

work was interrupted when Eric collapsed in February 2005 and ended up partly paralyzed. He was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor and started treatment. The work on the Silver Debris' electrical system was completed by Jay Sarno and James Mason.

In summer of 2006, members of the FRRS helped stage a 3 week trip around the west for Eric as a fundraiser for the FRRS and the National Brain Tumor Foundation. He continued to come to the museum when health permitted and was consulting on the idea of adding a solar power system to the facility when he passed away. His final FRRS event was attending the 2008 Convention, where he was presented with a special Zephyr Project jacket by President Rod McClure in thanks for his service to the Society.

The Silver Debris lounge will be dedicated to his memory. At his request, portions of his ashes will be placed in our *California Zephyr* equipment and in the cab of WP 0-6-0 165.

Eric is survived by his wife Andrea, parents Steve and Julie, sister Daydra, neices Leia, Chloe and Haley, and his "brother" Eugene, as well as his friends in the FRRS.

We lost another long-time member this summer. Frank Beavers passed away on June 13, 2008.

Frank had a brief career with the WP, living in an outfit car in the middle of the Nevada desert before going on to work in the Logging industry near Lake Almanor. Some would describe Frank as a fussy "old coot" with strong opinions and "a bone to pick" with just about everybody. But around his friends, Frank always had a smile on his face and a good word of encouragement.

Frank worked hard around the museum helping to prepare for special events and doing woodworking in the carpentry shop. He was a model railroader and historian. Wherever Frank traveled, be it at a model railroad show, another museum or just around his home in Westwood, he was always talking up the museum. Frank would distribute flyers touting the Society and was a great ambassador for us. He was an advocate of the WPRRHS and volunteered many hours sorting and arranging items in the Archives. He also chaired our very successful WPRRHS convention in Reno and made provisions to have his private collection donated to the WPRRHS upon his death.

His collection has now been moved to the WPRM and will become part of our archives. Our condolences go out to Frank's family and friends. He will be long remembered and very missed.

## HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

- Matt Parker, Advertising Manager

In June 2008, the FRRS Board made a decision to become a sponsor of the Hot August Nights event in Reno, NV. This is the largest public event the FRRS has participated in. As a sponsor, we received radio and print advertising, banners placed around HAN event sites and a large booth near the center of the event.

Pulling this ambitious action together meant racing to meet several deadlines, but our volunteers came together with speed and skill to make it happen.

First, I would like to acknowledge Eugene Vicknair. Eugene put his nose to the grindstone and his artistic talents to work, allowing us to take full advantage of the promotional opportunities included with our sponsorship. Without his tireless efforts, some of these opportunities would have slipped through the cracks.

Second, I would like to thank President Rod McClure. He had his plate overflowing during the mad race to meet deadlines. Despite this, his prompt responses to inquiries, advice, and approvals, allowed us to take maximum advantage of this promotion.

Huge thanks to my bride, Stephanie, who, along with our son Will, sacrificed a day to drive to Roseville, pick up Hot August Nights pamphlets literally right off the press, and transport them back across the hill to the HAN offices before their deadline.

Finally, there was my team of All-Stars who crewed our booth during the event, made contact with the public and gave us the exposure to make this a success. Thank you to Tom Carter, Charlie Spikes, Cody Wilson, Craig Simmons, Ed Powell, John Walker, Bruce Veilleux, David Epling, Norm Holmes, Barbara Holmes, Tim Carter and Bart Hansen.

We also received help from the Hot August Nights management, who extended us extra time we needed.

Hot August Nights was a huge success for us in terms of public relations. Throughout the week, our volunteers spoke with thousands of people from all over the country about our museum. Many visitors expressed intentions to include us in future travel plans. Our exposure was outstanding and gave us the opportunity to connect with people we need as visitors and potential volunteers.

We brought our Model T inspection car replica, which was a big draw. Toward the end of the event, many

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## THE SILVER PLATE LEAVES JAMESTOWN

Below are photos taken by George Sapp of CSRM capturing the "Silver Plate" as it left Jamestown on September 11, 2008 via the Sierra Railroad bound for Portola and restoration. Thank you to Mr. Sapp for sharing these great photos.

*right - The "Silver Plate" waits on the Jamestown depot tracks, having moved from its long-time resting place near the restoration shop.*



*above - Sierra RR GP20 50 couples up to the "Plate" in the Jamestown yard and prepares to leave town.*

*right - Sierra 50 and the "Plate" present an interesting take on the mixed train as they pass the mill at Chinese.*



### **HOT AUGUST NIGHTS** *continued...*

parents wished to take pictures of their kids sitting in this unique vehicle, which gave us the opportunity to tell them, "Now you see what our museum is all about - hands on." The booth also included photos and documents from the museum collection, as well as great banners and promo pieces done by Mike Mucklin. The most important thing, once again, was our group of enthusiastic FRRS members greeting the visitors, telling them who we are and sharing their enthusiasm for the WP. We had a special unexpected visit from the Union Pacific Mini-Train, which was on its way to an event. It also drew a lot of the visitors at this venue and was well received by the Hot August Nights management.

Although we worked hard under demanding conditions, we also had FUN enjoying the special happenings around us as well as each other's company. Many have expressed interest in doing this again next year and I appreciate that.

Just how significant was this event in the northwestern Nevada region? According to Bruce Walter, Executive Director of the event, "...5,500 cars were registered for the event... and more than 800,000 people participated in the area's largest tourism event that generates \$350 million in business."

Suffice it to say, we were playing in the Big Leagues by signing on as an official sponsor of this event, which is why I think calling the volunteers who showed up to make this work "All-Stars" is appropriate. Again, congratulations to the team who made this PR opportunity a huge success for the FRRS and the WPRM. YOU GUYS ROCK