

Tom Carter – Directors Report July, 2016

On Saturday, June 25th, Alicia and I set out from Stockton to Chico to pick up the donated O Gauge Model Railroad Collection of late member Bruce Yparraguirre in a 17' U-Haul. I took the previous day (Friday) off from work so we could pick up the truck as we had to leave by 6am, earlier than U-Haul opens. Eugene had originally reserved me a 26' truck, however, what you reserve at U-Haul and what they actually have available for you when you get there are often two (or three) different things, one of the MANY reasons I will NEVER do business with U-Haul again, but more on that later.

Arriving in Chico just after 9am, we were met by Brad Lomazzi, who has been retained by Linda Yparraguirre, donor and Bruce's widow to perform the appraisal, his Son-in-law Thomas Ambrossi (visiting from their home in Potsdam Germany), and of course, Linda for the loading process. Linda rounded up help in the form of neighbor Dave Smith for a time, and family friends Jim Botill and Liz George, to assist in bringing boxes and boxes and boxes of trains and books upstairs (split level home) and to the garage where each box was numbered with a brief description of what was inside, and then loaded on the truck in a "game of Adult Tetris" (remember, we lost 9' of truck). The temperature in Chico reached 108* while we were loading, so all of the help was definitely appreciated.

We had just enough room for the trains, however, we did not have room for the 9' x 4' layout table, the two donated book cases, numerous gorilla racks, or the tables and shelving Bruce had built for the collection. Another trip will need to be made to pick these items up. One book case is a very nice oak one similar to the ones in the gift shop and can join those, and the other is a nice dark wood case that the book collection was housed on. Gorilla racks are always a desired item around the museum and will be necessary for housing the trains we retain for the holiday layout in the boxcar. Several of the tables appear to have been built to start an around the walls layout of the second level train room. Those will form the base (or start) of the Holiday Trains display at the museum during Santa Trains. I am looking for volunteers to drive a rental truck up to Chico and bring these items back to the museum as there is no need to bring them back to Stockton for inventory and then re-transport back to Portola.

Eugene met us in Chico on his way to the museum where he brought me a credit card for fuel for the truck and brought pizza for the loading crew. I had already put \$50 of my own money out of pocket in the truck on the way up (U-Haul doesn't rent you trucks with full fuel tanks, another reason I'll NEVER use them again), so I hereby request a reimbursement for that expense as well as \$120 for lost wages for taking the day off Friday the 24th.

We headed out of Chico a little after 3pm and once we arrived back in Stockton, my restored 1942 Willys WWII Army Jeep was picked up by my friend Jeff Sutherland and taken to his ranch in Lodi for storage while the inventory process went on at my house and trains stored in the garage. Once Alicia and I arrived back, she was sent inside as she was sick from the heat, and thankfully, her family, David La Brecque, Michael La Brecque, Miranda La Brecque and Christopher La Brecque came over to help unload it all into my garage. We have completely stuffed my small one car garage, floor to rafters, wall to wall with only a VERY narrow (14"?) walkway from back door to garage door to walk through. What took us 6 hours to load took us approximately 45 minutes to unload as we had a lot of good, fresh, strong help.

Alicia and I have started the inventory process per Brad's approval and suggestions, and while I am at work each day, Alicia is busily bringing in boxes and performing the inventory at her desk that I moved

into the living room for her. Once the inventory is complete, we will need to move what we are keeping for the Christmas Display versus what we are liquidating, and as soon as Linda receives her paperwork and is happy with it, we'll start liquidating those pieces that we aren't keeping via eBay and International Railfair in Roseville in November.

Speaking of Christmas Trains, I am looking for volunteers to assist in the building of the train display. Please contact me for details if interested. No experience required, we'll train you. (HA!)