

Museum Managers Report July 2004

Donations: Norman Holmes donated two boxes of old maps, plans and diagrams. Joann Shepard donated a box of locomotive electrical trouble shooting diagrams from her husband Ted Shepard's collection. I remember Ted Shepard as "Mr. Goodwrench" when he operated out of Oroville. Ted passed away in June. Misc. things from the estate of, I've misplaced the paperwork, I believe it was Willis Alexander who was a heavy equipment operator, retired in Quincy.

Correspondence: Nothing to report.

Operations: The lack of crewmembers on weekends is still a problem. We either have too few of too many. Paul Finnegan advises that people are not using the signup sheet on the Internet. I'm trying everything I can think of to make them comfortable when they come up to work. There are very few complaints, but we are still not getting the numbers we used to get.

Mechanical: I'm really pleased to have Rick Edwards working in the shop. He gets along great with everyone, gets a lot done and pitches in to help better organize the shop and clean up. Rick would be my choice for the "Glad hand" award at this time.

Building & Grounds: Paint projects are progressing well and most should be completed by Railroad Days.

Dave Navarina of Salinas helped me pick up several tons of old wood, scrap metal and misc. building supplies. Kerry Cochran has also helped in this area with the result that most of the garbage stored underneath cars has been cleaned out. Tree trimming by Jack Palmer, Norman Holmes, and Charlie Spikes has removed several hazards to passing trains. Still a little more work to be done in this area. I invested \$55.00 to have a metal saw blade installed on the weed trimmer. This has resulted in me getting about 85% of the weeds cut down. Again, Rick Edwards made it possible by fixing the weed trimmer. We have a thick buildup of sagebrush on the inside balloon and along the inside balloon track which I can't cut through. I have asked Andy Anderson to try and get a CDF crew in here to handle this and cut back the buildup on the bluff on the south side of the museum and around the hospital.

I made contact with the man who supervises the Juvenile community service kids and tried to get a crew in Wednesday to pick up trash and paint around the museum and hospital. Unfortunately none of the kids showed up so we will try again next Wednesday. The supervisor also thought he could get us some adults with skills to come down and do some jobs for us also. I suggested a carpenter to finish the ramp on the deck, a gardener and a painter but, that I would take anyone.

Injury Report: I hurt myself twice last month. I used the wrong tool in the wrong fashion and hurt my ribcage. Then I tripped on the metal stairway leading up to the deck and bruised my left leg. I'll be more careful in the future.

We are still burdened by a severe lack of space around here. I did a yard check recently to update the museum roster and by my count there is 156 pieces of rail equipment on the property. Two are off the rail and there are still four pieces at Norm's house. We are short one parking spot now. From what I'm hearing, we have 15 pieces of equipment coming in and 9 leaving and four that are supposed to be cut up. That means we will soon be short another two parking spots.

Railroad Days: Volunteers are signing up, but we still need more people. I have most everything figured and planned out for the event. We will have two food vendors here at the museum.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Walker
Museum Manager