

Scott Inman, David Stanley, Doug Peterson, Patrick Davis and David Vipond started a project to save and move a small portion of Stephen Cavanaugh's Western Pacific Railroad model layout to the museum. When they ran into problems, Eugene Vicknair and I had several telephone conversations on how to go about saving this model layout.

Once it was clear if we did not move it by a certain date the layout sections would be forever be lost to the dumpster. With Eugene's help, I contacted the family and made arrangements to meet them so that I could get some measurements and see just what we were up against. Once that was done, I contacted Paul Finnegan and asked for his help (knowing he is in the Bay Area and is retired like me) we set a date and met with the family at Stephen home and prepared the remaining sections of the layout for transportation. (This in itself took 6 hours plus 2 hours travel time each way.)

Then on Sunday September 9th, with the help of Eugene, Eugene's friend Chris Kaprielian, Paul and myself, we loaded the layout sections onto a trailer. Paul and I then transported them to the museum. (We started at 7:30 AM and we arrived at the museum at 4:30 PM, another long day)

I want to thank Stephanie and John Busam, Stephen's daughter and son-in-law for all the help in making this take palace. I need also thank the original crew who tried at the first attempt: Robert Hoffman, Scott Inman, David Stanley, Doug Peterson, Patrick Davis and David Vipond and the Sunday crew of: Eugene Vicknair, Paul Finnegan and Eugene's friend, Chris Kaprielian.



Here's the moving crew, smiling now that the layout sections are on the trailer.

James Gronwald's Layout

The 2018 WP Historic Convention was held in Salt Lake City, one of the many events was a layout tour of James Gronwald's Layout.

James models the D&RGW coal hauling in the Soldier summit area in the 1950-60's era. The room is a basement room 14 x 20 feet with a dogleg of 13 x 19 feet. He has around 300 feet of double mainline track. This part of the layout is about 80% done and James's has done some outstanding hand carved mountain work, which you must see to believe. The backdrop scenery paintings by Rob Spangler are spectacular. In May of 2013, James started construction of the second phase of his layout that will be the SLC area of his layout. This phase is the new SLC area with many industrial sidings. This area is about the same size as his first phase. Control is Digitrax DCC.

photos on next page...



Do you model the WP or related lines?

Please share your photos, stories and experiences with us. Send your materials to Bob Sims (bsims@wplives.org) and Kerry Cochran (kcochran@wplives.org) so we can all learn from and enjoy your experience.

2018 Western Pacific Railroad Historical Convention

"Where the WP Meets the Rio Grande"



Photos from James Gronwald's Layout, one of the events at the 2018 WP Historic Convention that was held in Salt Lake City



Rio Grande Engine Shop
- photo by Kerry Cochran



D&RGW California Zephyr
- photo by Kerry Cochran



Need Gas?
- photo by Kerry Cochran



Abandoned Right of Way and Tunnel
- photo by Kerry Cochran