

Caboosing Around the Museum

- John Walker, Museum Manager

5.02/04

Loren Ross ran RAL's. Rod McClure, Steve Habeck, Doug Morgan and Howard Hanson continued preparations for Rio Vista move.

5.05

Howard Hanson finished tie downs on equipment. John Walker, Charlie Spikes, Rod McClure, and Loren Ross worked on the Unimog. Steve and Rod switched cars with Charlie and Loren. Hank Stiles did last minute preparations, inspections and servicing to equipment going to Rio Vista.

5.06

The Rio Vista trip began after a five-hour delay due to traffic in the canyon. The museum suddenly became very quiet and John used the time to catch up on paperwork and cleaning.

5.10

John worked in the archives car and cleaned up the shop building.

5.12

John restocked supplies and did general cleanup while Ken Iverson ran a couple of RAL's.

5.13

Charlie Spikes repaired a leaking water pipe in the shop and worked with John on projects.

5.14

Ed Powell serviced the WP 921 and repaired a cracked fuel line on the tug. Loren Ross ran RAL's and, with wife Kim, placed a "Geo Cache" near Milward Switch. The "Cache" is a small metal box that contains "Goodies". The boxes are hidden all over the country and individuals and groups find the boxes by using handheld GPS locators. Once you locate the box, you take out a souvenir and place a new one inside. It's an exciting new hobby and Loren and Kim promise that it will bring in lots of new visitors to the museum (and it does). Matt and Greg Elems worked on various house-cleaning projects and Greg dragged the parking lot, leveling out ruts left in the road from the winter snows. Seth Adams working on the SP 4404. John forklifted a lot of stuff out of the engine house that had been left inside for winter storage.

5.15

Charlie Spikes and Loren Ross ran RAL's and got the hot water running in the kitchen. Linda Knudson cleaned the gift shop and kitchen.

5.16

John continued cleanup in the shop and storage areas. Jack Zygnier ran RAL's. Dave Epling, Rod McClure, Steve Habeck and John Walker brought the returning Rio Vista train back inside the museum and spotted equipment.

5.17

Dave Epling, Kevin Caldwell, Adam Malarki and John Walker worked on various projects in preparation for Railfan Photography Day.

5.18

RAIN AGAIN! Charlie Spikes and Loren Ross ran RAL's and did various jobs around the museum in between rain showers.

5.19

Steve Habeck, Bill Parker, Loren Ross and Charlie Spikes started switching for Railfan Photo Day.

5.20

Don Nelson and Paul Finnegan joined the switch crew while Kevin Caldwell and Dave Epling helped with other preparations.

5.21

Some 65 persons attended Railfan Photography Day with a great job again by our operating crews. Gail McClure prepared a wonderful lunch and BBQ dinner. Vicki Epling, the Carter Family, Eugene Vicknair and Tracy helped with ticket sales and food preparation. Bill Holmes and family brought up their 1949 Buick and staged it for various train/ automobile photo shots around the balloon track. "Mr. Winterail" (a.k.a. Vic Neves) ran the evening entertainment with various slide shows and a night photo sessions. A Great time was had by all!

5.22

Kevin Caldwell was a tremendous help all week during set up and tear down of tables, chairs and equipment. Thanks Kevin! Bill Parker and switch crew got most everything put away where it belonged.

5.23/25

Steve Habeck and crew finished putting all the equipment back where it belongs.

5.28/30

Kerry Cochran, Paul Finnegan, Don Nelson, Lew Barnard, Charlie Spikes, Eddie Chase, Tom Anderson and Terry Decottignies ran passenger trains for a light Memorial Day Weekend crowd. Hank Stiles, Alan Hirasawa, Doug Morgan, Ken Finnegan, Howard Hanson, Mark and Jacob Schulties worked on the radiators on WP 2001

and reassembly of the engine in the UP 849. Wayne Monger worked on number boards for locomotives and did a BEF treatment on the oil separator.

5.31

Alan Hirasawa worked on various mechanical issues. Jack Zygnier ran an RAL.

6.01/02

Alan and Hank Stiles worked on mechanical projects while Ken Iverson ran RAL's. Jay Sarno worked on various projects. Rod and Steve installed batteries in WP 917.

6.03

Hank continued work on WP 917 and successfully got it running by the end of the day despite some sticky injectors. Steve Habeck, Kerry Cochran and Jack Palmer switched seven rail. Jack and Ken Iverson ran 6 hours of RAL's. Jay Sarno worked on the volunteer lounge car. Ed Wagner, Loren Ross, Charlie Spikes and Dave Epling tabulated ballots from the annual election. John Walker and Charlie Spikes installed the repaired museum entry sign (knocked over by snow removal crews last winter) and checked for roof leaks in the building. Kerry Cochran cleaned the WP 483 caboose.

6.04

Lawrence & Tim Paulson, David Epling, Kerry Cochran, Jack Palmer, Matt Parker, John Hittner, Ed Wagner, and Ed Powell ran caboose trains. Loren Ross and Jack Palmer ran RAL's. James Mason and Jay Sarno worked on the volunteer lounge car. Alan Hirasawa and Ed Powell worked on mechanical items and WP 917. Spencer Walker brought some of his friends from a Civil War reenactment group over for a visit. The group was performing over in Blairsden. Board meeting. Linda Knudson worked in the gift shop and prepared crew lunches. Brittany Knudson worked on various projects while her girlfriends helped John sort pictures for the archives. Annual membership meeting with a wonderful dinner prepared by Gail McClure. John Walker and Wayne Monger showed slide shows for the evening entertainment. Ed Wagner delivered election results.

6.05

Wayne Monger degreased the oil pan and areas around track three. Tom Andrews and Charlie Spikes joined the Operating Crew for the day. Alan Hirasawa worked on various mechanical

items while Jay Sarno continued electrical work on the volunteer lounge car. John Walker finished sorting a large photo collection while Linda Knudson made lunch for the crews and worked the gift shop.

6.06

Norman Holmes ran RAL's while Don Hammack and his work crew cleared up a pile of old wood and vacuumed part of the shop. Larry Hanlon and John Ryczkowski replaced a bad resister in WP 2001.

6.07

Loren Ross ran RAL's while Norm dropped off gift shop supplies he picked up in Reno. Norm also recycled the aluminum cans. Visit from railroad artist David Hal Morris and friends and family from Colorado. Tour for senior citizens from Loyalton.

6.08

Thunderstorms. Bob Larson ran an RAL.

6.11

Loren Ross ran RAL's. Don Nelson, Lew Barnard, Tom Andrews, Eddie Chase, Pat Brimmer and Craig Simmons ran caboose trains.

6.12

Charlie Spikes joined the operating crew. John Walker and Howard Hanson unloaded a boxcar and moved some materials around the outdoor storage area.

6.13

Doug Morgan worked on WP 2001 radiators. Steve Habeck and Loren Ross switched and serviced batteries.

6.14

Norman Holmes and Ken Roller touched up the paint on WP 705 (which is nicknamed "Mary Kay" due to her faded [pink] red paint scheme). Steve and Loren continued to work on batteries. Jack Zygnier ran RAL's.

6.15

Jack Zygnier ran RAL's. Rick Edwards and Doug Morgan worked on the radiators of the WP 2001. Rod McClure unloaded a traction motor donated by BAERA at Rio Vista.

6.16

Rick Edwards continued work on radiators. John Walkers gave tours of the museum for several groups. Hank Stiles and Rick Edwards worked well into the night on radiators.

6.17

Pat Brimmer and Norman Holmes split RAL's while Hank Stiles, Howard Hanson, Doug Morgan and Howard Neff worked on installing ditch lights on WP 2001 so it will be legal to lead on mainline moves. Dave Epling helped John Walker on various projects and, along with Pat Brimmer, helped set up equipment for a group of college students for a night photo shoot. Pat, Kerry Cochran, Craig Simmons and Dave ran a train of five boxcars and a caboose while the students filmed from an open boxcar in the middle of the train. Stationary filming continued well into the night using a revolving strobe that mimicked passing lights, making the stationary car look like it was moving. Surprisingly, there were no reports of alien landings being called into the local Sheriff's department by local residents or passing motorists on Highway 70.

6.18

Very Busy Weekend! Repairs on WP 2001 continued with Doug Morgan, Ed Powell, Howard Hanson, Charlie Spikes and Hank Stiles working on radiators and electrical wiring. Jack Zygnier and Lew Barnard ran a busy RAL schedule on Saturday with Andy Anderson running everything on Sunday. Kerry Cochran, Terry Decottingies, Dave Epling, Lew Barnard, Charlie Spikes, Eddie Chase, Pat Brimmer and Craig Simmons ran the caboose trains. Debra Epling helped Linda Knudson in the gift shop while Vicki Epling was a big help escorting visitors, helping with lunch and helping John Walker on guided tours. The film crew completed their work on Saturday evening and we managed to squeeze in two additional RAL's in on Sunday morning thanks to help from Kerry Cochran and Eddie Chase. Eugene Vicknair and John Walker drilled and set ten posts for the wooden ramp next to the sleeper car. John and Vicki Epling also gave a tour to Lisa Brown and her family. Lisa's father was Robert Brown; the UP Roadmaster who last used our UP 105 business car. Lisa grew up on the car and recounted many fond memories of traveling on the car with her family. She was very excited to see the car again as she was under the impression that the car had been scrapped or sold to another party after her father retired. All in all, it was an incredibly busy weekend with lots of visitors and volunteers. Everything went very smooth, thanks to the cooperation and teamwork exhibited by the entire crew of volunteers. This was one of those weekends when everything went well despite whatever challenges were thrown at us. The entire crew did a fantastic job! Well done everyone!

6.20

Hank Stiles, Doug Morgan and Howard Hanson continued work on the WP 2001. Jack Zygnier ran RAL's.

6.21

Hank, Doug, Rick Edwards, Charlie Spikes, Howard, Rod, Norman and Steve Habeck continued work on WP 2001. Andy Anderson ran RAL's. WP 2001 passed an inspection by Amtrak officials and was approved for use on a special Trains Unlimited Tours excursion train going to the NRHS convention in Portland.

6.22

Norman Holmes ran RAL's. Hank Stiles, Rick Edwards and Doug Morgan corrected some minor items on the WP 2001.

6.23

Loren Ross ran RAL's while Hank and Doug continued minor repairs to WP 2001. Ken Roller cleaned the inside of UP caboose 25732, which we got via the BAERA trade.

6.24

John, Loren, and Steve switched the west end of the museum while Doug continued work on the WP 2001. Learned today that Amtrak will not allow use of WP 2001 on excursion train due to a technicality regarding the date of manufacture on the wheels. This was disappointing news. Especially after all the hard work put in by our mechanical people to keep this engine in such great shape. Despite the bad news, the mechanical folks can take great satisfaction in knowing that the locomotive actually passed inspection from the former Chief Mechanical Officer of a major class one railroad! We received compliments on the high quality of maintenance, repairs and the restoration of our locomotives and other than this particular Amtrak technicality; the WP 2001 was fully capable of doing the job. This speaks highly of our mechanical department and the quality of work done by the FRRS in every endeavor we undertake.

6.25/26

Loren Ross, Bill Parker, Charlie Spikes, Craig Simmons, Matt Parker and John Walker ran caboose trains. Ken Iverson and Loren Ross split RAL's. Linda Knudson ran the gift shop while Brittany K., Kevin Caldwell and Doug Morgan hand washed the WP 2001. Greg Elams and his son delivered an O-scale modular layout donated by John Tyson of KOLO Channel 8 of Reno. The layout will need some work, but

hopefully we can set it up occasionally inside the engine house as a replacement for the old HO layout that used to be in the gift shop.

6.27

Andy Anderson ran 5 hours of RAL's. John Walker packed for upcoming excursion train concessions. Kevin Caldwell and Hank Stiles completed last minute servicing of WP 2001, which will now be used on an excursion on the McCloud Railway.

6.29

Norman Holmes ran RAL's. Kevin Caldwell, Brittany K. and Hank Stiles worked on mechanical items while Rod and Steve set WP 2001 out for transport to McCloud.

continued in the next issue....

WPRRHS Report

- Thom Anderson, WPRRHS Admin

A column in the Headlight titled "W.P. Model Report" has not been seen in the magazine since the passing of Pete Solyom, who wrote the column on a regular basis. The column covered new WP-related products that had either been announced or reached the marketplace. The Headlight staff is looking for someone to volunteer to collect this information to appear in the Headlight, and probably the Train Sheet as well. Anyone interested in volunteering for the position should contact Administrator Thom Anderson or Headlight Editor Dave Pires either through the Society P.O. box or via e-mail at dpires@pacbell.net. Meanwhile, Editor Pires and I will fill in. We both model in HO scale, so we could use information on other scales from those of you out there that model N, S, O, or any other scale (besides 12"=1').

The first batch Broadway Limited HO scale California Zephyr are reported (as I write this) to be on the dealer's shelves as you read this. Broadway has also released a model of a Railway Express Agency express refrigerator car. A single car and a two car set are being made with WP lettering. WP ran these cars until 1947. The model I viewed looked well done, however I had no photos or other information to make any comparisons to the prototype.

A few other HO products on the market include the following:

..Athearn released an early version Pullman-Standard 60-foot auto parts boxcar in WP paint with yellow lettering and two different numbers available. A late version without the roofwalk with white lettering will be available soon in at least two different numbers.

..InterMountain has announced an FP7 locomotive, though they have not thus far announced WP as one of the roadnames.

..Life-Like (recently purchased by Walthers) is releasing a U30B in WP silver and orange paint that can represent the first 5 units owned by WP. Society member Rick Schonfelder, who lives in Australia, reported that they were on the dealer shelves "down under" already. The model has the correct Blomberg trucks and the handrails are very well done, but does not come with the correct horn. Rick likes the color of the orange paint used on the model, but the lettering "looks a little big" to him.

..Kadee recently released their PS-2 covered hopper in WP with two different car numbers (11301 & 11330).

The headlight staff is working on an issue with a Sacramento Northern theme. At the risk of sounding like a broken CD (gotta keep up with the technology!), we sure could use some more photos and articles.

Loren Dunlap is preparing the 2006 WPRRHS convention, to be held in Chico on April 7-8. If you would like to help out, contact Loren at dunlapl@comcast.net. Registration forms, etc., will be going out in early 2006, and more information will be forthcoming at that time.

With the retirement of Norma Hayes handling the convention raffle after the 2005 convention, we are looking for volunteers to help out with the convention raffle. Anyone interested in helping should contact Administrator Anderson through the Society P.O. Box or at wpthom@hotmail.com.

On behalf of the Headlight staff, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!