



2008

THE GOLD DUST LINE

November 2009



1905

Friends of the Tanana Valley Railroad, Inc.

****Here Comes Santa Claus****

November 28th marks the day, when Santa and his elves come to play.
There'll be lots of goodies, and a train Ride too,
even if the cold turns your nose and cheeks blue!

We're needin' your help, come join the fun,
We'll have Roasted Chestnuts, Hot Drinks and Buns!

It's that special time of year when we all pitch in to give the kids in Fairbanks a special treat. The Santa Express will operate on November 28th. Before that day comes we have a lot of decorating to do! Since it is a lot more fun when we aren't stressed out to meet a deadline, we've scheduled decorating parties for November 7 and 14, at 10:00 am, and a final wrap-up on November 27 beginning at 5:30 pm. We have three large pre-lit trees to assemble and decorate, plus numerous Christmas decorations to place around the Museum and shop area, where we'll have refreshments and Santa Pictures. Then, on Santa Day, we have several outside blow-up exhibits to place, plus large lighted figurines to attach to the stairs/ramp railings before Santa arrives at Noon!

Again, the first Party is this coming Saturday! We'll have the Coffee and Hot Water pots on! And on the 27th, to make the evening more fun, let's have a POTLUCK! Bring your left-over Thanksgiving goodies and we'll get stuffed a second time! If there's anything left, we can have a left - left-over picnic the next day with the rest of the goodies!

A Returned Passenger Rides Again, in Spirit

Peter Q Bonifaci, who worked at Gold Mine #9 Below Goldstream, worked the sluice box end of the operations. Among other things he had the job of taking the gold clean-up from the mine into Fairbanks on Monday mornings to deposit the gold dust in a bank in Fairbanks. So every Monday, Peter would ride the Tanana Valley Railroad into Fairbanks from #9 Below.

One Monday, he was met at the Fairbanks Station, by the US Marshall and a butcher. Apparently #9 Below was arrears in its payments to the

Fairbanks butcher, and the butcher had arranged for the US Marshall to intercept the gold dust on its way to the bank in order to get paid! All of this happened before Peter left Fairbanks for points south in 1912. Peter was really a shoe maker and thought he could do better further south (more feet we guess). This story is one of the stories told to the FTVRR crew on Labor Day by Leonardo Bonifaci, a distinguished elderly gentleman and eldest son of Peter. We gave Leonardo several cab rides. His note accompanying a nice donation for our preservation work said, in part "Riding Old No. 1 was the high spot in my week at Fairbanks." He also thanks the crew with "Many thanks for your kindness". *Daniel Osborne*

Falcon Joslin Returns to Fairbanks **(ALMOST!)**

This really was our summer for VIP'S. Two granddaughters of Falcon Joslin, the founder of the TVRR, appeared this last fall in our museum just before Labor Day, right before museum closing time. Apparently she had also visited the Rasmuson Archives earlier in the day, and the Pioneer Museum. She was not here long enough for us to make physical contact before she left town. However, after an Internet search, President Dan found her email address, and was able to make contact. This lead to an exchange of emails. Then in October Dan and Rita Osborne visited with her in Tacoma. Emily Dexter and her first cousin have a strong interest in their grandfather's activities in Alaska. They are very impressed with the extent of his activities and his "Alaskan Empire", and are making plans to return to Alaska next summer. If it can be arranged with our volunteers it would be terrific if we could get #1 steamed up as a special event for their benefit. *Daniel Osborne*

Membership Benefits

One of the benefits you have as a member of the FTVRR is access to our growing collection of Rail Road related Video (Tape and DVD) programs and reference books. This fall we accepted the donation of a considerable number of books and magazines from Charley Gallogly via his stepson, Gerald Goodman. The collection is so large that we have had to rearrange our Library Storage! We will have it all set up by the time Santa rolls into the TVRR Museum, and a check-out system set up in time for our annual Meeting in January. In the mean time, if you want to browse through the books/videos and check one out, you will have to contact our Museum Director, Dan Gullickson.

And the Winners are:

Over 75 folks participated in the Spooky Train Costume contest this year. The winners, chosen by our esteemed panel of judges from the photographs that were taken by Martin are CALEB PETERSON (Best Boy), CHARLA JIVIDEN (Best Girl), and the JACOBS FAMILY (Best Family Group).

Spooky Train 09 Thanks

Thanks to the excellent pre-planning by our Chief Goblins, Bill and Patti Shechter, un-seasonably nice weather, and the assistance of a host of volunteer spooks, merchants, and Pioneer Park, the 2009 Spooky Train was an excellent adventure for all! In 2008 we carried 433 passengers; this year we carried 775 costumed (well most of them were) children and parents who braved the long line and traveled around Pioneer Park on the last run of the season. Special thanks to volunteers Grandpa Bill and Grammi Patti, Cheri and Scott Stihler, Larry Jaschek, Rita and Dan Osborne, Tim Coahran, Steve Hormann, Gram and Lee Ann Hood, Bill Stringer, Ken Russell, Jill McCarty, Linda Stanley, Laurel Devaney, Samantha Fish, George Phipps, Andrew Packee, James Farnham, Alex Gudschinsky, and Bill Worthington. Donations came from Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, both Fred Meyer stores, McDonalds, John and Judy Binkley, and Pioneer Park. Our Zombies were Martha, Brenna, and Jasmine from North Pole Girl Scout Troop 201 and West Valley High School Key Club members Samantha Wilkinson, Colleen Turley, Meggan Harrod, Kristen Johnson, and Rachel Dewilde. Our "Aliens were Latissue Colbert and the Fairbanks NAACP Youth Group. Special Thanks again to Aurora Energy for our water and Usibelli Coal Mines for our Coal. Finally, please note the following short story for a big surprise!

FTVRR Endorses KINGSFORD Charcoal Briquettes

After nine years of testing and seasoning, the FTVRR Operations Lab has announced that KINGSFORD Charcoal Briquettes have what it takes to help fuel Engine #1. Way back in June of 2000, when we were learning to operate Engine #1 and experimenting with various fuel sources, a collection was taken up and a run made to Sam's Club to purchase a supply of Briquettes. We ended up with about 50 bags but unfortunately we couldn't use them. The draft in the fire box, under a full steam load, just lifted up the charcoal and carried it through the flues and up the stack whole. EXCITEMENT to say the least!!!! Briquettes are too light in weight for proper steaming. So there the sacks sat, with one or two being used for our annual Bar-B-Q.

However, on October 24th we found ourselves short of Coal for the Spooky Train and the suggestion was made to once again try the briquettes. We laid the fire in the fire box in the usual manner; a bed of coal, then a wood fire on top. But after starting the fire, we used about 200 to 250 pounds of our briquettes to maintain the fire and perform the initial build up of steam. By just using the charcoal for steam up, then using coal to run on, we didn't have any problems and ended the day with a few shovel fulls of coal left over. We wonder if KINGSFORD ever has had this use for their briquettes! *Osborne/Gullickson*

Nominations Committee

It's that time of year when we begin our planning for next year. One of the things we must do is decide who is going to be the administrative team to keep FTVRR on the Track! In January we will be electing the management team that will be in charge for 2010. During the October Board Meeting the Board of Directors appointed a nominating committee composed of Dan Gullickson, Patti Shechter, Ken Russell, James Farnham, and Martin Gutoski. They will be contacting all members in good standing (dues paid!) for nominations to present to the membership at our annual meeting.

Officer and Director Positions include

Executive:	President	Vice- President
	Secretary	Treasurer
Directors:	Chief of RR Operations	Museum Director
	Risk Management	Director-at-large (2)

All positions are open for nominations with the exception of the Risk Management Director, who is appointed by the Board. Some of the current officers and directors have indicated they would be willing to continue serving, but they must be nominated to be re-elected. Serving a term on the management team is once of the best ways to learn how the FTVRR really runs as we have a "working" board. All members also are FTVRR volunteers, either on the Engine Operations Team, or the Museum Operations team, OR BOTH!

Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors has scheduled our Annual Meeting for Saturday, January 9, at 6:00 pm. Vice-President Steve Hormann is the Chair for this event. The meeting will be at our TVRR Museum Building and will be a Pot Luck affair. Just for fun, let's see how some of you are at research: try to bring something from one of the menus of the passenger

trains of yore! Label it appropriately (name of the dish and the railroad it comes from) and put your name on the tag. We'll have a "Consumer's Choice contest for the best Railroad Related Dish and give a prize!

Why an annual meeting? Doesn't the Board conduct all of our business? Yes and no. Our By-laws require us to have at least one membership meeting every calendar year. During the meeting, besides socializing and stuffing ourselves, the membership elects the board, plus approves any proposed By-Laws revisions (to date there are none). The Out-going President also presents their annual report to the membership, detailing the past years activities and hopes for the future. In years past we have also had a drawing for a special surprise, and we hope to have another one this year. Sometimes we have a special presentation about the TVRR or Alaskan History and this year we will feature a recent production by the UAF Archival Film Department featuring cinema footage shot in the late 20's. It includes the Copper River and Northwestern RR, The Alaska Railroad, and the Chatanika Branch of the ARR (that's us!). The previously mentioned Book and Video Library will also be open for checking out media.

Dates to remember

November 7	10:00 am	Begin decorating for Santa Express at TVRR Museum
November 14	10:00 am	Continue decorating for Santa Express
November 24	7:00 pm	FTVRR, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting
November 27	5:30 pm	Continue decorating for Santa Express, Potluck
November 28	9:00 am	Final decorating wrap up, Santa arrives at Noon
December 22	7:00 pm	FTVRR, Inc. Board of Directors Meeting
January 9	6:00 pm	FTVRR, Inc., Annual Membership Meeting



Spooky Train Line up, 10/24/2009



Spooky Train, 10/24/2009

Tired Spook!

