

CABOOSING AROUND THE MUSEUM

- John Walker, Museum Manager

2.01-2.10

The Golden Gate Museum Relief train departed today. John Walker is back off winter vacation and catching up on phone calls, mail, and advertising.

Nice weather!

2-11-2.12

John did a model train show in Roseville and also picked up donation of posters and prints from Brad Lomazzi of Roseville.

2.13-2.16

John worked on donation letters, worked in the archives, RAL scheduling and various paperwork.

2.17

SNOW! 4-6 inches.

2.18

John shoveled snow for several hours.

2.19

Daytona 500. John took the day off for this National Redneck Holiday.

2.20

More snow shoveling and paperwork.

2.21

John visited Quincy delivering museum brochures to the AAA office, and Plumas County Museum. Visited with Spanish Creek #2 restoration group.

2.23

Paperwork and phone calls. A few visitors.

2.24

Charlie Spikes and John Walker repaired a leaky pipe in the men's room and replaced a broken water valve. Also began repairing loose tiles in the shower car.

2.25-2.27

Paperwork, phone calls and a few visitors.

2.28

SNOW! Another 4-6 inches.

3.01

More snow shoveling. Loren Ross, Bill Parker and Matt Parker arrived to get ready for the return of the GGRM Relief Train which arrived about 5:00 PM. Switching and cleanup until 11:30 PM.

3.02

SNOW 6-8 inches.

3.03

Still snowing.

3.04

Opening Day! Three inches of fresh powder during the night. The parking lot is only a single lane and everything is covered with snow and ice. Not an auspicious start to the new season. Doug Morgan and John Walker shoveled snow and cleaned up the gift shop. Steve Habeck checked batteries and sorted mail. Finally had two carloads of visitors show up late in the afternoon but they didn't stay long.

3.05

Cold and icy with another storm front moving in. Charlie Spikes came over and got the water running in the restrooms, turned on the heaters and got the hot water going. Norman Holmes made a few passes with his snowplow to keep the access road clear. Actually had a few visitors today.

3.06-3.07

SNOW!

3.08-3.13

John packed for Winterail. Some visitors. Norman Holmes took measurements of one of our tank cars for a model manufacturer. The FRRS had a booth at Winterail and was well represented in the photo contest! In fact, first

place color was a dramatic night photo of our relief train in San Francisco! Great to see so many members and friends. Rod and Eugene did a great job running our booth and many members dropped by to pitch in and help at various times.

3.14

SNOW! One foot of new stuff.

3.15

Charlie Spikes and John Walker shoveled and plowed snow for most of the day. Thankfully, a 32 inch snow blower donated by Jim Halliwell of Portola last year really helped out a lot this year. Thanks Jim!

3.16-3.17

Some visitors and two more inches of snow.

3.18

Several visitors today. New member Cody Wilson of Fernley, Nevada came over to get some orientation.

3.18

Another half decent day, although cold and partly cloudy. Cody Wilson, Charlie Spikes, Loren Ross and Rod McClure switched the west end and plowed snow off the balloon track, swept snow out of the switches and frogs.

3.20 -3.21

Steve Habeck checked batteries and planned out his switching moves for the next day.

3.22

Charlie, Loren and Steve switched the museum.

3.23-3.28

More snow. John, Charlie, Doug Morgan and Loren working on various projects to bring the museum out of winter hibernation.

3.29-3.31

Jay Sarno came up from San Diego and helped set up new display on the engine house floor while we begin renovating the old display room.

4.01-4.02

The Board of Directors Meeting was held Saturday. Four inches of new snow and the Pacific Locomotive Association rode into town at 8 PM with a sixteen car passenger excursion with 650 people aboard. No April Fools joke-it really happened! Our operating crews turned the Silver Solarium CZ observation car on our balloon track so that it would be facing the correct way for the trip home. Because of the late arrival, the Amtrak crew went dead and our guys had to reposition the train and assist with servicing the passenger cars. This went on well after midnight. A lot of work for us considering it wasn't even our train. But once again, the FRRS stepped up and helped out, making the trip a success for the PLA and by passing out lots of brochures about the museum, Portola and things to see and do in Plumas County. We hope the passengers will visit us again on their own this summer.

Steve Habeck, Norman Holmes and John Walker opened the museum early on Sunday morning and about 300 of the passengers visited the museum before departing. Steve had the SP rotary snowplow running at the front gate and Sierra Pacific/Quincy Railroad 1100 saluted the train as it rolled out of town.

Wayne Monger and Eugene Vicknair spent the weekend cleaning up the inside of the Silver Lodge in preparation for opening it up for display this summer. Loren Ross and Steve Habeck switched the yard to put everything back where it belonged while Charlie Spikes worked on WP 165 and various facility projects.