

Museum on TV



On April 30, a crew from Reno television channel 8 came to the museum to film a segment on Plumas County. Ed Pearce, left, and cameraman Josh Small toured the museum and also operated a locomotive.

The segment was shown during the nightly news program.

- Norm Holmes

Cryogenic Box Car Now Ours

By Norman Holmes

The Simplot Company has donated a Cryogenic refrigerated rail car to our museum. The car used a patented CO₂ refrigeration technology to transport frozen food products. The Simplot Company decided to phase out these cars and felt that one of these unique cars should be saved. Since the company had donated an Alco RS32 locomotive to our museum we were asked if we wanted one of the refrigerator cars.

The car was built as an insulated box car for SSW in 1968 and converted to its present configuration in 1988. The car is 60 feet long and in excellent condition. It will probably be used for archival storage. We wish to thank the Simplot Company and Ed Bryant, one of the inventors of the technology, for this generous donation and the Union Pacific for providing free transportation.



Zephyr Project Update

By Eugene Vicknair, Zephyr Project Coordinator

The winter was quiet for the Zephyr Project, with the exception of searching for parts for the Silver Hostel and working on getting the commemorative models made. These should be the only gifts left unsent by the time you receive this newsletter.

Several developments have been very encouraging lately. A new donor may be providing several of the missing dome window frames and is assisting in finding other special parts, including side skirts. More details as this is finalized.

The biggest news is the application for a \$75,000 grant from the Save America's Treasures program. This money, if awarded, will be a matching grant used for completing the dome, exterior and various mechanical repairs on the Silver Hostel. Most of the money previously donated to the Project will be eligible to match the grant. Recipients will be announced in late July and more details will be available if the Zephyr Project is chosen for inclusion in the program. Keep your fingers crossed!

The first two work weekends of the season have been scheduled. They are: June 1-2 and July 13-14.

Work will concentrate on the Silver Hostel where we will be completing removal of the last few items in the dome and removing the stair materials for reconstruction of the stairway.

Anyone who wants to participate, just show up at the museum on these weekends. Work will begin at 10AM.

And, if you want to work on the Silver Hostel when you are up, a new Work Order section is being added to the work binder. Each page will document a task needing completion on the car with instructions on how to do it. Just grab the orange and black binder (found in the dorm section of the car) and check what needs to be done. Eric and I also ask that you call or e-mail us if you are going to be there and want to work on the car. We can give you some ideas.

As always, if you have any questions or want to help out, please contact Eugene Vicknair by e-mail at TSRY@aol.com.

Thank you!

