

Trolley Barn Newsletter

July 2008

Happy Hollow Line Electrification: The design was delivered to us by Hatch Mott McDonald on 6/20 and was forwarded to the city a few days later. Wire is on the way. While overhead wire looks relatively simple, keep in mind that wire tension is 2000 pounds (one ton). That's a lot of force, especially on corners.

We have revised the Operating Plan ("Book of Rules") to reflect the new line. Motormen will be tested on it well before the new line becomes active.

The request for approval from the city goes before the SJ City Council in early August and we expect all the subsequent details to be ironed out by mid September. Everyone's goal is to complete construction before the winter rains. Brian Hartsell, city parks manager for our area, has been a huge help to us in getting all the details taken care of.

Car 124: A few weeks ago the car quit and we thought it was due to an electrical short between two wires. The car ran fine for several weeks, but quit again an hour before a wedding that was to use the car as a significant player. The team scrambled to get the Birney out and the ceremony went on as planned. The next day we tried to diagnose the problem with no luck. On Monday Dave Johnston from Western Railway Museum paid us a "house call" to help diagnose the problem. After 6 hours of head scratching, rolling around under the car and testing, we finally diagnosed that a coil in the Line Breaker Switch failed internally. We then found that Fred had a replacement unit in his "stash" and are looking for a replacement fuse to replace the 2 we blew. Confounding our investigation was the fact the car was modified to operate on VTA lines where their voltage is 750 VDC as opposed to our 600 VDC. Our friends at VTA have been very helpful. No current documentation exists, but we'll correct that shortcoming.

Late news; the car performed well with the new line breaker switch during preliminary tests on 7/11. A proper fuse and a bit more test time and we're ready to go.

Birney: The bumper has been partially repaired by a professional from Virginia (my son in law, Rodney, is a boilermaker and was visiting us) Air Systems made a new sheet metal plate and the "Sunday Guys" are well on their way to fitting it. In the mean time we've covered both ends with bunting for the season and to make the damage "invisible".

Bean Orchard Sprayer: The pump, engine and frame have been painted. Rebuilding of the wood storage tank that holds the spray mixture has started.

Helping Others: Rob VanHart, a recent new volunteer, has repaired the window frame on the south side of the Firehouse. There were places where the frame was dust held together by paint. Rob is a general contractor and has had no trouble finding things to fix. He has started on the collapsed portion of the print shop handicap ramp. The ramp is presently unusable.

Helping Others II: Sally and Jack Stallard have undertaken a campaign on their own to help manage the cat population on site. The population has grown to 5 "families". Sally is befriending, catching, having them neutered and returning them to the site if other homes can't be found. It's a slow process, but without their help things will quickly get out of hand.

Jack will celebrate 15 years with the Trolley Barn this year and Sally has been a recent new volunteer at the Collections Center. Anyone want a cat? I'm serious.

Model trolleys: We've seen performance of our two models go downhill, but got to the bottom of both. The "N" gauge engine was suffering from shift of a simple mechanical wedge. We had tried all the "high tech" ideas to no avail. The "H" gauge trolley merely needed a small bit of oil on the gears. Both of these are very popular with our younger guests (and some of the older ones as well).

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Annual Picnics: Our Annual picnics are as follows;

8/13 – History San Jose Volunteer Recognition Picnic

8/21 – CTRC Volunteer Recognition Picnic

Both will be held at the History Museum. Times will be announced later.

Motorman/Host assignments for August:

<u>SAT.</u>	<u>Motormen</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>SUN.</u>	<u>Motormen</u>	<u>Host</u>
2	R. Maurer /TBD	Ouimett/Boehm	3	Ryan	Stallard
9*	Butler/R. Maurer	Brownlee	10	Bingham	Raby
16	J. Maurer/R. Maurer	Brownlee	17	Bingham	Gaddis
23*	Butler/R.Maurer	Ouimett/Boehm	24	J. Maurer	Schneider
30	Ullman/R. Maurer	Schneider	31	Ullman	Trail

Remember: Summer Hours are 12-5.

- Exclusive Event (Park not open to general public)

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Segments Cut before Reshaping



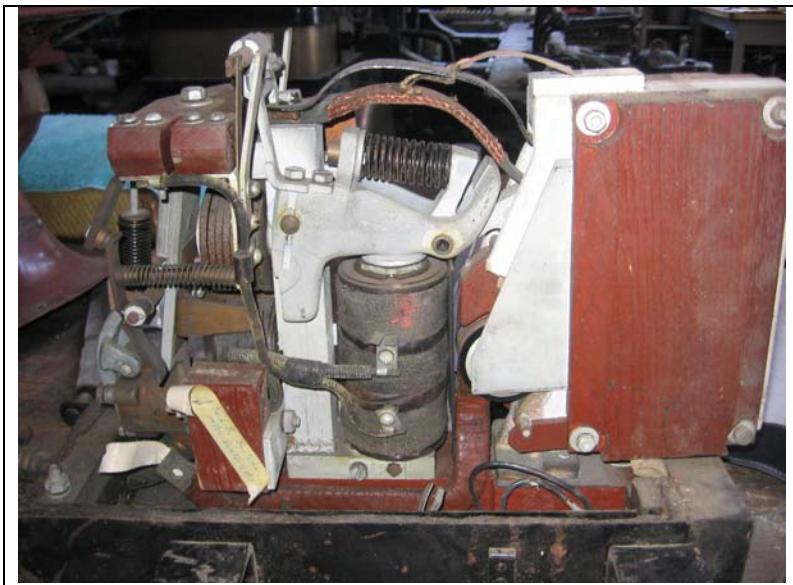
Welding some segments together



Bumper formed and awaiting final welding



Bunting covers gap temporarily



Pictures by Bob
Schneider