

To: FRRS Board of Directors  
From: Paul Finnegan, Webmaster  
Re: Museum Web Page  
Date: July 8, 2021

## ***Mailtrain***

We continue to have members and the public signup on our “WPRM News” email distribution list on Mailtrain. We now have 234 email addresses, 11 have joined in the last month.

## ***WPRM Opens for 2021 Season via Mailtrain***

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, I sent out an email blast using Mailtrain to announce that the museum would open on July 1<sup>st</sup>. It was delivered to 233 subscribers.

## ***Website Unplanned Outage***

On Friday June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 08:51 PDT, the website went down. I became aware within 10 minutes and began an investigation and confirmed it was a real outage. At 09:10, I contacted Kenneth Finnegan and he determined, after additional investigation, that the hypervisor in Fremont had gotten into a disallowed state. Rebooting the hypervisor and then rebooting the virtual machines brought the website back online. The error messages indicated an issue with the network interface, so Kenneth stress tested it, but everything was working normally. The website was back up at 11:26 PDT.

## ***H/A Collections***

At last month’s meeting Kerry Cochran announced the new [Historical/Archive Collections pages](#). Since then I have continued to add material to them.

## ***Fremont Data Center Power Outage***

On Monday June 14, the data center where our web server is hosted experienced a partial power loss. The data center has redundant power feeds and battery plus generator backup, but due to the exact nature of the partial failure the backup power systems did not successfully all kick in. This took the website offline for two hours until power could be restored and the upstream routers could come back online.

## ***YouTube Unlisted Videos on WPLives Website***

On 6/23/21 I received an email from YouTube informing me our Unlisted videos uploaded before January 1, 2017 will be made Private starting July 23, 2021. In 2017, YouTube rolled out an update to the system that generates new YouTube Unlisted links, which included security enhancements that make the links for Unlisted videos even harder for someone to discover without us sharing with them. YouTube is now making changes to older Unlisted videos that were uploaded before this update took place.

I had set all of our videos on the website to Unlisted so they would only be available from our website or a link I specifically made public. YouTube gave me four options. I decided to just make all our old videos public so they would remain visible from our website (e.g. all the crew training videos.) I do not see a downside that the public can now access the videos from outside our website. In total, I had to change the status on 50 videos.

## ***New Style Mobile Landing Page***

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, I released a new style of [landing page for the mobile user](#). The intent is to bring right to the top the things a mobile user (think someone driving down SR70 and seeing the museum sign) would want to know to visit us.

## ***New (mobile friendly!) Tour at the Museum***

Three years ago, I created a set of web pages that was intended to serve as an audio tour guide for visitors to the museum. During this year's off-season, Kenneth Finnegan created a new framework for the material that is better suited for visitors to use on their mobile phones to learn about things around the museum. Working together, we have released the new tour site. It can be found at [tour.wplives.org](http://tour.wplives.org) and on the society's website on the Visit Us pull-down menu as "Museum Tour".

Kenneth Finnegan has created a set of laminated EXHIBIT CODE signs with the QR code and URL and posted them on many pieces of equipment and other artifacts around the museum.

**Western Pacific Railroad 501**

**Diesel Electric Switching Locomotive**

This little engine was the Western Pacific's first diesel-electric locomotive. Sent west by the Electro Motive Corporation in 1939 to demonstrate the virtues of diesel power to the WP, the railroad tried the locomotive in various locations and services in late September. Management liked what it could do and authorized the purchase of the engine and the building of two sisters within two months of its arrival. This event marked the beginning of the company's push to eliminate steam locomotives. Less than 14 years later, the WP became the first large western railroad to be completely dieselized.

The 501 worked at a number of terminals, including San Francisco, where it was needed to eliminate smoke and steam while spotting cars inside a can factory. Early in her career, the engine most often worked the yards and spurs in Oakland or San Francisco, including switching the barges and ferries that carried freights cars between the two cities. In later years, it was more likely to be found in Sacramento or leased to subsidiary Sacramento Northern.

In 1965, the 501 and sister 502 were formally transferred to the Sacramento Northern (a onetime electric interurban railroad). They were renumbered SN 401 and 402 and used to eliminate the SN's last electrified freight operation, located between Marysville and Yuba City, California. A "hangar queen" (locomotive from which parts are stripped to keep others running) by the late 1970s, some believed this historic locomotive would never run again. However, in 1980, 401/501 was repaired and sold to Corn Products Corporation in Stockton, California for use as a plant switcher. In 1987, Corn Products donated the locomotive to the Feather River Rail Society. It has since been restored to its original Western Pacific appearance.

**builder**  
Electro-Motive Corporation,  
division of General Motors

**built**  
August 1939

**type**  
SW1

**horsepower**  
600

**serial number**  
906

**original cost**  
\$64,525.00

**top speed**  
45 MPH

**operating weight**  
201,000 lbs

**acquisition**  
donated by Corn Products

**EXHIBIT CODE**  
**WP501**



tour.wplives.org/WP501

## ***General Items***

- 6/3/21 – Posted preliminary June Board Meeting agenda to [Minutes & Reports](#) web page.
- 6/3/21 – Added photo from Ethan Doty to [Around the Museum 2021 gallery](#) of the completed track work.
- 6/5/21 – Released new [Historical/Archive Collection pages](#).
- 6/6/21 – Added photo from Greg Elems taken by David Elems to [Around the Museum 2021 gallery](#).

- 6/7/21 – Added photos from Kerry Cochran from around the museum, crew training and Members' Day events to [Around the Museum 2021 gallery](#).
- 6/10/21 – Updated Roger Stabler's email address in the FRRS Board Members' email forwarder, steam@wplives.org forwarder, Mailtrain "FRRS News" list and will include in my quarterly update to Susan to update the Membership database.
- 6/18/21 – Added two photos from Greg Elems to the [Around the Museum 2021 gallery](#).
- 6/18/21 – Added Robert S. Webber and Norm Holmes Drawer 1 Row 1 collections to [Historical/Archive Collection pages](#).
- 6/18/21 – Released WP 705 Restoration Project gallery.
- 6/21/21 – Added a photo from Greg Elems about the new Museum Store floor to the [Around the Museum 2021 gallery](#).
- 6/22/21 – Added three photos from Greg Elems about the new Museum Store floor to the [Around the Museum 2021 gallery](#).
- 6/26/21 – Added a photo from Janet Steeper about the new Museum Store floor to the [Around the Museum 2021 gallery](#).
- 6/28/21 – Major website update to note the opening on July 1 and put the new Tour pages online.
- 6/29/21 – Updated museum hours in [Google Search results for WPRM](#).
- 6/29/21 – Secured the login credentials for our business account at Yelp and updated the days & hours and a few other things that were out of date. Out Yelp page: <https://www.yelp.com/biz/western-pacific-railroad-museum-portola-2>
- 7/1/21 – Added "WP Industry Guide Reno Branch 1970" to [Modeling](#) page.
  - Added "WP Rotary 3" to [Archives](#) web page.
  - Announced Opening, contract signed for Convention, etc.
- 7/2/21 – Updated [RAL page](#) putting SP 2873 and WP 2001 out of service – waiting for parts per email from Kerry Cochran.
- 7/2/21 – Updated [Headlights](#) web page showing issue 10 is out of print based on email from Kerry Cochran.
- 7/3/21 – Added two photos from Kerry Cochran to the [Around the Museum 2021 gallery](#).
- 7/4/21 – Updated FRRS Calendar, removed WP History Event in August per Greg Elems.
- 7/4/21 – Added new photo of Exhibit QR Code for new Museum Tour to the [Around the Museum 2021 gallery](#).
- 7/5/21 – Added Instagram link to new Western Pacific Lives Instagram account in home page. (Will add to footer next week.)
- 7/6/21 – Created new signal\_dept@wplives.org email alias per request from Kerry Cochran
- 7/8/21 – Updated social media links in footers. Replaced "Facebook" with icon, added Instagram and Twitter links.
- 7/8/21 – Posted July Board Meeting Preliminary Agenda and set up July Minutes & Reports web page.