



921 coming off the balloon after the first operating passenger trip May 25th 1985

GRAND OPENING MAY 25-26-27th 1985

The big news in this issue is the Grand Opening. Here is a complete recap of the days before and during the opening.....

As the count down to Grand Opening day drew nearer, the frenzie of activity at the museum increased. No sooner did one item get crossed off the list of things to do two others appeared. So many did so much that it was hard keeping track of who did what. Briefly, Chris Skow took a week off to paint the meeting room, kitchen, office and women's rest room as well as spending all Friday night setting up merchandise at the gift shop. Steve Habeck spent a weeks vacation building the deck, sides and seats on flat car 8514. Odie Lorimer worked all week painting 608 and making museum signs as well as other activities. Gordon Wollesen and family again tackled the plumbing and got the women's rest room working, the only problem was the room is without a door! Diane Wollesen and Vickie Krois painted the cab interior of 608. Hiedi Wollesen washed our new refrigerator and stove, the rest of the Wollesens also helped on various jobs. John Ryczkowski sanded and prepared for painting, primed and then after Odie painted the orange on stenciled the 608. Peter Solyon and his wife painted all the silver on the 608 as a finishing touch. Dave and Doug Jensen washed 921 and Doug took the instrument gauge covers from 608 and cleaned and primed them. Joe Way did a rush job on getting all the inside door locks working. Ken Shipton, Ken

Roller, John Walker, Mel Moore, Marty Banks, Glen Mosley, Jeff Jamison, John and Charlene Ma Marvin, Jim Boynton, Jack Palmer and I am sure others helped get things ready. Hap and Myself were the go-fers and spent time keeping everything in some type of order???? Steve Habeck finished the flat car and John Ryczkowski painted it yellow and Vickie did the tirm, all done at the end of the day Friday. Matt Parker with John Ryczkowski put together and printed tickets and a handout flyer for visitor information. Which a copy is in with this issue. Odie stenciled the Western Pacific emblem on the cab of 608 Sat morning as it moved into position for it's first run!

Saturday dawned a beautiful day. Some 200 people were on hand for the opening ceremonies. As Society President I gave the audience a brief history of the museum, introduced Mike Chapman, General Superintendent Union Pacific Western Div. who acknowledged UP's part in the development of the museum. Others recognized were Portola Mayor Sandi Waterhouse, County Supervisor Leonard Ross, Trainmaster Jack Rich, Road Foreman Mark Chenchar and Eastern Plumas Chamber of Commerce VP Bev Moore. Bev then intorduced a number of young ladies who are competing for "MISS RAILROAD DAYS".

The ceremonies over--Society VP Jim Boynton brought 921 out of the engine house and through the Grand Opening banner to the cheers

of the crowd. Everybody then boarded the train, which consisted of 921, caboose 428, flat 8514 and caboose SN1632, for a first ride around the museum balloon track. Operation continued all day with 921 and 608 alternating on the train. Most of the trains operated with a full load of passengers.....

Our parking lot which was cleared Friday and our new entrance road got a lot of use. (Members and visitors should now use our new entrance off of County Road A-15 instead of the UP yard) Sunday was our biggest day with the parking lot full most of the day. Bev Moore did a super job on the ticket booth selling tickets and giving general information.

Barbara Holmes, Diane Wollesen and Charlene Marvin tried out our new kitchen serving coffee, drinks and ice tea. The American Legion set up a booth to sell Hamburgers all three days and 540 were sold.

Our well stocked gift shop contained wall to wall people much of the time, many people helped make the shop, run by Chris, ring up a record sales weekend.

B&B Deli from Quincy served a BBQ dinner Saturday night which was great and Sunday a impromptu pot luck dinner was held. Museum members and a few friends enjoyed the food and hospitality both days. A WP freight train was assembled and spotted on the balloon for Photographers. Dave McClain and John Ryczkowski positioned the display engines, 921 and 608 for Photographers and let many museum visitors record horn sound much to the enjoyment of all. At one time a passing UP freight and everything that had air to blow a horn was sounding off!!!!

608 backing up to it's train at the loading area

All in all we had a very successful Grand Opening. Over 2000 people attended, gross receipts from ticket sales, gift shop sales, drinks and donations totaled over \$10,000. Of course this is not all profit, we had to pay insurance, merchandise and all the supplies used getting ready. Over 40 members helped make the event a success-who can not say we don't have enthusiastic supporters?

At least 25 members helped run the trains; listed here are engine crews, Dave McClain, Jim Boynton, Norm Holmes, Bob Larson, Mel Moore, John Ryczkowski, Al Thomsen, Graham Snyder, George Oels Trainmen; Dennis Clemens, Larry Clewell, Jim Folsom, Steve Habeck, Jeff Jamason, Doug Jensen, Vic Neves, Steve Milward, Wayne Monger, Jack Palmer, Matt Parker, John Ruchle, Hank Stiles, Peter Solyom, John Walker, and Gordon Wollesen along with Eric and Ian Wollesen.....

GREAT LATE BREAKING NEWS.....

As I was putting this issue together Norm called the fire station where I was setting up the SHEET, and told me that the UP is looking over the Alco's to move and that they are going to "dig out the 2001 for movement to PORTOLA." And that the SN 712 and 6917 is going to Sacramento..... How about that.....

The logo features a stylized graphic of a pen nib writing the letters 'WP' inside a square frame. To the right of this frame, the words 'WP LIVES' are written in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font. The entire logo is underlined.