

Trolley Barn Newsletter

February 2009

By Bob Schneider

HOLIDAYS: Monday 2/16 – President’s Day, site closed and staff on vacation

Museum Closing: As a cost reduction the museum will be closed on the first Monday of each month thru June.

Happy Hollow Line Electrification: The Stacy and Witbeck crew finished their work on 1/22. They planted 28 wood poles, poured concrete foundations for 5 steel poles and poured concrete pads for two stops. If you find the poles hard to see in the picture, that is because they often blend in with surrounding trees and bushes.

Installation of the hanging hardware and wire by Mass Electric is expected to start the week of 2/16.

We are digging out the flange area next to the rails as time permits. A simple “plow” we created pulled by a vehicle works pretty well, but ballast rock here and there can only be removed by pick and shovel.

All 3 cars: Our survey of the track elevation at the JFG grade crossing shows that the existing pilot on Car 124 will interfere with the track. We are using CAD analysis to make sure that none of the undercarriage hardware will interfere with stationary objects such as track and dirt. Analysis of the other two cars shows that the Birney is just fine, but the Portuguese car trip mechanism needs to be raised. Work is underway on Car 124’s pilots. The pilot is also known as the people catcher (or cow catcher).

1928 Chimney Sweep Truck: Work on the engine continues .

Helping Others:

1. We cleared a major paper jam and replaced a fuse on a donated paper shredder for Education.
2. We folded and taped the Volunteer Voices for last month.

Helping Ourselves: In the past month we’ve disposed of several fuels;

1. Steve Lopes of Western States Oil helped us dispose of 20 gallons of Bunker C fuel. We cannot imagine why Fred had this around, but we have NO use for it. Bunker C is just one up from road tar and when cold is all but a solid.
2. Our friends from Niles Canyon took away 180 gallons of diesel fuel that was left in Little Buttercup’s tender. They will burn it in their steam locomotives.

We keep thinking we’ve found all the secret stashes around our site, but I’m not ready to bet that we’re done.

Our visitors’ comments: Jack Stallard was Host 2/1 and overheard a child of a family that comes to the Trolley Barn often ask his dad to buy a cookie for the “nice man” at the Trolley Barn. Jack said “the chocolate chip cookie was delicious.” Sure made Jack’s day and tells us why we all come in.

Motorman/Host assignments for March:

<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	Traill
21	Butler	Open	22	J. Maurer	Stallard
28	R. Maurer/J. Maurer	Schneider	29	Ryan	Raby

HTE: 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26

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Poles looking south from Happy Hollow. photo: Bob Schneider