

Facilities Report

By Ken Iverson

Fall has again proven to be a busy time around the museum. Earlier this year the roof was re-coated and repaired thanks to the generosity of Plumas County and the City of Portola. A few leaks were discovered after the first rains, which were quickly repaired. We now await the next precipitation and the eventual snow to see if everything is OK. Our entry road into the grounds is now completely paved out to Main Street. This much needed improvement came through the generosity of the folks at Gold Mountain.

Yearly servicing of all fire extinguishers has been accomplished and all are good condition and certified for another year. In preparation of the coming winter weather Norm Holmes and Ken Roller moved the tables in from the picnic grounds and the "Dock". Member help is now needed in repairing and painting them (mostly paint). Plans are in place to paint the Beanery floor next Spring when it is warmer. Help will also be required for this project. Tables and chairs will have to be removed from the room and the floor thoroughly cleaned in preparation of painting. This will not take place until after the Santa Trains in December.

Major improvements that will be noticeable to all when completed are new rollup doors for the West end of the engine house. On order now we are hoping for completion before any major winter storms hit our area.

Radiators and engine blocks on the locomotives have been drained, stacks capped, and batteries removed where needed. Steve Habeck and Norm Holmes have accomplished some switching in order to put the yard in "Winter Formation".

With cooler weather settling in we have seen a decline in visitors to the museum. Although still dry and pretty warm, if you stay in the sun, winter is just around the corner which will bring snow and colder temperatures. With the inevitable snow approaching we are preparing the backhoe for snow clearing service.

Publications Update

With this issue of The Train Sheet you should see what I consider major improvements. Layout of the pages has been changed with the articles and columns now continuing in the next column or on the next page. This will allow for easier reading. Graphics should also be much improved. This improvement adds to our production cost slightly but the finished product I believe will justify this. Printing of our bi-monthly newsletter is now being accomplished by Feather Publishing in Quincy, California.

As mentioned in the WPRRHS news column the search is on for a new production manager for the *Headlight*. This publication, although receiving the full attention of the staff, has as you know fallen far behind schedule. We continue to work diligently in our efforts to bring the *Headlight* back to a regular schedule.

WPRRHS News

By Thom Anderson, WPRRHS Administrator

"Where's the *Headlight*?" seems to be the question of the day (aside from "who won in Florida?", as this is being written!). *Headlight* Production Manager Mike Mucklin reported recently that Issue #17 is close to the point where proof copies are distributed to staff members for final corrections. Once those corrections are made, it is sent to the printer and then mailed to the members. Barring any additional delays, the current estimate is you should be receiving #17 by mid-January.

I am as disappointed as the rest of you with our performance this year. I'll make no excuses other than to remind everyone that the **entire** staff is doing this as a volunteer effort. Unfortunately, our hobby sometimes has to take a back seat to our professional and family life. On a related note, Mike recently informed me that due to a number of issues in his personal and professional life, he will be relinquishing the position of *Headlight* Production Manager. I want to thank Mike for his efforts over the past 5 years and hope things settle down for him soon so he can enjoy the hobby again. A search to fill the vacancy left by Mike's resignation is currently in the process of being done. If you are interested in volunteering for this position and have experience in desktop publishing, please contact me at tjanderson@dalycity.org.

We have a recent donation of several ICC accident reports that took place on the WP from the mid-1920s through the mid-1940s from Mr. David Williams, of Poughkeepsie, NY. We also have been loaned a copy of an issue of the Baldwin Locomotive Works magazine which has an article on the WP's VO-1000 switchers and the facilities built to maintain them from Mr. Charles Roth, of St. Louis MO. Both of these contributions will see print in the *Headlight*.

The society recently purchased a group of photo negatives from the W.C. Whittaker collection. These cover several WP subsidiaries, including Alameda Belt Line, Tidewater Southern, Central California Traction Co., and Deep Creek RR. Many of these photos will eventually appear in FRRS/WPRRHS publications, and once a procedure is in place, prints will be available for purchase.

Please remember to mark your calendar for April 27-28, 2001 for the WPRRHS Convention at the Modesto Holiday Inn. Convention chairman Steve Hayes is looking for clinic presenters, or material to use as presentations. Contact Steve at HAYESWP@hotmail.com or phone 209-536-1847 if you can help. The convention theme is a tribute to the late Guy Dunscomb, author of several WP books, and the "hometown railroad", WP subsidiary Tidewater Southern.

The WPRRHS/*Headlight* staff wishes all of you "Happy Holidays" and a prosperous New Year.