

response we have had from much larger and longer standing Museums upon review of this document has been overwhelmingly positive. We have just acquired our second CZ car, the Silver Lodge and are working on opportunities for two to three more. We have our first WP steam locomotive. And in the words of the representatives of other organizations, we have "one of the finest and most focused collections of equipment representing one railroad in the country" as well as "a switcher collection to die for". And to think this was the result of imagination run amok!

Who knows where our imaginations will take us? The acquisition of land for an excursion line, albeit a short one, would be fabulous. Dinner trains, anyone? The WP Portola hospital restored to provide a library and climate controlled archive, 150 seat amphitheater, offices and meeting rooms, interpretive wing regarding the role railroad hospitals played in rural communities as well as the development of industrial medicine, and a viewing platform overlooking the UP mainline and Portola yard for the foamer in us all would be incredible. A replica roundhouse in the center of the balloon track patterned after the Winnemucca roundhouse complete with the turntable from Oroville, which we already own, is planned. The list goes on and on...

Dare to dream and choose to share! Even if the ideas spawned by your imagination are so wild they are beyond reach, they may lead to others that are genius and obtainable. The Wright Brothers were told flight was impossible, yet they did it. Experts told Howard Hughes that the Spruce Goose would never fly, but she did. The Empire State building was an architectural and engineering miracle for its time. The biggest challenge you can present to a visionary is to say, "It can't be done." After all, that's what they told the founders of the Feather River Rail Society about the Portola Railroad Museum...

Your feedback is critical to our success in the direction of the Museum mission and goals. Please contact me at [2.cents.worth@charter.net](mailto:2.cents.worth@charter.net). I'll see that your commentary is forwarded to the appropriate member of the Board of Directors or Department Head for response.

## CMO Report

By Hank Stiles

As I sit here and look out my office window, spring is in the air here in the valley and the neighbor's plum trees are a riot of pink flowers. Petals are wafting on the wind and into my pool. I guess everything has its drawbacks. On the positive side that means that winter is on its way slowly towards spring in Portola.

There is a lot to do in all departments at the museum. In the Mechanical Department we will have our hands full. We have locomotives to put in service for the rental program and maintenance to do on the caboose train. Radiators leaks and electrical problems on the "B" unit need to be addressed. When all the equipment from Rio Vista arrives at the museum, the WP 917 gets the focus of our efforts so we can get it in service. When the WP 917 is ready to go in service the WP 921-D will be taken out of service and backed shopped for heavy repairs. In the mean time work can be finish on the WP 512. When all this is done there is work to finish on the WP 501 and we also want to put the WP 731 in service.

I think that this aggressive agenda in the mechanical

department will eliminate the need to worry about having any spare time. In fact it is beyond our wildest hopes to accomplish much without you, the members. Your support, both with your volunteering at the museum and your financial support of the museum is needed and appreciated. If a dozen of you came up and volunteered just once or twice each season and half of the wife's and husbands were to come along to help out this would be a shot in the arm for our efforts to preserve the rich history of the Western Pacific. There are jobs to fit everyone's abilities. You can work in the gift shop, on restorations, repairing all kinds of equipment, upgrading the facilities or being a conductor or an engineer. Please look at your calendar and see if you can make the time to come up and help out.

I want to say thank you to all those of you that have volunteered at the museum in the last 22 years. You are the people that make it work, you should be proud of yourself. You have made it possible for the Portola Railroad Museum to excel in the museum community.

We always have a good time at the museum. At night we get together and socialize with one another. This summer our new volunteer lounge will be finished, with cooking and eating facilities, a lounging area with VCR, DVD players and comfortable furniture. I don't know about you but I always enjoy getting together with friends to watch movies or train videos and to cooking and enjoying a nice supper.

Please call me at (916) 363-8572 or e-mail me at [flatiron@calweb.com](mailto:flatiron@calweb.com) if you have any questions or you would like to be part of the exciting things happening at the Portola Railroad Museum. Thanks for your time.

## Railfan Photographers Day 2005

The Portola Railroad Museum is pleased to announce the return of its Railfan Photographer's Day!

Join us on Saturday, May 21, 2005 for this special day devoted to recreating period railroading from the 1950's and 60's. Railfan Day opens at 10:00 AM and runs until 10:00 PM or when the final photo session ends.

The PRM will be operating vintage trains of authentic equipment for viewing and photography. There will also be static displays, railroadiana vendors, slide shows and a special night photo shoot hosted by Winterail's Vic Neves. Other special events to be announced in the coming months!

Tickets are \$20 per person for all day admission. Our \$30 combo ticket includes BBQ lunch and dinner at the museum. Meals will also be available separately: \$5 lunch and \$8 for dinner.

Tickets are available at the gate, in our Gift Shop or order by phone at 530.832.4131 or on-line at [www.WPLives.org](http://www.WPLives.org). ~~Mark your calendar~~ and plan on attending this unique event!

WP Lives in Portola, CA!

Feather River Rail Society - Portola Railroad Museum  
700 Western Pacific Way, Portola, California 96122  
ph: 530.832.4131 - web: [www.WPLives.org](http://www.WPLives.org)

Scheduled events are subject to change.