

Trolley Barn Newsletter

May 2009

By Bob Schneider

***** **HOLIDAY – the Museum will be closed Monday May 25 for Memorial Day** *****

Happy Hollow Line Electrification: Mass Electric got as far as they could on 3/7, but hit a safety issue that stopped them. Installing two of the steel poles directly under the 115 KV power lines was unsafe, so they could not proceed until PGE provides a solution. As of 5/14 we have a power shutdown scheduled for 5/27. We are trying very hard to get our work done so that we can dedicate the line on 6/3 during the Rotary BBQ.

Steve Raby and Jack Stallard have completed work on the Birney whistles. They work just as Steve hoped they would. One of the two people catchers on Car 124 has been modified. The other is in progress.

Recent experience with the Birney: A visitor playing with a Birney controller managed to leave it in a position that we did not discover until the controller in the opposite end had a serious electrical arcing problem during initial operation. The root caused was identified, the repairs were minor and we've instituted new measures to prevent further problems. Our new volunteer, John Hansen, learned lots about controllers as he helped us investigate the problem. Real problems are the best teacher. John is a working guy with a 2 year old son that "loves trolleys and trains".

Our People:

It has become harder to fill assignments due to various ailments and health problems;

Dick Maurer continues to work his way through leg problems.

Mac Gaddis recently lost his wife to Alzheimers and is slowing down.

Lee Westfall isn't comfortable being a motorman, but is very willing to be a Conductor or Host.

We recently lost two of our long term volunteers;

Frank Huff recently had open heart surgery , then passed away in his sleep on 5/5. Frank was a motorman at the History Park for 14 years and had served 2000 hours. He and Keith Baker were often partners for 3 Saturdays a month and much preferred Car 124 unless the weather was cold. They both wore a proper uniform and gave the public a great trolley experience. Frank was always cordial and upbeat. We will all miss him.

Rod Sohn passed away April 16 . He has not been at the Restoration Shop for the past several years due to declining health and served an all time record of over 15,000 hours.

My message is to let you know how our folks are doing, ask you to send them your best wishes and to understand why we may need to call on the rest of you more often. We feel that we have a great offering to the public and want to maintain it. If you encounter people that express an interest in joining us, please send them my way quickly. This turns out to be the most effective way to bring in new volunteers. You guys are our best "advertisement" and recruiters.

As a final word often mentioned by Keith Baker: Enjoy each day.

Motorman/Host assignments for JUNE:

<u>SAT.</u>	<u>Motormen</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>SUN.</u>	<u>Motormen</u>	<u>Host</u>
6	Bingham	Ouimett/Boehm	7	NO TROLLEY	Stallard
13	Baker	Compton	14	Ouimett	Raby
20	Ullmann	Traill	21	Ryan	Westfall
27	Butler	Schneider	28	J. Maurer	Raby

"NO TROLLEY" is a Community Resource Fair.