

Museum Managers report: October 13-31 2003

Work continues on painting trash cans and barricades before storing these for the winter (almost finished). All tables and wood items removed from dock in anticipation of rain. Gift shop vacuumed out-especially under and around layout.

Checked propane tanks and found one at 16 percent and the other at 21 percent. Called Suburban Propane to come on in and change out the tanks. This has been completed. Pro-Gas came by one afternoon at 5:30 and looked at their tanks but made no attempt to pick them up. I also patched several holes on north side of building.

Have put away all of the tables, chairs, etc left over from Railfan's Day. Got up on roof of Party car and tried to seal any leaks with Henry's. Double checked from the inside to see if any light still comes through. Did not see any leaks. Need to patch west end of sleeper as there was a leak in there this summer after a rain storm.

Wooden steps to Silver Hostel repainted. Awnings on north side of building being scrapped and primed for repainting. This work is being done by volunteer Jim Oroh of Portola. Micky Housel has begun renovation of Silver Debris. The car is insulated by some kind of press board and shows evidence of leakage around the top of the walls. We will probably have to wet mop the roof to prevent water damage in the future.

Locomotives 707 and 2001 are kept locked as there are radios inside which are easily stolen. All engines except 512 have been drained. 512 is also on a battery charger.

Visited city hall to get permit for construction of the wooden ramp. Merrill Crawford of Pennsylvania donated some reciprocating saw blades. Unfortunately, these do not fit our saw. Several memberships and renewals processed this month in gift shop.

Gift Shop is running pretty slow during the week but is doing well on weekends. RAL's are running pretty much the same. Still getting 6-15 visitors a day. Better on weekends. Gift shop sales figures included. By my calculation, we have already surpassed last years sales figures.

Madden Plumbing of Quincy fixed the kitchen plumbing problem. Now that this is completed I have begun cleaning out the room and will set up a shipping room in there to process mail orders. Have sent Frank pictures and details on the wine sets and glasses for the next Train Sheet. Hopefully, we can start processing orders on these soon and get some sales going over the winter. I shot some pictures of other items in the store and will forward these to Sam H. for the website later this week. Am signed up for the Roseville Model Train show and a show in Reno in November. Think I will also try to hit memorabilia show in San Jose on November 23rd.

Also sent Sam H. some corrections to the web site. Specifically, that the museum hours are 10-5 daily and that the grounds are not open until 7 pm as stated on the website. I also told Sam that I'm not scheduling RAL's after November 2nd but will take them on a few days notice depending on weather conditions and availability of locomotives and instructors. I made an announcement on the FRRS list that the museum will close to the public at the end of business on November 2nd. I'll also notify other community websites, etc. Also notified the visitors bureau and the Williams House.

I had a new sign made that says "Closed for the Winter" and will affix to the main sign at the gate Sunday night. My plan for the winter is to be here 11-4 daily. If I'm on the property, I'll open the gate and wait on visitors. If not, I'll close and lock the gate. At least there will be a sign there to explain why the gate is closed. The museum phone number is still visible.

Work Weekends: Eugene Vicknair, Tom Carter and Dave Epling worked on the wood deck and the Silver Hostel. JC Collins painted two of the three water risers and helped Alan Hirasawa on the UP 849. Alan found

Security: Local kids sneaking onto the property again from south gate. No damage or theft noted. Hospital broken into through window on southwest corner. Unable to close up properly. Wood barrier needs to be secured from the inside, as there is nothing to screw into from the outside. Making more patrols of the area.

Correspondence: Card from Marilyn Watson thanking John Walker for return of found watch. Enclosed \$20.00 donation. Thank you letter sent. Request from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish School in Colusa California requesting donation for school fundraiser. No action taken. E-Mail from Dave Hambleton regarding donation of 1961 employee roster. Returned E-mail accepting donation. Letter to A.O. Olson acknowledging receipt of donation of 1949 trip pass. E-Mail correspondence with Charles Dean Conrad acknowledging receipt of two boxes of donated materials and thanking him for the donation.

RAL: Comp to Randy Kelly of Sierra Pacific Power in hopes of receiving consideration for future services and possible donation of surplus vehicles. Mr. Kelly told Norm and I that depending on the settlement of a lawsuit with Enron, he would give us consideration for the donation of a vehicle.

Tours: Possible tour by Casita Club RV club. 100 RV's August 2004. Tentative. Hosted Quincy disabled group on 9.29. Ken roller gave tour to 15-20 persons and everyone seemed happy.

Safety: New warning placards posted on Oil House and Battery Shed. Cleanup continues in shop area and paint storage area. 29 Fire extinguishers serviced. One water and one chemical found to be defective. One water extinguisher has since failed to hold pressure. A second visit will be needed to service other extinguishers, which have yet to be located. A new list of locations for all fire extinguishers has been started.

Pumpkin Festival Train: After careful consideration, I have decided to postpone this event until next year. Unfortunately, there are too many unfinished projects and many new projects underway to give this event enough consideration and preparation. Some of the areas that I wanted to use will be fouled by new equipment, replacement, storage, restorations, etc. In addition, we still do not have the kitchen sink repaired and the men's room commode is cracked and needs replacement. With everything else that is going on this fall I just don't see us being able to pull off much of an event this year. With the safety of all the visiting children of primary concern, I felt it was best to try again next year and do it right the first time instead of hosting a mediocre event. A letter has been sent to the local merchants announcing this decision with the reasons explained. *I take full responsibility for the failure to launch this event this year.* I was simply too optimistic regarding our capabilities at this time of year. I was not counting on the equipment swap with Rio Vista and other activities taking up so much of our time this fall. I still believe that this event holds great promise for the museum and the community. But it needs better planning and preparation.

Kitchen Sink: Called madden Plumbing of Quincy to take over project. Job was inspected and he was supposed to contact Health Department to work out a proposal to fix the remaining problem but I have not heard back from him in over Two weeks!

Community relations: Attended Plumas County Visitors Bureau grand opening and met representatives from Plumas Corp. the Visitors bureau, etc. Also attended grand opening of new offices of Chicago Title Company in Portola.

Hospital / Archives: Thanks to the efforts of Cathrine Shirley of Portola, we now have a floor plan of the old hospital. Additionally, Norman Holmes, Eugene Vicknair and I were able to purchase many items from the old hospital from a hospital yard sale at the Log cabin restaurant parking lot. Among the items we purchased was an exam table, several chairs, a desk, a smaller desk, traction devices, a baby basanet, two potty chairs, cases of old files, charts, office items and other misc stuff. \$150 was spent for all of this.

four leaky cylinder liners and this may be the cause of the oil leaks. Jim Oroh worked on repainting the eaves on the north side of the building. Andy Anderson ran RAL's and Norm took a walk in from Wisconsin, so he ran a double with Andy for an hour. Norm also picked up supplies at Longfellows for the ramp project. Doug Morgan and Rod McClure did some odd jobs while Eric McClure got all the trains running on the layout.

Changed out air filter in Office car. Cleaned out Southeast corner of engine shop and found a lot of trash and junk which seems to have been there for several years.

Now that winter is here. I plan on spending more time on the tool room and shop. I have been trying to use as much of the good weather to paint as much as I can. Now that I can't do this anymore, I'll concentrate on the shop and other interior projects.

Respectfully submitted,

John Walker
Museum Manager

Virgil Staff donated several boxes of material from the Western Pacific locomotive and maintenance of Way departments. Also received the donation of a framed set of dispatching rules dated 1932 for the Highline from Portola resident Mr. Kelly. Al Vizina of Portola donated Books and has lockers from old shop.

Respectfully Submitted

John Walker