

Museum Web Page Update
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As I am writing this article, 2017 RR Days is history and we are rapidly approaching the end of our 2017 Summer Season at the museum. It has been a busy one with extensive track work completed needed because of the devastating 2016-17 winter storms, several special events, major work by our Mechanical Department, improvements in the Museum Store, many visitors and caring for our RAL clients.

One of my major goals for the web site is to keep our members and the public up-to-date on the things happening at the museum. Over the course of the season I made regular announcements in the *Latest Museum News Update* column that appears on the home pages and the web cam page. Between May 1st and today, August 30th, I made 45 updates to the *Latest Museum News Update* column.

Working with Eugene Vicknair, Michael Clawson and Patty Clawson, I created and posted a news item about Julia Pagan's visit to the museum on July 8th. You can see it on the "News Archive" page under the "News" pull-down menu. It highlighted an important artifact, the WP 106, "*Charles O Sweetwood*" Red Cross Blood donation car, in our collection.

Along with the other "Latest News" events chronicled on the "News Archive" page, there was a web page reflecting the extensive track restoration project spearheaded by our Roadmaster, Greg Elems. It was regularly updated with photos and notes as the work progressed over the summer.

To remind us of earlier days in our society, Lew Bernard gave me a video for posting of his "*So you want to go to Truckee!!*" video documenting the 2002 Truckee RR Days equipment move. I added it to the WPRM Photo & Video Gallery under the "About Us" pull-down menu.

To improve communication between the Board of Directors and the membership we have created, and have continued to populate, a new web page "Minutes & Reports" on the Members pull-down menu. Now everyone has easy and timely access to the minutes and reports from the monthly Board of Directors Meetings. It goes back to mid-2012.

I am continuing to try and expand our collection pages about our equipment and other artifacts at the museum. In Train Sheet 173 I asked for rail fans to join me in this effort. The offer is still open. I am looking for volunteers to adopt a piece of equipment and do the research to help me either create a new collection page or expand an existing page with more information or stories. A particular piece I would like to create a page for is for the WPMW 71, a.k.a. the weed burner. Our caboose train goes right by it and many visitors ask about it. I have not been able to locate any information about it. Do you know anything about it, or want to take on the challenge of being a historical detective? If so, please contact me!

To help our web users locate information in the Train Sheet archive, I configured a second Google Custom Search Engine that searches only the Train Sheets in the archive. It is on the "Train Sheet Archive" web page on the "News" pull-down menu.

I am always looking for feedback, content and new ideas. If you have some, please don't hesitate to contact me at webmaster@wplives.org.