

HOT

SCOOP

April 1990

Volume II Number 4

Message from the director

Barney Barnier

When I told you last month that March would be a busy month, I had no idea just how busy it would get. We ran the trip with the Trauma Research and Education Foundation (TREF) into the Gorge, and a good time was had by all. The St. Patrick's Day trip was a good one, and as I write this, Puerto Pinasco looks pretty good. Our RPO is on the Highway and should be in Campo when you read this. Our ATSF turntable in Fresno is progressing towards loading onto the flat car, and we should see it soon. We spent the last week of March shooting a commercial for a Japanese ad agency to be shown in Japan. This should net the Museum around \$10,000.00.

We have been informed that the SDIV, and it's parent company, RailTex are requiring that all of our operating engineers be certified by the SDIV examiner in order to operate on the line. They are probably anticipating a ruling from FRA that ALL engineers on all Museum and Tourist lines must be certified. We have heard this rumor before, and it will probably become fact this year, so we will have the program in place and be ready. Dick Engle is co-operating with us and scheduling his examiner to come to Campo on several Saturdays to allow our engineers to be certified on our own equipment on our line during regular operations.

Jim Rassmussen's track crew, and especially Bob Haney, out did my expectations and pulled off a tremendous feat! They removed all the track east of Switch # 1 on the Sunday following the trip to the Gorge. The following week, Don Getz had the line graded, and the track crew now has re-installed enough track to allow us to switch out the equipment we needed for the movie crew. Thanks Guys!

Wally Barber says we will have the East Entrance Switch in THIS MONTH. Then, it's back to track laying again.

By the way, a special thanks to Jim Lundquist for overseeing the RPO car move. He went to Houston on very short notice, and loaded out the car. Thanks, Jim.

Library Work Days

Now that we finally have a library, we need to get it into shape. Regular library work days are scheduled for every Tuesday Evening from 7pm-10pm and every Saturday from 10am-4pm. If you want to help out, or if you want to do research in our library, please call Roy Pickering for an appointment at 462-3392 (evenings).

A dream come true

Steve Oualline

I am writing this aboard the #254 on the way to the Carrizo Gorge. Most of my museum work is done in San Diego so I'm only able to get out to Campo about every six months or so. If you work at the museum every weekend, you see the small changes, but probably don't realize how they add up to make major improvements.

I noticed the first change as I drove into the parking lot. No dust. The parking lot is paved. No longer will our guests emerge from their cars into a choking cloud of dust to make their way hacking and coughing over to the depot so they can get a breath of fresh air.

The biggest change I noticed was flush toilets. It may sound silly, I judge a place by the quality of the bathrooms. Far too many organizations put the facilities last on their list of things to do. Sooner or later a visitor will have a call of nature and have to go. Being forced to use primitive or dirty facilities can turn a positive experience into a negative one.

As I write this I realize that I have yet to mention anything about trains. Our restoration and operations department have always done excellent jobs. It's now expected of them. It's a reflection on the museum's maturity that it has taken the time and effort to take care of the non-train items. Our leadership should be commended doing an excellent job of balancing the needs of the train fanatics with the needs of the museum guests.

The carbarn has a new floor. There are more cars in the yard. Aboard the Carrizo Gorge, I notice a major change. It used to be just an unrestored railroad car, dusty and dirty. The parlor has been transformed into a exhibit hall complete with artifacts, pictures and other things depicting the history of this grand old car. It still needs a lot of work, but our visitors can now appreciate how it once was.

Barney has already told you how this trip came about. Dick Engle called us and expected us to perform miracles. This reflects positivity on the operations and maintenance departments. The museum would not have been called if it didn't have an excellent reputation for reliable and safe operations.

It is noon now. We have stopped in Jacumba for lunch. It has been a nice trip. The car is filled with people who work for the museum and I've had a chance to talk with some of the people I've written about in the *Hot Scoop*.

They are uncoupling one of the engines. It will follow us down the gorge, then couple on

and pull us back to Jacumba.

It's about 1:45 and we just reached the gorge. It is a deep valley. Rocks line it's steep sides. The tracks run along the side and you can get a spectacular view by look out the window over the sharp drop below.

We've just gone through a tunnel and come to a stop just in front of one of the trestles which Wally Barber has just rebuilt. There is a short ribbon cutting ceremony and we are on our way again.

It's about 2:00 and we've stopped. This is as far as we can go, the 1509 Cafe car is pinching the guard car. The curve is just too tight to go on. It is about a 1/2 a mile from the entrance to tunnel #8. We were supposed to go all the way to the entrance, but the equipment won't make it.

I walk down the tracks. They wind around the mountain and across a small valley. Behind me I can see a large round hole in the mountain. This is the east end of tunnel #7. The west end was completely covered up years ago by a massive landslide.

Ahead I can see the entrance to tunnel #8. A pile of rock blocks the entrance. Climbing up I can see inside. Not much to see, the light does not go far. The top of the entrance is black from the smoke from a tunnel fire.

Dick Engle deserves a great deal of the credit for making this trip possible. It is his job to run a railroad. Dealing with crazy railfans is an added nuisance. Most railroad executives would have said no and forgotten us. His willingness to devote his time and energy to work with us has helped make the museum what it is today.

He deserves a great deal of thanks. If you want to write him a thank you note the address is,

Dick Engle
SD&IV
743 Imperial Ave.
San Diego, CA 92101

Please don't call. Please don't go down to the office. Please don't do anything to disrupt the smooth running of the SDIV.

A simple letter is enough.

When I joined the museum, running into the Gorge was just a dream. I really didn't think it would happen in my lifetime. Well it happened. It took a lot of hard work and dedication by a lot of people to make it happen. True, there was some luck involved, but we were ready with rolling stock and staff make use of the opportunity when it came our way. So the next time you see an old piece of equipment that looks like it is impossible to fix, realize that we

have done the impossible, and we're going to do it again.

Orange Empire Rail Festival

Charles Alban

The Orange Empire Railway Museum at Perris has invited us to participate at their semi-annual rail festival. This is to be held on April 28 and 29.

We will be taking a booth at the show. Any member who would like to join us and help man the booth will be very welcome. Would those interested please call the Museum office at 291-09220 and leave a message with Bobbie.

New Member Welcome and Orientation

Dick Pennick

The schedule for upcoming bi-monthly Orientation meetings is as follows: Wednesday, May 16th; and Wednesday, July 18th. All meetings will be held at the Library (one block west of 70th & El Cajon Blvd.) beginning at 7:30 P.M.

If you are new to the Museum effort, you will find the sessions informative and well worth your time. You are cordially invited to attend one of the upcoming meetings.

For information, call our Office Manager, Bobbie Ringersma, at 291-9220 weekdays, 10am - 4pm.

Forum

Remember the members' forum is the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Library (7pm). This is where you get to ask the director questions. The director wants your input on the museum's plans.

Badges

Maxine has SDRM name badges for sale in the gift shop. Everyone who deals with the public should get one. Stop by and take a look at one, they are quite impressive. Cost is \$5.00..

Hot Scoop Submissions

Anyone can submit an article for the Hot Scoop. Almost any subject is allowed, but I am mainly looking for things dealing with work being done anywhere for the museum.

Submissions may be on paper, or IBM floppy. Send your articles to the editor: Steve Oual-line. The address is on the cover of this newsletter.

Change of address

The addresses used for the *Hot Scoop* mailing list come from the membership database. If your address changes, all you have to do is to notify the museum office.

Getting the Hot Scoop

To get on the Hot Scoop list, call or write Bobbie at the museum office.

Getting into training!

by Dick Ruppert, Director of Volunteer Training

Help recruit! No doubt you are asking from time to time how people can get into training. Tell them, "It's easy!" There's a letter that tells how to get started. People can get the letter at the gift shop at Campo, or they can get copies from the Museum Office (619)-291-9220.

A Good First Step Dick Pennick's New Member Orientation is something people who are thinking about getting involved should attend as soon as possible. The Orientations are every other month on the third Wednesday at the Museum's library facility (69th and Mohawk, near 70th and El Cajon) at 7:30 PM. (May 16 and July 18).

On the Job Training People do not need to wait for the New Member Orientation to begin. They can start on the job training as a trainman or tour guide and work with an experience tour guide while they learn how to interpret our museum and railroads to our visitors. Begin at Campo (call Mike Retz (619)-466-8808), or on the Sunday Trolley Specials (call Bruce Semelsberger (619)-264-7282).

A Brakeman Course covering railroad safety, operating practices, brake operation, railroad rules, whistles, signals and flags, is scheduled for March 24 and April 28. People who miss March 24 because of short notice can begin on April 28 and do a second day on May 26. This two day course, intended for those who have been Trainmen/Tourguides for about six months or more, is being revised by Robin Becker. Send \$10 for text materials to Training at the museum address. Call Dick Ruppert 459-2573 for information.

Help Wanted and Thank You's

I could use some help from experienced museum ~~members~~ in a number of areas. If you can help with any of the following call Dick Ruppert 459-2573.

Volunteer Handbook. Another person or so is needed to help Lew Wolfgang create an orientation handbook for new museum volunteers.

Volunteer Orientation, Campo. Four or five people are needed to take one Saturday a month and be available to orient newcomers and help them get off to a good start with projects they'll like.

Annual Operations tests

It's that time of year again. Yes, it's time for the annual retesting program. All operating crew should attend one of two sessions, either Thursday April 5 or Thursday April 19, at 7:00, at Serra High (I-15 to Tierrasanta Blvd. East to Santo, North a bit and it's on the left), Room 223.

After showing "Getting off on the right foot", a railroad training video, Don Sanborn will go over the "book". We'll close with the SP Safety Test. Those who can't attend either night can attend the rules portion of the April 28 brakeman class at Campo.

SD&IV personnel will be sent a test waiver form to submit.

Those who do not complete this annual update required by our operating agreement will not be scheduled to operate after June 30. Any questions or problems about the annual retesting should be directed to Dick Ruppert, Director of Operating Rules and Training, 549-2573.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

My choice for April has to be Bob Haney. If you remember, on the trip back from the Gorge, I asked every man on the car if they would be available the next day to help with track. Bob was the only one who would accept responsibility for removing the track in time for grading. And he did it! He did much of the work alone, and finally in the afternoon, help arrived and the job got done. Thanks, Bob. You have the right spirit!

April

1990

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SDRM Museum Department Heads

Museum Office

2870 4th Avenue Suite C
San Diego, CA 92103
291-9220

Library

John Muir Elementary School
69th & Mohawk

Phone numbers

Museum Phone (Recorded Message)	697-7762	
Business Office (Bobbie Ringersma)	291-9220	
La Mesa Depot.....	465-8444	
Campo Depot	478-9937	
Campo Car Shop.....	478-9917	
Site Manager(Don Sanborn).....	478-5301	
Executive Director.....	Albert B. (Barney) Barnier	271-1197
Facilities(Assistant Sup.)	Don Getz	229-0386
Mechanical Dept.....	Geoff Scheuerman	465-3635
Operations Dept.	David DiGiorgio.....	280-3989
Equipment and Restoration Dept..	Norman Hill	442-6922
Administration Dept.	Harry Doering.....	465-7261
Museum Services.	Charles Alban	941-1397
Hot Scoop Submissions.....	Steve Oualline.....	538-0304
Interpretive/Exhibits.....	Rich Borstadt	447-3297

Facilities meeting first Friday of each month at the Library building.

Members' Forum second Thursday of each month at the Library building 7pm.

Operations department meeting third Saturday at Campo after second train. (About 4:15).

Work day each Tuesday at Campo. Contact Jim Hammil 277-2626.

Hot Scoop subscriptions: San Diego office, Bobbie 291-9220

Time Card

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