate and be a part in any area that is of interest to them. My slogan has been '**Lets Do What Is Best For The Society**' and participation of our members is indeed what is best for it.

As the saying goes "you don't have to call – just show up" and I guarantee you a hearty and warm welcome.

Mechanical Department

By Hank Stiles

The Portola Railroad Museum made a giant step forward in September when we took 14 pieces of equipment to Truckee Railroad Days. We have taken equipment to Railfair at California State Railroad Museum twice before, but this was the first time we have attempted anything like this.

We only had a handful of days to get all the work done so we could make the move to Reno via the Reno branch and then to Truckee via the old Central Pacific route. I had my doubts that we could get all the work done on time. I talked to Doug Morgan and he thought that we could do it. I thought that he was crazy, but I trusted Doug and we started to work. With the help of a long list of members and many 14 to 16 hour days we finished the morning we left Portola.

With the WP 707 on the point, Steve Habeck as engineer, myself as conductor, the train left town. After many stops to check the equipment, we made the last move over the old WP/SP interchange and into the yard at Sparks. The next day the UP tore it out to rebuild it. About a week later, UP took the whole train to Truckee.

After a great show in Truckee the UP moved everything back to Reno. When the interchange was re-installed, Rod McClure and Steve Habeck, with a lot of help, including the Reno local got it all back to Portola.

We showed the flag and made hundreds of dollars doing it. This was an extremely successful outing for our museum. Many thought that we could not do it, but once again we proved what the Feather River Rail Society is made of. We should all be proud of the members that stepped forward to accomplish this Herculean task.

So many people stepped forward to help, and I was so busy that I failed to keep track of the names, so I will not attempt to name everyone. You know who you are and you have my heartfelt thanks, along with thanks of the membership.

At the museum the equipment is well. Not to say that there are not things that I would like to upgrade. I don't think we will ever reach a time that we have everything done that we would like to do. I think that that would go against the natural order of things. We just keep moving ahead at whatever pace we can, given the manpower that we have. (Small hint to come up and help out.) Things are pretty well shut down for the winter. We will continue to do rentals as long as we can.

Soon we will have a blanket of snow. I like the time of year when the snow is on the ground, the sun is shining and everything is dead still. What a sight. Then you remember that you have to get out the backhoe and plow the pretty stuff. I guess that we cannot have everything, but it is nice to have the beauty that winter brings us.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.