



Preserving "THE FEATHER RIVER ROUTE"

Issue - 178

September/October 2018

- Pumpkin Patch Express 2018 -

Ali Doty

Along with co-coordinator Kristina "KC" Dunn, with help from Eugene Vicknair, Secretary and Board member, and Patty Clawson of Big Fish Creations, we prepared for and ran the Pumpkin Patch Express on the weekends of October 20th and 21st, and October 27th and 28th. My husband, Ethan Doty, and Steve Habeck, FRRS President, put the wires up for powering the lights for the night runs. Ethan also built two seven-foot tall cemetery gate columns to begin our collection of spooky graveyard pumpkin patch decorations with the goal of having a unified theme and longer lasting decorations. Bil Jackson also created a baker's dozen of small wooden tombstones on which I painted some funny names.

In discussions with Steve and Ethan, it was determined that since the Silver Plate needed to be removed from the train consist this year, we would use most of the Santa Train consist in reverse order with the baggage car bringing up the rear. So with WP 2001 as power, the train consist was cabooses SP 4706, UP 25732, RI 17174, MP 13878, SN 1642, UP 25283 and FRRX 5653 (the baggage car). One major advantage in using this consist was having the power cords already run on 6 of 7 Santa Train cabooses, it would speed up the process of converting to Santa Trains since just the decorations were all that needed to be changed. I decorated the train as well as the Silver Plate, which was left in the Diesel Shop as a place for people to sit, eat and relax.



Although we had a bit of a delayed start on October 20th, with the help of Patty, Ethan, Debbie Reynolds, and Shaun Rowden, the pumpkin patch was decorated like a spooky graveyard and the pumpkins were set out for purchase in time for the first run of the day that was further delayed by a kid pulling the emergency valve in the MP caboose.

Last year on the night runs, Steve had success in spooking the riders of the train by having it slow to a stop just past Milward Switch and pulling the cords to all the lights on the train. It worked well and the screams could be heard all the way back at the Pumpkin Patch. This year, everyone just pulled out their cellphones and used them as flashlights, so no screams were heard even with Steve banging on the cabooses and trying to scare people.

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-THE TRAIN SHEET-

Issue 178 - September/October 2018

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News from the Feather River Rail Society and the Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola

Editors - Matt Elems & Paul Finnegan

Email: trainsheet@wplives.org

Contribution Deadlines: Last Day of February, April, June, August, October and December.

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FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY

WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD

MUSEUM at PORTOLA

PO BOX 608, Portola, CA 96122-0608

Museum Phone: (530) 832-4131

Fax: (530) 832-1854

The museum is open:

April: Thursday - Sunday

May - September: Daily

October: Thursday - Sunday

Hours: 10 - 5, weather permitting.

If you wish to visit during the closure period, it is advisable to call in advance and find out if the museum will be open.

Entrance to the museum for members is free. Non-members are required to pay an admission fee, details are inside this issue on the inside of the back cover.

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 Western Pacific 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.



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- WEB PAGES of INTEREST -

FRRS Official Site

www.WPLives.org

CZ Virtual Museum

calzephyr.railfan.net

California Zephyr

californiazephyr.org

Western Pacific Pages

www.WPLives.com

WP Virtual Museum

wpmuseum.railfan.net

Tidewater Southern Pages

www.TidewaterSouthern.com

Central California Traction

www.trainweb.org/tractionco

Note from the editors...*- Paul Finnegan*

Greetings – I have joined Matt Elems in the role of *Train Sheet* editors for the Feather River Rail Society. Matt and Eugene Vicknair have helped me get up to speed by providing the files and insight into how the *Train Sheet* is put together behind the scenes. Matt has been wearing several hats at the museum, so I hope my joining him as co-editor of the *Train Sheet* will help Matt focus on his other museum responsibilities, including his role as a director of the society.

I hope to leverage the synergy between my roles as webmaster and *Train Sheet* co-editor to keep the membership informed about the activities and needs of the museum and the society.

I look forward to working together in the spirit of the *Willing People*.

Due to a publication issue, this article was not published in a timely manner...

Museum Web Page Update - April 26, 2018*- Paul Finnegan*

John Bartel from Sacramento TV station abc10 came to the museum on February 16 and did another video shoot, this time about the SPMW 208 rotary snowplow. Greg Elems managed the photo team the day of the shoot and sent me a nice selection of photos from the event. I created a new photo gallery for them so you can see them on the WPRM Photo & Video Gallery on the “About Us” pull-down menu.

After the new abc10, KXTV, video aired I posted a copy of it on our WPRM Photo & Video Gallery page. It includes video from the February shoot, historical film footage and video of the SPMW 208 throwing snow at Portola in 2008.

A new set of web-based tools have been created to help the Edenwold coordinator manage volunteer lodging at the museum. New

information has been added to the Sleeper Reservation page on the Members pull-down menu to clarify lodging policies at the museum. A major new feature is an auto-updating Lodging Availability page that shows which quarters are Vacant/Occupied/Out-of-Service by date. Additionally, a secure web based tool has been created that allows the Edenwold coordinator to update the lodging database real time. If you plan to come volunteer at the museum and want to use our lodging facilities, please take a look at these expanded tools.

Recently, Headlight issue #50 published. Peter Arnold and I have been working on the Western Pacific Headlight Master Index web page on the Museum Historical/Archive Department web page. We now have all the issues, 1 to 50 indexed with 661 topics and 2,505 index entries. Having completed the first pass, we now plan to go back through the issues and see if there are additional items that should be indexed. I found the index very useful in creating the audio tour (highlighted in a separate article) this spring.

Due to a publication issue, this article was not published in a timely manner...

Museum Web Page Update - June 29, 2018*- Paul Finnegan*

The 2018 Western Pacific Railroad Historical Convention is now history, but material from it is on the convention web page. The convention page is under the “History of the FRRS” section on the Historical/Archive Department home page. Additionally a page with photos from the convention and activities (including layout visits) is available at the same location as “Memories from the 2018 Western Pacific Railroad Historical Convention.”

I have continued work on the new audio tour project for the museum. I have re-recorded all of the audio clips with better equipment so the sound quality is very much improved. There are now 102 items on the audio tour.

Work has continued on the Western Pacific HEADLIGHT master index. All 50 issues are now

included in the index. The master index is location on the Historical/Archive Department home page under "FRRS Publications."

After the convention and the "Light the Fire" dinner were completed, I made significant changes to the home page for the 2018 season. Kerry Cochran had requested I add a prominent link to the Historical/Archive Department home page on the society home page. I used the same photograph as in the page header on the Historical/Archive Department home page for the link, with the caption "Visit the Historical/Archive Department..." Since adding this link, the number of visits to the Historical/Archive Department home page has increased.

Another major change I made to the home page was to create JavaScript code that will randomly pick a photo from a list to display each time the page is loaded. A returning visitor will likely see a different photo each time they load the page. Greg Elems sent me some outstanding recent photographs from around the museum that I combined with some of my own photographs to populate the list. If the user clicks on the photo, they get a full screen, high resolution, image of the photo. There also is a link to a gallery dedicated to these "cover" photographs so a user can see all the photos in one place.

As part of the Members' Meeting and Dinner event on June 2nd, the Model-T motorcar, M23, was re-dedicated and put back into service. A video was produced about the M23 project and is available on the "WPRM Photo & Video Gallery" on the "About-Us" pull-down menu.

Kerry Cochran requested that we create a special photo gallery "Around the Museum 2018" to highlight the events and people who make the museum work on a day-to-day basis. Using photos from Kerry, Greg Elems, Robbie Campbell and myself, I have put a new gallery together. I plan to add photos to it over the rest of 2018. We will still have dedicated galleries for the big events like RR Days, Pumpkin Trains and Santa Trains. If you have photos you would like to contribute to the gallery, please send them to me.

Museum Web Page Update - August 29, 2018

- Paul Finnegan

Since my last Train Sheet article, I have continued work on the new audio tour project for the museum. I have re-recorded all of the audio clips with better equipment and the sound quality is very much improved. There are now 102 items on the tour. After talking with visitors at the museum and other members of the society, I have decided to re-brand this project as the "Museum Tour" rather than the previously used "Audio Tour" name. Eugene Vicknair has begun making magnetic QR code signs that will be placed on the equipment. This will allow users that have a QR code reader on their mobile device to easily access the associated tour item.

RR Days 2018 is now history. I created a news item on the News Archive page, under the News pull-down menu that was used to promote the event. I also created a photo gallery on the WPRM Photo & Video Gallery page on the About Us pull-down menu. The gallery contains photos from the event and the yard movements to prepare for the event. Several members contributed to the gallery. If you have photos from this, or other FRRS/WPRM events that you would like to share, please send them to me.

On the technical side of the website, this summer we implemented Secure Socket Layer (SSL) encryption for the wplives.org site. The most visible difference is the URL displayed in a user's browser address bar will now be https:// rather than http://. The primary motivation for this change was many common browsers started to report non-SSL websites are not secure. I was concerned these warning messages may scare away visitors to our website.

Even though we don't handle credit card information, some of our crew and volunteer signup tools do collect personal information (such as names, email addresses, phone numbers, etc.). Now that we use SSL, a malicious user will not be able to intercept this type of information.

Working with Kerry Cochran and David Elems, I have released a new Mechanical Department Web page on the Museum pull-down menu. We expect that this will grow over time and capture information and materials important to the Mechanical and Operating Departments at the museum.

Working with Kerry Cochran and the Safety Committee, a new Museum Safety web page was created on the Members pull-down menu. This is intended to be the central point of contact for safety material on our website. This is also a work-in-progress and is expected to have more material added to it over time.

Museum Web Page Update - October 28, 2018

- Paul Finnegan

I have been continuing to work with Kerry Cochran to create a set of web pages related to modeling the Western Pacific and related lines. They were released to the public on October 12th. It includes indices to modeling articles in the *Train Sheet* and the *Headlight*. It also has modeling information and photos of WP and related road models. To see for yourself, go to the Archive/Historical Department's home page on the Museum pull-down menu. The link to the new modeling pages is in the "Historical/Archive Department Resources" list.

I received a very nice set of photos from Dick Couden, Greg Elems, Bob Sims and Eugene Vicknair from the September Steam Department work session. I also received a written report from Roger Stabler detailing the events of the week. I used this material to create a new photo gallery and a news item on the website.

I received the graphics for this year's Pumpkin Express event in October and added a link on the home page to the 2018 Pumpkin Express news item. As I received more information about the event, I updated the news item.

Santa Trains is coming soon; I will post information about it on the website as it becomes available.

Flyer's Corner

Hi! I'm Flyer, the new kitty taking up residence at the museum. For now, my human friends are keeping a really close eye on me and making me stay in the Museum Store. When people are visiting the store, I get put in the display case where I can watch them. I hear this is a big museum and when I get a little older, I will get to explore it. My human friends have told me there is a passel of mice out there. Those critters had better watch out because, when I grow up, I want to be a first-class mouser!



Next time you are at the museum, come visit me in the store. But watch out, I am really quick and I will try to get out and explore the rest of the museum now!

General Superintendent's Report - Oct. 12, 2018

- Kerry Cochran

2019 WPRM Convention: Please look on the website for the latest information. The convention registration is now open. This year we will be again holding a joint convention with the Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA. We did this about two years ago in Modesto and I expect this will be a great convention with them again in 2019.

The convention will be held May 2 thru the 5, 2019 at the McCellan Conference Center in McCellan Park, Ca. (just south of Sacramento).

There are going to be several California Zephyr presentations (that is my understanding right now) at this convention along with a lot of presentations given by the Pacific Coast Region of the NMRA.

Watch the website for more news as it gets closer.

Pumpkins Trains are on the way, get ready for the spooks and goblins. My understanding is that posters are printed and distributed for this event, please volunteer to help and remind all your friends to come and visit us.

Then we move on to Santa Trains, please look out for notices for help from our President Steve on help needed for this event.

At the last Board of Directors meeting, Director Bob Sims was appointed the Model Committee chairperson. I am sure that we will hear from Bob soon on what he may have in mind for the committee.

Speaking of the Model Committee, I have started work with our webmaster (prior to Bob's appointment) on modeling web pages. These have not been made public yet. I have some more work to complete prior to their release to the public.

Motivation to create this new section on the website includes several members and guests at the 2018 WPRM Convention in Salt Lake City asking about modeling and several members have expressed desire to see modeling articles published again.

I have had several conversations with members and members who have left the society because of the lack of modeling events, conversations and articles.

This has prompted me to look into getting the web pages started, discussing the modeling committee with Bob Sims and looking into getting more modeling back into some of our publications.

I hope that we will be able to meet our members' expectations in the coming months with the release of the new web pages and some of the work the modeling committee will do.

If anyone has any questions on the modeling committee, please contact Bob Sims and/or myself so that we may address your concerns.

I have also asked the Headlight staff to look into adding the modeling sections back into the magazine.

Please look for an article about the donation of Stephen Cavanaugh's Western Pacific HO layout sections. Stephen was a well-known modeler and Feather River Rail Society member. A portion

of his HO layout is now at the museum awaiting a restoration into a new display.

"As always, there are so many volunteers that help around the museum all the time and I would be remissed if I did not say thank you to all of you. I may have missed some specifically by name; however all of your help is greatly appreciated".

At any time should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at kcochran@wplives.org.

Historical/Archive Department Report October 12, 2018

- Kerry Cochran

The last couple of months we have been getting several donations of various railroad artifacts.

Some of these donations have come from Director Bob Sims who found a WP Diner 504 Silverware Wooden box, and CZ Silver Two piece try and cover set plus over 25 WP books that he had.

One of our new volunteers, Randy Morton, has been donating several WP artifacts including a book of San Francisco track plans, WP/SN/TS Joint Facilities book, WP/SN/TS Industry Switch Lists, Pacific Car Demurrage Bureau Circular No 1 Instruction to Station Agents and more.

I was contacted by a Mr. Duncan for an estate that indicated a certain collection of railroad books, magazines and video tapes be donated to us, and with the help of the Museum Store and the volunteers at the museum, on September 26th 25 boxes of books, five boxes of magazines and one box of video tapes were dropped off at the museum and placed into the container until I can get them moved into the archive car.

On September 9th, with the help of Paul Finnegan, Eugene Vicknair and Chris Kaprielian and museum volunteers Greg Elems, David Elems, Ethan Doty a portion of Stephen Cavanaugh's Western Pacific HO layout was moved to the museum to become a new display. Look for more on this move on the website



(soon) and a project to restore these sections into a tribute to Stephen's love for the WP.

We are still getting several inquiries and have been answering them as time permits.

One of the questions had to do with a gentleman working on a model train and wanted information on the Oro Dam Builders. One good thing about this request, we had an article in Issue of Headlight issue 13 that Kent Stephens did for us. I was able to get the person hooked up with the museum store for payment and I made a copy of Headlight issue 13 and sent it to him.

While not all the inquiries have been answered yet, we are still looking into pulling the information out of the Historical/Archive files in order to answer the questions. I have been able to answer some questions, however others are still pending.

I have been fortunate to have Frank Brehm and Eugene Vicknair as a resource on the Historical/Archive staff to help me in obtaining answers, or the correct resource to look for answers, for these inquires along with Paul Finnegan who helps me all the time.

Paul has also created a page on the website under the Historical/Archive pages to post some of the Questions/Answers so that we can direct inquires there for the same type of questions that have already been answered.

If you have not visited the Historical/Archive Department web page recently, please consider looking at them to see "What's New" in the Western Pacific Documents page (http://wplives.org/wphistory_wp_documents.html)

Annual Board Nominations in January

Would you like to run to become a member of the FRRS Board of Directors? Do you know someone you would like to see run?

The nomination window will be open during the month of January. If you are interested, the full process and procedure for the annual election is available on the Membership page of the society website.

All nominees must be valid FRRS members in good standing.

Additional New Employee in the Museum Store



Tajanae Yager has joined KC and Jean in the Museum Store. Next time you are at the museum please drop in and say "Hi."

Support the FRRS when you shop at Amazon!

Use the link on the society web page to join the Amazon Smile Program.



Pacific Coast Region NMRA
Diamond Rails Forever
2019 Joint PCR/FRRS Convention
May 2-5, 2019
Sacramento, California

2019 Western Pacific Historical Convention

The 2019 Western Pacific Historical Convention will be a joint venture with the Sierra Division of the Pacific Coast Region NMRA in Sacramento, California, at the McClellan Convention Center.

May 2nd ~ 5th, 2019

Registration and information is available at:
<http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/registration>

2018 Election Results Reported at Members' Meeting 6/2/18

(six seats were open)

Matthew Elems - 292

Steve Habeck - 288

Roger Stabler - 286

Eugene Vicknair - 278

Janet Steeper - 276

Bob Sims - 270

Bart Hansen - 82

Jeff Pierce 1

Wayne Monger 1

Look for the latest 2019 FRRS Calendar in the *Latest Museum News* column on the website home page, www.WPLives.org



Union Pacific sent two heritage units to Portola's 2018 RR Days celebration. UP 1989 & UP 1983 are seen here on east 2 rail. There are more photographs from RR Days on the website on the WPRM Photo & Video Gallery web page. - photo by Ali Doty

Members' Day 2018



As part of the Members' Meeting and Dinner event on June 2nd, the Model-T motorcar, M23, was re-dedicated and put back into service. A video was produced about the M23 project and is available in the "WPRM Photo & Video Gallery" on the society website.

- photo by Kenneth Finnegan



Participants enjoyed a delicious meal at the 2018 Members' Dinner.

- photo by Kerry Cochran

Railroad Days 2018



David Elems started the WP 2001 after adding water and oil. WP 2001 was the power for our caboose trains for Railroad Days.

- photo by Greg Elems



UP sent two heritage units to 2018 RR Days. UP 1983 (WP heritage unit) and UP 1989 (DRGW heritage unit) were on display for the weekend.

- photo by Bob Sims

Steam Work Session September 2018

- Roger Stabler



I arrived at the museum the morning of September 24. I started the week by helping Greg Elems work on the WP1503, removing the vinyl stripes from the pilot plates and sanding the under carriage. Greg sanded the car body for painting. We continued that work until Tuesday afternoon. Steve Lee arrived at the museum and dropped off the tube roller. On Wednesday I started prepping the remaining tubes to roll, it took most of the day to shim the tubes. At the end of the day, I helped David Elems and Steve Habeck remove the A-end truck from the sleeper Magnolia Grove so the wheels can be turned. The car is owned by Doyle McCormack. As soon as the B-end is done, the car will be going to Portland.

Thursday saw the addition of Erik Olson and Channing Walker to the team. Eric installed the blow-down valve on the engine and Channing repaired the bottom of the sandbox so it can be put back into place. Eric and Channing then went to work prepping the 5 1/2" flues. They spent the next two days getting them in and cut to length. The next step will be to roll the flues in the spring. Dick Couden came in and spent Thursday afternoon and Friday making and installing bolts so the water tank is now secured to the tender frame. Dick was assisted by Bob Sims and Steve Lee in this effort.

I spent Friday in the firebox rolling the 2-inch tubes, finishing the job on Saturday morning. Hank Stiles and Mike Mehcam showed up on Saturday and worked at locating and putting all the washout plugs back into their respective holes. Bob Sims worked at modifying the cab floor so it is easier to move if necessary and Bob finished up the engineer's side floor. Kirk Baer came in the afternoon and painted the sand box that attaches to the front of the tender.



*Hank Stiles and Mike Mehcam
installing washout plugs.*

- photo by Dick Couden

Saturday was the day that the WP165 was scheduled to get the oil tank put back into the tender. David Elems moved the oil tank and positioned it so the derrick could be used to make the lift. Charlie Spikes and Roger Stabler, with the assistance of the Steam Crew, switched the WP165 out to the east yard and got the tender positioned so the tank could be set in. The lift took much longer than anticipated as the derrick had some minor problems that we had to fix before the lift could be completed. I found a few more things that need attention before we use the WPMW 37 again. With the lift completed, the engine was put back into the shop. I wanted to do a boiler wash and permanently couple the tender to the engine, but we ran out of time and daylight so this job will wait for the spring workweek. During the winter, David Elems will be making thread adapters so our safety valves can be fitted onto the dome lid. David Wallace showed up late Saturday. I retrieved a quadrant for the power-reverse lever out of the steam boxcar so David can use what was left of the old one and the used one to make a working power-reverse lever.

It was a productive workweek and I thank all who showed up and helped get the WP165 closer to running.



WP 165 Steam Work Session September 2018

WP 165 - Now has a complete tender. She's getting closer every steam work session.

- photos by Greg Elems





Channing Walker helping Roger Stabler with the super heater flues from the smoke box end of the 165.
- photo by Greg Elems

Roger is seen here in the firebox of the 165 with the super heater flues. All the flues are now in and cut the proper length. Next is to roll the ends and seal them.

- photo by Greg Elems



Kirk Baer seen here scaling the deck plate for the 165 next to the WP 1503.
- photo by Greg Elems

2018 Caboose Train Operations

- Paul Finnegan

The Operating Department uses a new on-line tool to create train reports after operations. Shown below is a report that shows how many passengers were carried on each train during normal operations. At the bottom are some summary statistics. The table on the right breaks the data out by Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Additional graphs based on this data is available on the website, on the September Board Meeting's report page (under Members ->Minutes & Reports) as "Passenger Train Report 180903".

Passenger Counts	Train Times:								
	Sorted by Day of Weekend	1200	1230	1300	1330	1400	1430	1500	1530
Saturday - Total Passengers	190	149	102	114	117	78	78	85	913
Sunday - Total Passengers	198	137	134	85	77	87	70	75	863
Holiday - Total Passengers	34	19	10	13	18	7	9	1	111
Saturday Averages	12.7	9.9	6.8	7.6	7.8	5.2	5.2	5.7	60.9
Sunday Averages	13.2	9.1	8.9	5.7	5.1	5.8	4.7	5.0	57.5
Holiday Averages	8.5	4.8	2.5	3.2	4.5	1.8	2.2	0.2	27.8
Saturday - Zero Passenger Runs	3	0	2	2	1	3	5	3	19
Sunday - Zero Passenger Runs	1	1	1	1	5	2	6	8	25
Holiday - Zero Passenger Runs	1	0	2	2	2	3	2	3	15

Passenger Train Report for 2018

(as of 09/22/18)

Passenger Counts		Train Times:								Total
Train-Date	Day of Week	1200	1230	1300	1330	1400	1430	1500	1530	
05/26/18	Saturday	28	13	8	0	5	13	13	10	90
05/27/18	Sunday	9	8	2	6	0	6	10	10	51
05/28/18	Monday	7	6	6	9	13	7	3	1	52
06/02/18	Saturday	3	2	3	6	1	2	0	2	19
06/03/18	Sunday	4	5	5	2	4	3	0	0	23
06/09/18	Saturday	8	3	3	13	10	0	0	0	37
06/10/18	Sunday	5	4	13	6	8	6	0	0	42
06/16/18	Saturday	23	13	0	5	5	2	1	1	50
06/17/18	Sunday	4	0	4	2	2	0	0	0	12
06/23/18	Saturday	13	7	13	13	7	0	0	4	57
06/24/18	Sunday	23	4	2	5	5	4	0	4	47
06/30/18	Saturday	0	13	9	6	6	4	4	6	48
07/01/18	Sunday	8	4	0	0	6	0	0	0	18
07/04/18	Wednesday	9	3	0	0	0	0	6	0	18
07/07/18	Saturday	13	8	4	2	6	4	10	13	60
07/08/18	Sunday	13	5	7	6	0	7	13	10	61
07/14/18	Saturday	13	13	5	2	3	4	3	3	46
07/15/18	Sunday	13	2	13	9	3	9	7	0	56
07/21/18	Saturday	13	13	6	0	5	9	7	5	58
07/22/18	Sunday	0	10	5	4	9	6	7	5	46
07/28/18	Saturday	0	4	2	2	2	4	6	2	22
07/29/18	Sunday	18	8	18	18	18	13	13	18	124
08/04/18	Saturday	13	4	3	8	9	0	0	0	37
08/05/18	Sunday	13	23	13	2	9	10	0	10	80
08/11/18	Saturday	9	2	5	10	9	13	0	0	48
08/12/18	Sunday	28	23	7	7	0	4	2	0	71
08/18/18	Saturday	0	18	0	2	2	5	2	3	32
08/19/18	Sunday	9	4	4	3	0	4	5	0	29
08/24/18	Friday	18	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
08/25/18	Saturday	41	28	36	38	47	14	24	33	261
08/26/18	Sunday	18	9	23	9	13	9	9	18	108
09/01/18	Saturday	13	8	5	7	0	4	8	3	48
09/02/18	Sunday	33	28	18	6	0	6	4	0	95
09/03/18	Monday	0	8	4	4	5	0	0	0	21
Totals:		422	305	246	212	212	172	157	161	1887
Averages:		12.4	9.0	7.2	6.2	6.2	5.1	4.6	4.7	55.5
Medians (50th percentile):		13	7.5	5	5.5	5	4	3	2	
Zero Passenger Runs:		5	1	5	5	8	8	13	14	59
Annuled Runs:		5	1	5	5	8	8	12	13	57

Total number of dates: 34
Total number of scheduled trains: 272

Breakfast in Portola

-Paul Finnegan

For many years while staying at the museum, "the place" for breakfast was Sharon's. Sharon closed her restaurant earlier this summer so we wondered what we would do. The good news is a new restaurant has opened in the same location resurrecting an old name from Portola's past, the "Station Cafe."

Kerry Cochran and I were in Portola on September 10th and decided to give the place a try. Our experience was pleasant, the place was clean and the server was very friendly. The food was fine, with smaller portions than Sharon's was famous for, but very adequate and I felt the prices were very fair. I hope they are successful, and important to us as volunteers at the museum, they open at 7:00 am. They are open for breakfast and lunch but they are closed on Wednesdays.

The Log Cabin reopened recently and is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Janet Steeper reports that breakfast is very good and she has been there several times.

Neighbors Bar-B-Que has Closed

- Paul Finnegan

Kerry Cochran and I were at the museum on Friday October 12th and decided to go to our favorite local BBQ place, *Neighbors*, down the road a-ways in Cromberg. Many FRRS volunteers have enjoyed good BBQ there. We learned that this was their last weekend and they were closing. The business was good, but the couple who were running it said it had just become too much work. We told her we would miss them.

(continued from front cover)

On the second Sunday we did a sale on the pumpkins to help move as many as possible so we wouldn't be left with a bunch of extras to dispose of at the end of the event. We almost cleared out box number seven of ten. We allowed the volunteers to take pumpkins home. Duane took two boxes of pie pumpkins to C. Roy Carmichael Elementary School in town for their art class. David and Bart Hansen took the last box to sell themselves. Which I had no problem with since they delivered the pumpkins and are donating a portion of the cost of them to the museum.

This year introduced a new piece of the event, our Vendor Market. Eugene and Patty handled the coordination with vendors. We had many vendors sell items during the event including, Rocks Wood 'n Things, Yellow Dog Leather Company, Treat Yourself Snacks, Bob Danner, High Sierra Crystals, Paula Tiner, and Dennis who owns the Street Cart Cafe.

I want to thank the following volunteers who were present and helped with the event: Loren Ross, Bart Hansen, David Hansen, David Elems, Greg Elems, Steve Habeck, Bil Jackson, Duane Vander Veen, Charlie Spikes, Janet Steeper, Ethan Doty, Kevin Ross, Fred Elenbaas, Ann Morningstar, Debbie Reynolds, Shaun Rowden and Eugene Vicknair. I apologize if I missed anyone, it's been a hectic couple of weeks for Ethan and me.

SPOOKTACULAR FAMILY FUN!

Costume Contest! Saturdays at 8:00 PM Fun and Prizes!

Haunted Railcar! Harvest Market!

PUMPKIN PATCH EXPRESS

OCTOBER 20-21, 27-28, 2018 • WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD MUSEUM, PORTOLA
 Museum opens at 10:00 AM • Trains depart hourly 1:00 to 5:00 PM
NIGHT TRAINS on SATURDAYS, OCT. 20 & 27 • trains depart 7:30 to 9:00 PM
 Ride the train to get to the Pumpkin Patch (pumpkins extra price) . Special Exhibits . Halloween Fun
 Admission: \$10 per car or \$5 with 3 cans of food for the EPCAN Food Bank • web: pumpkin.wprrives.org

Pumpkin Patch Express Passenger Report

Saturday Oct. 20th: Day Train
 4 runs, passenger count total: 202

Saturday Oct. 27th: Day Train
 7 runs, passenger count total: 196

Saturday Oct. 20th: Evening Train
 3 runs, passenger count total: 63

Saturday Oct. 27th: Evening Train
 3 runs, passenger count total: 150

Sunday Oct. 21st:
 7 runs, passenger count total: 115

Sunday Oct. 28th:
 7 runs, passenger count total: 135



...from around the 2018 WPRM Pumpkin Patch
(more photos on website in 2018 Pumpkin Trains gallery)
- photos by Ali Doty and Greg Elems



Catch the Early Train!

Get your Train Sheet by email and you will get it before the post office even receives it and it is in COLOR!
(and you save the FRRS money too!)

Send an email requesting email delivery to membership@wplives.org with your name and email address.



Track Work September 2018

To keep the trains on track for smooth and safe operation, we need to continuously maintain the track at the museum. Loren Ross pulled together a group of museum volunteers to replace the frog on the west 1-2 switch starting on September 17, 2018.

A frog is (as defined in the Western Pacific Glossary of Railroad Terms):

FROG - A track structure used at the intersection of two running rails to provide support for wheels and passageways for their flanges, thus permitting wheels on either rail to cross to the other.

The frog in the switch on the west 1-2 switch was broken because the ties under the switch were bad and the track moved every time locomotives and cars were moved over the switch. It is a lot of work to replace the frog and the long ties that are needed under a switch, but our volunteers stepped up and got the work done in only three days.

The work started on Monday, September 17th and was completed on Wednesday September 19th. A big thank you is due to the volunteers who stepped up as Willing People. The team included (in addition to Loren): Ethan Doty, Steve Habeck, Greg Elems, Duane Vander Veen, Charlie Spikes, David Elems, and Randy Morton. Randy Morton, the newest member to our track gang, is also a retired UP engineer. He also put time in M-of-W early in his WP career.



New Frog - photo by Greg Elems



In progress... - photo by Loren Ross

Moving Stephen Cavanaugh’s WP HO Layout to the Western Pacific Railroad Museum

- Kerry Cochran

Stephen Cavanaugh, a well-known modeler and Feather River Rail Society member, created his Western Pacific Railroad HO model layout in his three car garage at his home in Tracy, Ca. His layout has appeared in the Model Railroader January 1994 issue and in the Model Railroad Hobbyist magazine in January 2011. Stephen passed away on January 7, 2018.

Cavanaugh had a passion for trains that developed in his early childhood years and spent a great deal of his life as a model railroad hobbyist traveling to various roadshows and exhibits. In fact, he was such an enthusiast that he almost perfectly replicated the western pacific railroads piece by piece. You can see the level of detail in action that was featured in the Model Railroad Hobbyist magazine. This was one of his great achievements: “Steve’s masterpiece”, as one of his brothers put it.

Several modelers, including Robert Hoffman,

Scott Inman, David Stanley, Doug Peterson, Patrick Davis and David Vipond started a project to save and move a small portion of Stephen Cavanaugh's Western Pacific Railroad model layout to the museum. When they ran into problems, Eugene Vicknair and I had several telephone conversations on how to go about saving this model layout.

Once it was clear if we did not move it by a certain date the layout sections would be forever be lost to the dumpster. With Eugene's help, I contacted the family and made arrangements to meet them so that I could get some measurements and see just what we were up against. Once that was done, I contacted Paul Finnegan and asked for his help (knowing he is in the Bay Area and is retired like me) we set a date and met with the family at Stephen home and prepared the remaining sections of the layout for transportation. (This in itself took 6 hours plus 2 hours travel time each way.)

Then on Sunday September 9th, with the help of Eugene, Eugene's friend Chris Kaprielian, Paul and myself, we loaded the layout sections onto a trailer. Paul and I then transported them to the museum. (We started at 7:30 AM and we arrived at the museum at 4:30 PM, another long day)

I want to thank Stephanie and John Busam, Stephen's daughter and son-in-law for all the help in making this take palace. I need also thank the original crew who tried at the first attempt: Robert Hoffman, Scott Inman, David Stanley, Doug Peterson, Patrick Davis and David Vipond and the Sunday crew of: Eugene Vicknair, Paul Finnegan and Eugene's friend, Chris Kaprielian.



Here's the moving crew, smiling now that the layout sections are on the trailer.

James Gronwald's Layout

The 2018 WP Historic Convention was held in Salt Lake City, one of the many events was a layout tour of James Gronwald's Layout.

James models the D&RGW coal hauling in the Soldier summit area in the 1950-60's era. The room is a basement room 14 x 20 feet with a dogleg of 13 x 19 feet. He has around 300 feet of double mainline track. This part of the layout is about 80% done and James's has done some outstanding hand carved mountain work, which you must see to believe. The backdrop scenery paintings by Rob Spangler are spectacular. In May of 2013, James started construction of the second phase of his layout that will be the SLC area of his layout. This phase is the new SLC area with many industrial sidings. This area is about the same size as his first phase. Control is Digitrax DCC.

photos on next page...



Do you model the WP or related lines?

Please share your photos, stories and experiences with us. Send your materials to Bob Sims (bsims@wplives.org) and Kerry Cochran (kcochran@wplives.org) so we can all learn from and enjoy your experience.

2018 Western Pacific Railroad Historical Convention

"Where the WP Meets the Rio Grande"



Photos from James Gronwald's Layout, one of the events at the 2018 WP Historic Convention that was held in Salt Lake City



Rio Grande Engine Shop
- photo by Kerry Cochran



D&RGW California Zephyr
- photo by Kerry Cochran



Need Gas?
- photo by Kerry Cochran



Abandoned Right of Way and Tunnel
- photo by Kerry Cochran

2018 Western Pacific RR Historical Convention*- Eugene Vicknair*

For 2018, the FRRS brought the WP Convention to the eastern end of the railroad for the first time. Held at the DoubleTree Inn near the Salt Lake City Airport, within sight of former WP connection the Salt Lake, Garfield and Western Railway, the convention spanned four days of events, from Thursday, April 19th to Sunday, April 22nd. In addition to the volunteer staff, vendors and presenters, over 80 WP devotees attended the convention.

The opening event was a special excursion via the UTA Frontrunner commuter line on Thursday morning. A tour bus departed the hotel for the North Temple Frontrunner station for a fast train ride to Ogden and the Utah State Railroad Museum, where the group enjoyed a guided tour. The return bus ride stopped at the Frontrunner Maintenance Facility in Salt Lake for another guided tour before returning to the DoubleTree and the start of the convention shows.

Thursday and Friday featured two layout tours and a guided tour of the DRGW-WP Salt Lake Depot. All events were held both nights to give everyone a chance to enjoy them. Rob Spangler and James Gronwald kindly opened their home layouts for visits, while Don Hartley, lead architect with the Utah State Office of Historical Preservation, gave a presentation on the depot's history then led visitors on a guided tour of this great structure.

The layout of the Golden Spike Train Club, located in historic Wasatch Hot Springs Building in North Salt Lake, was open to convention goers on Saturday and much WP and DRGW equipment was run. Our final layout tour took place on Sunday at the home of Allen McCallum just south of Ogden.

Many compliments were received on the breadth and quality of the convention shows this year. After opening with part 1 of a newly scanned set of Virgil Staff films from the FRRS Archives, the organizers of the 2019 NMRA National

Convention, being held in Salt Lake City next year, gave everyone a preview of what to expect. Closing out Thursday was Frank Brehm's extensive documentary show of WP's first through passenger trains between Oakland and Salt Lake City.

Friday began with a special presentation of the video made at the 100th Anniversary Rededication of WP business car 106, the "Charles O, Sweetwood". Kerry Cochran gave us a look at WP's Maintenance of Way fleet and how to model these unique cars. Former WP mechanic Ed Smith shared his experiences working for the Western Pacific. Mr. Smith also donated to the FRRS Archives the toolbox and tools he used during his years on the railroad. These included several special and handmade tools, including one build by the WP blacksmith at Portola. Friday's closing shows were a history of WP's Mixed Trains and the cars they used by Eugene Vicknair, and Daniel Kuhn's look at the entire Feather River Route.

On Saturday, Jeff Pierce shared his memories of Growing Up Along the Rio Grande, while WP modeler Rob Spangler presented his knowledge and techniques for building scenery. Following the lunch break, everyone saw the second half of the Virgil Staff films, then an in depth history of WP connection Tooele Valley Railway by Jacob Wayne Lyman. Our closing show was a fascinating look at the murals painted by artist Mary Lawser for the California Zephyr, researched and presented by Allan Huskins Jr.

Saturday night, after a little confusion as to where the banquet room had moved to, everyone enjoyed a lavish feast and the giving out of the raffle prizes. The event was closed by our special guest speaker: former head of the UP steam program and current volunteer and advisor on the WP 165 restoration, Steve Lee.

Our vendor and exhibit room was well attended. Convention goers got to see a large selection of artifacts and photos from the FRRS Archives. The museum store did a good business as well in both merchandise and raffle tickets. Many other vendors and exhibitors also joined us

including Brad Lomazzi, the Rio Grande Modeling and Historical Society, ExactRail, the Tooele Valley Trackers Model Railroad Club, Ron Mitchell, Bob Jarvis and artist Marc Desobeau. Several of these vendors also donated to the raffle drawing, while Mr. Desobeau debuted a fantastic new painting in progress and put it up for silent auction to benefit the FRRS Archives Fund. FRRS and RGM&HS member Jeff Pierce was the winner of the painting depicting WP GP9 732 at the shop building in Salt Lake's Roper Yard. Finally, the Ophir, Tintic and Western model club from Orem, Utah brought their N scale modular layout and put it on exhibit in the vendor room. Everyone seemed to enjoy the layout and a lot of compliments were given to the OT&W crew.

So many people contributed to making this convention as success. First of all a special thank you to Jeff Pierce who was our point person for so much in Salt Lake. Derrick Klarr of UTA / Frontrunner helped set up the excursion and tours on Thursday. Mike Murphy helped organize the layout tours and lined up some presenters. Kerry Cochran aided in planning and organization while Paul Finnegan kept the website up to date with registration and show details. A big thanks to David Elems, who ended up handling the Society sales table for most of the event. Thanks also to Mike Carlson, Alicia Johnson, the Utah State RR Museum, Don Hartley and the Utah State Office of Historical Preservation, our fantastic home layout owners, the Gold Spike Train Club, the national NMRA, the RGM&HS, the numerous door prize vendors (with particular thanks to Kadee, Bowser and Accurail), Marc Desobeau for his generous donation, the FRRS convention volunteers and everyone who attended this great convention!

The 2019 Convention will be a joint event with the Pacific Coast Region NMRA and will be held in Sacramento May 2-5, 2019. Not only will we be celebrating 70 years of the California Zephyr, but it will also be the 75th anniversary of the PCR. Registration is now open! Go to the website at convention.wplives.org.

Museum Sponsors

We ask our members and visitors to support our business sponsors, companies who have generously contributed to the museum and its mission to preserve the Western Pacific family.

If you are a business owner, see how you can support the WP Museum, your community and improve your advertising and networking outreach through our sponsorship program.



H & R Block - David Hansen

2100 Main St, Ste. B, Susanville, CA 96130
Tel: 530-257-9339



Seth Adams started WP 501 on October 11th, she ran for the first time in years. There will be more information about the WP 501 project in the next issue of the Train Sheet.

- photo by Bob Sims

Things around the Museum - SP Fire Truck 1

- Paul Finnegan

The SP 1 Fire Truck is a 1952 GMC; it was bought new by the Southern Pacific and spent most of its life in the Sacramento Shops. It was the facility fire truck until the shops were closed in 1999. The truck wound up being owned by Jim Dobbas, and was stored for quite a while in the Erecting Shop in Sacramento.

Jim Dobbas then moved it to his property outside of Colfax. FRRS member Rod McClure arranged the donation of the truck to the FRRS from Jim Dobbas, with the condition that we keep it inside, protected from the weather, as much as possible. When the FRRS went to obtain insurance on it, we had a bit of difficulty, since it was never registered by the SP while it was in the shops.

Since coming to Portola, we have displayed it at the museum and taken it to a few special events. It was a hit at the 2009 Hot August nights show in Reno and drove around the parking lot wailing its siren!

The truck is mostly operational, but needs some engine work, new tires and rims.

Fire Truck SP1

Builder:	GMC
Built:	1952
Type:	Model 624 Pumper
Horsepower:	140 @ 3000 RPM
Serial number:	624 36 129
Pump:	John Bean Royal 55
Millage:	74,500
Maximum Gross weight:	22,000 lbs
Maximum combination gross weight:	48,000 lbs
Acquisition:	Donated by Jim Dobbas



SP 1 at Portola

- photos by Paul Finnegan



Controls and under the hood of the fire truck



SANTA TRAINS 2018

All aboard for Santa Trains at the Western Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola, California. This family tradition will be:

Saturday December 8th

Friday December 14th & Saturday December 15th

Friday December 21st & Saturday December 22nd

Enjoy rides aboard a festive holiday train covered in lights. Free homemade cookies, hot cider, coffee and hot chocolate. Special exhibits. Local vendors. And the kids get to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus!

Museum opens at 4 pm with train rides starting at 5 pm and continuing until everyone has a turn! (Usually about 8:00 pm)

Admission is \$10 per car load, or \$5 per car load with 3 cans of non-perishable food for the EPCAN food bank.

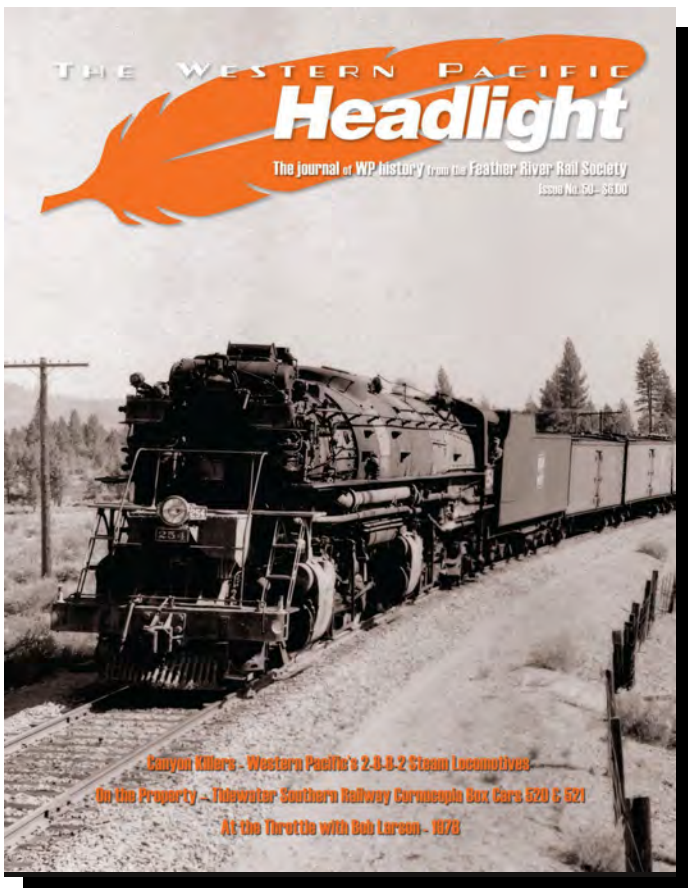


Santa Train
Western Pacific Railroad Museum
 December 8, 14 & 15, and 21 & 22
 Train Rides 5-8 PM ❄️ Gates Open at 4 PM

Enjoy a magical trip aboard the Santa Train - covered in lights and decorations.
 Admission: \$10 per carload or \$5 + 3 cans of non-perishable food.
 Food donations benefit EPCAN Food Bank. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Shop the Museum Store!
 Enjoy complimentary cookies, hot chocolate, cider and coffee. Donations welcome!

Western Pacific Railroad Museum
 700 Western Pacific Way near Old Town Portola

WPRM
 santa.wplives.org
 530-832-4131



Do you know something about the Western Pacific RR? Would you like to share your knowledge? Would you like to be published?

The *Western Pacific Headlight* is the journal of WP history that is published as a member benefit by the Historical/Archive Department of the Feather River Rail Society. You are invited to contribute to the magazine.

The Contributions of Photographs and/or manuscripts of or relating to the Western Pacific Railroad are welcomed. Materials submitted for publication are assumed to be gratis and no payment will be made.

Submit all article materials to:

Dave Pires - Managing Editor
 The Western Pacific Headlight
 565 Primrose Lane
 Benicia, CA 94510
 E-mail: headlight@wplives.org

Did you know there is a Master Index of all 50 *Western Pacific HEADLIGHT* magazine issues on the WPLives.org web site? It is on the Historical/Archive Department home page.

- FRRS Membership -**Yearly Dues**

Associate \$25.00
 Active \$50.00
 Family \$80.00
 Sustaining \$150.00

Single Life Membership - \$1800.00

Family Life Membership - \$3000.00

Institutional - \$60.00 (annual membership for 501(c)3 groups)

Renew or change your information on
 the FRRS website! Go to:
<https://membership.WPLives.org>

These are the dues for the duration of one year, with Life and Family Life being a one-time payment.
 Five year payment plans are available for life memberships.

Associate memberships do not have a vote, receive The Train Sheet but not the Headlight 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 two votes and include two adults and all minor children residing at the same address.

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

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

Family Life memberships receive both The Train Sheet and the Headlight, include two adults and all minor children residing at the same address, and have two votes (one per member) for life.

Send all applications, renewals and address changes, including email changes, to:
 Feather River Rail Society - Membership Dept. - P.O. Box 608 - Portola, CA 96122-0608
 Address / email changes may also be sent to membership@wplives.org

Mission Statement

"The Feather River Rail Society is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and education of the public, as to the history and people of the Western Pacific Railroad."

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, and WP's influence in the lumber, mining and agriculture industry from Plumas County throughout California, Nevada and Utah.

WPRM Admission and Train Ride Fares for non-members (effective April 1, 2011)**Admission**

- Adults 19 and over... \$8.00
- Youth 4 - 18... \$4.00
- Child under 3... free
- Family... \$20.00
 (2 adults plus any related children 18 and under)

Admission and Train Ride tickets are good all day.

Admission and Train Rides for FRRS members are free.
 Cab rides are extra fare with member discount.

Train Rides

- Adults 19 and over... \$4.00
- Youth 4 - 18... \$2.00
- Child under 3... free
- Family... \$10.00
 (2 adults plus any related children 18 and under)

Cab Rides

- Adult 19 and over... \$20.00
 - Youth 4 - 18... \$10.00
- Cab rides are for one (1) ride only.

The Train Sheet needs your photos and articles!

If you are working on projects for the Society, volunteering on restorations, performing archives work, helping out at off-site events, etc., or if you get some nice photos of FRRS or museum happenings that you want to share, **please contact us to have them printed in The Train Sheet.**

Photos should be at least 5" high by 7" wide and 300 dots per inch.

Articles should focus on FRRS related events, people or your own personal experiences with the Society.
 To contribute, contact the editors - Matt Elems & Paul Finnegan, by email at trainsheet@wplives.org.

The Train Sheet

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

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*The East Bay Explorers' Guild visited the museum July 28, 2018 and did a multi-hour RAL.
All the explorers are now FRRS members too!*

- photo by Paul Finnegan