

Portola Railroad Days 2003

By David Epling

Anyone who didn't make it missed out on a great weekend. We had so many people on Saturday alone that it was load and go with the caboose train from 10am until 5pm, plus we stopped every trip so the Truckee Railroad Regulators could "Rob" the train.

We used 707 and 2001 mu'd with 707 as the lead unit. The Silver Palace (ex UPMW 903005) is now wearing it's Armour yellow paint, the lettering will be in shortly and it will get it's original UP 25283 number. It looks real good.

UP loaned us SD70M Flag and Flared #4811 for display to the public, very nice locomotive to say the least. We are very appreciative of their generosity.

Saturday was topped off with an Excellent BBQ dinner that the train crew and other volunteers were

allowed to have for free. Thanks to those that set that one up. (We even got the leftovers for lunch on Sunday. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise but Hank Stiles wields a mean Microwave).

Sunday was a little slower crowd wise, but there were a lot more people than I can remember at past Railroad Days. Also on display were two model railroads, one in "N" scale the other "HO" that were a big attraction for all of the visitors. We also had a live steam "G" gauge train running out back. Throughout the day bands performed on the loading dock with many people stopping to enjoy the music.

If you haven't been to the museum in some time make it a point to try and come up to see it, it looks great.



Above: The Railroad Days operating crew pose next to UP SD70M 4811.



Left: The Truckee Regulators robbed the caboose trains through-out the day.

Below: Museum Manager John Walker after the days activities.

photos by Frank Brehm

