



The TURNTABLE

August 2012

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

Upcoming Events

August 4

3rd Annual Singing Rails Music Festival, in the park At Railtown with Mary McCaslin, Faux Renwah and The Sierra Mountain Band.

*Note: There will be an extra 4pm excursion train

August 5

Modesto Junior College Re-filming their western Film shoot

August 7

Ladies Luncheon @ The Rock in Twain Harte Call Marge @ 533-4595

August 22

Volunteer picnic at Pinecrest Lake Call Natalie @586-6367 For details and location

August 25

6th Annual Meals On Wheels Fundraiser 6pm Train

September 4

Railtown ladies luncheon Will be at Lupita's Call Marge @ 533-4595

Mid-Season Message

As I write this, the temperature in the office is over 100 degrees—higher where many of our volunteers are working right now. It's no wonder our volunteer ranks drop each year during this time when many of you decide it's a nice time for a break in cooler climes—and we can't blame you! This summer has also been hard on us, because we have lost some of our great Tour Guides—for this reason, we are currently recruiting Car Hosts and Tour Guides for a mid-season mini-training, set to start at the end of the month. If you know of anyone who might be interested, encourage them to come down. And when you see some new faces in uniform in the near future, be sure to extend a friendly greeting and make them feel welcome.

Another mid-season phenomenon with which my fellow rangers at other parks are also familiar, is the 'mid-season slump'. When I worked in campgrounds, you could set your watch to the third weekend in July when tempers would flare and every last nerve seemed to be extra sensitive. We're lucky to have a less intense operation, and the luxury of a slower pace, but it's still important for us to guard against 'The Grumpies'. When you feel an attack coming on, take a moment to mentally step back and remember how you felt the first week of the season—remember how excited we all felt to see each other and the returning park visitors? This weekend marks the exact half-way point in our operating season, and before long, we'll be in the quiet off-season, so be sure to enjoy it while we are here!

Kim Baker/ Park Superintendent



Bill Gillaspie Retires

After 19 years Bill has finally retired. We thank Bill for over 16,000 hours of service! We'll miss you 'Railroad Bill'!



August Picture of The Month: Ole No. 3 Comin' Round The Bend, submitted by Junior Volunteer Hunter Lohse. Send your pictures in to darainwater@parks.ca.gov

Fireman's Side of The Cab

by Dave Tadlock

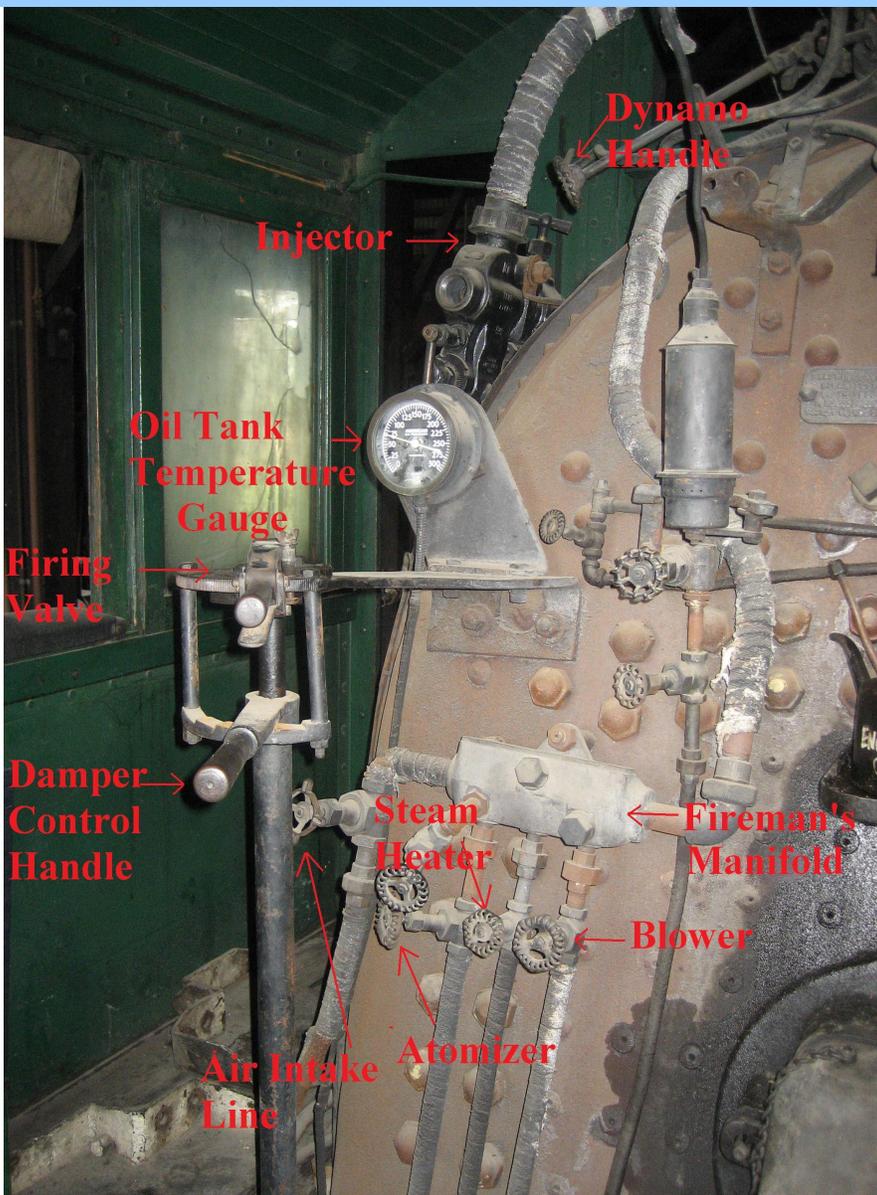
This month I will attempt to describe the various controls on the Fireman's side of the Locomotive 34. While most people may think the fireman on an oil-fired steam locomotive has very little work to do compared to their counterpart on a wood or coal burning locomotive, this simply is not true. Granted, tossing shovels full of coal or cords of wood is physically demanding. But properly firing an oil-fired locomotive is mentally challenging, demanding and not as easy as one may think. A good fireman will be able to keep a proper balance of water in the boiler while maintaining constant steam pressure with an "economy haze" coming out of the smoke stack.

They do this by carefully working the various controls described below:

Damper: Most locomotives have a damper located on the front and back of the firebox. Like those on your fireplace, they control the amount of air allowed to enter the firebox.

Firing Valve: Controls the amount of oil allowed to flow to the burner.

Atomizer: As the name implies the atomizer "atomizes" the oil by mixing steam and oil at the burner allowing the oil to burn easier.



Blower: Creates an artificial draft when the locomotive is standing still or there is a need to create a hotter fire. **Injector:** Allows the fireman to add water to the boiler. Other Controls and gauges located on the fireman's side are: **Oil tank valve and gauge:** These allow the fireman to preheat the oil in the tank to a temperature that allows the oil to flow freely and burn more efficiently. This was vital in the old days when the oil burned was of the "Bunker C" type, best described as "asphalt" type oil. **Blow back valve and line:** Allows the fireman to use steam to clear out the oil line should it become clogged or obstructed. In the future, we will try to describe all the various functions that a Fireman and Engineer perform while running our locomotives as well as continue describing all the parts of the locomotives we have at Railtown 1897. *(Our thanks to Dave Tadlock for this, and last month's article about the steam locomotive cab)*

Mid Year Volunteer Drive

Normally we announce our need for new volunteers each year in January and February, and provide training in March. Due to a shortage of interpretive volunteers, we are currently advertising for Car Hosts, Walking Tour Guides and Roundhouse Hosts. Please help us get the word out to anyone you know who would be pleased to help greet our visitors and tell the Railtown story in any of the positions mentioned.



Tommy Johnson Joe Sparagna Kevin Zimmerman Jerry Lewis Anna Lewis Marge Lovingfoss Virgil Lovingfoss



Bob Gibson Tom Keyes Dottie Bolander Joe Siemons Larry Miller Tom Bispo Joyce Presley Al Lehr Ken Vogel

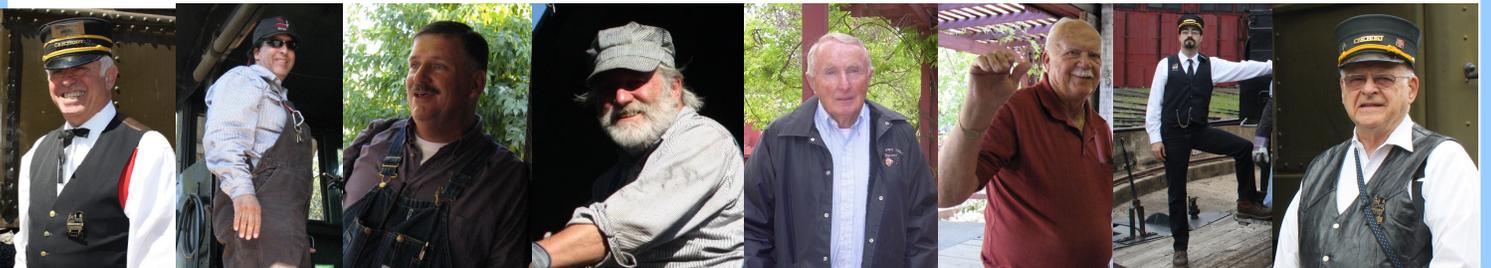


Ron Sloan Dan Maher John Rand Laverne Coon Jay McAusland Jason Smith David Deutsch Janet Hart

This month we'd like to say a special thanks to all of our volunteers who are currently active with more than 10 years of service to Railtown! Thank You!



Gary Hosman Natalie Stier John Stier Jessica Davila Ron Davila Wilma Bushart Leroy Bushart



Dave Connery Rich Davila Anthony LaNote Warren Smith Jack Allen Dewey Barron Michael Bispo Lowell Kraft



RAILTOWN 1897
State Historic Park

PO Box 1250

Jamestown, CA 95327

Return Service Requested



TO:



Depot Store- (209) 984-3953

Volunteer Desk- (209) 984-4408

Docent Site- <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>

Railtown Blog- www.railtown1897.wordpress.com

Crew Caboose- (209) 984-0352



Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

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