



Preserving "THE FEATHER RIVER ROUTE"



The Train Sheet

ISSUE 112
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News from the Feather River Rail Society and the Portola Railroad Museum

Work Weekends Very Successful

By Eugene Vicknair and Rod McClure

The two scheduled work weekends in March 2002 were a great success. The turnout for both was excellent, and particularly so for the second of them where a smaller, but highly motivated group participated despite bad weather including snow and cold temperatures.

The work concentrated on four basic areas: General grounds clean-up, correction of building code issues, clean-up of the Western Pacific Hospital and activation of locomotives necessary for the RAL program.



With the 'elder' supervisors observing, our younger volunteers for the weekend assisted with the many repairs to the ballon track.

-Frank Brehm

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March 2-3

With the assistance of two professional electricians several electrical code correction issues identified during a city inspection were remedied. Work completed included new electrical disconnects for the Silver Debris and air compressor, and

improper wiring in the Silver Shower was removed and reinstalled in the proper electrical box.

They also evaluated the Office Car wiring and discovered some additional issues with the lines feeding into that car. An

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FRRS On Track, Welcome Aboard Marta Egan

By Jan Breitwieser

Marta signed on with the FRRS April 1st for a six-month commitment as the Assistant to the President. Her duties include holding Department Head staff meetings, developing and writing job descriptions, procedures for processing Purchase and Work Orders, tracking departmental costs with budget comparisons for Department Heads, research business plans and administrative procedures. She will develop a fundraiser in conjunction with the fundraising committee, and assist in finding resources for grants and grant writers. Marta will also assist in organizing the

day-to-day operation by implementing policies and procedures.

Marta brings with her a background of knowledge and experience. She was in management with Pacific Telephone for 30 years. Her jobs included managing and supervising subordinates, planning, coordinating and implementing major projects such as 911 service and area code splits, taught and wrote training courses for the Bell System, created a leadership and networking committee, and the list goes on. She was one of the first women to be assigned to a management position traditionally held by men, in so. Cal.

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Work Weekends Very Successful

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evaluation of the situation led to the conclusion that the proper way to resolve the problem was to disconnect the car from the main power feed and prepare for removal of the non-compliant wiring found in the conduits leading to it.

Additional issues corrected include replacement of other non-compliant wiring and missing electrical box covers. Members of the hospital clean-up crew painted a new "Keep Clear" space around the main electrical panels in the Diesel Shop.

Burst pipes in the women's restroom as well as additional leak repairs/general cleaning of the restrooms were also accomplished.

At the hospital, the exterior of the building was cleared of metal and broken equipment, continuing a process started after the February Board meeting when four refrigerators/freezers were removed from the property. Three interior rooms were completely cleared of debris and a 20 cu. ft. dumpster was filled within 1 ½ hours. The hospital crew also identified several interesting artifacts including one of the original patient beds, and what appear to be a surgical table as well as an autopsy table. These items are being saved for eventual restoration and display in the finished facility.

A small but busy team worked on clean-up of the "Wheel Garden" area. Approximately 25% of this area between Track 1 and RIP 1 was completed and safety issues addressed.

Several individuals also worked on installation of batteries in four locomotives in preparation of the start up of the RAL program and operating season.

March 23-24

Wiring disconnected from the Office Car during the first work weekend was pulled and plans are in place to rewire the power feed/install a new outdoor junction box. The remaining electrical box covers were also installed. The Office Car was moved to comply with the LP tank stand-off distance code correction.

The hospital clean up crew filled two 20 cu. ft. dumpsters with debris by mid-afternoon on Sunday and approximately 60% of the main floor is now cleared. The building is beginning to actually look like a real structure and not a walled in trash pile. The crew took a break at one point and wandered the rooms, tentatively identifying patient bed areas, emergency rooms and perhaps a surgical room. They also explored the east end of the structure where clean-up has not yet begun and were pleased to find that most debris is limited to the areas already cleaned. No major structural problems were noted except for one damaged area in the hallway between the west wing and the main central building.

A group was also at work moving the ex-Army 80 ton locomotive to a convenient location for inspection/evaluation as a possible trade to another organization. Members of this group also assisted with electrical code corrections, maintenance of the Burro crane and several pieces of rubber tire equipment.

Volunteers

March 2-3

Kevin Cote*, Paul Disney*, Sara Eidman*, Robert Rigler*, Eric

McClure, Aaron McClure, Rod McClure, Gail McClure, Frank Brehm, Hank Stiles, Dave Kantoff, Eric Stephens, Steve Stephens, Alan Hirasawa, Joe Garcia*, Steve Habeck, Greg Elems, Matthew Elems, David Elems, Matt Parker, Carabeth Devine.

March 23-24

Kevin Cote*, Robert Rigler*, Chris Peakes*, Crystal Peakes*, Eric McClure, Aaron McClure, Rod McClure, Gail McClure, Frank Brehm, Eugene Vicknair, Norm Holmes, Sam Herschbien, Steve Habeck, Matt Parker, Alan Hirasawa.

*Denotes non-member volunteers

April 27-28

Our first Track Work Weekend of 2002 was a great success! There were 14 people present on Saturday and 16 on Sunday. Even though the weather did not quite cooperate either day, we still were able to accomplish more than I had thought possible. We replaced close to 50 ties, replaced 10 broken joint bars, replaced over 20 gage rods and of course drove a couple hundred spikes. We had three "gangs" working both days with one gang pulling spikes and digging out the bad ties, one gang installing the new ties and gage bars, and one gang replacing the broken joint bars and doing the final gauging and spiking. We used the Burro Crane with its trailer loaded with the air compressor, (for the air tools) as well as one of the motor cars with 4 trailers for tools, supplies and gang transport, the back hoe, and many hand tools.

We have completed repairs from just East of the Sewer Plant crossing to about the middle of the balloon. All that is needed now is tamping and some new ballast for this area. We have roughly 28 ties left to replace on the remainder of the balloon along with some more joint bars and gage rods.

I would like to thank each and every one of you who gave their time and energy for this work weekend. We could not do it without your help!!!! Incidentally, we gained 6 new members during this work weekend including one new Life Member.

I hope to see more of you at the work weekends to follow.



Welcome Marta Egan

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After retiring from the telephone company, she was in Real Estate for over six years. She has served on several boards and committees, and most recently was invited to participate on the Board of Advisors for the Evan Haymond Group, Financial Planning Services.

Marta served as a volunteer with AARP as the Community Coordinator for the East San Gabriel Valley and then Associate State Coordinator for Community Operations for L.A., Ventura & Kern Counties. Here she was heavily involved in developing and implementing programs, recruiting volunteers, and budgets, just to mention a few. Prior to joining us, she was the Volunteer Coordinator for the Boys & Girls Club of Capistrano Valley. Her accomplishments included establishing a database that included 45 full time and 150 part time volunteers. Here again she became involved in writing procedures for a Crisis Management Plan, a Board of Directors Manual, and participated in several of the clubs fundraising events.

There is some enjoyment to retired life as well. Marta bought a small RV, and with her little dog, traveled for several months at a time over a three-year period. She became friends with many of the folks she met along the way. She visited all the states on the continent, plus parts of Canada and Mexico. Quite an accomplishment for a single lady.

One of her greatest assets is her outgoing personality and ability to bring the best out of people. She has a wonderful sense of humor and can turn the worst of jobs or situations into fun. If you've spent any time with Marta, you can bet it was enjoyable and humorous. She has a heart of gold that is demonstrated by her generosity of sharing her time, knowledge, and experience.

We are pleased to have Marta working with us. With her help we can continue the effort to establish a sound foundation and unity to the FRRS, and the Portola Railroad Museum.

Help Wanted

By Kerry Cochran

Would you like to become a member of the Portola Railroad Museum Operating Department Train Crew?

If you are interested ask any crew member for information, see one of the train crew supervisors who are Don Nelson, Pat Brimmer and Paul Finnegan or contact me directly either at the museum or by phone at (650) 952-7127.

Requirements are; 18 years of age, active membership (\$30.00) or above, leather gloves and Leather footwear that protects the ankles

Portola Railroad Museum
(530) 832-4131

Society News Bits

By Jan Breitwieser and Norman Holmes

Winter Rail, Stockton:

This event brings out the best in rail fans. I would like to thank Gail & Rod McClure, Steve Habeck, Marta Egan, Eugene Vicknair & Hank Stiles for all their work in making the booth possible. We wouldn't have been able to be there if it were not for all their support. Gail & Marta are naturals at sales. Also thanks to all the members and attendees who shopped at our booth.

WPR Historical Convention, Yuba City:

WP definitely lives at this event. Attendance was up and Tom & his support team did a great job. Thanks to Tom for letting us be there with very little notice. We had a great time.

Again my thanks to Marta Egan who did most of the sales. She's a good friend and representative of the FRRS. It was quite a challenge keeping up with the fast schedule of this event. We both were exhausted. Our new line of embroidered garments with the WPRHS, FRRS, & WP logos made especially for the event were well received. We were very happy with our sales and will continue the line in our gift shop at the museum. I apologize for the delay in getting the orders made at the show out. Again, thank you to all our members and attendees for supporting us.

Gift Shop, Portola RR Museum:

Consideration is being given to moving the gift shop into the beanery area. This will give the gift shop better exposure, and will enable us to re-open the beanery as a snack shop. The plus would be we could run both using the same staff. The logistics are still being worked out. Approval by the health department and labor to make it happen is the next step. As with all changes it will take some adjustment. Hopefully it will be done for the 2002 summer season.

We need volunteers to keep our doors open for longer hours and more days. Barbara & Norm Holmes, Lollie, and others were the heart beat of these shops in the past. Thanks to Norm, the RAL Engineers, Department Heads, Board Members, Gayle Anderson, and Marta for keeping the gift shop running. If you can volunteer, or know someone who would volunteer, please call the museum on 530 832-4131, or Jan at 530 832-6322.

Election Report:

Ballots were mailed on Friday, April 19th. What teamwork! Thank you to Ken & Missy Iversen, Norm & Barbara Holmes, Marta Egan, Debbie Lieblad, and George Breitwieser for making it happen within the established timeline. Thank you Judy, Tom, Gary, and Kerry for providing the how to information, and a very special Thank you to Eugene for putting the mailing list into label format after a late night call for help.

707 Builders Plate Comes Home:

Steve Schmollinger discovered he had one of the builders' plates for our WP GP7 No. 707 in his collection. Steve offered to sell it to our organization for a very reasonable price. Now we have one of the original builders' plates for this locomotive. Thanks Steve.