Portola Railroad Days 2002

During Saturday and Sunday Charles Grimes volunteered his "Hooligans" group and entertained us with Chicago style blues music. Train Rides in our caboose trains ran with capacity crowds both days. Union Pacific graciously loaned an almost new EMD SD70M for display. This was a big hit with the visitors who could compare the new diesel-electric technology with our earlier models. Our new Society President, Rod McClure made the arrangements for this exhibit. This unit was hand washed after arrival by FRRS volunteers so made an impressive display.

Our Gift Shop has been moved to much larger quarters, now residing in the former Beanery/Meeting room. Hot dogs, sandwiches and soft drinks were available along with gift shop merchandise.

Train crew participants for the event were, in no particular order: Paul and Ken Finnegan, Lew Barnard, Jack Palmer, Loren Ross, Dave Kantoff, Pat Brimmer, Charlie Spikes, Chris Juzwiak, Ron Nehr, Tom Andrews, Don Nelson, Rod McClure, Steve Habeck, John Walker and Norm Holmes. My apologies if someone was left off.

Recent Donations

Don Beale has donated a N gauge model railroad layout to the museum. Since we do not have room to permanently display the layout, Don gave us permission to sell it. We have put it up as a silent auction with the bids closing September 22. The layout is about 16 feet long, 4 feet wide, with a 8 foot "L" leg. It has a ore loading dock and a roundhouse.

Several locomotives and ore cars are included along with all the power packs etc. It is ready to roll. If you would like to bid by phone call the museum (530-832-4131) and someone can give you further info.

Norm Holmes' son Steve was able to obtain the donation of four fire hydrants and valves that were being replaced near his home in Incline Village, NV. These are only a few years old and will be used to replace the ancient hydrants we have at the museum.

Computer Networking

By Frank Brehm

Over the several years, many volunteer hours have been spent putting together a plan to integrate computers and a networking system at the museum. We have purchased two Compaq Servers that will be the center of the new network. Envisioned in the "Information Technology" plan is the ability of volunteers to use the new system to log hours spent at the museum, track membership status, inventory control, as well as an interactive system for visitor use. We have been fortunate in receiving volunteer help from a network consultant who has agreed to evaluate our plan and make suggestions as appropriate. Site visits have taken place and more are planned. Installation of available computer systems should begin right after the first of the year.

Although we have, the basic plan in place much more is needed, with computer systems topping the list. A minimum set of standards for individual computer workstations has been decided upon and we are working on the wiring necessary to bring the system online. This will be a networking system comprised of computers stationed in appropriate areas for volunteer use and also in areas used for the day to day business of running the society.

Computers will be installed in the following areas as availability permits. Two in the office area, two in the operations office, one in the gift shop, two in the library car, two in the planned volunteer lounge area, and two in the planned library research area. We are also looking at having a minimum of two "touch screen" systems for visitor use which will provide historical information on our society, the museum, and the equipment preserved there.

Systems planned for use in the library will include scanners for transferring paper documents and photos to an electronic format that will be included in a database for easy retrieval by both members and visitors. This will alleviate the unnecessary handling of these documents and photos by those wishing to research historical facts concerning the Western Pacific and other railroads that we might have information on.

Integration with a new phone system is also being looked at that will allow many "voice mail" boxes as well as forwarding of calls to an appropriate department head during certain hours of the day. More information will be made available as plans are finalized.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The November Board Meeting for the FRRS will be held in Sacramento, CA. All interested members are invited to attend.
When: November 2, 2002. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM.
Where: The Stanford Gallery of the California State Railroad Museum, located in the Big 4 Building at 111 "I" St., right next to the Railroad Museum Building building.
Map:

Saturday, Nov. 2, 2002

1:00 PM * Board Meeting

Discovery Museum

CSRM Main
Entrance

CSRM Turntable

Questions Call
(530) 832-4131

Stanford Gallery

Sacramento River

I-5 and Amtrack Station