

Truckee Railroad Days and Going Home

folded over into the museum. The only hitch was that the west pass was plugged with work cars for the UP so it had to be unplugged by putting everything into the museum, then our train to Truckee was set in on other tracks. The UP cars were then pulled and folded back into their respective spots. The rest of the day was spent putting everything back where it belonged. By 5 PM the special train consisting of the VIA lounge car, the UP 105 and WP 707 was complete. Our political guests that evening had no idea how much we had all been through to fulfill our obligation to them.

Truckee Railroad Days took a tremendous effort on the part of lots of members of this museum. To all of them we owe deep debt of gratitude for the generous donation of their time and skills. This organization also owes a dept of gratitude to the Truckee Downtown Merchants Association who thought up and perfected the idea of Railroad Days in Truckee and allowed the FRRS to participate. We also owe the greatest thanks to the Union Pacific Railroad for their willingness to allow our train of oddity to roll over their rails. The officers in charge were of good spirits, possessing a can do attitude. To them and to all that made this event occur, this organization is deeply grateful. WP LIVES! is our motto and when we go beyond the gates we take that motto with us.

Operations Training

A very special weekend for all museum members will be held on Saturday May 5th, starting at 10am and ending in the afternoon of Sunday May 6th 2001. This promises to be a very busy weekend with multiple activities planned. The operating department will hold it's annual rule exam and crew training. We will be showing training videos, there will be passenger train operations, so you can refresh your operating skills, i.e. knock the rust off, yard switching, night operations, (how many of you have done this?) and fire extinguisher training.

This is a chance to meet some of the museum members, renew old friendships and swap stories. We will also be giving the mechanical and facilities departments a big hand with projects they have underway.

Saturday evening prior to the night operations beginning a hot dinner will be served for those participating in this years training.

Scheduling for the 2001 operating season will also take place so start thinking of the dates you would like to mark up for. Please bring a pencil, proper footwear, gloves, flashlight, sleeping as well as personal gear, and an interested friend.

If you would like to help in any area please call Kerry Cochran at 650-952-7127 or email me at KC6NT@compuserve.com

Restoration of Western Pacific Hospital

By Frank Brehm and Eugene Vicknair

As reported in the last issue of The Train Sheet, FRRS now owns the old WP hospital property located in Portola. Because restoration of this historic structure is such a large undertaking a plan of action has been developed to use as a guide during the renovation. As we progress on the project there will be public comment periods which will be used to help create the master plan for this particular site which will also become part of the museums overall master plan. We invite your participation in this exciting new project. Below is a brief description of the project as well as the current action plan. The action plan is subject to revision as needed.

Brief description of the project

In 1914, the Western Pacific Railroad established a hospital in Portola for its own employees and the local communities. This was a common practice of railroad companies at the time, who were among the leaders in providing such benefits to employees and their families. This hospital was located on 2nd Avenue in Portola, on a bluff overlooking the WP locomotive facilities (and today the location of the Portola Railroad Museum). It was a full service facility, providing emergency care, long-term convalescent care, check-ups and physicals, and surgery. It served until 1972, at which point it was sold to a private owner. In early 2001, the daughter of the former owner donated the entire facility to the Feather River Rail Society, operators of the Portola Railroad Museum and the leading Western Pacific Railroad historical group, for preservation. Very few railroad hospitals remain and this is one of the few in the United States to be preserved for historical purposes.

The goal of the FRRS is to return the exterior of the hospital to a historically accurate appearance and create landscaped grounds around it. Inside, the facility would provide several functions to the FRRS and the community:

- Several rooms are envisioned to be restored to historic accuracy to tell the story of the role the hospital played in the railroad company and community.
- One wing is planned to house the archives of the FRRS and allow the creation of a research library for accessing and analyzing these archives.
- Several large rooms in the opposite wing would function as meeting rooms where the society and local community groups could hold meetings and gatherings.

Inspections have deemed it restorable, but desperately in need of care, attention and stabilization as soon as possible. Immediate needs include remediation of asbestos, removal of debris, securing of the buildings and inspection and repair of utilities.

The FRRS has in place a long-range plan for the complete restoration of this historic facility. Long-term fundraising is beginning, but the immediate needs of the structure are great. We must quickly engage specialists to assist in the planning, stabi-

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lization and remediation of the structures.

Action Plan

Preliminary actions. (COMPLETED)

1. Accept donation of property and structures.
2. Conduct preliminary assessment of grounds and structures.
3. Extend FRRS liability insurance to cover Hospital campus and structures.
4. Open liaison with city to coordinate community involvement.
5. Authorize funds for Assessment and Research of Hospital.

Assessment and Research

1. Assess security of the structure(s) and grounds.
2. Examine structural integrity of the existing structure(s) and condition of surrounding grounds.
3. With assistance of city building inspector, identify non-conforming materials, building code violations, and immediate hazards.
4. With assistance of county health inspector, identify any immediate health hazards.
5. With assistance of power company, identify any immediate electrical/ utility hazards.
6. Obtain or have produced architectural drawings of the lot and structure(s) in current condition and at significant historical points (ie: at original construction, at completion of final addition, at time of 1950's renovation).
7. Inspection by a qualified structural engineer.

Stabilization

1. Stabilize and/or isolate identified hazards.
2. Clean up of the grounds and structure(s).
3. Secure the structure(s) against un-authorized entry. May include grounds access restrictions and signage.

Planning

1. Consider the planned occupancy and use of the grounds and structure(s). Identify extent and limits of adaptive reuse and historical restoration.
2. Adaptive reuse possibilities: Society/Museum offices, Research library and archives, Meeting/Presentation rooms (open to the Society and the Community), Display spaces.

Historical Possibilities

1. History of structures and Western Pacific Medical System, relationship of hospital and railroad with the community, leadership of railroad companies in providing health/benefit systems to employees and communities.
2. Identify changes to be made to the current grounds and structure(s) to confirm with new usage model. Specific aspects include seismic stability, ADA compliance, adaptive reuse issues, IT networking, improved power/utility systems, historical appearance.
3. Re-accomplish architectural drawings with planned changes to the existing grounds and structure(s). Include aspects concerning

integration of the Hospital site with the adjacent main body of the Portola Railroad Museum.

4. Identify the scope of work to be performed.
5. Determine funding mechanisms available for the project.

Renovation

1. Obtain funding for complete project scope.
2. Obtain necessary permits for any planned demolition.
3. Obtain necessary permits for any planned construction.
4. Remove all non-conforming materials.
5. Gut structures in preparation of renovation including the removal of all existing electrical wiring, sewage piping, water piping, and interior finish materials.
6. Repair and/or replace identified structural component deficiencies.
7. Perform complete construction work necessary to accomplish finished product as identified in the plans from section 3.
8. Complete grounds improvement and visitor signage.

Integration

1. Perform additional work required to functionally and visually integrate completed Hospital site into main campus of the Portola Railroad Museum.
2. Work scope as determined in section 3 and to include ADA compliant walkways, signage, additional parking and access, data and voice technology systems.

