

MUSEUM WISH LIST

- John Walker, Museum Manager

The response to our continuing list of equipment and services needed at the museum has been fantastic!

Jim Halliwell of Portola has given us his old snow blower on permanent loan (unless his breaks down and he needs to borrow it temporarily). This will greatly speed snow clearing along sidewalks and the north side of the building. Thanks Jim!

We've also received a medium sized cement mixer, which will allow us to continue work on sidewalk repairs and new construction.

Bruce Yparreguire of Chico and Ken and Cheryl Meeker of Stockton have donated several nice display cabinets for the gift shop and display room. Thank You!

Mr. Greg McLeod of Sacramento donated several collapsible storage bins and a pallet rack, which will be a big help in reorganizing and storing large bulky items like locomotive parts and some building supplies.

Seth Neumann of Mountain View donated several items for the Gift Shop and Office, including a heavy-duty uninterruptible power supply, scanner and wall-mount TV stand.

As I write this, I understand that a bead blasting system will be arriving at the museum soon. This would be a big help in both the restoration and mechanical department.

We are still looking for certain pieces of equipment to improve and enhance the hard work of our volunteers and staff. These items don't have to be new. As long as they function correctly or can be repaired at a nominal cost. It doesn't have to look pretty either. The big cost is the equipment itself. Parts, repairs and a touchup of the paint are simple compared to the cost of the equipment.

We also need people or companies with certain skills. If you or your company can spend a few

days at the museum to help us complete these projects, it would be greatly appreciated. We can make arrangements to house you and your crew, and secure your equipment at the museum. Consider it a working vacation. In addition to train watching, there are several golf courses in the area and the fishing is great!

And remember, tax time will come around again. Your donations to the FRRS, Western Pacific Railroad Museum and the WPRRHS are tax deductible!

Take a look at the list and give Museum Manager John Walker a call at 530-832-4131 if you think you can help.

1) The museum has a gap in our perimeter fence along the south side of the museum. We also need to get a fence up around the old Hospital property. We have the posts and the fence material. But we don't have the money or the labor to install the fence. If you are in the fencing business, we could really use your expertise to get these fences installed and help secure our property.

2) We have nearly forty acres of property to maintain. A lot of this property is covered with natural vegetation. Yet, the only thing we have to cut down weeds and sagebrush is a six-inch weed trimmer! We could really use a big brush cutter or heavy duty mower capable of helping us maintain the picnic grounds, old Hospital property and the inside of the balloon track. This would also help us reduce our fire danger.

3) We really need a hydraulic man-lift of some kind. A "Cherry Picker", "bucket truck" or scissor lift of some kind would make it easier to do restorations, painting, changing light bulbs, repairing broken glass, electrical wiring, trimming trees, the list is endless! And it would be safer than setting up scaffolding or climbing tall ladders.

4) A heavy-duty, 1,000 + pound capacity cart with steer-able, pneumatic tires is needed for a portable pump cart we want to build.

5) A small "Bobcat" type front-end loader. These

tractors are great for landscape projects, cement work and clearing snow. An auger attachment on the back would help us dig holes for fencing, signs and other projects.

6) Our Mechanical forces and track repair crews could really use a John Deere "Gator" or similar all-terrain, work vehicle. We need a 6x6 with a flat deck on the back for hauling 55-gallon drums, big wrenches, track tools and parts. We would also welcome a small pressure tank capable of holding water to mount to the Gator, allowing for more fire protection.

7) The roof on the engine house needs repairs again. The galvanized metal roof needs another coating of sealant and paint. If any readers are in the roofing business, and might be able to donate some material, equipment and or, labor, please give us a call.

8) Our carpentry shop is always looking for good quality power tools. Circular saws, Sawzalls, routers, table saws, cordless drills, nail guns, planers, vacuum systems, cutters, joiners, drill presses, you name it, we want it and could use it.

9) A floor scrubber. The engine house floor gets a lot of wear and tear from rubber tired equipment, vehicles, locomotives dripping oil, etc. It would be nice to scrub the shop floor a couple of times a year. This would be a big help in preparing the shop floors for repainting.

10) If anyone is in the aggregate business, we could use a few truckloads of sand, 2-6 inch river rock and drain rock for various landscaping and drainage projects.

11) We would like to overhaul the Display Room this year. We've received some new display cabinets and we have a plan of action, but we're short of money and materials for the rest of the work. We're going to need 15 to 20 sheets of new peg-board, about eight to ten pieces of wood paneling and about 200 feet of molding (2 to 4 inches wide). If you can help us out with either a physical donation or even a cash donation, we can overhaul the room and set up some new displays in there.

12) We've received a small conference table but we're still looking for a big one that will host 10-12 people for Board of Director meetings or conferences. We can refinish the table (or perhaps another member can help in this area).

13) Reception area furniture. We would like to set up a new reception area inside the entranceway into the building. We need a nice reception desk and counters, which we can use for brochures and informational signs. If someone out there is redoing the reception area of his or her offices, please consider donating the old furniture to the museum.

14) Motion sensor security lights. We've installed several already, but could use about six more to improve security and safety.

15) Our wooden picnic tables are wearing out. Despite storing them in boxcars or inside the building in the winter, summer thunderstorms and normal wear and tear are taking their toll. We need to begin replacing these with aluminum or fiberglass tables that are easier to move and resistant to damage from rain. Ideally, we need six to twelve of these.

16) And finally, a big request. Our master plan for the museum calls for a replica depot in the parking lot for a new gift shop and ticket office. While it would be great to get that started tomorrow, a doublewide, modular/ manufactured building would be a great temporary fix to an already overcrowded engine house. We don't need a residence with a kitchen, bedrooms and closets, but more specifically, a large empty building that we could turn into a gift shop/ticket office. Typically, construction companies, schools and real estate companies use these types of buildings for temporary offices and classrooms. Another option would be one of those manufactured steel buildings, which can be insulated and heated. I may be reaching, but I know these types of buildings are out there and until we can build something permanent, we could really use a building like this.

Thanks. We will have more items listed in future issues.