

A Word from the Museum Executive Director

The title of Executive Director generally is reserved for a paid administrator. In my case I chose the title to give me a little better status when corresponding or dealing with business firms and other tourist railway organizations. I still volunteer my time, as much as 300 hours a month doing the administration work, banking, running the Gift Shop and overseeing the general operation of our museum. I am not the only one who volunteers a large amount of hours. Gordon Wollesen is at the museum almost every day to open up at about 8 AM and he stays most of the day. Ken Roller lives in one of our outfit cars and is on site most of the time. Other "locals," Hap Manitt, Bruce and Sue Cooper, Steve Habbeck, Barbara Holmes and Skip Englert also spend a considerable amount of time at the museum.

Our out of town volunteers need to be recognized also. For them it takes a lot of effort just to come to Portola and we appreciate that they take time from their personal lives to help our museum's work. I cannot say THANK YOU enough for all the hours so many of our members have volunteered.

P.S. I had fun running the Alco FPA, FPB-4's on railfan day. I'm sure someone has photos of the train doing what Alcos do best - smoke. I would love to have a copy of one of the photographs if someone would send me one. We are also interested in obtaining photos taken during the event to be used for post cards.

--Norman W. Holmes

CASH Donations CASH

The following generous people have made cash donations to the FRRS:

David Edwards, M. D.

Ernest Henton

Jack & George Ann Hornor

Alan Jacobson

Robert Jarvis, Jr.

Philip Kalthoff

Richard & Nell Kirker

Michel Knight

E. R. Long

Brian Matsumoto

George Nolan

John O'Malley

Richard Rowe

David Rowe

Francis Sellman

Richard Simonsen

Terry Taylor

Jack Tomczak

Howard Treloar

Thomas & Brenda

Whittington

Gregory Zucco

Editorial

As railroad enthusiasts, it's probably not news to our members that Amtrak has plans to decrease service on some routes and to eliminate service entirely on other routes. Anticipating a tighter budget to operate under with the new Republican Congress, Amtrak's management elected to reduce service on routes that would not have a great impact, or on routes that have state funding.

It would seem that the plan would be to hope that the states would then increase their share of the deficit so that the service could continue.

One such route is operating between San Jose and Roseville, the Capitols. This service was started 2-3 years ago and has been fairly successful, but has not yet made the 55% fare ratio that they were supposed to make this year. The route has new cars and locomotives in service, or soon will be, and a proposed increase in service is planned for. Track improvements are being made and a new downtown terminal in Oakland is under construction. This all would make the service more attractive to potential riders. If this service is to continue CalTrans will have to increase its subsidy.

Nationally, the Federal Government subsidizes Amtrak passengers \$35 each. While this might seem like a lot of money, the Federal Government subsidizes airline passengers \$50 each. And there are a lot more of them. We can no longer afford more freeways with their increased vehicle congestion and air pollution, to say nothing of the property that is removed from the tax rolls, or to build more airports to increase flights in already crowded skies.

Our nation needs to improve its rail passenger service, not decrease it. A program of high speed rail service should be instituted similar to such operations in Japan, Germany, France, England and other countries. If you agree to any or all of the above I urge you to write ASAP to your state and federal representative to express your concerns.

--Norman W. Holmes

New Life Members

Welcome the following new life members to the FRRS:

Robert Matthew
from Harper Woods, MI

Thomas Lawler
from Sacramento, CA

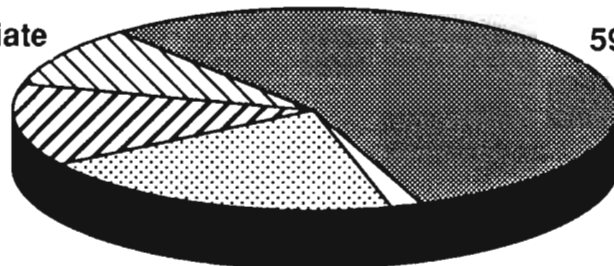
Membership Report

as of February 23, 1995

105 Associate

593 Active

143 Life



214 Family

18 Sustaining

Total FRRS membership is 1,073.
Of these, 28 are Charter members.