

805A Update

The unveiling...

Our restoration painter, David Dewey, really buckled down on the 805 project and finished it in time for the Circle the Wagons Celebration. He first painted the interior of the cab so it could be blocked off with cardboard as we have had difficulty in finding replacement side windows. About a month ago, David finished the prep work on the nose, then he primed and painted it orange. The side panels were next on his list as they were orange also. Larry Hanlon furnished a stencil for the nose "wings." It was laid out and the wing area was painted white, then the outline of the wings was laid out with one inch masking tape, and the remaining untaped area was painted red. The tape was removed and "voila," there were the wings! Odie Lorimer painted the WP herald, and he had a stencil that showed the exact contour of it; the contour being necessary because it is mounted on a curved surface on the front door close to a round headlight housing and a door latch. Odie's stencil matched it perfectly.

By this time the Annual Membership meeting was at hand. After the meeting, the beautiful restoration job was unveiled to the "ooohs" and "aaahs" of all of the eager members in attendance. It was a sight to behold.

After the meeting, and about a week later, Larry Hanlon installed a working mars light. Because of time constraints, the pilot and the rear of the locomotive were hand brushed with silver paint, and the trucks were sprayed silver. The locomotive was then ready for the Circle the Wagons celebration. Some painting on the roof and back remain to be done, but it really looks great. Thanks go to all of those who helped make it happen.

New Equipment

Through the generosity of member Jack Hathaway, our museum now has three passenger cars. Jack thought we needed some passenger equipment to round out our collection, so he presented his proposal to the Board and it was agreed he would go to Canada to select 2 coaches and a sleeper from VIA's surplus equipment. All the cars were manufactured by Pullman-Standard and used by VIA until replaced by Budd stainless steel cars when train service was reduced. The coaches were located in Montreal and the sleeper in Halifax. Jack purchased the cars in November, 1993, and we immediately made a request to the Union Pacific and Chicago North Western for free transportation between Chicago and Portola. Union Pacific responded favorably, but CNW declined our request because we were not located in their service area. UP then interceded on our behalf and the request was granted. The cars were delayed at the border due to customs problems, but finally the two coaches arrived in Portola on June 5, 1994 and the sleeper on June 9, 1994. All the windows on one side of one coach were broken enroute, otherwise no damage was found although evidence indicated they were occupied for at least part of their 4,000 + mile journey. We really appreciate this gift from Jack and also thank UP and CNW for providing free transportation, the value of which was over \$3,000 per car.

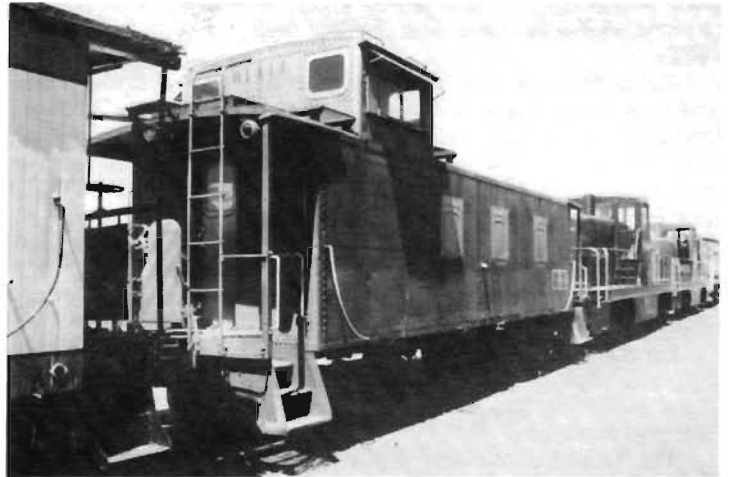
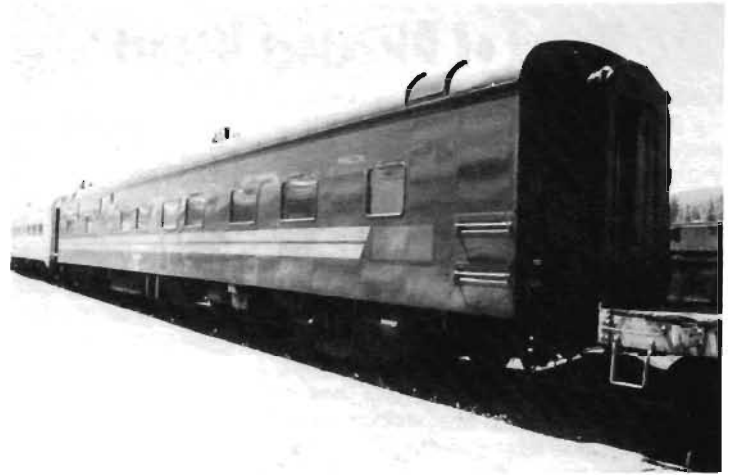
Passenger car details:

VIA 1112 Third in a series of 52 cars built for CN in 1954 for use on their "Super Continental." All cars in this series were named after Canadian cities and towns whose names begin with "E." Our car is named "Edenwold." It has 4 sections, 8 duplex roomettes and 4 double bedrooms. It is in excellent condition.

VIA 5742 - 52 seat coach, built by P-S in 1949 as a sleeper for Florida East Coast Ry. and named "Havana." Sold to CN in 1967 and named "Petawa River," rebuilt to a coach by CN in 1978 and numbered 5742.

VIA 5743 - 52 seat coach, built by P-S in 1948 as a sleeper for The Milwaukee Road and named "Lake Coeur d'Alene." Sold to CN in 1967 and named "Wanapitei River," rebuilt to a coach by CN in 1978 and numbered 5743.

Another new addition to our equipment collection is Rio Grande caboose No. 01414, built 5-41. This caboose is owned by Bob Lindley and is on a long term lease to our museum. It was delivered by Dobbas Trucking from Roseville on May 11, 1994. Since WP and Rio Grande were closely related from Day One, it was felt this caboose would represent that affiliation.



Top Photo: Shown is one of the passenger cars (VIA 1112, Edenwold, sleeper) that FRRS member Jack Hathaway generously donated to the museum. Center: Rio Grande caboose 01414 is owned by Bob Lindley and is on long term loan to the museum. Left: Our beautiful 9 color Circle the Wagons tee shirt is available from the gift shop. Photos by Ed Warren.