



Preserving "THE FEATHER RIVER ROUTE"



# The Train Sheet

ISSUE 107  
May/June 2001

News from the Feather River Rail Society and the Portola Railroad Museum

## Farewell to the Reno Branch

By Steve Habeck, FTRB Project Manager

The ex-WP Reno Branch, now the Reno Subdivision on the UP, is an interesting 33-mile piece of railroad which starts at Reno Junction on the ex-WP main line, 20 miles east of Portola, and runs 33 miles south into downtown Reno. This line, much of which was originally the narrow-gauge Nevada-California-Oregon (NCO), was the WP's access to Reno, and provided considerable business for the WP. With an intermodal facility set up at Parr Yard, 5 miles uphill from downtown Reno (and on a 1.8% grade!), and the industrial park at Stead, the Reno Local always had plenty of work to do. At the south end, in downtown Reno, the branch connected with the SP main line over Donner Pass via a set of very sharp reverse curves, which saw very little use. The WP, and, until recently, the UP, handled the Reno traffic via the mainline connection at Reno Jct, and rarely ventured downgrade below Parr Yard.

With the UP-SP merger, all that has changed. In late 2000, the UP rebuilt the lower end of the Reno Subdivision from the ex-SP connection to Parr Yard with concrete ties and heavy



Our caboose 428 will be repainted into the original Brown/Yellow scheme as shown above on #447. Photo by Frank Brehm

welded rail, including a major realignment of the trackage at the connection. Upon completion of this work, the Reno Local began operating out of Sparks, going up to Parr Yard and out to Stead, and returning to Sparks. Thus the majority of the branch, from Martin at MP 21 (junction with the line to Stead) to MP 0 at Reno Jct, became redundant to the UP. So far, one online customer at Bordertown (MP 13), has required

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## FRRS Receives New Cordless Tools from Makita!

By Eugene John Vicknair

When I began working on the Zephyr Project, several members, including Frank Brehm, suggested approaching power tool makers requesting donations of tools. Several months ago, I was able to send out several requests and received an interesting proposal from Makita Tools in return. At the June BOD Meeting, I presented Makita's offer to the Directors. It was accepted and by the time you read this the brand-new power tool collection will be in use at the museum!

So now, thanks to Ted Hendricks of Makita, the FRRS has received a suite of cordless tools that should prove invaluable

on current and future projects. This is not a donation, however. These tools are being made available to the FRRS for free for six months. At the end of that time, they can be sold to members or purchased by the Society at a steep discount. If this plan works out well, it could be the first part of an ongoing program with Makita to provide tools for the Society as well as provide members with the unique possibility to personally own tools used to restore and repair the Silver Hostel, 805A, 921D and other artifacts in our collection.

Thanks again to Ted Hendricks and everyone at Makita!

**- The Train Sheet -**

News from the Feather River Rail Society and the Portola Railroad Museum  
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Contribution Deadlines: Last Day of February, April, June, August, October and December.

**- Portola Railroad Museum -**

P.O. Box 608  
Portola, CA 96122-0608  
Museum: (530) 832-4131 Fax: (530) 832-1854 General Office: (530) 832-1657

The normal operating season for the museum is the first Saturday in March through the first Monday of November. The grounds are open from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. daily. The museum building is open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. daily. During the non-operating period the museum is closed except for special events in which arrangements have been made in advance. If you wish to visit during the non-operating period it is advisable to call in advance and find out if the museum grounds will be open.

Entrance to the museum is free, although a suggested donation of \$2.00 is greatly appreciated.

*The Feather River Rail Society, a tax-exempt public benefit California corporation, is the historical society for the Western Pacific Railroad and operator of the Portola Railroad Museum in Portola, California.*

***The FRRS is not associated with the Union Pacific Railroad.***

FRRS Tax ID number is 68-0002774

Member of the Association of Railway Museums and the Tourist Railway Association, Inc.

**- FRRS Board of Directors -**

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Eugene Vicknair	Director	(530) 832-4131	<a href="mailto:EVicknair@StudioRed.com">EVicknair@StudioRed.com</a>

**- FRRS Membership -**

Associate \$15.00 Historical \$22.00 Active \$30.00 Family \$35.00 Sustaining \$75.00 Life \$300.00 Family Life \$450.00  
These are the dues for the duration of one year, with Life and Family Life being a one-time payment.

**Associate** memberships do not have a vote, receive The Train Sheet but not the Headlight and are for one person only.

**Historical** memberships receive only the Headlight, do not vote and are for one person only.

**Active** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and the Headlight, have voting rights and are for one person only.

**Family** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and the Headlight, have one vote and include all members of ones immediate family.

**Sustaining** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and the Headlight, are for a maximum of two persons with one vote each.

**Life** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and the Headlight, have voting rights and are for one person only for life.

**Family Life** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and the Headlight, are for a maximum of two people and have two votes (one per member) for life.

Send all applications, renewals and address changes to:

**Feather River Rail Society**  
**Membership Dept.**  
**P.O. Box 608**  
**Portola, CA 96122-0608**

***Web Pages of Interest***

CZ Virtual Museum	<a href="http://calzephyr.railfan.net">calzephyr.railfan.net</a>	Tidewater Southern	<a href="http://www.wplives.com/tidewater">www.wplives.com/tidewater</a>
PRM	<a href="http://www.oz.net/~samh/frs">www.oz.net/~samh/frs</a>	WPRRHS	<a href="http://www.wprrhs.org">www.wprrhs.org</a>
SN Page	<a href="http://www.people.virginia.edu/~ggg9y">www.people.virginia.edu/~ggg9y</a>	WP Virtual Museum	<a href="http://wpmuseum.railfan.net">wpmuseum.railfan.net</a>
Tidewater Southern	<a href="http://www5.pair.com/rattene/WP/TideIndex.htm">www5.pair.com/rattene/WP/TideIndex.htm</a>	Western Pacific	<a href="http://www.wplives.com">www.wplives.com</a>

## From the President

By Hank Stiles

I would like to welcome Jan Breitwieser, Kerry Cochran and Norm Holmes to the Board of Directors. I look forward to working with these new board members in the coming years.

The FRRS is poised for a bright future; your board of directors over the last few years has made decisions that I believe will benefit us for years to come. The team building and team management concepts that have been instituted have their detractors but are almost universally accepted. This year for the first time we will have a meeting with the new board members to help them understand what the board is doing so that they will be able to hit the ground running, so to speak. Our board has diversified with the election of local business and government leaders and with people from out of the local area. Changes have been made and while this has been painful for some, I believe that in time they will see the light as we move forward as an organization. I have not seen one person involved with the museum that does not wish us well. We may differ on what we should do but we all want to do what we think is best for the organization. The trick is not to get stuck in the mindset that we are the only one who knows what is best and be open minded enough to accept new ideas. We must move forward and not fret about the past. Sure mistakes have been made but show me someone that has not made a mistake and I will show you someone who has not done much. The world marches on and if you don't march with it you get left behind. I for one don't want to see the museum left behind and will do all I can to march forward to meet our future. We all want the same thing, to make the museum a place that fulfills our mission and that we can continue to be proud of, the difference is in how we reach those goals.

The small group that is the board of directors does not have all the answers. We can be much more effective with your ideas. Please help us by contacting your board members. Our e-mail addresses and phone numbers are listed inside the front cover of the Train Sheet.

Remember the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

One last thing for no other reason other than I think it's cute. A quote by I believe Albert Einstein "The difference between wisdom and stupidity is that wisdom has limitations."

## Calling All Crews!

By Paul Finnegan, Crew Caller, FRRS Operating Department

Ever wonder who's signed up to work crew next weekend? Ever wonder how to join the Operating Department and work on our railroad? The answers are only a click away! The Operating Department's mark up board has gone electronic.

Using the Internet you can surf into [www.wco.com/~cbircher/frrs.html](http://www.wco.com/~cbircher/frrs.html) and see what's happening. Crewmembers can update their signups by sending email to [paul.finnegan@amd.com](mailto:paul.finnegan@amd.com). Of course a paper sign-up sheet continues to be kept in the Operations Office at the museum, that you can peruse or mark up, the Operating Department Supervisors are keeping the paper and electronic ones in sync.

## Membership

By Kerry Cochran

As we progress on getting the new membership cards printed, I will try to have an update with each Headlight.

We have received the new membership cards. I am in the process of printing out each member's card, and as time permits, they will be mailed out.

We are still struggling with address changes, It s seems that just when you think you have all the new addressed of members, an new Post Office card comes in the mail, or a Headlight or envelope is returned with a new address. Some members have sent in several address changes, as by some indications, we did not have the correct address. The entire Membership Data Base was re-checked in March 2001 to make sure all the changes were made.

If you change your address, move, or Heaven forbid, someone passes away, please make sure that you send the FRRS a change of address card. Most all US Post Offices have a small change of address kit, and you should be able to us these cards for all you correspondence and publications.

Again those with email capability, you can send you email to me at: [KC6KNT@compuserve.com](mailto:KC6KNT@compuserve.com) or by US Mail at: FRRS P.O. Box 608, Portola, Ca. 96122-0608

Membership records normally include name, address, phone number, e-mail addresses, member numbers, expire dates, and possibly some notes on date when a member joined, and their occupation.

The FRRS does not sell our membership list to other marketing or advertising companies, but we do occasionally use the membership list to send out notices to our members about FRRS sponsored events. If you have any question about your membership record, please contact us, and we will be glad to talk to you about the information.

One way to check on your membership status, is to look at the mailing label on the Trainsheet or any correspondence you receive from the membership department.

The mailing label will have the following information on it:  
Name (First, Initial, Last) Membership Date and a Code (TSH-TS-H)  
Address  
City, State, and Zip Code + 4

Information on Label

**Date:** the date your current membership expires (for Life members and Family Life there will be a L or LF in this position)

The code after the date stands for the following: TSH Active members (Active, Family, Life, Family Life and Sustaining) who receive the Trainsheet and the Headlight, TS for Associate members who receive the Trainsheet Only, and H for Historical members who receive the Headlight Only.

**Address:** The current address on file.

**City, State and Zip Code** Please make sure we have your Zip Code + 4, as the Post Office delays the mail without the Zip+4.

It is with a sad note that I write this column

On May 26 and 27, 2001 the Portola Railroad Museum held it's opening weekend for the 2001 season.

Several FRRS members arrived for the usual opening weekend of train operations at Portola.

Most members were in attendance for an anticipated visit from  
Jim Gidley Sr.  
Superintendent of Operations.

Unfortunately Jim had taken ill the week before and had been in the hospital.

It was with sad news on Sunday morning that we received word from his family, that Jim has passed away that morning.

Most members were unaware that several of us in the Operating Department had made arrangements to dedicate the days operation to Jim.

Without hesitation, during our morning safety meeting, we dedicated the day, May 27, 2001 in honor to Jim's years of service to the FRRS and the Portola RR Museum.



*In Loving Memory Of*

## JAMES EDWARD GIDLEY, SR.

*Born*

April 11, 1937  
The Dalles, Oregon

*Entered Into Rest*

May 27, 2001  
Chico, California

*Funeral Services*

Wednesday, May 30, 2001, at 10:00 a.m.  
Bidwell Chapel

*Officiating - Dr. Philip Hoff*

*Vocalist - Regina Hoff*

*Piper - David Quivey*

*Honorary Casketbearers*

Kenneth Franklin, James Thorpe, Kerry Cochran  
Everett Yockey III, Daniel Yockey, Dallas Gilberson  
Everett Yockey II, John Hutton, Leonard Gidley

*Interment*

Chico Cemetery  
Chico, California

For those of you how did not know Jim very well.

I meet Jim about 10 years ago, when I came to the Museum and got involved in the Operating Department.

Over the years I found that Jim was a great guy. He enjoyed some of the same hobbies that I had. We shared some of the same interests.

Jim hosted an informal model railroad group at his home for several years. Jack Palmer and myself were able to visit Jim's home and see his rather large HO model layout.

One thing that I found out about, Jim, was he was a Scoutmaster, and Wood Badge Coordinator, and he had earned the Silver Beaver Award.

In 1993 Jim was presented the 2nd Glad Hand Award given by the FRRS for Outstanding Service.

Jim loved to help people, once you got to know him, he would give you a hand no matter what.

We will all miss Jim very much

Kerry Cochran for the FRRS

## Mechanical Department

By Hank Stiles

You should have been in Portola the week of June 18-25 as I was. So much was happening. We have employed two painters, three helpers, a laborer and a welder.

The Union Pacific baggage car has had repair work done on the car body and doors. It is being sanded in preparation to receive a coat of primer. The undercarriage has been pressure washed and when all is ready the car will receive a coat of new paint, top to bottom.

Doug Morgan, Nick Tynan and I, with the help of Doug's 50-ton air jacks, removed the rear truck from caboose WP 428. The welder has built up the worn areas on the pins and hangers along with installing some new wear plates. A repair to one of the side frames and new brake beams and it will be ready to re-assemble. Then the rear truck will be placed back under the caboose and the front truck will then receive the same treatment. The car body has been repaired, sanded and primer applied. A new coat of the correct color of paint will be applied, all the lettering will be applied and the windows re-installed. Along with some clean up and upholstery work on the inside and we will have a caboose that we can be proud of for years to come.

Work is being done to the WP 707, one of our GP-7's. It is being sanded, primed and will also receive a fresh coat of orange and silver paint. The cab interior will be painted and seats will be repaired as needed. One cracked window glass will be replaced and one of the number board glasses that someone broke with a rock will be replaced.

As you can see things are getting done and there is more to come.

Locomotive maintenance is going on. The WP 608 has some fuel oil getting into the lube oil, not much but enough that I have purchased a black light, which is what you use to spot fuel oil leaks. Crankcase oil for all operating locomotives has had samples taken and I have received the reports back from the lab. Other than the fuel oil in the WP 607 and some bearing wear in the WP 921-D, the reports all look good.

There is lots of work to do so please consider coming up for a visit. We will all have a good time and our collection will be the better for our efforts.

## Help Wanted

By Kerry Cochran

Would you like to become a member of the Portola Railroad Museum Train Crew?

Requirements are; 18 years of age, active membership (\$30.00) or above, leather gloves and leather footwear that protects the ankles

If you are interested ask any crew member for information, see one of the train crew supervisors who are Don Nelson, Pat Brimmer and Paul Finnegan or contact me directly either at the museum or by phone at (650) 952-7127.

## Operating Department

By Kerry Cochran

On May 5th & 6th, the Operating Department held it's annual crew training. This year had the largest turn out of members and new members joining the operating department.

First, I would like to welcome the new members, Bill Chappell, Robert Forren, Chris Jozwiak, Loren Ross, Stephanie Sprague, Steve Stephens, Ed Powell, Dwight Wolfinger, Dan Zukowski, Jack Zygnier, and any other new member that I missed.

Returning members, Ken Roller, Dick Citrino, Tom Andrews, Lew Barnard, Dave Bergman, Don Borden, Pat Brimmer, Bob Carr, Eddie Chase, Terry Decottignies, Paul Finnegan, Kenneth Finnegan, John Hittner, Dave Kantoff, Don Nelson, Jack Palmer, Tom Parr, Matt Parr, Eugene Vicknair, John Walker Steve Habeck, Norm Holmes, and some that I may have missed.

Board members that were on hand to help with the weekend in general, as well as with the operation of the museum, Frank Brehm, Doug Morgan, and Hank Stiles

Thirty six members in total attended the training for the weekend. The Rules Examination was give on Saturday and Sunday, with hands on training given on Saturday and Saturday evening. One of the highlights of this years training, was a presentation on Fire Extinguisher, by Don Borden and Frank Brehm.

One thing that you missed if you were not present, was the dinner that the museum provided for the crew this year. The Operating Department wishes to thank the cooks for the night, Frank Brehm, Hank Stiles, and their helper Doug Morgan, without these people, dinner would not have been possible. THANKS

If you missed the Crew Training Weekend, don't worry, you can take the rules examination at any time during the year, just see one of the Supervisor, or myself.

Speaking of Supervisors, I have asked for several members of the operating department to step up and help us out in this year's operation. I am happy to report that the following members have been selected to take supervisory positions within the operating department;

Don Nelson Assistant Trainmaster and Supervisor  
Pat Brimmer Supervisor  
Paul Finnegan Supervisor, and Crew Caller  
Norm Holmes Supervisor  
Hank Stiles Supervisor

These members, will be in charge of the operating department on weekends and special operating days when I can not be present at the museum. Each holds a very important position in keeping the museum caboose train in operation during the season. All operating personnel should give their cooperation to each of the supervisors.

On behalf of the FRRS, the Portola Railroad Museum and myself, I would like to thank all the members for their help in making the operating department come alive this year, and to getting us off to a good operating season.

Operating Department Promotions May 2001  
Paul Finnegan Qualified Yard Engineer Qualified RAL Engineer  
John Hittner Qualified Fireman Student Yard Engineer

## Operating Department

Don Nelson Qualified RAL Engineer

New and Returning Positions May 2001

Student Brakeman Bill Chappell, Dick Citrino, Robert Forren, Chris Jozwiak, Dave Kantoff, Matt Parr, Tom Parr, Ed Powell, Loren Ross, Stephanie Sprague, Steve Stephens, Eugene Vicknair, John Walker, Dwight Folfinger, Jack Zygnier, Dan Zukowski.

At some point in time I am sure that I have missed some members qualifications or student positions, with the transition from Jim Gidley SR. to myself, I may need some assistance from some of the members, to bring to my attention any loss of qualifications in position. Please notify me if there are any questions in your service records within the operating department.

## Zephyr Project Update

By Eugene John Vicknair

Much work was accomplished on the dome area over the past month. Special thanks goes to Don Borden who worked over several weekends pulling plywood and trim pieces from the dome. He was assisted at various times by Eric Stephens, Steve Stephens, Ed Powell, John Reese, and Paul Finnegan's son (I'm sorry, I don't remember his first name). Tom Graham also helped in evaluating the securing of the plywood in the dome flooring. I helped some, too.

Doug Morgan returned from a trip to the Colorado Railroad Museum with several finds that will be vital to restoring the car. A long list of Budd diagrams covering wiring, components, interior trim and upholstery and other items were found in the CRM archives. We are working with CRM to obtain copies of these and create working drawings from them.

On the window front, I have yet to receive any takers on the Buy-A-Window program, but have been in regular communication with R. E. Jackson, the window maker. They have sent photos of their modernized dome frames placed in a Budd car. These modernized frames are sturdier and more leak resistant than the original frames or the early Amtrak copies. However, they are almost indistinguishable when installed. They look really good. I have also been trying to find a less expensive source of glass with no luck.

Several car parts suppliers have been contacted seeking components for the Hostel, including the all important teardrop dome frames. Thanks to Norm Holmes for connecting me with a good supplier in Canada who is willing to help us. Also, thanks to John Suschek of Ozark Mountain Railcar for information on possible sources of glass.

The dome ventilation grilles should be sandblasted and primed by the middle of July. The final dome trim items should also be removed during a work weekend over July 14-15. All trim pieces will be stripped, repaired and primed in the coming weeks if we can find the hands to do the work. (hint-hint!) I am evaluating two metal shops for replicating the missing trim pieces as my sources say it is unlikely we can find good original parts.

Doug Morgan has been evaluating ways to handle the

## Zephyr Project Update

HVAC systems and, when the wiring diagrams arrive, we should be able to tackle the planning of that problem in earnest with our chief electrician Steve Stephens.

It looks like we have definitely found a welder skilled in stainless steel work who is willing to join the team. The question now is coordinating his schedule to get him up to the museum.

In the last 2 months, about \$700 in new donations have been received. Donors include Malcolm E. Church, John Wieland and Robert W. Blanch. Thank you!

At the June Board Meeting, the Directors approved approaching locomotive rebuilding shops for donations of labor to complete the mechanical restoration of the 805A. CMO Hank Stiles and I are going to work on getting their help in getting the 805A back to 100%.

Finally, thanks to Ted Hendricks of Makita Tools, the FRRS, via the Zephyr Project, is now the recipient of several brand-new cordless tools that should prove invaluable on the Hostel and other projects. These tools are being made available to the FRRS for free for six months. At that time, they can be sold to members or purchased by the Society at a steep discount. For more details, see the Makita Tools article elsewhere in this issue.

## HELP, Lost Members!

The Following list of Members have had their mail returned to the FRRS, because, they moved and did not leave a forwarding address, the forwarding address at the post office has expired, or the address that we have is wrong.

If you know any of these members, please have them contact us or send their current mailing address to the membership services at the museum.

Ralph Hill, Sr., of Hemet, Ca  
 Nicholas J. Tynan, of Livermore, Ca  
 Chris Kennedy, of Quincy, Ca  
 Robert York, of San Jose, Ca  
 Brent MacGregor, of San Luis Obispo, Ca  
 Bill Sturm, of Sun City, Az.  
 William L. Burke, of Mountain Home, AR.

## 15th FRRS Railfan Photographers Day

By Vic Neves

Join with us September 15th 2001 as we return this most popular event to the Portola Railroad Museum from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM.

Events include;  
 Scheduled trains,  
 Swap meet,  
 Slide shows,  
 Night flash photo session.

This is a special event requiring extra fare, FRRS members pay only \$5.00 and non-members \$10.00.

## Farewell to the Reno Branch

*continued from Page 1* that the line be kept in service to that point; but UP has already negotiated relocating this customer to the area below Martin in the near future. A red flag is planted between the rails near MP 11, plainly visible from US 395, preventing northward movement beyond that point. With sections of this line laid with welded rail that can be used elsewhere, its future as a railroad is in serious doubt. Fortunately, UP has been using the north end of the branch to store auto-racks, with nearly 200 of them sitting north of MP 3 since last fall. It will be difficult to tear up the track with cars sitting on it.

With the handwriting on the wall, the FRRS has stepped in with a plan to commemorate the Reno Branch prior to its demise. We are working with the UP and have come up with a plan for an excursion on the Reno Branch, to be called, "Farewell To The Reno Branch". As currently envisioned, this excursion would operate from Portola (adjacent to the Museum) to Sparks, lay over in Sparks, and return to Portola the second day. As Project Manager for this undertaking, I have drawn up a draft plan and budget for this project, and have received approval from the FRRS Board of Directors to proceed with plans to upgrade and paint various pieces of equipment from the collection for possible use on this venture. I cannot stress enough that we have not yet concluded discussions with the UP, and that final approval has not been given as yet! The work I have started on our equipment is such that the Museum will benefit from the upgrading whether the excursion runs or not. I have carefully chosen the equipment to be worked on, and the order in which it will be worked on, to minimize impact on daily Museum operations, yet provide improved appearance and use from this equipment as soon as it's completed.

Due to the ongoing negotiations with UP, and the fact that cars are still stored on the branch, no time frame for any excursion has yet been determined. If approved by UP, we will be reliant on the removal of the cars on the branch through the normal course of business prior to an excursion. I'm sorry that I can't be more detailed about this, but too much is still too tentative to be very specific. One thing I can state with authority is that we can use all the help we can get to get the FRRS and its equipment in shape for ventures such as this. Even though we are working under the FTRB banner, I'm hoping it's just a catalyst to spur excitement amongst you, the membership, to get involved, or get involved again, on projects that are definite in scope, approved and funded by the Board, and good for the Museum by improving appearance and functionality of our equipment. Whether we run an excursion or not, the Museum wins, and that's the bottom line.

For specific inquiries, you can E-mail me at [chooch@psln.com](mailto:chooch@psln.com) or call me at the Museum, or at home, (530) 283-3396. **DO NOT** call the UP; they don't know any more than we do at this point. To avoid confusion, we have only one person designated as the contact with UP, and he is in contact with me as necessary. If it involves the FTRB Project, and you didn't hear it from me, or from official FRRS channels, it probably isn't right. I am committed to getting the word out as quickly and as accurately as possible as things move along. Thank you for your interest, and I hope to see many of you helping to take up the cause in Portola.

## Minutes of Past Meetings

**May 5, 2001**

Interim President Hank Stiles called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. The following directors were present: Jim Murphy, Frank Brehm, Doug Morgan, Eugene Vicknair, Pat Brimmer, Hank Stiles, Ed Wagner (via telephone). Director Vic Neves and President Andy Anderson were absent.

Visitors Present: Rod McClure, Kerry Cochran, Bill Adamson, Steve Habeck, Don Nelson, Norm Holmes.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

Zephyr Project Report, Headlight Report, Train Sheet Report, Gift Shop sales at WPRRHS Convention, WP OB cupola Caboose 630 Report.

Motion #01-05-01

Made by Frank Brehm, seconded by Doug Morgan to accept consent agenda reports. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

### REPORTS:

TEA-21 Grant – Old Hospital

Eugene Vicknair presented and addendum to the TEA grant application for consideration. He explained that it had been reported that the Plumas County Transportation Commission was unsure if the proposed project fit into categories mentioned on the application, the addendum addressed which categories the project fit into. During the discussion it was determined that the addendum should place more emphasis on the projects link to transportation.

Motion #01-05-02

Made by Jim Murphy, seconded by Pat Brimmer to approve sending the addendum with the suggested added emphasis. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

### MINUTES:

Minutes of the April 7, 2001 meeting.

Motion #01-05-03

Made by Jim Murphy, seconded by Frank Brehm to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2001 meeting as presented. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**RENO EXCURSION:** The Board reviewed the Reno Excursion Project plan drafted by Steve Habeck. Comments from Dan Brady regarding financing of the project were also reviewed. It was reported that Union Pacific had reviewed the draft plan and would cooperate with FRRS using Rod McClure as the liaison. Tickets will only be available to FRRS members due to liability concerns of UP, there can be tickets available to VIPs. Video taping of the excursion will be completed and there could be revenue from that portion of the project. The Board commended Steve Habeck on his work to draft a concise plan for consideration.

Motion #01-05-04

Made by Jim Murphy, seconded by Pat Brimmer to approve the Reno Excursion Project and add expenses to the upcoming budget. All direc-

## Minutes of Past Meetings

tors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

### Motion #01-05-05

Made by Doug Morgan, seconded by Eugene Vicknair to appoint Rod McClure as the Reno Excursion Project liaison between FRRS and UP. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

### Motion #01-05-06

Made by Doug Morgan, seconded by Frank Brehm to appoint Steve Habeck as project manager for the Reno Excursion Project. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

**BUDGET 2001:** The Board reviewed a list of projects to be considered for the 2001 Capital Expenditure Budget. It was noted that only \$104,000 was available for these projects. Director Murphy suggested prioritizing the list and just ending the list when the funds ran out.

### Motion #01-05-07

Made by Hank Stiles, seconded by Pat Brimmer to approve special capital expenditure projects on an individual basis until funding was no longer available, considering each project when a report on the project and a request for funding was brought to the board. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

**EQUIPMENT SIGNS:** Eugene Vicknair reported on quotes for exterior grade sign boards for equipment. He requested the Board approve \$1353 to purchase the signs.

### Motion #01-05-08

Made by Jim Murphy, seconded by Doug Morgan to approve the sign plan and appropriate \$1353. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

**BOARD SECRETARY:** Director Stiles reported that he would like the Board to consider \$100 per month payment to Leslie Tigan to act as the Board Secretary. Duties will include, minutes, agendas, organization and keeping of official records.

### Motion #01-05-09

Made by Hank Stiles, seconded by Pat Brimmer to authorize payment of \$100 per month to Leslie Tigan for Secretary services. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

**BOARD ORIENTATION MEETING:** The Board discussed the concept of scheduling an orientation meeting for new Board members after each election. Director Vicknair suggested scheduling the meeting now for new members. Director Murphy suggested placing an item on the June agenda for approval of an agenda for the orientation meeting. Director Brimmer noted that the new members should set the date for the meeting when seated in June and the meeting should be held within 30 days. After a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Board to place an item on the June agenda to discuss the agenda and schedule for the orientation meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**WP COACH:** Norm Holmes provided a report on the possible acquisition of the WP Coach. It was the consensus of the Board to forward the request to the A & D Committee for review of information which need-

ed to be provided in the form of a report with information and photos.

**OLD HOSPITAL:** Norm Holmes requested the Board allocate \$3000 to secure the hospital building and clean up the grounds.

### Motion #01-05-10

Made by Pat Brimmer, seconded by Hank Stiles to authorize \$3000 to secure and clean the grounds of the old hospital, utilizing a minimum of ½" CDX with 1 ½" deck screws every 6 to 8 inches. All directors present voted in favor. Director Neves and President Anderson were absent.

Director Murphy reported that a perimeter fence around the property would be a good idea, he also reported that Norm Holmes had acquired siding similar to the type on the building, but unknown to him the siding contained asbestos and would have to be properly disposed of. It was the consensus of the Board to have Frank Brehm and Norm Holmes coordinate to secure the building and grounds properly.

### FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Director Brimmer commended Kerry Cochran on the training class being held over the weekend and all the work that proceeded the training session. Director Brimmer also commented on a complaint from Sam Herschbein regarding the web page, it was determined that Mr. Brimmer would write a letter of apology for Director Stiles to sign. Norm Holmes requested the Board consider sending a representative to the Western Regional meeting. The Board declined the request. Hank Stiles and Doug Morgan reported that they had attended the FRA conference which was beneficial. Eugene Vicknair reported that there is a June 30 deadline for grant applications to the Trains Magazine. He noted that he would prepare a grant application for the Zephyr project. It was also suggested that the next Headlight should contain a request for donations for the Zephyr project. Eugene Vicknair reported on the status of the moving of the Magnolia Tower.

Next Meeting: June 2, 2001, 6:00 pm, Portola City Hall

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

### June 2, 2001

Interim President Hank Stiles called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The following directors were present:

Jim Murphy, Ed Wagner, Pat Brimmer (via telephone), Eugene Vicknair, Hank Stiles. Directors Vic Neves, Doug Morgan, Frank Brehm and President Andy Anderson were absent.

Visitors Present: Kerry Cochran, Norm Holmes, Susan Scarlett, Tom Graham, John Risse, Judy McGrath, Gary Hall, Don Borden.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

May 5, 2001 Minutes  
Membership Report  
Operating Department Report  
Gift Shop Sales Report

Pat Brimmer corrected the spelling of HERSCHBEIN in the minutes.

Motion #01-06-01

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Made by Jim Murphy, seconded by Pat Brimmer to approve the consent agenda reports, with the spelling correction in the May 5, 2001 minutes. All directors present voted in favor. Directors Neves, Morgan, Brehm and President Anderson were absent.

### REORDER OF THE AGENDA:

Director Brimmer requested the agenda be reordered by moving New Business Item #1 to be considered next. Director Stiles noted that Director Brehm had placed the item on the agenda and was not present at this time for the discussion. Director Murphy noted that the meeting had started on time and Directors should be present.

#### Motion #01-06-02

Made by Jim Murphy, seconded by Pat Brimmer to reorder the agenda and consider New Business #1 next. Directors Murphy, Brimmer, Wagner and Vicknair voted in favor. Director Stiles abstained. Directors Neves, Morgan, Brehm and President Anderson were absent.

Directors Frank Brehm and Vic Neves arrived at the meeting at 1:15 p.m. Director Morgan arrived at the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

Kerry Cochran requested a moment of silence be held for Jim Gidley.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**CURRENT ELECTION:** Director Brehm reviewed his agenda report regarding the current election. He explained that he felt the election should be declared null and void, a new election committee appointed and the a new vote taken. His reasons for this action were the failure of the board to make a membership list available to write in candidate Neves in a timely fashion and endorsement of certain candidates by the Election Committee. Director Murphy asked Director Neves if he was formally contesting the election. Mr. Neves indicated that he was. Director Murphy explained that he felt the election process was performed adequately and the membership had voted. He also noted that Kerry Cochran had tried to get the membership list to Vic Neves on three different occasions but there had been a problem with Mr. Neves e-mail. Director Brimmer noted that Mr. Neves was a board member and should have known how the election process worked and made efforts to obtain the membership list. Mr. Cochran stated that the membership list has always been available to all members. Election Committee member Tom Graham explained that all three candidates who were endorsed had approved the letter and he felt the Committee had done nothing wrong. Kerry Cochran explained, that as a candidate, he was asked if he approved the letter making a statement on his behalf and declined to either approve or disapprove the letter. Director Vicknair thanked the Election Committee, he indicated that he had received calls from members asking why the Election Committee had endorsed candidates. Director Brimmer noted that the cost to re-do the election would be unreasonable and not an expenditure that he could recommend. He noted that he felt every reasonable effort was made to get Mr. Neves the membership list and that he didn't feel anything could be changed. Mr. Neves noted that he probably could have called Kerry Cochran when the list didn't arrive. Judy McGrath noted that it had taken two days to complete the mailing. Committee member Tom Graham noted that the election process had taken 134 hours.

Director Murphy asked exactly what mistake had been made that could warrant the election be thrown out. Director Stiles noted that just poor judgment, not mistakes has been used. Director Vicknair noted that he felt the mis-wording in the Trainsheet was a mistake. Committee member Tom Graham noted that what was printed in the Trainsheet was not

what was presented by the Committee. Director Vicknair again explained that he had been asked by members why the Election Committee had endorsed candidates. Mr. Graham noted that the Committee members had endorsed candidates as individual members of the organization, not as members of the Election Committee. Kerry Cochran explained that he did not feel it was the Board's place challenge what any member of the organization does. Mr. Graham explained that the votes had been counted under the watch of the Portola City Clerk, Leslie Tigan, who certified the election results. The Board discussed the process for appointing committees after the new Board members are seated. After reviewing Robert's Rules and the Bylaws, it was determined that the new President appoints the committees, with the choice of leaving the current members in place or changing the make up of the committees. The president would also be able to appoint a Chair for the committee and delegate the committee appointments to the Chair. Director Murphy suggested that the Board should take action to formally endorse the President's appointments.

#### Motion #01-06-03

Made by Director Murphy, seconded by Director Brimmer to direct the Board to formally apologize to Mr. Neves, and report that since the Board has identified issues that need to be addressed in future elections to evaluate the policies and procedures of the Election Committee prior to the next election. All members present voted in favor. President Anderson was absent.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**RENO EXCURSION:** Director Murphy explained that he had questions regarding insurance for the event and the auto racks. Director Morgan noted that the insurance was not a problem and would not cost much more. Rod McClure explained that the project could not happen until UP removes the auto racks. Steve Habeck noted that members should not be given premature information on the project since they don't know when UP will remove the auto racks. After further discussion it was the consensus of the Board to work on insuring that all Board members get equal information.

**BOARD ORIENTATION MEETING:** Director Murphy provided a draft agenda for the proposed Board Orientation Meeting. He noted that the Closed Session should be removed from the draft. After a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Board to use the proposed agenda and have the meeting at 1pm on July 7, 2001.

**BYLAW CHANGES:** Kerry Cochran explained questions he had regarding previous action of the Board requesting a legal opinion on the process used to make Bylaw changes. He asked if the opinion had ever been provided to the Board and how he could get a copy of it. Director Brimmer noted that the letter had been written but the Board had not received a response. The Board noted that the Bylaw Committee should receive a copy of the opinion after the Board gets it.

**USE OF FRRS STATIONARY:** Kerry Cochran noted that the Board had previously voted to have only authorized persons use FRRS stationary, he questioned who the authorized persons are. Director Murphy noted that he felt the stationary is the responsibility of the Board with approval authority delegated to the President. Director Brimmer noted that Department heads needed to be able to use the Stationary for museum purposes. It was the consensus of the Board to work on developing a policy for use of FRRS stationary and that all correspondence on the stationary should be copied to the Board.

## Minutes of Past Meetings

**PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT:** Kerry Cochran questioned items on the profit & loss statement relating to legal expenses and tool and machinery sales. Susan Scarlett reported that all legal expenses were from the Silver Hostel project and that the item under tool & machinery sales was the tamper.

**ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE:** Gary Hall presented an updated chart to the board to review. It was the consensus of the Board to have this item go forward to the new Board for review. Director Murphy suggested that a policy should be developed directing that vacancies be opened up to all members of the organization.

**POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL:** Kerry Cochran explained that seven items had been given to the Board for review in January and he had not received any communication on where to go with the items. Director Brimmer noted that he would like to see all 7 items on the next agenda for approval.

**OLD HOSPITAL:** Norm Holmes reported on the securing of the building. Director Murphy noted that since the no trespassing signs had been put up there have been five or six arrests. He also presented a letter from a society member who works at the State Historical Building Safety Board offering his assistance in helping with the building. It was the consensus of the Board to invite the gentlemen to attend the next meeting and place the issue on the agenda. Mr. Stiles would contact him and invite him.

**TANKS:** Director Murphy asked what had happened with the order to demilitarize the tanks. Director Morgan indicated that he had received approval to extend the deadline but didn't know what the board wanted him to do with the tanks now. It was the consensus of the Board to ask the military to come get the tanks and put the item on the next agenda for a follow up.

**SAM HERSCHBEIN LETTER:** Mr. Stiles indicated that he was having trouble with his computer and had not gotten the letter out. Director Brimmer noted that he would e-mail the letter to Leslie and she could mail it.

### NEW BUSINESS

**WP BOX CAR:** Director Brehm asked what the status of the Boxcar was and who was working on the project. Mr. Holmes reported that the last action from the Board had been to delay work until the A&D Committee provided a recommendation. The Committee then discussed the project but did not provide much of a recommendation. When UP heard it called a Hobo Car they indicated that they could not support the project, but Mr. Holmes felt it was just because of the name and that UP would be happy if it was called a vista car.

#### Motion #01-06-04

Made by Director Brimmer, seconded by Director Vicknair to direct Mr. Holmes to write a proposal for the project including sketches, cost and back-up material for the next agenda. All members present voted in favor.

**LIVING QUARTERS:** Director Brehm outlined questions he had relating to using the museum property as living quarters, his questions related to insurance, code and zoning requirements. After discussing the issues it was the consensus of the board to have Directors Murphy and Morgan look into all the issues addressed and report back to the Board. The Board also noted that they were not looking to evict Ken Roller, just

to make sure that everything is right for him and the museum with a mission to correct problems.

**DIRECTOR BREHM'S RESIGNATIONS:** Director Murphy explained that he felt the Board needed to discuss the impact of Mr. Brehm's resignations from the Headlight Committee, Web-site management, the Bylaws Committee and the Trainsheet and determine how to continue providing these services to the membership. Mr. Brehm noted that all software and supplies belonging to FRRS were returned earlier in the day. There was considerable discussion regarding the duties Mr. Brehm played in Web-site management, and it was discovered that FRRS owns the wplives.org and the wplives.net domain names but that Mr. Brehm owns the wplives.com site. Although this was a surprise to most members it was determined that the board would have to do something. Most information on the site is copyrighted by Frank Brehm and the FRRS. Mr. Brehm indicated that he would share the text from the site but that the pictures are his. Director Brimmer asked Mr. Brehm that, as a member of the Board, if he felt that not transferring the entire web page to the FRRS is in the best interest of the museum and the members of the society. Mr. Brehm refused to answer. Mr. Cochran asked if Mr. Brehm would be willing to transfer pages from the .com site to the .org site, Mr. Brehm said he would do that. Director Brimmer noted that he felt Mr. Herschbein would be willing to work on the web page if he was asked. Director Vicknair and Gary Hall each indicated a willingness to work on getting the .org site up and running.

#### Motion #01-06-05

Made by Director Stiles, seconded by Director Wagner to appoint Gary Hall and Eugene Vicknair to get the .org site up and running. All members present voted in favor. President Anderson was absent.

Director Brimmer will call Sam Herschbein and talk to him about working on the web page. Mr. Brehm's resignation from the Headlight Committee and the Bylaw Committee left positions to be filled but would not impact the duties of the committee. The vacancies should be reported to the membership with a request for volunteer to fill the positions. Mr. Brehm's resignation from the Trainsheet editor position left a vacancy there too. Again it was stated that the membership should be notified and a request for volunteers made. Kerry Cochran thanked Mr. Brehm for all the work he has done for the society.

The Board recessed into closed session at 3:55 p.m. Open session at 4:00 p.m. Director Stiles announced that Mr. Brehm would continue as Trainsheet editor as long as he received help.

**MUSEUM PROPERTY AND ASSETS:** Director Murphy reviewed his concerns that individuals are using museum property and assets for personal business gain. He described a recent time that Mr. Morgan and Mr. Stiles took tools from the museum to Colorado for a project they were working on. Mr. Stiles noted that they had asked the Board if they could use tools at a different time and it had been allowed so they felt it was ok this time too. They did pay the Society a rental fee for the tools. He also noted that the Museum has a loan agreement with Mr. Morgan to use his tools. Mr. Cochran indicated that the ethics code does not allow for museum property to be used for personal gain by Board members. Mr. Murphy indicated that he feels a personal business is being run out of the museum, using museum property and assets, he said you can tell by checking phone logs.

#### Motion #01-06-06

Made by Director Brimmer with no second, to have no further use of museum tools unless it is directly related to museum business and the

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Board has unanimously approved a written request. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion #01-06-07

Made by Director Murphy, seconded by Director Brimmer to develop a policy consistent with the Ethics Code that no tools or facilities be used, without prior consent of the Board, for business other than museum business, form a three person committee to draw up the policy. Directors Brehm, Brimmer, Morgan, Murphy, Neves, Vicknair and Wagner voted in favor. Director Stiles abstained. President Anderson was absent.

The committee should be appointed at the next meeting. Mr. Stiles and Mr. Morgan provided a check for tool rental in the amount of \$100 to the Board.

Director Brimmer left the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

**ANNUAL REPORT:** Mr. Cochran noted that the bylaws require an annual report to be available by April 30 of each year and asked if the report is available. The Board explained that Dan Brady had written a letter explaining why the report had been delayed.

**2001 PORTOLA RAILROAD DAYS CELEBRATION:** Director Murphy explained that the local Railroad Days event would be held on August 18 & 19 and suggested the FRRS work to participate in the event. The Board committed to working harder on the event then they had in the past, Mr. Cochran and Mr. Morgan would get with the Railroad Days chairman and see what events they could work on.

**SURPLUS PROPERTY:** Director Murphy suggested that the Board take formal action to declare the sailboat as surplus property and have the Facilities Department dispose of it.

Motion #01-06-08

Made by Director Vicknair, seconded by Director Brehm to declare the sailboat surplus property and order it's disposal. All members present voted in favor. Director Brimmer and President Anderson were absent.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:** Director Murphy explained that the accounts payable process was still not working and bills were being paid late. Accountant Susan Scarlett noted that it took too long for bills to be routed to the president for approval, and get back to her for payment. After a brief discussion it was determined that Directors Murphy and Stiles would work with Ms. Scarlett to develop a procedure that would work more efficiently.

**SITE MANAGER:** Director Murphy reported that Mr. Stiles had appointed Steve Habeck as a "site manager", Mr. Murphy asked where this position was in the organizational chart and why the appointment had been made without the knowledge of the Board. Mr. Stiles noted that since he is not physically at the museum he asked Mr. Habeck to act as his ears and eyes and report on day-to-day operations. Mr. Stiles note that he felt this appointment would make things run more smoothly. Mr. Cochran noted that Mr. Habeck had asked him how the mail relating to membership should be routed.

Mr. Murphy noted that he just wanted to bring the appointment to the attention of the board and explained that he felt it was just one more issue that helped the Board loose creditability with the membership, why hadn't another Board member been asked to take on the responsibility.

### GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Director Morgan noted that this would be his last Board Meeting and wished the incoming and remaining board members well

Motion #01-06-09

Made by Director Murphy, seconded by Director Brehm to make it a policy to recognize outgoing members of the Board. All members present voted in favor. Director Brimmer and President Anderson were absent.

Gary Hall thanked Mr. Morgan for all he has done for the museum. Director Stiles noted that the entire Society was better off now then they were when Mr. Morgan arrived.

Director Morgan left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

WP805A:

Motion #01-06-10

Made by Director Murphy, seconded by Director Brehm to pursue a donation of labor for the repair/restoration of the WP805A. All members present voted in favor. Directors Brimmer, Morgan and President Anderson were absent.

MAKITA TOOLS:

Motion #01-06-11

Made by Director Murphy, seconded by Director Brehm to authorize the purchase of Makita Tools at a discounted rate. All members present voted in favor. Directors Brimmer, Morgan and President Anderson were absent.

**WINDOWS FOR THE SHOWER CAR:** Director Vicknair reported on quotes for windows and offered to install them. Director Brehm questioned if this item should wait until questions regarding living on the property were addressed.

Motion #01-06-12

Made by Director Stiles, seconded by Director Neves to approve an amount not to exceed \$400 for three windows to be installed by Eugene Vicknair in the Shower Car. All members present voted in favor. Directors Brimmer, Morgan and President Anderson were absent.

**USE OF MUSEUM FOR CITY FUNCTION:** Director Murphy explained that the City would be hosting a meeting on June 21 and requested to use the museum for a short period to provide cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and a train ride. It was the consensus of the board to approve the request.

### GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Gary Hall requested to get copies of actions taken by the Board. Judy asked for a status report on the Magnolia Tower. Vic Neves thanked the Board for his 10-year membership and indicated that he will continue to work in advertising as a member. Kerry Cochran asked where the membership meeting was being held. The meeting will be held at the Beanery and the election results will be reported. The Board thanked Vic Neves and Ed Wagner for their service.

**ADJOURN:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

All minutes respectively submitted by Leslie Tigan.

*PRESERVING "THE FEATHER RIVER ROUTE"*

***WP Lives, in Portola!***

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Feather River Rail Society is to preserve the history of the Western Pacific Railroad. The secondary mission is to preserve the history of the subsidiary and interchange railroads within the territories it served.

**Mission Goals**

To preserve and interpret the history of the WP, the "Willing People" as a vital link in the development of the rail industry on the West Coast, including the steam and diesel evolution, WP's influence in the passenger tourism industry, the impact of freight competition between neighboring railroads. WP's influence in the lumber, mining and agriculture industry from Plumas County throughout California, Nevada and Utah

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