

●●● Around the Museum

Clean-up Day

May 16-17, 1992 was Spring clean up day at the museum. Gordon and Norm were at the museum early. Hap called about 9 AM and asked if we could count the volunteers who come up to help on one hand? We replied we could count them on one finger! Jim Gidley, Sr. was the only member to show up to help get the museum ready for our summer season. We have a great thing going, but the few of us who live here can't do all the work. Please consider spending some time working at the museum this summer.

Nevertheless, progress is happening to improve the facility. The Beanery, Sue Cooper's fine snack bar, received a new stainless steel sink, coffee maker, paint and other improvements. Bruce Cooper installed the sink, Gordon Wollesen installed the necessary plumbing and electric water heater. Sue says anyone caught washing their dirty hands in her new sink will not be long for this world!

Season Opening

For once we had nice weather for our Memorial Day season opening. We had a good number of visitors and had more operating crew members than needed. Gordon Wollesen, crew coordinator and Jim Gidley, Sr. scheduled the operating crew so that everyone had a turn. GP7 WP707 pulled the train consisting of four cabooses and a vista flat on Saturday, WP 921D and WP 925C were in charge of the train Sunday and Monday.

Hank Stiles and Gary Cousin changed three batteries in our Baldwin switcher NVR 51, and it powered two runs on Monday. A large radiator hose decided to call it quits, so it will have to be replaced before this unit can be used again.

News and Information

The Fourth of July

The fourth of July weekend is a three day weekend for some people. There are lots of area activities including a pancake breakfast at our museum. Come up and enjoy a weekend helping your museum progress.

805A Report

Larry Hanlon's 805A Report will not appear in this issue. The crew is still whooping for joy at having the 805A move under its own power and they need a vacation. Look for their report again in future issues.

Help Wanted

We have reserved a table for FRRS information and Gift Shop Sales at the NRHS convention in San Jose July 22-25, 1992. We need people to be at the table during the times the vendor room is open. If you can help, please call Norm at 916-832-4737.

A Love Story

In the summer of 1985, Peter Langdon made a visit to the Portola Railroad Museum. This was not his first visit to the U.S.A. from his native England having made four previous visits, in 1981, 1982, 1983, and 1984. Peter was a truck driver that came with a group to see a truck show in Anaheim. During his 1983, and 1984 visits, he was introduced to American railroading by 2 U.K. friends. Peter had been a railfan ever since he was a small boy, but he found American railroading much more interesting than the English lines.

His visit to Portola so impressed him with our friendliness and informality, he returned again in 1986, 1988 and 1989. He became a member of FRRS in 1988. In the spring of 1991, he came to the U.S.A. to live and found work in the Reno area. In this year, he qualified as a brakeman at the museum, and met Mardi Vincent.

Mardi had joined the FRRS in June of 1990 bringing with her mechanical experience on heavy equipment, and food service experience, among other things. She became the Chief Mechanical Officer, and was in charge of the extensive food service required on the 1991 steam excursion trains.

Mardi's and Peter's friendship grew to love; they were married on April 4, 1992. They now live in Graeagle and are both active in the museum.

The Operations Room

Hank Stiles' idea was to set up the computer in the operations room. However, this room was cold in winter, had a high ceiling and cold walls which made it hard to heat. We decided to improve the room with insulated walls and ceiling. A list of all helping on this project are: Dave Anderson, Bruce Cooper, Sue Cooper, Bill Evans, Steve Habeck, Norm Holmes, Mike Kelsey, Mardi Langdon, Jim McComb, Ken Roller, Hank Stiles and Gordon Wollesen. Others? We now have a nice clean operations room that is warm in the winter, and is complete with computer.

A Question

From time to time we have been requested to publish an FRRS membership directory. On the last occasion, the board voted down the idea saying that some people would choose NOT to be included in it, and therefore it would not be complete. The membership changes constantly and a questionnaire would have to be sent out to every member. There are distinct and numerous pros and cons to the subject. What are your ideas? Write to us and tell us.

It's Lost

It happens sometimes, we misplaced a new member's address. We need an address for Alex Young who lives in Sacramento. Anyone know him?