

WP 165 GETS NEW BOILER TUBES

- Chris Allan, Steam CMO

Over Labor Day Weekend 2008, Dana Greeley of the WPRM Steam Team and his good friend Chris Parsons moved a trailer-load-plus worth of 2" diameter boiler tubes from Virginia City, Nevada, to the Museum. These tubes were surplus to the V&T Railroad. Norman Holmes made the arrangements to acquire them at a greatly reduced cost to us thanks to the V&T's generosity. There are now enough 2 inch tubes to replace those removed from the 165 earlier this year, and enough spares to give us a headstart on the next FRA mandated tube replacement 15 years after our first steam-up. Twenty-four new 5 1/2" superheater flues still need to be acquired to totally re-flue the boiler.

Even though we were able to get these tubes at a great discount, we still need your donations to help offset the cost. Please consider donating to the 165 fund and help us toward our goal of bringing WP steam back to Portola.

Thanks again to Dana, Norm, Charlie (who made space for the tubes in the steam boxcar and put them away) and to Chris Parsons for loaning us his rig for the move. A team effort is what it takes to get things moving!

Remember, Steam Department work sessions take place throughout the year. Come out and get dirty and have some fun! Don't forget to check out progress reports, schedule, information and other stuff on the 165 Restoration Blog: wprsteam.blogspot.com.

STEAM PHOTOS FROM THE VIRGIL STAFF COLLECTION

As mentioned in the last issue, the FRRS has been gifted with the Virgil Staff collection of Western Pacific photos, paperwork, historical research and other materials. Below pair of steam photos from the collection.



left - Our 0-6-0, WP 165, is captured hard at work in Stockton on November 8, 1938.

L. T. Haug photo.

below - It is not often one sees photos of a brand new steam locomotive being delivered, but that is just what C. W. Jernstrom found on May 5, 1938 when he visited the Rio Grande yard in Denver, CO. WP 2-8-8-2 260 is dead in train heading for her new owner.

both photos FRRS / WPRRHS - Virgil Staff Collection

