

GROUND and FACILITIES

-Charlie Spikes, Director / Facilities Manager

Many things have happened around the facility from January 1st of this year to current. Due to my head being fogged with drugs after my back surgery last March 5th until around mid May, I could be forgetting some things that were done and the names of folks that did them. For this I apologize if I miss anyone here.

Duane Vanderveen took on the major overhaul of the wood shop in the dead of winter at the beginning of the year. He moved the east wall 6 feet to gain more room in the shop to accommodate all the new equipment that was donated to us. This was no easy task for one man. Duane also did some extensive work on the backhoe and Big White the forklift and kept them in operating condition through the year. Both of these pieces of equipment are in need of replacement due to age and constant up keep costing time and money that could be used in other places. My thanks and kudos goes out to Duane for all he does.

Another human dynamo in our midst is Eddie Powell. Eddie got the heating and air conditioning up and running in the on going lounge car project. It will be awhile yet before this project is finished, but if we need a cool place to get out of the sun on those scorching July and August days, there is a couch and a few chairs in there. Eddie also did a complete re-insulation of piping and installation of new heat tapes and cords under the shower car. This was no easy task due to having to work under the deck and shower car where ground is very rough and rocky and full of piled up weeds and other junk. Myself, Eddie and Zack Compton replaced 80% of the main shop lighting with the new CFL type bulbs. This translated to an immediate savings on the power bill that will recover the cost of the bulbs in a very short time. Thank you Eddie for all you do to make the place better for visitors and members.

And speaking of Zack, he and his dad Ken Compton have taken on several projects that have improved the quality of life and visitor experience this past year. My thanks to this father/son team for all the untold work they have done.

Special thanks go out to a man that I never met. He took on the task of doing a thorough cleaning of the Edenwold sleeper car at the first of the operating season resulting in a more comfortable stay for the staff. He also repainted the roof in a bright white to better reflect the sun's heat during the summer. This resulted in an immediate savings of 15% on the AC power bill. I hope to meet him in the future and shake his hand.

Bob Simms is another man to who we owe a debt of gratitude. He has completed many tasks around the museum through out the years. He is currently working on finishing the interior of the lounge car as funding allows and donates material for this project and several WP artifacts to the steam department. He has also encapsulated the Z scale layout in the gift shop and does repairs as needed on it. Thank you Bob for all you do.

Terry Decottingies has been working on the deck extension as time and funding allows and when it is done we will have a top quality area to visit and BBQ after work hours. He and his crew also re-enameled the sink in the men's restroom in the shop. They gave their time and donated materials to make this much needed improvement and it looks GOOD! Terry's wife did a top to bottom cleaning of the shower car while they were there for Portola Railroad Days. This was truly appreciated by all who stayed at the museum as it makes for a more pleasant stay for everyone. A big thanks and round of applause go to Terry, his wife and his crew. I look forward to seeing them in the coming year.

Don Nelson gave a full week of his time before and during RR days working on grounds and track improvement resulting in a much better looking facility. Thanks for all the sweat labor during that week, Don.

My son Eric and grandson Brendan spent a couple of days mowing weeds in the heat preceding Portola Railroad Days. This is a task that needs to be done, but not many want to take on. Eric also spent a couple of days working with the track crew. Please extend your thanks to them and shake their hands. You'll be seeing more of them in the future.

Thanks go out to Craig Simmons for all the work

he does to improve the museum grounds. He helped me fill the water buffalo and install the pump for fire protection purposes at the picnic ground. While there, we noticed someone had rolled several old tires from the neighborhood down to the picnic area and sprayed several of the BBQ pits with graffiti. We cleaned the area that day and Craig beat me to repainting the pits the next morning.

Bart, his dad and brother covered and sealed the backdoor of the display room to keep water from coming in when snow melts. They also did extensive work tuning up the new speeder. Thanks to the Daniels family for all they do.

Craig Simmons, Rick Grunninger and others cut down that dead pine tree that was over hanging our back fence causing a major fire hazard. Great job, guys. It really needed to be done.

Norm Holmes and his helper piled up and burned all the branches that were trimmed from the trees around the loop. This made the whole

area more fire safe for everyone. Norm has taken on several tasks that needed to be done. Thank you Norm for all the things you do.

And a great big hoorah to Steve Habeck. Steve does so much at the facility that one could never keep track. He gives and gives so much at great sacrifice to personal and family time that if we all added our time up together, it would never equal his.

And last for now, thanks to Rod McClure, Cody Wilson, Norm Holmes and all the others for taking on the daunting task of cleaning up the storage area on the north side of the grounds and in the balloon. They worked for days and days sorting and salvaging scrap metal and general junk from the two areas. The result is a cleaner, neater and safer place for all who dare go there.

I salute all the above named and those who I don't know. Without dedicated members like these, we wouldn't have this great place.

WPRM BILLBOARD

- David Epling, Museum Manager

As was noted in Train Sheet issue 152's April and May Board minutes. The WPRM now has the ability to display a billboard graphic in the Reno area. This large graphic, which the museum now owns, originally went up on a billboard facing south on US Highway 395 to attract northbound (read: museum-bound) travelers just north of Reno, Nevada between Lemmon Valley Road and Stead Blvd.

The graphic was in place for a period of about 2 months between the end of July and the end of September, targeting not only travelers, but also participants for both Hot August Nights at the beginning of August and the Reno Air Races in the middle of September in 2009. It seems to have done well as there was a noticeable increase in visitorship as soon as the billboard went up.

For 2010, the same location was not available. An alternate billboard was identified and obtained, still along US 395, but about 4 miles

closer to Reno itself. This location was the billboard on northbound US 395 at Panther Valley Road. The graphic remained up for the same period as 2009. Where it will be in 2011 is yet to be seen, if at all. Unfortunately, the cost just to hang it up is about \$750.00 per month. In 2009, the Society simply scraped the funds together. For 2010, we received a grant from a special fund that Plumas County has for this type expense. Unfortunately, for 2011, this fund is not available to anyone so it remains to be seen if the billboard will be used next year.

Recognition for efforts in the creation and utilization of the billboard graphic should be noted. David Epling took the photo of 608 during an RAL in 2009. Eugene Vicknair did the actual design layout of the graphic. Steve Habeck wrote the grant request to Plumas County Supervisor Terry Swofford who also approved the grant request. Matt Parker negotiated and secured both locations where the graphic was displayed.

See the photo on the back cover.