

Larry, Ramona Mosier of Yuba City has donated several books, magazines and pictures from her late husbands collection. Former Director Pat Brimmer made arrangements with Mr. Oscar Olson of Salt Lake City to get us digital color copies of Mr. Olson's father's 1916 trip passes and early WP employment records. These are very unique documents, which many of us have never seen before. David Dewey learned of two Feather River Railway cross bucks (which surfaced from Lake Oroville many years ago) stored in a garage in Oroville. David made the arrangements for us to purchase both cross bucks through a private donation and these were transported up to the museum by yours truly and Robert Forren of Gridley (who also donated an old WP shovel to us). Charles Dean Conrad, who worked for the WP between 1967 and 1973 as the railroads Training Coordinator and Personal Officer donated several old WP timetables and Official Guides from his collection. After working in Pennsylvania and Saudi Arabia, Mr. Conrad has resided in Indonesia for some 19 years now and even paid for the shipping of his donation to the United States.

Director Kerry Cochran has been helping to sort through a lot of Hap Manits collection and has discovered several unique items, including an old WP recipe book and many old papers and photographs. Director Frank Brehm and I have been working on acquiring several items. Hopefully, we will soon have a complete collection of WP annual reports and a complete set of all of the WP's California Zephyr advertising proofs. Another member has promised some WP station signs from the Highline, and another has sent us some metal mile markers from the old Second Sub. And thanks to Anthony (whose business card I misplaced, sorry Anthony) in Sacramento for the donation of a sizable collection of CTC Board and Pacific Rail News magazines.

While sorting through some things earlier this year, I found a box of really neat things donated by K.W. Bowers of Fallon Nevada. I don't know when these California Zephyr, annual reports, photos and timetables were donated but we wanted to thank him also. Many items in the archives have since lost the little notes, which identify the donor. If you've donated something in the past and would like an acknowledgement, please send me a note in care of the museum. And on top of all of this, we have also received some hand lanterns and other books, which were dropped off at the museum this spring. THANKS to everyone for your contribution to our continued success!

Museum Managers Report

By John Walker

It is with a great sense of enthusiasm and admittedly, some trepidation, that I take on the task of becoming the museum's first, paid, full time manager.

I'm excited because I believe this is another step forward in the development of our organization and museum. In just twenty years, the FRRS has done more, with less, and in a shorter period of time, than any other railroad museum in the United States. We have a great collection, a unique facility, fantastic volunteers and a strong and supportive membership. We have done some incredible things over the last twenty years. And we did this without any State or Federal money. We did it with hard work, our own fundraising, being innovative and never being afraid to take

a chance or listening to the doomsayers who said we couldn't do it. In retrospect, it is rather amazing that we have come this far with just volunteers and occasional part time employees.

And after twenty years, I'm still excited about the Portola Railroad Museum! I still believe that we are a great diamond in the rough. And with just the right amount of polish, in just the right places, our railroad museum and the FRRS are going to shine even brighter.

But, I also realize that in taking on this job, I've got some big shoes to fill. The work of Hap Manits, Norman and Barbara Holmes, Chris Skow, Gordon Wolleson, Doug Morgan, Ken Iverson, Lolli Bryan, Ken Roller and others kept the museum going during it's early development. Recently, Jan Bratwieser, The entire McClure family, Steve Habeck and others have done an incredible job of holding it together while also advancing it forward.

After careful consideration of the task ahead, I've met with all of the Directors and most of the department heads and found them very supportive and eager to assist in making this new program work. Their unanimous vote of confidence is encouraging and most reassuring.

The Board of Directors has given me specific problems and issues to address. This in itself will be a challenge.

I will work each day to improve gift shop sales, take over the scheduling of RAL's, ensure the security of our property and equipment, improve and expedite communications, maintain accurate records while maintaining a sense of order around the museum each day.

In addition, I have some very important goals of my own. I'll be volunteering more time on the archives, displays and restoration projects. But, this organization and this museum is not about one person or one set of ideas. This is your organization and your museum. So, I welcome your help and your support. And I thank you for the opportunity.

News Bits

We are glad to hear that member, and former Director Clyde Lippencott of Carson City is making a great recovery from Back and Hip surgery. Clyde says he is looking forward to getting back up to the museum soon.

It was also great to see Member Jim Cooper of Reno visiting the museum in early June. Jim is recovering from Carpal Tunnel Surgery in both wrists (later, I was wondering how he managed to drive up to the museum?).

A special thank you to Bob and Virginia McBratney of The Western Depot model train store in Yuba City for the donation of 40 gallons of interior house paint and nine brand new, high intensity, out door security lights to the museum earlier this year. Bob and "Ginny" have been very supportive of the museum over the last twenty years. They have never asked for recognition, but have donated lots of surplus items and helped the museum's gift shop numerous times over the years with consignment items and special offers to help increase our sales program.

It was good to see member Andy Petersen from Portland visiting the museum June 22nd. Andy is a great supporter of the museum and proved this again with a generous \$200.00 cash donation. Thanks Andy.