Australian Railways. tim ellis@rnv.gld.gov.au

CORRECTION

In the last issue of *The Train Sheet* we stated a change in the law where contributions of stock at their appreciated value as a tax deduction would end on June 30, 1998. We have since learned that this change applied only to certain private foundations and did not apply to donations to non-profit organizations such as ours. We still welcome any stock (or cash) donations to our endowment fund. Your gift will be acknowledged with interest and/or dividends earned will be used to fund a paid Director for the museum.

SURVEY

We have recently participated in a survey of our museum. The survey, called Museum Assessment Program (MAP), helps the museum reach its full potential. MAP 1, which is the program we selected, reviews the museum's entire management and operations. The program is funded from a federal grant through the American Association of Museums. We are eagerly awaiting the results.

Another survey conducted through a grant from the United States Forest Service through the Plumas Corporation (a business promotion arm of Plumas County) will commence shortly and focus on a business and site plan for the museum.

RECORDING SESSION

On June 17 and 18, employees of the Lionel Corporation made sound recordings of some of our diesel locomotives. They particularly wanted to record the start up, rev up, shut down, horn and bell sounds from our WP GP20, #2001. Lionel will introduce a new model of this locomotive in the near future and wanted authentic sounds to go with it.

Other units recorded were Alco FPA-4 #6776 and GP7 #707. Several different diesel horns were also recorded including a rare Hancock air chime that was placed on SP 2873 for the occasion. If you buy Lionel digital sounds, chances are they were recorded at Portola.

WANTED ITEMS

Among things we could use for our museum are: a wire welder, powered pipe threader, file cabinets, steel shelving and a 20' overseas container. We can

always use tools of various kinds. Contact the museum if you have any of these items to donate.

MEMORIAL

We were saddened to learn of the sudden death of a very active member, David Cox. He died in his sleep June 4, after a day of railfanning. David was active in the WPRRHS and had an extensive collection of WP MoW equipment information and photographs. He certainly will be missed.

COMING EVENTS

In conjunction with California's Sesquicentennial celebration, the California State Railroad Museum will hold "Railfair 99" in Old Sacramento June 18-27. The NRHS and R&LHS will be holding conventions at the same time and this is expected to be the big event of the year. A Railfair Hot Line has been established at (916) 445-6645. We will probably have one of our diesel locomotives at the event.

WINNER ANNOUNCED

Trains Unlimited, Tours and the Feather River Rail Society are pleased to announce the winner of the 10th Annual drawing for a free trip on any Trains Unlimited, Tours North American tour. The winning ticket was drawn on May 2. FRRS member Joseph Harper of Monterey, California is the lucky railfan this year. It did not take Joe very long to decide to go on the White Pass and Yukon Spectacular Tour, which will operate September 17-20, and includes four charter trains in Alaska, British Columbia and the Yukon. Joe will also receive free roundtrip airfare on Canadian Airlines between Vancouver, BC, and Whitehorse, Yukon, courtesy of Trains Unlimited, Tours.

We want to thank everyone who has purchased fund raising tickets over the years. All ticket sales go into the Portola Railroad Museum Building Fund. This fund raising drive has been so successful that we are pleased to announce another drive and drawing which will be held for 1999 and the winning ticket will be drawn on March 6, 1999. Five tickets will be mailed to all members late this summer.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Dave and Linda Dewey rode the *Mt. Shasta Daylight* train on June 20 and did a brisk business selling