

pin which had been given to Charles' mother Bonnie when she became the first person to donate blood on board the car.

Thank yous to Patty Clawson, who worked tirelessly alongside Eugene Vicknair to pull the ceremony and celebration together and stepped in when Eugene took ill to smooth out last minute items, to Charlie Spikes, Greg Elems, David Elems, Steve Habeck, KC Dunn, Ali Doty, Ethan Doty and all the other FRRS volunteers who made this event possible.

Also thanks to Bill Sweetwood, Cynthia Pagan, Robert Meacher, Steve Walsh of the Red Cross and Shane Starr of Congressman Doug LaMalfa's office for their support and assistance. Several newspapers carried accounts of the event, including the Portola Reporter, whose article can be seen at this web page: <http://www.plumasnews.com/rededication-charles-o-sweetwood-railroad-museum/>

## Museum Web Page Update – Dec 2017

–Paul Finnegan, Webmaster

I created a new collection page for the WPMW 71, aka "The Weed Burner". While at the museum on October 13<sup>th</sup>, I met with Dennis Servia who worked for the WP and had memories and photos of the weed burner that he has shared with us. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, I added his memories and photos to the MOW collection page under the Museum > Museum Rolling Stock pull-down menu.

The website promoted the 2017 Santa Train event with a very attractive graphic created by Eugene Vicknair. Greg Elems sent me some photographs that you can view on either the 2017 Santa Train news item on the News > News Archive or on the About Us > WPRM Photo & Video Gallery web pages. As a special feature, on the 2017 Santa Trains news item page, we have two audio clips posted from local radio ads promoting the event.

From October 1<sup>st</sup> until December 25<sup>th</sup> there were 938 pageviews of the 2017 Santa Train web page. Of these pageviews, 63% were from

## Departures

Long time FRRS member Ken Roller passed away 31 December 2017, aged 69.

Ken had been a fixture at the museum for many years, starting in 1983. He is well known around town with many of his locomotive paintings hung on walls throughout the area and beyond.

A service for Ken Roller was held on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at the "Sierra Valley Church" (Hwy 70 & Genesee Rd – the former Beckwith Tavern) in Beckwourth, CA. Internment followed the service.

Former CMO and FRRS Member John V. Buberniak passed away 5 February 2018, aged 52, near his hometown of Carbondale, Pennsylvania. His passing came after an eleven-day ordeal in the ICU at the Geisinger Community Medical Center in Scranton, PA. John and his wife, Pamela, had traveled to PA for John's mother's funeral on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Many of you will remember him for being the WPRM CMO for several years and getting us many needed batteries for our RAL locomotives.

John was a good friend to many and was a mechanic for the UPRR in Roseville, California. He is seen at below with Mat Schuman in Dec 2016. Mat Schuman Photo.



## Would YOU like to work on the Railroad? Join our Operating Department!

*Paul Finnegan – Crew Caller*

The museum operates trains every weekend between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We also run our Pumpkin Express in October, Santa Trains in December and special event trains. If you have always wanted to have a taste of "working on the railroad," such as connecting air hoses, giving hand signals to the engineer and pulling pins on couplers, then this is your opportunity!

FRRS members (active and above) who would like to participate in the museum's train operating crews are required first to take a rules examination, sign a liability release and then to be instructed in safe operating procedures.

Two crew-training classes are scheduled for 2018. They are scheduled for Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10 am at the museum in Portola. You need only attend one day of training. Please use the "Join our Operating Department" link on the museum's home web page to register for the class day of your choice.



mobile devices; which demonstrates the importance of our website supporting mobile devices. In 2016 we had 732 pageviews with 53% being from mobile devices. Therefore, in 2017 we had 28% more views and more of them were from mobile devices compared to 2016.

Kerry Cochran and I continue to work on museum documents, policies and forms. We have added a large number of new and revised materials to the website.

I have updated the website for the 2018 season. The sign-up tools, forms and calendars are all in place to support 2018 operations.

Peter Arnold and I are continuing to make progress on the Western Pacific Headlight Master Index on the Historical/Archive Department web page under the Museum pull-down menu. We now have issues 4 to 49 indexed with 488 topics and 2,144 index entries.

I am always looking for feedback, content and new ideas. If you have some, please don't hesitate to contact me at [webmaster@wplives.org](mailto:webmaster@wplives.org).

---

## Museum Web Page Update – Feb 2018

*–Paul Finnegan, Webmaster*

Kerry Cochran and I continue to work on museum documents, policies and forms. We have added a large number of new and revised materials to the website. Additionally, we have been creating, revising, and posting position descriptions for many of the volunteer and staff roles at the museum. You can see them by using the "About Us" pull-down menu and choosing the "FRRS Org Chart" item. There is a "Jump to" link to the "Position Descriptions" in the top left corner of the page.

Working with General Superintendent Kerry Cochran and Superintendent of Operations Loren Ross, I have added new and updated material for the spring 2018 Crew Training. The classes are scheduled to be held on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup>.