

# Trolley Barn Newsletter

January 2010

By Bob Schneider

**Holiday:** Monday 1/18 the Museum will be closed for MLK Day.

**Furlough Day:** Monday, February 1, the Museum will be closed for Staff Furlough.

**Visitors:** While working in the Barn last weekend I met our first young lady “regular”. By “regular” I mean a child that loves trains, is under 5 years old and has been to the Trolley Barn more than once or twice. How do we know? Only by what their parents tell us, but the child’s enthusiasm is obvious. Prior to this all the kids I met were boys. I would guess that there are at least a dozen of them.

**Detroit Electric Car:** Terry Wilson is working with his electric car club to have a new shunt made for the car. With that fixed, we should be able to run the car.

Because the car has been sitting so long without the batteries being charged, we’ve started a charging program to keep the batteries in good shape.

**Monarch Lathe:** The lathe wouldn’t turn on one day, so we dug into the control circuits. Fortunately there is a schematic glued to the inside of the access panel. It turned out that the mechanical switch had become dirty enough over time such that it would no longer make electrical contact. A bit of cleaner and wiping and we’re good as new.

## Helping Everyone:

1. We helped the HSJ team decorate and undecorated the grounds for the holidays. We took care of the Trolley Barn as well.

2. We raked up about 10 cubic yards (compressed) of leaves around the Print Shop, Gas Station, Blacksmith building and Trolley Barn. The City Parks folks took them away for composting. The City Parks participate in the yard waste program just like any homeowner does.

**Seeking Advice:** We accumulated a pretty long list of technical questions over time, so I took them up to Dave Johnston at Western Railway Museum. Some were answered by e-mail, but many required direct conversation. Some points about re-upholstery were also covered while there. While up there Dave graciously tested our repaired Line Breaker Switch so that we can use it in the future with confidence. That job took 3 guys about 2 hours as it is not just a “plug and play” task. The unit works just fine. Thanks WRM team.

As an aside, note the special attention to testing on an electrically isolated setup using wood. With 600 VDC you can’t take any chances.

**Visitors’ Log:** A recent entry in our visitors’ log said “Kids learned a lot”.

## Motorman/Host assignments for FEBRUARY:

<u>SAT.</u>	<u>Motormen</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>SUN.</u>	<u>Motormen</u>	<u>Host</u>
6	Baker	Ouimett/Boehm	7	Ullmann	Stallard
13	Ouimett/Compton	Schneider	14	Hansen/Compton	Raby
20	Butler	Traill	21	Ryan	Compton
27	Hansen	Schneider	28	Maurer	Stallard

**HTE:** 2/18 Baker/Ouimett

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WRM Team testing our Line Breaker Switch

Photos: Bob Schneider

Line Breaker Switch mounted for testing