

GREETINGS FRIENDS OF THE TANANA VALLEY RAILROAD!

THIS NEWSLETTER IS BEING SENT TO YOU VIA E-MAIL TO HELP CUT EXPENSES. IT IS IDENTICAL TO THE MAILED OUT VERSION! PLEASE FEEL FREE TO FORWARD IT TO FOLKS THAT YOU THINK MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR ORGANIZATION.

We are departing from the "news" format for this issue because quite frankly, we just haven't had the time to put everything into a separate "newsy-style" format, and we're down to the wire on getting this printed and mailed out. To say that we've been busy is an understatement. Like all of you, we have personal lives too, and the June Weather we've been having since mid-April, has allowed several things to begin early, besides working on Engine #1. Such things as Spring housework, yard cleaning, etc. have also jumped ahead of schedule and for some reason interfered with our FTVRR responsibilities!!

#### ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC/GENERAL MEETING

We will be holding our Annual Spring "Fling" on Saturday, May 21, from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm. The location is the PLAYGROUND PAVILION at PIONEER PARK; That's the one that is right across from our Engine Shed. We will have a short business meeting, FOLLOWED BY A BAR-B-Q. In addition to getting a chance to observe the construction of our new Museum Building, you will each receive a copy of our newly revised by-laws, which have some very "user-friendly" modifications. We hope that you will be able to come and meet your Officers/Board of Directors . In addition to beverages for yourselves (Coffee will be provided), please bring snacks. Folks with last names A-L should bring a salad or hot dish; M-Z should bring a desert. FTVRR will furnish Hot Dogs n Buns and Paper Plates n Cups. As always, you are encouraged to bring guests; We'll have plenty of blank membership applications to fill out!

#### MUSEUM BUILDING SCALE MODEL

We have received one donation towards the construction of the model, and have an additional \$1,750 to raise before we can tell the model builder to proceed with ordering supplies and construction. The model would be incorporated into the diorama we hope to build for the new museum. However, it is needed NOW in order to assist our fund raisers in securing grants and our planners in designing the displays, etc. for our new building... WHICH WE MUST FURNISH. We will not proceed with the project until it is fully funded, and the model-builder estimates a two-month construction time due to other commitments. We may have to drop it because once the building is done (est. 11/30/05), the planners will not need the model for planning purposes and the fund raisers will be able to use photographs in their presentations.

#### TVRR MUSEUM CONSTRUCTION

We're happy to report that construction is approximately 1.5 weeks ahead of schedule. If you visit the work site you will see changes every day. Congratulations to Ghemm Company and all of it's sub-contractors! FTVRR members are partially

responsible for this too, as we have had work parties every week for the past month to take care of the responsibilities we have for the construction. Most recently, this past weekend a small army moved the rail we had in storage over to the work-site so that it is ready for the contractor to use. We meet every week with the contractor to ensure that we stay ahead of their needs! The next BIG "party" will be hauling ties to the work site, but every Saturday, starting at 10:00 am, we have work sessions on the engine and general grounds maintenance (plus play with the velocipede and speeder), so come on down!! For the next several weeks we will be inventoring and cleaning the track maintenance supplies we have accumulated over the past several years.

#### ENGINE 1 MAINTENANCE

In the last Newsletter we mentioned that Engine #1 is in need of MMM (Major Mechanical Maintenance) that could prohibit operations this summer. Remember, with the exception of the boiler, the "guts" of Engine #1 are MORE THAN 100 YEARS OLD! The Mechanical Crew has been working on the "Power Train" for several weeks and discovered that the Eccentrics on the right side are good, but those on the left side are seriously worn and need rebuilding/replacement. However, with the other repairs we are making, we believe that Engine #1 but can be prepared for limited summer operations. John's Machine Shop has been hired to rebuild some of the worn-out parts, such as the Stephanson Link Hangers on each side. If our passing siding at the Park is repaired, we plan to operate on July 4th and 17th.

#### TMR/TVRR CENTENNIAL

Why operate on July 4th and 17th? Well folks, about this time, 100 years ago, Engine #1 was being prepped for it's second river cruise! Engine #1 departed the Yukon Territory in mid-June, 1905, to float down the Yukon and up the Tanana to CHENA, where it was off-loaded on July 4th, to become the first Steam Locomotive for the Tanana Mines Railway! The little Loco went straight to work, helping to haul supplies for roadbed and track construction, and on July 17th, the golden Spike was driven, celebrating the connection between CHENA and FAIRBANKS! We are planning some major events for those dates and we'll be passing on additional information as soon as it is set.

#### BY-LAWS

Engine #1 isn't the only item on our agenda that needed a "Tune-up"! Your Board has spent the past several months re-working sections of the By-laws that were out-dated or just didn't reflect the way we have evolved since they were first written in 1992. We think that you will really like the changes, because they clarify the whole membership section to the advantage of the members! Our new building will bring many additional responsibilities, and they are all detailed in the new document. We will have copies for everybody at the Bar-B-Q: Those who cannot attend will receive their copies in the mail.

#### THANK YOU'S

We missed a few! The following should be added to the list: Randy Goodwin who was our first website designer, and Cal Westcott, who operates his Bobcat with the skill of a surgeon, as evidenced by the work he has done for us! Additionally, with the

surplus property donations we have received recently from BORDERLINE - ALASKA, the Snowboard/Skateboard shop in University Center, and BLM and FWS, our new office in the museum will be completely equipped!

**RANDALL COMPTON TANANA VALLEY RAILROAD CENTENNIAL PAINTING**  
Last issue had a story about a Painting that we were proposing to commission by Randall Compton. An anonymous member decided to purchase the painting and IT WILL BE UNVEILED AT OUR "SPRING FLING" on the 21st of May. We are still looking for a loan to underwrite the cost of the Art Prints, which we estimate to be an additional \$4,000 including advertising. Remember, we will clear between \$30,000 to \$60,000 with this project. We will take advance orders for prints (\$150 each) at the party on the 21st.

**ENGINE 31 BUILDER'S PLATE REPLICAS**  
**SURPRISE!!!!** Also at the SPRING FLING, we will have replica castings of the original Builder's Plates from Engine #1. Cast in Bronze, these look good enough to be the real thing!!!! The price, per plate, has been set at \$75. As with all fund raisers, including merchandise sales, revenue received beyond expenses will go towards maintenance and operating expenses of engine #1.

**THAT'S ALL THE NEWS AT THIS TIME. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON MAY 21st AT PIONEER PARK!**

Dan Gullickson,  
President/CEO, Friends of the Tanana Valley Railroad, Inc.