

## —SPECIAL FUND STATUS—

Item	Additions	Balance	Notes
Building	-	\$16,665.25	
WP GP9	\$200.00	\$12,544.75	(1)
SP 1215	\$50.00	\$23,086.79	(2)
UP 737	-	-	
IR 110-1	-	-	
UP 105	-	\$1,535.00	
CTC Board	-	\$220.00	
Library	\$168.00	\$168.00	(3)

## —OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS—

*Olive Alison  
Borgsteadt  
John Ortondward*



(1) Richard Sullivan (2) Terry Riemer (3) Mike Mucklin



### **RAILFAN PHOTOGRAPHERS' DAY BY STEVE HABECK**

We had initially hoped to stage an "Alco-fest" for this year's event, but the time required to put our Alco's together in run-able condition was not to be found. By the time September 13th rolled around, however, we managed to field operating examples of all 3 Alco prime movers, with S-1 WP 512 (539), MRS-1 244 (244), and FPA-4 VIA 6776 (251) all pulling trains. We also ran two large WP freight trains, one led by GP-20 WP 2001 / F9-Bu WP 925-C / GP-30 UP 849, with F-7A WP 921-D / GP-7 WP 707 / FP7-A 805-A on the point of the other. Our GE 44-tonner SN 146 led a hotshot fruit extra, and was also the featured subject of Vic Neves' night photo session. Once again, Mother Nature cooperated with sunshine, light winds, and comfortable temperatures (at least for September in Portola).

Demonstrating the increasing expertise of the Operating Department, this year's trains were put together in record time. The majority of the switching was accomplished on Thursday, September 11th, leaving Friday for more time to check out motive power and attend to all the little things that had to be done. The Mechanical Department was up to the task, too, with all locomotives scheduled to be used performing as expected, with no failures on the road. As usual, the dispatching duties on Saturday were handled by FRRS Chief Dispatcher Vic Neves, with excellent assistance provided by Jim Groenke while Vic was playing hoghead on the Westwood Turn sugar beet extra (WP 512).

The event, however, would go nowhere without the contributions of nearly 30 volunteers, handling everything from ticket sales to food service to trash hauling to train crew, and everything in between.

Don Borden, Steve Habeck, Vic Neves, Judy and Melissa McGrath, Gordon Wollesen, Tom

Andrews, Jim Gidley, Sr., Doug Morgan, Jack Palmer, Hank Stiles, Ken Iverson, Skip Englert, Norm Holmes, Doc Lyman, Dave Bergman, King Felton, Tom Graham, Marty Anderson, Kerry Cochran, Wayne and Linda Monger, and Terry Decottignies.

Many of these people worked several days in advance of the event, as well as the day after to put everything away, as well as the day of the event itself, putting in several long days in the process. It is very much appreciated.

A big part of this event for the last two years has been the swap meet held in the shop building, which again was a success. Roy Gabriel and Brad Lamazzi coordinated the show, which ran smoothly, as usual. Adding this show has really helped boost attendance for the event, which, according to gate receipts, did better than last year.

For the diehard fans, slide shows (Winterail-style) were presented in the shop from shortly after dark until the wee hours, interrupted only for the group night photo session under a brilliant full moon, with broken clouds.

Railfan Photographers' Day coordinators Wayne Monger and Vic Neves, with the help of many capable FRRS volunteers, have once again staged a fine event, and we look forward to next year.



## **OPERATING DEPARTMENT NOTES...**

**We Need Your Help!**

Have you thought about getting involved with the Portola RR Museum? There are all types of duties



and jobs to be done to help keep the museum going. The Beanery Crew feeds all the working members on week-ends during the operating season, and at special events, they can always use extra help. The Mechanical Department works two week-ends a month doing repairs and maintenance on the locomotives and different equipment at the museum. The more hands they have helping, the more work can be accomplished and they do have a lot of work to do. The Operating Department needs a lot of crew members to help in train operation, car attendant or crossing guard service. This does not sound like much or seem very important, but they are greatly needed as Safety is Number One at the museum.

We hold a one-day rule exam and crew training day in April and May of each year. It is at this time you can sign up for what days you will be able to help. We will feed you when you work, and have sleeping and hot shower facilities available.

We also have a need for walking tour guides. This is something we need to get started. It would involve leading a group of visitors on a walking tour of the museum grounds, explaining what they are looking at, what is important about it, and how it operates. This tour could be done three times a day. I am willing to help get this started as the museum has a very big need for it. Please feel free to call me in the evenings (530)342-3903 or drop a line to me at 2748 San Jose Street, Chico, California, 95973. If you are interested in helping at the museum, we could sure use the extra hands!

## **1997 Operating Department Report**

The Operating Department has had another very busy season as our ridership keeps growing. Thirty-four members of the Operating Department put in a total of 2,376 hours of service. This year we had no new starting student brakemen. Four new people