

Departure Julia Angela Rigutto Pagan

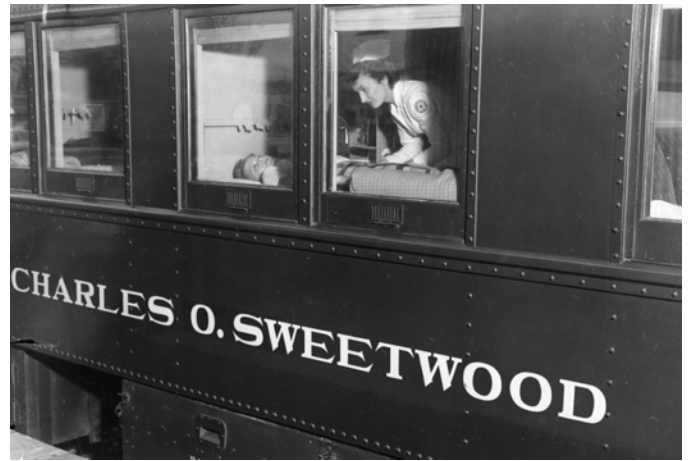
- Eugene Vicknair



During the ceremonies in Salt Lake City, UT, Julia takes a blood donation from J. Francis Fowles, President of Utah State Senate. January 29, 1951

during the blood procurement drive. She also touched on her time as a Navy nurse.

Two months later, on September 9, 2017, Julia again visited the museum and took part in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the WP 106 / "Charles O. Sweetwood" entering service as Pullman private car "Pioneer". She rededicated the car and received honors and thanks from the Red Cross personnel and other dignitaries who attended. Her daughter, Cynthia, later told us that these visits brought Julia great joy.



Julia takes a blood donation from Mrs. Frederika Peterson

- photos FRRS archives

On July 1, 2019, a very special member of the Western Pacific family left us. Julia Rigutto Pagan was one of the first group of Red Cross nurses who worked the Western Pacific's blood procurement car when it entered service in January 1951. The car was named after Charles O. Sweetwood, the first WP employee to be killed in the Korean conflict. Julia served on the car for most of 1951 and would later remember it as a very rewarding experience. She was the last of the Sweetwood nurses known to be living.

On July 8, 2017, we were honored to have Julia and her family make a surprise (for Julia) visit to the WPRM and the "Charles O. Sweetwood". On hand to greet her was Charles' nephew, Bill Sweetwood. Julia was thrilled to be reunited with "her" railcar and spent over an hour talking about the experience and people she had met



Almost a year after the proposal to donate one of our beet gondolas to the Arizona Railroad Museum was approved at the July 2018 FRRS Board Meeting, SP Beet Gondola SP 359247 is being loaded leaving the WPRM for Arizona.

- photo by Charlie Spikes