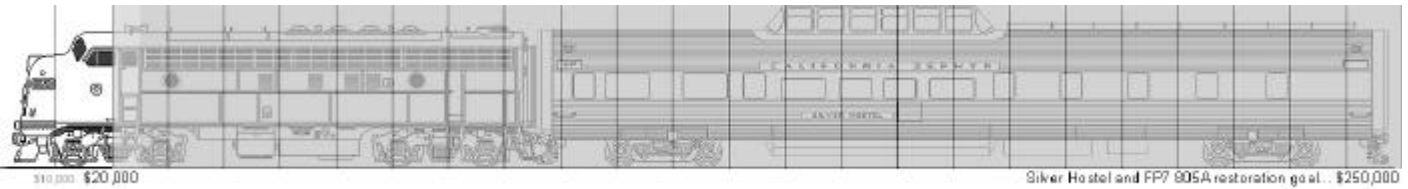


## The Zephyr Project...Update



By Eugene Vicknair

Right from the top, the response to the special fundraising mailing has been incredible!

In the first month since the mailing began arriving at member's homes, over \$10,000 has been raised in donations ranging from \$10 to over \$1000, bringing to total to date up over \$20,000. And more donations are still arriving and need to be counted. This is the best response to an equipment fundraiser the FRRS has ever seen. Thank you to all who donated! A complete list of names is in this issue of the Train Sheet.

As in any complex restoration project, there have been some unforeseen problems, but other areas are moving along on schedule.

The dome window frames have turned out to be extremely difficult to have replicated. Doug Morgan has been working with Adams and Westlake, the original manufacturers of the dome window frames, trying to get them to do a limited production. Director Morgan and myself have also been trying to locate existing frames for purchase.

In light of this, it has been decided to order the lower level glass separately and get that installed. During the first day of actual restoration work in April (mostly cleaning and evaluating), it was discovered that a few of the lower frames were also missing and that some are corroded. These frames, however, are of simple construction and are fairly easy to replicate. A metal works in the Bay Area is evaluating the frames and they should be on order by the time you read this. Once new lower frames are in hand, they will be sent to the glass company for assembly into complete window units, and then installed by FRRS volunteers.

Also, due to the tight labor market, it has been difficult to find skilled stainless steel workers to assist in the repair and fabrication of the skirts. We have several candidates in line, however, and hope to make progress on this area during July.

In the good news department, Yolo Short Line has donated to the FRRS approximately 20 seat frames and backs. These are still being evaluated, but appear to be the same type and model of seat used in the California Zephyr cars. YSL also donated a CZ style bathroom wastebasket. Mary Ann Vicknair is making seat cover patterns for the dome seats. Once we have found the correct fabric, covers will be made for the seats.

Special thanks go to Lolli Bryant who has been

collecting and compiling all the donations and shepherding them to the bank, while making sure the names find their way to me. Thanks are also due to Doug Morgan and Life Member Eric Stephens. Director Morgan continues to function as the main Zephyr Project liaison in Portola and has been working diligently to find information and equipment needed to restore the 805-A and the Hostel. Mr. Stephens is taking a very active role in helping with both the logistics and actual work on the Hostel, including locating the company reviewing the lower window frames, working on the car, and spending hours helping me organize the "plans of attack".

Also, thanks to non-members Paul Olguin and John Sanders of the industrial design firm Studio Red. Paul graciously donated his time making molds to allow us to cast replacement light lenses to supplement the real lenses we have (in addition to teaching me how to cast them). John has been very helpful in creating some of the donation gifts and in consulting on ways to replicate the window frames.

The first day of actual work on the car found several members cleaning the car interior and cataloging existing items. The day also provided visitors and volunteers their first real chance to walk through the car and get a good look at it. A few visitors related fond memories of sitting in the dome or ordering drinks in the Cable Car Lounge!

The day's work crew consisted of Andy Anderson, Eric Stephens, Eugene Vicknair, Doug Morgan, Meg Evans, and Ken Roller. (And if I left anyone out, I apologize. I can't find my list! Please let me know.) The day's major tasks consisted of removing all the wood and tarping from the car after it was placed in the diesel shop. She now looks less like a condemned house and more like a passenger car! Samples of the old carpet were found and will be used to find a replacement, while Eric found a shot bottle of liquor in the kitchen, stamped 1953 and long ago lost behind a stove.

A boxcar is being cleared out for use by the Zephyr Project and will be shelved to provide a place to store and catalog all parts, original, new, and replica, being used in the restorations. This will hopefully occur by the end of June and allow us more space to work.

I would also like to thank Paul Finnegan, his daughter Kristina Finnegan, and her friend Carolyn Schneider. While visiting the museum, the weekend of June 24-25, Kristina created some hand-lettered signs sharing trivia about the Silver Hostel and placed at the

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east end of the car. They also spent about an hour picking up as many of the little glass fragments from the broken windows as they could both inside the car and on the concrete around it. They each filled about half a coffee can with the glass shards.

A second "official" work weekend was held on July 1-2. The goals included completing the cleaning of the car, installing overhead lights and securing hanging panels, removing the remaining lower window frames, removing the house-type ventilation ducts installed in the car when it was being made into a restaurant, and evaluating a spare CZ diaphragm frame we have on hand for installation on the Hostel.

In all of this excitement over the Hostel, the other current member of the Zephyr Project has not been neglected. The 805A is slated to be returned to full operating condition, complete with dynamic brakes. Wayne Monger is currently working on acquiring correct dynamic systems for the FP7, while Hank Stiles is evaluating what it will take to get the prime mover up to 100%. Doug Morgan is working on the roll up side windows and has a majority of the parts to repair them.

Our target date for both remains Summer of 2003. The FRRS has been invited to send its CZ equipment to a huge Rail Fest at the Illinois Railroad Museum in Union, Illinois. More details on this event will be pub-

lished as they develop.

On the donation gifts, the polo shirts and hats should be in the mail to donors by the time you read this. The garment printing company is VERY excited at the way the graphics look on these shirts. The black "200 Club" polo shirts should be very distinctive around the museum. A gray T-shirt version will also be available for sale in the gift shop. Thanks to the folks at Century Graphics for their great work!

The certificates and Millennium Life Member cards should also be done and mailed within the next weeks, followed shortly by the commemorative models and the ZP buttons. Thank you to everyone for their patience in receiving these. I am designing and either hand making or managing the creation of these mostly solo (with thanks to Frank Brehm for helping with the models). Work has been busy recently and I only get minutes a day to finish these.

As this goes to press, there are several exciting possibilities on the horizon, which, if they work out, should be announced, in the next Train Sheet. We will soon begin posting regular updates on the FRRS eGroups e-mail bulletin, so if you are not part of this service, sign up and hear the latest.

Any questions, comments, or offers of assistance, please contact Eugene Vicknair at 408.248.4039, or via e-mail at [TSRY@aol.com](mailto:TSRY@aol.com).

As of June 25, 2000, the following people have donated money to The Zephyr Project since our fundraiser began:

Paul Burkhard	Art Hamilton	Chuck Sted
Stephen J Sewell	Ray E. Moser II	James Lekas
Ed Spaulding	Pete Goodier	Thomas Parra
Robert E. LaForce	Francis Dobbins	Steve Cleere
Helene and Micheal Andrews	Mike S. Wallington	David C. Krieger
Bransford M. Banks	Harold Wardley	Edward J. De Lozier
Eric & Anita Wright	William G. Clancy, Jr.	Elana & Ken Brink
Gary Lower	Robert G. Flannery	John L. Stein
Charles A. Davis	Henry Trowbridge	J. Allan Brown
Mike Flaherty	Andy & Gayle Anderson	Gordon R. Derencin
Mark Hornbeck	Robert J. Diehl, Jr.	G.E. Starratt
Jay Sarno	Dennis C. Gilkey	Dr. David Whitney
Emily Jane Williams	Frank W. Sellman	Don & Carol Griffith
Bob Carr	Josiah F. Jenkins	William E. Lalonde
Jeffrey W. Baus	Carol L. Voss	Peter J. Watkins
Dave Esola	Dr. Donald Kaplan	Douglas Hoyt
John Wieland	Robert and Maria Doyle	Warren E. Gilleran
James Duncan	Joe Harper	Tom Fogle
Bill and Barbara Holmes	Peter Parrish	

If your name is not listed, please be patient, we are still processing donation letters!

Thank you to everyone, those who have donated money, donated time and materials, or helped out along the way for your support. The CZ WILL live because of you and your generosity!