

## World Wide Western Pacific, Part 2

### CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR

California Zephyr Virtual Museum  
calzephyr.railfan.net

Featuring rosters, car diagrams, current dispositions, brochures and memories of those who rode and worked the Silver Lady, the CZ Virtual Museum by Alan Radecki and John Wilson lives up to its name. This beautiful site packs a lot of information on the CZ, including details about its motive power, movies the CZ appeared in, timetables, menus and a complete history. There is a "Tour of the Train" section that includes selected CZ consists and diagrams for many of the cars. Perhaps the finest sections of the site are those dealing with the CZ's people, especially its profiles of several Zephyrettes and stories written by those who experienced with the train.

*In the next issue...*

Part 3 covers websites featuring the Boca and Loyalton, Deep Creek, Alameda Belt Line and general sites with WP family related information.

Also, if anyone finds any sites not listed here which feature aspects of the Western Pacific story, please e-mail them to Eugene Vicknair at tsry@aol.com.

## Restoration of Western Pacific Hospital

By Frank Brehm and Eugene Vicknair

As has been previously reported in the The Train Sheet, FRRS now owns the old WP hospital property located in Portola. Because restoration of this historic structure is such a large undertaking a plan of action has been developed to use as a guide during the renovation. As we progress on the project there will be public comment periods which will be used to help create the master plan for this particular site which will also become part of the museums overall master plan. We invite your participation in this exciting new project. Below is a brief description of the project as well as the current action plan. The action plan is subject to revision as needed.

### Brief description of the project

In 1914, the Western Pacific Railroad established a hospital in Portola for its own employees and the local communities. This was a common practice of railroad companies at the time, who were among the leaders in providing such benefits to employees and their families. This hospital was located on 2nd Avenue in Portola, on a bluff overlooking the WP locomotive facilities (and today the location of the Portola Railroad Museum). It was a full service facility, providing emergency care, long-term convalescent care, check-ups and physicals, and surgery. It served until 1972, at which point it was sold to a private owner. In early 2001, the daughter of the former owner donated the entire facility to the Feather River Rail Society, operators of the Portola Railroad Museum and the leading Western Pacific Railroad historical group, for preservation. Very few rail-

road hospitals remain and this is one of the few in the United States to be preserved for historical purposes.

The goal of the FRRS is to return the exterior of the hospital to a historically accurate appearance and create landscaped grounds around it. Inside, the facility would provide several functions to the FRRS and the community:

- Several rooms are envisioned to be restored to historic accuracy to tell the story of the role the hospital played in the railroad company and community.
- One wing is planned to house the archives of the FRRS and allow the creation of a research library for accessing and analyzing these archives.
- Several large rooms in the opposite wing would function as meeting rooms where the society and local community groups could hold meetings and gatherings.

Inspections have deemed it restorable, but desperately in need of care, attention and stabilization as soon as possible. Immediate needs include remediation of asbestos, removal of debris, securing of the buildings and inspection and repair of utilities.

The FRRS has in place a long-range plan for the complete restoration of this historic facility. Long-term fundraising is beginning, but the immediate needs of the structure are great. We must quickly engage specialists to assist in the planning, stabilization and remediation of the structures.

### Action Plan

#### Preliminary actions. (COMPLETED)

1. Accept donation of property and structures.
2. Conduct preliminary assessment of grounds and structures.
3. Extend FRRS liability insurance to cover Hospital campus and structures.
4. Open liaison with city to coordinate community involvement.
5. Authorize funds for Assessment and Research of Hospital.

#### Assessment and Research

1. Assess security of the structure(s) and grounds.
2. Examine structural integrity of the existing structure(s) and condition of surrounding grounds.
3. With assistance of city building inspector, identify non-conforming materials, building code violations, and immediate hazards.
4. With assistance of county health inspector, identify any immediate health hazards.
5. With assistance of power company, identify any immediate electrical/ utility hazards.
6. Obtain or have produced architectural drawings of the lot and structure(s) in current condition and at significant historical points (ie: at original construction, at completion of final addition, at time of 1950's renovation).
7. Inspection by a qualified structural engineer.

#### Stabilization

1. Stabilize and/or isolate identified hazards.
2. Clean up of the grounds and structure(s).
3. Secure the structure(s) against un-authorized entry. May include grounds access restrictions and signage.

#### Planning

1. Consider the planned occupancy and use of the grounds and

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## Restoration of Western Pacific Hospital

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structure(s). Identify extent and limits of adaptive reuse and historical restoration.

2. Adaptive reuse possibilities: Society/Museum offices, Research library and archives, Meeting/Presentation rooms (open to the Society and the Community), Display spaces.

### Historical Possibilities

1. History of structures and Western Pacific Medical System, relationship of hospital and railroad with the community, leadership of railroad companies in providing health/benefit systems to employees and communities.

2. Identify changes to be made to the current grounds and structure(s) to confirm with new usage model. Specific aspects include seismic stability, ADA compliance, adaptive reuse issues, IT networking, improved power/utility systems, historical appearance.

3. Re-accomplish architectural drawings with planned changes to the existing grounds and structure(s). Include aspects concerning integration of the Hospital site with the adjacent main body of the Portola Railroad Museum.

4. Identify the scope of work to be performed.

5. Determine funding mechanisms available for the project.

### Renovation

1. Obtain funding for complete project scope.

2. Obtain necessary permits for any planned demolition.

3. Obtain necessary permits for any planned construction.

4. Remove all non-conforming materials.

5. Gut structures in preparation of renovation including the removal of all existing electrical wiring, sewage piping, water piping, and interior finish materials.

6. Repair and/or replace identified structural component deficiencies.

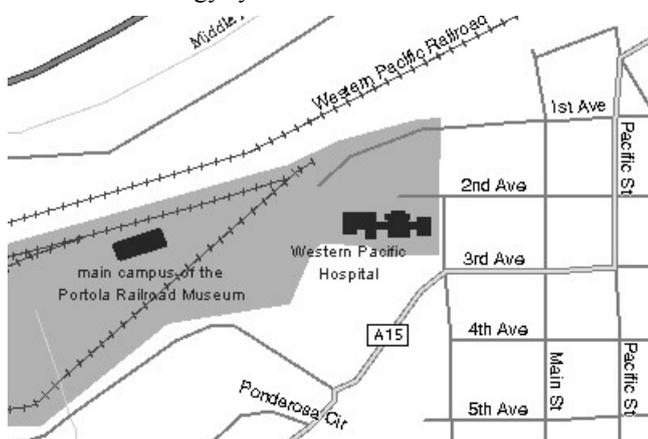
7. Perform complete construction work necessary to accomplish finished product as identified in the plans from section 3.

8. Complete grounds improvement and visitor signage.

### Integration

1. Perform additional work required to functionally and visually integrate completed Hospital site into main campus of the Portola Railroad Museum.

2. Work scope as determined in section 3 and to include ADA compliant walkways, signage, additional parking and access, data and voice technology systems.



## Minutes of Past Meetings

**January 5, 2002**

Vice-President Andy Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The following directors were present: Andy Anderson, Pat Brimmer, Frank Brehm, Kerry Cochran, Eugene Vicknair, Jan Brietwieser, Norm Holmes, Hank Stiles.

Visitors Present: Rod McClure, Gail McClure, Judy McGrath, Gary Hall, Alan Turner, Tom Graham, Jan Zygnier, Jack Zygnier, Steve Habeck, Matt Parker, Missy Iverson, Ken Iverson, Marta Egan, Dan Brady.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes – Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 3, 2001.

Finance Reports - Transaction report through November 20, 2001 Profit & Loss.

Convention Report.

Revision of Motion #01-11-05

Motion #01-12-01

Made by Director Vicknair, seconded by Director Brehm to approve the consent agenda reports as presented. All directors present voted in favor.

### OLD BUSINESS:

2002 BUDGET: Treasurer Dan Brady reviewed the Society's current financial status, he explained that although the Society has cash, and minimal debt, the majority of the cash is held in restricted funds and cannot be used for day to day operations or for new projects. He suggested the Board work on controlling expenses and developing more sources of revenue through fund raisers and the membership while working on projects that have restricted funds to use and pick a couple of new projects that are high priority to work on this year.

Directors Brimmer and Stiles each noted that a high priority should be given to track maintenance.

Director Brietwieser noted that she felt it was important for the board to consider paying someone to work with the board on organization and administration of the museum. She noted that Marta Egan was willing and able to perform the job at a cost of about \$700 per month.

Director Brimmer noted that another high priority should be the code violations noted by the City's building inspector.

President Anderson suggested that Susan Scarlett was willing to take over the membership process and would be able to get cards out, etc. in a timely fashion. It was the consensus of the Board to take Mr. Anderson's advise and have Susan work with Kerry to take over the membership.

Mr. Brady requested all directors who get paid for services talk to him about how it could be handled differently so the Society didn't have to pay the inflated workers comp rate. He also requested to be given a fair market value cost on the new caboose and boxcar.

Mr. Brady then presented a transaction report in a new format and asked for input from the board, he asked if the report was need monthly or if quarterly would work. It was the consensus of the Board to continue with the monthly report and revisit the item in the fall to determine if the report was needed monthly throughout the winter.

Director Stiles requested a department budget. It was noted that Susan, Gary and Dan were working on a format that would allow department heads to get a clear view of their department's budget.

Alan Turner noted that it should be a priority to get the accounting reports developed. The board continued to discuss and review the draft budget presented by Mr. Brady;