

Volunteer Facilities

By Tom Graham

Completion of the Lounge Car and a Locker Car are planned next for use by volunteers working at the museum. As you know there has been considerable discussion about the use of the Lounge car and what work is to be done on it. At this time, although not cast in stone, most of the discussion approves the use of the Lounge Car for member use.

The alterations proposed will be along the same lines as were done on the Sleeper. Some electrical upgrade and the installation of air conditioning. A wall and some seats will be removed. Nothing planned will destroy the integrity of the car or it's ability to be moved.

I will be available on Saturday the 11th to answer any questions and time permitting, go through the car with anyone who wishes.

The locker car will be a place where members can have space to store their belongings for a weekend or season. The present plan is to use the Santa Fe caboose that has been stripped. Nothing planned will destroy the integrity of the car or it's ability to be moved. It needs a thorough cleaning and repairs to the floor, walls, windows and interior paint. Some lights will be installed but not a major electrical project.

The Society has a number of lockers that can be repaired and painted for use on this project. The caboose would then be placed next to the Sleeper for easy access with the approval of the Facilities Manager and the Yard Master.

As the caboose has already been gutted and we will not be changing the outward appearance, the feeling is that the Board can approve this use. Projected cost for the Lounge is \$7,000 and for the Locker car \$900.

Membership Cards, Info Signs

By Eugene John Vicknair

In the coming weeks, FRRS members will begin receiving brand new membership cards as they make or renew their memberships.

The will come as a tear-out on a new membership welcoming letter, a move designed to make the work of creating new cards easier while giving members valuable information about the FRRS and its programs.

This letter will also include museum information such as phone numbers, hours, special events, and a location map. Member Eugene Vicknair with guidance from membership chairman Kerry Cochran designed the cards.

Also, prototypes of new equipment information signs debuted at the Railfair in Truckee. These signs give historical and technical information about our collection and close an important gap in our presentation to the public. The signs were warmly received and

answered the questions of many eager visitors. The prototype signs will be replaced with all-weather vinyl signs in the spring. About 20 pieces of equipment, mostly locomotives, will have the signs initially. They will eventually cover the entire core collection.

The signs were also designed and created by member Vicknair, who also donated the materials for the prototypes.

A majority of the historical information for them was provided by Norman Holmes, Doug Morgan, Vic Neves, Frank Brehm and Eugene Vicknair. The portable stands for the signs were constructed by the members of the FRRS crew at Truckee, including Norman Holmes, Vic Neves, Dwight (whose last name I misplaced), Doug Morgan, Ed Powell, and Jim Ley. Welding for the stands was arranged by Shioban Smart of Truckee.

Thanks to everyone who contributed!

Operating Department

By Jim Gidley Sr.

Caboose trains were difficult to run this last operating season when on some week-ends only two people would show up for duty. Unfortunately about all we could offer our visitors on those days were push-pull rides using the Missouri Pacific caboose. We need a lot more involvement from the membership in all areas of museum activities.

Completing qualifications for new positions this year were Rick Edwards moving up to Brakeman and Ed Wagner stepping up to Fireman. Congratulations to both of you on attaining these positions through your hard work and dedication to the Society.

A very big thanks go to Bob Larson, retired WP engineer, who came by on some of the troublesome week-ends and worked as engineer so trains could be run for our guests. Thanks Bob.

Operating department thank you's also are extended to the following personnel for their participation on train crews throughout the season. Andy Anderson, Tom Andrews, Lew Barard, Dave Bergman, Don Borden, Pat Brimmer, Bob Carr, Eddie Chase, Richard Citrino, Kerry Cochran, Jeanne Collins, Terry Decottingnies, Rick Edwards, Paul Finnegan, Kenneth Finnegan, Jim Gidley Sr., Tom Graham, Steve Habeck, John Hittner, Norman Holmes, Ken Iverson, Robert Kane, Dave Kanoff, Bob Larson, Tom Miller, Judy McGarth, Melissa McGrath, Will McGrath, Don Nelson, Vic Neves, Jack Palmer, Mat Parra, Tom Parra, Ken Roller, Mary Stallings, Bob Stalling, Hank Stiles, and Ed Wagner.

Crew training for the 2001 season is planned slightly different from previous years and is scheduled for May 5th and 6th, 10am to 3pm each day. As a reminder members of the Operating Department are required to take and pass the annual rules exam. This is an open book test.

I invite all members to join us this next season.