

system in Europe is so convenient and easy to use. Too bad we don't have a similar system.

The number of tour groups visiting our museum is growing each year. One thing we really need at the museum is proper rest room facilities. I proposed building a visitor center earlier this year that would include rest room facilities as well as a new gift shop location and a ticket/telegrapher/waiting room area. The project did not go forward for a number of reasons, one of which was funding. For the past ten years Chris Skow has donated a free trip with his tour company in the form of a raffle and has single handily raised nearly \$20,000 for the building fund. This is a project worthy of your support. A modular building can be in place and in use for about \$75,000. A donation in addition to your raffle ticket donation will help make this project a reality.

—*Norman W. Holmes*

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Ken Hitch is retiring as our Southern California Gift Shop representative. For the past three years Ken faithfully represented our museum at GATS Shows and model railroad meets in the San Joaquin Valley and as far south as Long Beach. While there is some value to promoting our museum and organization in that area, table sales have often failed to cover costs of merchandise, table rent, motel and transportation costs. Ken's last two shows were GATS at Costa Mesa on November 7, 8 and at Bakersfield on November 14-15. We want to thank Ken for an outstanding job as our representative. Norman & Barbara Holmes along with occasional help from David and Linda Dewey, Jim Gidley and Kent Stephens will continue to do train shows in central

California.

Our beautiful full color 1999 Western Pacific calendar has been well received. If you haven't ordered one yet please do so while supplies last. They make good Christmas gifts too. Members receive a 20% discount from the \$9.95 regular price (See ad details elsewhere for this offer). The calendars are also available from selected hobby shops.

UNDERGROUND TANK REMOVAL

When WP constructed the diesel shop in 1953-54, the old WP Hospital on the hill above the museum still required steam for heating purposes. The old roundhouse had a steam boiler fired up at all times for this use and to aid in firing up cold steam engines. To supply steam to the hospital and to heat the shop building three steam generators, similar to those in diesel locomotives, were installed in the shop area. When the new hospital was built there was no longer any need for the steam generators (a different heater was installed in the shop area), so they were removed. To supply fuel for the generators a 3,000-gallon storage tank was placed underground on the north side of the building near the shop area.

State law requires that all old underground storage tanks be removed or replaced by year's end. Union Pacific's Environmental Department was contacted to alert them of the requirement and they hired a licensed contractor to do the removal. Our backhoe was used by the contractor and Ken Iverson assisted using our Krane Kar to dig out and remove the tank. The removal and disposition of the old tank was observed and approved by a Plumas County Environmental Health

Inspector.

The dirt removed from over and alongside the tank, although not showing any contamination, was placed back in the hole and covered over with a plastic sheet. A few days later Tom Graham finished filling the hole with fresh dirt from other parts of our property. This dirt separation was necessary in case some contamination is found at a later date and the "old dirt" would have to be disposed of. Ken Iverson and Doug Morgan deserve a vote of thanks for doing this difficult, dirty job.

OTHER FACILITY ACTIONS

The electrical upgrade is completed. We now have 440v, three phase power thanks to Ken Iverson, Doug Morgan and Siler Electric. Some additional changes will still have to be made in routing the power, namely to the shower car and sleeper. Power is now available to the battery building so it can be used for its intended purpose.

The parking lot was "shot" for drainage by Tom Graham using his laser level so that we now know which way the water should flow. A drainage ditch outside the front gate was dug out by Jeff Palmer and Tom Graham and a new culvert donated by the City was installed by Ford Construction Co.

MISCELLANEOUS

Other items: Don Nelson spent a week at the museum cutting down and modifying some of our wood steps so they can be used with the passenger cars. Old gutters have been removed from the north side of the shop building. These gutters damaged due to poor design for snow country and were an eyesore. Don Nelson, Jerry and Jill Prickett did the work. The office car now has a central

heating system, which makes it comfortable to use during cold weather. Art Yong worked on the final trip for the shower car, it is now virtually complete, finally.

—**Norman Holmes**

—HAP'S CABOOSING—

Sep04 Kerry Cochran and Jack Palmer helped to get ready for Labor Day weekend.

Sep05-07 Train crew Jack Palmer, Vic Neves, Kerry Cochran, Jim Gidley, Tom Miller, Jack Sanford, Lew Bernard, Paul Finnigan, Dave and Carol Stares. Lolli Bryan, Norman and Barbara Holmes in the Gift Shop, Tom Graham, Hank Stiles, Dwight Wolfinger, Eugene Vicknair, Skip Englert, Ken Iverson, Ken Roller, Steve Habeck and John Walker did various jobs around the museum. Ed Powell removed the old plastic windows from caboose SP4107.

Sep09 Hap went to Washoe Hospital in Reno for an operation.

Sep10, 14 Lolli Bryan addressed hundreds of envelopes in response to the Sunset magazine ad.

Sep14 Skip Englert was taken to Washoe Hospital due to a heart attack. (Both Hap and Skip are doing OK now).

Sep16 Frontier Tour 30 pass. Jack Palmer, Kerry Cochran, Don Borden, Norman Holmes, Lolli Bryan and Ken Roller for a ride and tour.

Sep17-18 Prep for RF day, Kerry Cochran, Jack Palmer, Don Borden, Paul Finnigan, Art and Dave Bergman, Doug Morgan, Vic Neves, Lolli Bryan, Norman and Barbara Holmes.

Sep17 Feather River Preschool ride and tour.

Oct03 Scenic Byway dedication of Hwy70, Feather River Highway. Lolli Bryan, Skip Englert and Ken Roller represented our Society at the dedication ceremonies in the City Park.

Oct10 Model A group and Trains Unlimited, Tours tour of museum and run a loco. Ken Iverson on RAL, Lolli in Gift Shop.

Oct11 Indian Guide group — 26 — for ride and tour, Hank Stiles, Vic Neves, Ken Iverson and Ken Roller.

Oct14 Sierra Seniors group tour, Skip Englert, Ken Iverson and Ken Roller.