

Vice-President/Director Report

July 2020

Despite the fact that the Museum is closed, I have been kept quite busy with various issues that need to be dealt with. First, insurance issues. I last reported that we paid \$5000 toward the \$7825 bill for the caboose fire, on recommendation of our bookkeeper, Susan Scarlett (who is also the City of Portola's Financial Officer). After this payment, we promptly got a bill for the balance due from the billing agency. After discussion with Susan, who also discussed this with Portola City Manager Lauren Knox, we decided to pay the balance due. This bill is now paid in full (remember, we got a \$6500 payment from our insurance for this incident, so our total cost was only \$1325). We also maintain a good relationship with the City and Eastern Plumas Fire. Also on insurance, we just paid our annual premium of \$300 for our accident insurance, which is through the Philadelphia group of insurance companies.

The two barrels of lube oil I ordered for the Mechanical Department were finally delivered on Thursday, July 2. The new forklift battery was delivered a few days earlier, and is now in service in the electric forklift; this machine is once again useful in the shop. We also got the new drive tires for the backhoe delivered and installed since the last meeting; although we had to have Schwab make another service call, since one of the new tires went flat in about 2 days. This is due to dings and divots in the tire rims not allowing the tire bead to seal; this was resolved by installing a tube in this tire (both of the old tires had tubes in them). As expected, this machine's performance is also greatly improved. Now to fix that outrigger ram

We will still need to get diesel fuel soon. I held off until we found out about financial assistance, which is apparently not immediately forthcoming. The Museum yard rearrangement is on hold while other projects are going on (shop cleanup, tree and brush abatement), and may not get going again in earnest until we get some cooler weather. In the meantime, I have been working on obtaining

access to UP's Customer Service applications, as well as obtaining access to various regulatory agencies and services, in order to get our listings updated and current. I have also been working on the interior of WP 484, which has been in mothballs, with various systems taken apart for repairs, for several years.

With David Elems taking on the task of researching and obtaining LED bulbs for various applications, we are reaping the benefits of this project. As well as the shop and yard lighting, he is also upgrading the lighting in several of the cabooses in the caboose train. While talking electrical, the Museum's electric bill has dropped again; the last bill (May 15-June 14, which included the Steam work week, was only \$369, despite the use of the air compressor, welder, and the A/C in the sleeper during the Steam week. A lot of this reduction is due to the ice machine being shut down in the WP Store; this thing runs almost constantly during the summer. Also, far fewer lights and fans are in use on a daily basis. I have attached the cover page of the last electric bill, which clearly shows the reduction in usage, with a comparison to last year.

Lastly, positive COVID-19 cases in Plumas County have started trending up since July 1st. As of today the county has 17 positive cases, most of which are in the eastern part of the county (Portola area), compared with 5 cases at the end of June. Washoe County in Nevada (which includes Reno) is also seeing big increases. There is consideration of going back into a shutdown in both states; it looks like we won't turn a revenue wheel at all in 2020.

Steve Habeck