

Caboosing Around the Museum

By John Walker

Happy New Year!

1.01-Heavy Snowstorms.

1.06-John Walker and Doug Morgan shoveled 2-3 foot of snow around the museum.

1.08-Wicked snowstorms pound northern California and Nevada. Board of Directors meeting at the McClure residence in Reno with Dan Brady and Merrill Thurman attending. The museum and Reno get another four feet of snow. This is the most snow in Reno since 1916 closing highways and most surface streets for several days. Steve Habeck reports that there is 6 foot of snow in the museum and roads in the City of Portola are nearly impassable.

1.12-John Walker hikes from the city corporation yard through 4-6 feet of snow and over the front gate to get inside the museum. Doug Morgan arranged for the city to plow a road through the gate and up to the sidewalk in the parking lot and helped John shovel out the gate and part of the sidewalks. After uncovering the Propane tanks, we discovered that we were almost out of gas and had to shut off and drain the restrooms inside the museum lest they freeze up and break water pipes.

1.13-Doug Morgan checked the museum while John Walker stayed home nursing sore muscles and a head cold.

1.14-John checked the museum, answered phone calls and mail.

1.15/16-Doug Morgan, Hank Stiles, Frank Brehm, Steve Habeck and Rod McClure began trying to clear the snow. Hank fired up the backhoe and began plowing out the west end of the building and the access road along the north side. Unfortunately, there was no place to put the snow and progress stopped at the end of the loading dock. Dave Anderson of Portola brought over his snow blower and made several paths down sidewalks on the east end and up the dock to the office car.

1.18-John Walker and Doug Morgan worked on various snow removal efforts around the museum. Satisfied that the museum was again in good shape and that phone calls and mail was caught up. Everyone took some more time off from the freezing conditions.

2.3-John Walker, Steve Habeck and Doug Morgan tried to do some work at the museum. The snow has melted down to one to two feet but has compacted down to solid ice. Snow sliding down the north side of the roof has knocked out several windows on the north side.

2.4-John Walker and Rod McClure catch up on some things around the museum and again try to plow out the remaining snow. Four wheel drive vehicles still required to get in and out of the museum.

2.5-Board meeting in Roseville.

2.6/9-John checking the museum on a daily basis. Returning phone calls, answering mail and feeding the cat.

2.10-John packed for a train show in Roseville. Steve Habeck delivering mail and checking batteries.

2.12/13-John represented the FRRS at a train show in Roseville. David Epling and Eugene Vicknair worked on the dem-

olition of the old model train layout, which has a steady drip from a roof leak flooding the little town. The plaster is falling off and the buildings are coming apart. Attempts made to save parts of the layout fail but most of the rolling stock and buildings are saved. Seth Adams worked on the SP 4404. Steve Habeck checking the museum for water leaks and damage.

2.15-Greg Elams brought Brett Whellen from Australia over for a visit. 2.17-John checked phones, shipped mail orders and mopped up water. Greg Elams and Brett Whellen visited again.

2.19-Still a foot or two of snow and ice on the ground. John shoveled snow while Steve Habeck checked batteries and delivered mail.

2.21-Doug Morgan repaired brake valves.

2.22/24-Rick Edwards had a few days off and bravely worked in the shop for three days, reorganizing equipment and supplies.

3.02/3-Loren Ross worked in the shop sorting nuts and bolts and helping John shovel snow.

3.04-John tried to clean up broken glass and along with Doug Morgan, began replacing a broken commode in the Men's room.

3.05-Opening Day! Ed Powell was the first in followed by John, Hank Stiles and Charlie Spikes. The museum is a quagmire of mud and water but we did get it open. Loren Ross ran an RAL while John Walker finished installation of the new commode in the Men's room (no, I don't know who was the first to use it). With the Propane tanks filled, Hank Stiles helped get the water turned back on and restrooms put back on line. Board meeting with Dave Epling and John Manter attending. Ed Powell worked on UP6936, which is leaving today for an inspection trip to Kansas City. Hank Stiles watered and started SPI #12, 1100 and SP2873. Doug Morgan repaired an air brake problem on the SPI #12. Don Hammack brought in a crew of local kids to help shovel snow and clean up the inside of the building. Rod McClure, Steve Habeck, Loren Ross, Ed Powell, Gail McClure and John Walker did some switching after closing. Still pretty cold here. Still some snow on the ground but WE DID IT!

3.06-Hank Stiles cleared snow on the north end of the building using the backhoe and worked on passenger car parts with Doug Morgan. Steve Habeck and Rod McClure did some more switching. Jim Halliwell dropped off some Santa Train supplies, which he repaired over the winter.

3.07-Loren Ross sorted nuts and bolts in the shop.

3.08-Steve Habeck spent the whole day checking and servicing batteries while John did housekeeping.

3.09-Steve, Rod, Jason Krois and Loren Ross switched out the north side of the museum in preparation for loading two 44-tonners and a flatcar destined for BAERA at Rio Vista. Doug Morgan worked on freight car brakes.

3.10-Rod, Norman Holmes, Jason Krois, Steve Habeck and Doug successfully loaded all three pieces of equipment onto flatcars and got them secured. John Walker picked up parts in Reno and packed for Winterail.

3.11/13 Rod, Gail and Eugene Vicknair ran our sales booth at Winterail and did a great job representing the museum.

Linda Knudson watched over the museum while everyone was in Stockton.

3.14-Loren Ross ran an RAL, Steve delivered mail and worked around the museum. John caught up on house cleaning, unpacked merchandise brought back from Winterail.

3.15/19-Loren Ross ran RAL's, Steve Habeck worked on batteries. Steve and Doug Morgan worked on air brakes on Simplot 4004. Howard Hanson began welding wheel stops on the three loads going to Rio Vista. John cleaning up the museum and with the help of Charlie Spikes, repaired broken boards up at the hospital.

3.20-SNOW DAY! 6-8 inches of new snow. Rick Edwards delivered an antique freight scale to the museum, which Doug Morgan helped unload. Doug also continued work on the Simplot 4004.

3.21/23-Rotten, stinking weather! John continued work on cleaning up the gift shop while Doug continued work on the Simplot 4004. Howard Hanson continued work on the three flatcars.

3.23-WP #705 arrived from Cheyenne and Doug, Steve and John brought it into the museum.

3.24-Charlie Spikes and John Walker worked on various facility projects and repairs. Howard Hanson worked on flatcars.

3.25-John worked on various projects while Doug Morgan repaired the air system on an old ballast car going to the Quincy Railroad.

3.26-Busy Day! Cloudy but dry for a change. Hank Stiles, Doug Morgan and new member Peter Haggerty worked on air brakes and locomotives. Loren Ross ran RAL's. Don Hammack and his crew shoveled snow, swept sidewalks, the engine house and emptied trashcans. Charlie Spikes cut up debris left over from the demolition of the model railroad and helped with yard switching. Seth Adams continued his work cleaning up of the cab and short hood of SP4404 in preparation for repainting this spring. Lots of visitors.

3.27-Doug Morgan and Howard Hanson worked on flatcars and the Simplot 4004. Hank Stiles serviced the WP 707, SP 2873 and WP 2001. Steve Habeck continued work on servicing batteries.

3.28/29-Rain and snow Again! Museum closed for two days.

3.30-John Walker and Glenn fair worked on broken windows. Jim Cooper visited while Jim Halliwell continued work on drawings of SN caboose 1632.

3.31-Charlie Spikes and John Walker worked on lights, windows and cutting up old wood. Howard Hanson worked on flatcars while Doug Morgan worked on passenger car brakes.

4.01-Martha Stewart skipped Parole and came to Portola to redecorate the entranceway into the museum in a lovely lavender and pink scheme with little crepe paper choo-choo trains. I know it sounds kind of weird but "it's a good thing". Ok, April fools. Actually, the only thing that happened was Doug Morgan worked on passenger car brakes while John began airing out the Edenwold sleeper car and the shower car in preparation for summer use.

4.02-Board meeting. Hank Stiles, Bill Parker and Ed Powell worked on SPI #1100. John Walker and Marco Mitchell of Portola worked on installing new electrical outlets in the gift

shop. Charlie Spikes worked on various facility items. A community service crew cleaned, aired out and vacuumed the Edenwold Sleeping car. Seth Adams worked on the SP 4404. Steve Habeck serviced batteries and helped Rod and Gail McClure, and Doug Morgan began unloading a flatcar and boxcar full of recent donations.

4.03-Snowing again! Hank Stiles, Bill Parker and Ed Powell worked on WP 2001. Alan Hirasawa and new member Mark Schulties visited.

4.04-Three inches of new snow. Steve Habeck and Jason Krois serviced batteries.

4.05-Howard Hanson worked on flatcars.

4.06-Linda K. ran the gift shop while John attended meetings, ran errands in town and gave a tour for Quincy Elementary 5th graders.

4.07-Snow and Sleet! Charlie Spikes delivered donated file cabinets and a small conference table before helping John change burned out light bulbs (there's a joke in here someplace) and unloading supplies from a boxcar. Doug Morgan helped John finish cleaning up the debris from the old model train layout. John stayed late and did inventory and banking.

4.08-Four inches of new snow (ugh)! Norman Holmes and Ken Iverson ran RAL's that afternoon.

4.09-RAL cancelled due to snow closure of I-80 on Donner Pass. Cold in Portola. Norman Holmes did maintenance on SPI #1100. Seth Adams worked on SP4404.

4.10-Finally, a nice day! John Walker ran two RAL's. Seth Adams worked on SP 4404. Doug Morgan worked on the fuel filters on SPI #1100. John and Seth also greased the balloon track.

4.11-Marco Mitchell replaced broken light fixtures in the display room. Howard Hanson changed the cutting edge on the bucket of the backhoe. John met with Sierra Pacific energy consultant to try and reduce our power bills. John also met with advertising representatives and worked out the RAL schedule for the next week with Norman Holmes who was running RAL's this day. John also started packing for the WPRRHS convention.

4.12-Windy and Cold. Steve Habeck worked on batteries. John worked in the carpentry shop and sprayed weeds.

4.13-Dave McClain and Dwight Whetstone worked on locomotives. Steve Habeck continued work on batteries. Linda K. worked the gift shop while Marco Mitchell finished the installation of four new lights in the display room.

4.14-John packed for the WPRRHS convention while Rod McClure, Steve Habeck and Jason Krois switched the yard.

4.15/17-Linda K. ran the gift shop while Andy Anderson and Loren Ross ran RAL's while everyone else attended the WPRRHS convention (which was great! Exceptional job by Steve and Norma Hayes and their convention crew).

4.18-Seth Adams continued work on the SP 4404. Howard Hanson fabricated special tie-downs for loads on flatcars. Steve Habeck, Loren Ross and Rod McClure switched the yard so Steve could continue servicing batteries.

4.19-John unpacked from the WPRRHS convention. Marco Mitchell installed a motion sensor safety light in the shop area and replaced several old light switches. Howard Hanson continued tie-down work on flatcars. Seth Adams continued work on SP4404 despite 2 inches of new snow.

4.20/21-Steve Habeck, Howard Hanson and Seth Adams continued work on their projects despite freezing conditions (These guys are really dedicated).

4.22-Linda K. worked the gift shop while Rod and Steve switched the yard.

4.23-Paul Lanyi (a.k.a. "Yard dog"), Bill Parker, Tom Carter, Eugene Vicknair (a.k.a. "Heywood" as in "Hey, would you do this for me") and Ken Iverson worked on various projects for the "Big Work Weekend". The guys got a lot of work done on the volunteer lounge car despite rain and cold. Board room cleaned out and rearranged. Norman Holmes working on cleaning out newly arrived WP "shorty" steel gondola.

4.24-Ken Iverson ran RAL's. Charlie Spikes delivered donated metal lockers and along with Jim Halliwell and Paul Lanyi cleaned out the SN 1632 caboose in preparation for transfer to BAERA at Rio Vista.

4.25/26-Paul Lanyi (wow, these West Virginia boys really know how to work. Thanks Paul) and John Walker sprayed weeds, pulled up sagebrush, set up tables and chairs in the baggage car, and cleaned up the Board Room. Steve Habeck continued servicing batteries. Howard Hanson continued tie-down work on equipment loads. Jim Halliwell finished cleaning out the SN caboose. Lots of odd jobs done over the last few days, thanks to four days of nice weather.

4.27-Dave Epling, Ken Iverson, Pat Brimmer, Charlie Spikes, Steve Habeck and Loren Ross worked on various jobs and switched parts of the yard in order to spot locomotives for battery service and maintenance.

4.28/30-Crew training. Lots of old faces returning. Cliff Cox, the Union Pacific Manager of Operating Practices in Sparks gave the guys a safety briefing that was highly informative and motivating to our train crews. Thanks Cliff, we really appreciated your taking the time to help us maintain and even improve our outstanding safety record. Julie Anderson volunteered in the gift shop while John attended crew training and helped volunteers with various projects. Greg Elams, Dave Epling, Bill Parker, Loren Ross and Tom Andrews painted out graffiti on a newly acquired WP boxcar and almost had it relettered before a strong wind came up which prevented any more paint spraying. Hank Stiles, Pat Brimmer, Ken Iverson and Ed Powell corrected a fuel suction problem on the SPI #1100 and a broken water line on the WP #921, bringing both of these engines back on line. Hank also worked on the WP #2001 and tie-down chains for the flatcars. Rod McClure, Ed Powell and John Walker moved supplies and material. Dave Epling worked with John Walker on the gift shop section of the FRRS website (www.WPLives.org...check it out). Don Nelson serviced the backhoe and along with Tom Andrews did some landscape and dirt cleanup work. Don also scrapped the access roads and parking lot eliminating ruts left over from winter rains and snow melts. Wayne Monger, Frank Brehm and Gail McClure worked on Rail Photographers Day preparations. Seth Adams worked on the SP 4404 (yes, he does go home during the week, I think?). Matthew Elams sorted nuts and bolts in the shop area, which was a great help. Nearly 200 coffee cans and small packages of various nuts and bolts are finally getting put away in some semblance of order. This not only makes the shop look better but will speed up the finding of nuts and bolts needed for repair projects and maintenance. Matthew, Rick Edwards, Loren

Ross, John Walker, Alex Amarel and others have steadily attacked this project over the winter and the results are starting to show.

In summary, despite snow, sleet, rain and freezing weather, the museum continues to function and projects are being worked on. Visitors have been sparse, which is no surprise given the rotten weather conditions. But spring is right around the corner and we'll be ready when (and if) it ever gets here.

Summary of Recent Board Meetings

Any member in good standing may request a complete copy of the transcript of board meetings from the Society. There is a nominal charge for each copy which covers postage and administrative costs. Full minutes are posted on the FRRSlist hosted by Yahoo Groups.

March 2005 Board Meeting Motions and Actions Summary

Motions Passed

Consent Motions – Approved motion 05-03-01

Minutes – Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held February 5, 2005.

Financial Reports – Profit/Loss statement through 03-04-05 and Balance Sheet through 01-31-05.

Motions

Motion 05-03-02.. Mission Statement Revision
Adoption of proposed change of the Mission Statement as proposed. Motion made by Director Stiles, seconded by Director Holmes. All Directors voted in favor – Motion carried.

Motion 05-03-03.. WP MW37 Crane
Adoption of written proposal and authorization to proceed with restoration of WPMW 37 Crane with a budget of \$3,750, from budgetary line item, 51020 – Equipment Maintenance, Other and on a funds available basis. Motion forwarded by Director Anderson, seconded by Director Habeck. All Directors present voted in favor – Motion carried.

Motion 05-04-04.. Window Treatment for Diesel Shop
Acceptance of proposal for window treatment on the north side of the Diesel Shop, capped at \$2,000 to be funded from line item 70005 – Building Maintenance, Shop and pending available funds. Motion made by Director Monger, seconded by Director Stiles. All Directors present voted in favor – Motion carried.