

REPORT



Issue 109

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San Diego, California

ANNUAL BANQUET DUE JAN. 26th

If you haven't yet sent in your reservations for the big bash, the deadline is January 18th. This year's festivities will be an evening you won't want to miss. Contact George Geyer, 2928 Fir Street, San Diego, 92101, for information and reservations. Notices and reservation blanks were mailed with the December REPORT.

MUSEUM SITE MAY BECOME REALITY

Negotiations with a San Diego realtor for a suitable site for PSRMA's operating railway museum in San Diego County have progressed to the point where a concrete proposal may be submitted to the Museum's Directors for approval within the next month or two. Quite frankly, the outlook is good, and the Museum has never been this close to a solution for its land problem before now. But it's still too early for the ticker-tape parade and the champagne.

Volunteers were on hand again December 14 and also on the 21st for the second and third in the series of restoration sessions on our old observation car No. 1509 at MCRD.

A burner-type paint stripper was used with success on the roof, while another group continued removing the decayed windows for restoration. Member Rob Sides, using an oxi-acetylene torch loaned by member Bill Newland, removed several badly-rusted portions of the car's exterior. These areas will later be replaced with new sheet metal pieces, smoothed and painted. Staff thanks Rob Sides, Eric Sanders, Ron Milot, Cass Witkowski, Chris McVeagh, Steve Rosefeld, and Dick Pennick for their fine assistance. Thanks also to Mr. Tony Codina of Lemon Grove for again loaning us some steel scaffolding.

Since a great deal of public interest is generated every time we work on the car, we decided to set up a table along the main thoroughfare adjacent to the car, with Museum brochures, a sign-up sheet, and signs announcing the name of our Museum and the fact that the car was open for public inspection. Many people stopped to say "Howdy", pick up a brochure, and tour the car.

CABINET MAKER NEEDED

Are you a practicing cabinet maker or wood worker? Or do you have a friend or relative in the local area who is? Many of the outside windows on our Observation car 1509 are so badly deteriorated that they will have to be completely replaced with brand new windows. Only the glass will be able to be re-used. If you are interested in taking on this important project, contact Dick Pennick at 463-2276. All drawings and specifications will be provided. If possible, we would like to be able to install the new windows this summer.

RESTORATION SET FOR 1509

The January restoration session on Observation 1509 will be held on January 25th at MCRD, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your lunch. Call Dick Pennick, Superintendent, at 463-2276 if you plan to attend.

Individual copy: 25¢ Donation
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SAN DIEGAN MAY BUY TUOLUMNE NARROW-GAUGE

A local gentleman, who prefers to remain anonymous for the time being, has been gathering support the past few weeks for his plan to purchase the West Side & Cherry Valley Railway at Tuolumne, Calif., south-east of Sonora in the High Sierras. This line is a remnant of the once-vast 3'-gauge West Side Lumber Co. logging railroad, which operated until the mid-1960's with Shays and Heislars. Since the proposed sale was announced nationwide, offers have been received from as far away as Costa Rica and Australia for the equipment only, with the intention that it would be shipped, lock, stock and barrel, to the respective country for additional service. However, at this point, Trimont Land Co., owners of the property, are not interested in disposing of the assets on that basis.

Originally, there were three bonafide contenders for the property, but at this date there are only two, the San Diegan being one. Word is that the owners will probably make a decision soon as to which of the current proposal they wish to accept. For purely selfish reasons, we all hope our hometown boy bags it. He says extension of the track, possibly someday as far as Yosemite National Park, would command a high priority on his development schedule.

If any member is interested in reviewing the material provided by Trimont Land Co. to prospective purchasers, call Dick Pennick for an appointment at 463-2276.

January REPORT:

Annual Dinner, January 26th

Museum Site News

Observation car 1509 Restoration



Jan. 25th, 9 a.m.
1509 work party as
described above

January 26th, Annual dinner. Call George Geyer for information or reservations. It is being held at the Imperial House, with "Friendship Hour" at 4:30pm and dinner at 6 pm.

PSRMA REPORT
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