

Vice-President's Director Report

April 2020

Archive Car

The archive car humidifier has turned out to be labor-intensive, and in need of almost-daily checking. Through daily efforts of buying as much distilled water per day as we could find, we now have a few days' worth on hand. The water usage goes down dramatically when the heater runs less, so with the warmer weather, it should be easier to keep up with. Despite the hassles with the water, I am still opposed to running a water line out to the archive car. It would need filters, and demineralizers or reverse osmosis units installed somewhere where they won't freeze, and the line itself would need to be protected from freezing and physical damage. It's not feasible, in my opinion. As for the fire protection system, it's working flawlessly, is easy to monitor, and has locked covers on the panels to help keep random button-pushers from screwing things up (location of keys to the panels will be on a need-to-know basis). No work has been done inside the car since the mad scramble to make it acceptable for receiving the Meeker collection, which is now stored in the storage room of the car. We have vacated the last storage unit we were renting in Reno and our account is closed out; all materials are now on-site at the Museum.

Archives Insurance

The insurance we have for the archive materials conveniently is coming due for renewal on 5/13/2020. I have submitted several changes to the policy, which were incorporated into the new policy as Endorsement #01 by The Hartford (the insurance carrier). Two policy provisions that applied in Nevada were removed (and replaced by three California provisions), since none of the insured material is in Nevada. I also removed the Bruce Yparraguirre collection from the policy, since most of this collection has been sold. All statements on various policy pages referring to the location of the insured materials have been changed to state that all materials are at 700 Western Pacific Way, Portola, CA, 96122. I also attempted to get the terrorism provision removed, but The Hartford says that they can only waive that premium if the total policy premium is \$20K or more (way out of our league). The terrorism premium is only \$27. Net changes to the premium due to the changes made will save us about \$400 per year on this insurance (original premium was \$2860, final new premium not yet billed).

Propane

I reported earlier that I had both large propane tanks on the property filled last week; I have updated information on the costs. Again, the annual contract we have with AmeriGas is conveniently set to renew on 5/1/2020, so I signed a new agreement for 5/1/2020 to 5/1/2021. Our propane cost per this contract is \$0.60 above the AmeriGas local Area Index, same as the existing contract. At the time I had the two tanks filled, our cost was \$1.56 per gallon. According to my daughter, who works in the AmeriGas office in Quincy, the most we have paid for propane in the past year was \$1.89 per gallon. This price includes the small tanks we get filled for the Pumpkin Trains and the Santa Trains. As a reminder, the tank west of the office car, which feeds the archive car and the restroom heaters, had to be refilled only 6 weeks after the last fill; we'll have to watch this one more closely during the winter.

Lube Oil, Diesel Fuel, and Antifreeze

Working with the Mechanical Department, I have been hunting down prices for lube oil, diesel fuel, and antifreeze. I finally got a quote from Hunt & Sons, out of Sacramento (they have a distributorship in Quincy) for Chevron lube oil. I will compare that with Flyers, another jobber we have worked with; however, my contact at Flyers says we have to fill out another application for credit, since we last bought from them in 2018, and our account has gone inactive. Once we are reinstated, he says he can get me the quotes I need for all the fluids I'm after, including the antifreeze. We need relatively large quantities of lube oil and antifreeze to support the maintenance plans; diesel fuel would be nice to get, if the price were to drop (not likely). Whatever fuel is in the locomotives is all we have on hand, but we need to fill the caboose stoves, light plants, backhoe, and telehandler.

Grants

The grant check (\$6000) from the John H. Emery Rail Heritage Trust that Eugene previously reported on arrived in the mail on Friday, 4/10. There is paperwork associated with this grant check that I will discuss with Eugene and Greg, to ensure a prompt response.

We have also received a grant check for \$1000 from The Mark Jon Bluth Fund, via Schwab Charitable in San Francisco. Mr. Bluth is a long-time Family Life member from Saratoga, CA, and has made many significant donations of money and materials to the FRRS over the years. This is an unrestricted grant; I will provide the proper information to Greg and Eugene for our prompt acknowledgement of this most generous contribution.

Cleaners, Wipes, Sanitizers, and PPE

Due to incessant and idiotic hoarding, I am still unable to get any hand sanitizer. Over the last month, I have been slowly able to accumulate some Clorox wipes and antiseptic cleaners for bathrooms and other hard surfaces. Toilet paper is also nonexistent in Plumas County; fortunately, we have a few of the large rolls that are used in the restrooms on hand, and there should be a partial case of toilet paper in the shower car from last fall (unless it's already been raided). Except for hand sanitizer, we are OK for the Museum staff that are working at the Museum, but there is no way we can even consider letting the public in until this thing is over, and we can restock supplies. We are keeping most of the equipment locked up to prevent any access and possible contamination. If anyone wants to come up here to work, and you want a mask, gloves, and a face shield, you'll have to bring your own, as there is none of this stuff available anywhere in Plumas County or the Reno area, that I've been able to find. With today (Friday, 4/10) being the first day in over a month where it got to around 60 degrees, there were three carloads of people around the front gate this afternoon when I got there (one carload was out wandering around, probably on UP property). It's obvious we'll have to be vigilant in keeping the gate closed, or we'll have people everywhere (some people will even open the gate when it's dummy locked, which has been a disturbingly frequent occurrence so far this spring). These are the people who don't take the situation seriously, and will be our worst nightmare.

Museum Space Rent

Currently, the only people who are current in their space rent payments are David Wallace (ATSF 999197, paid through 2020), and Wayne Monger (ONW 300, paid through April 2020). Bill Parker (DRGW 01414) has his fees waived, since we have been using his caboose. Bill Wisneski (ATSF 601 diner) and Vic Neves (SP 1060) are significantly behind. I am attempting to do a better job of keeping up with these payments, but I'm more than willing to dump this on someone else (if I could keep better track of the spreadsheet, it would help, but I keep misplacing it).

Steve Habeck

Vice-President