

Trolley Barn Newsletter

January 2009

By Bob Schneider

HOLIDAYS: Monday 1/19 - Martin Luther King Day, site closed and staff on vacation
Monday 2/16 – President’s Day, site closed and staff on vacation

Happy Hollow Line Electrification: On 16 December we were given “Notice to Proceed” by the city. Work started on 1/5. As of 1/9 six wood poles were planted and foundation preparation for the 5 steel poles was completed. Concrete pour is anticipated 1/13.

Car 124: A survey of the track elevation at the JFG grade crossing shows that the existing pilot on Car 124 will interfere with the track. We will have to raise it about 3 inches. A plan is in place to do that.

Car 143: New brake shoes are on order from the Foundry.

Work is underway to install a whistle in each end of the car. The whistle itself will be installed under the bonnet, but the handle will be just like Car 124 so that motormen have the same layout for operation. We found no difference in noise level if the whistle is placed under the bonnet vs. on the roof.

O gauge model trolley: Terry Wilson (our window washer) vacuumed the entire layout. The grass is green!

ATTENDANCE: Recently I was asked about a related subject, so I researched our numbers for Trolley riders and Trolley Barn visitors. They are **very impressive:**

	Trolley Riders	Trolley Barn Visitors
2004	20602	7625
2005	24435	9538
2006	23112	11167
2007	27430	15192
2008	29025	16809

So, what happened to make such huge improvements? My best answers are:

1. History San Jose has stepped up their programs and we benefit by being there every time.
2. We’re open every weekend except major holidays.
3. The “quality” of our Motormen and Barn Hosts has improved by better engaging the public. Practice.
4. Appearance of the Barn and exhibits has improved.

Now if we can solve the point we hear so often, “I never knew this place was here”, we could really boost these numbers. In any event we’re on the right track.

1928 Chimney Sweep Truck: Cosmetic repairs are in progress. Preparations are being made to re-paint the original lettering, but otherwise leave the paint as is. Work on the engine continues and it is running fairly well, especially considering how long it has been in storage.

Helping Others:

1. Rob Van Hart replaced the surface wood on the track cross-over near the South Gate. He scrounged the wood and installed it.
2. We helped take down holiday decorations on the site.

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Motorman/Host assignments for February:

<u>SAT.</u>	<u>Motormen</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>SUN.</u>	<u>Motormen</u>	<u>Host</u>
			1	Bingham	Stallard
7	Baker/Huff	Ouimett/Boehm	8	Ryan	Raby
14	Baker/Huff	Ouimett/Boehm	15	Westfall	Gaddis
21	Butler	Traill	22	J. Maurer	Traill
28	R. Maurer/Ullmann	Schneider			

HTE: 2/5, 2/12, 2/19 Baker/Huff

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Cross Over at South Gate



Drilling a hole in tight places



Installing a Pole

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Steel Reinforcing for iron pole foundation



drilling three foot diameter hole for steel poles



Inserting reinforcing steel in three foot diameter hole