

Snowshed

December 2008

Volume 1, Number 1



News Flash!

- TDRS publishes first newsletter
- Heritage Locomotive in downtown Truckee
- TDRS now has five pieces of equipment with the promise of a sixth.

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First Issue—Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of the Truckee Donner Railroad Society's newsletter, *Snowshed*. Our objective is to keep you apprised of the goings on with your society. This first issue is being mailed to you. If you would prefer to receive future issues via e-mail (which we would prefer) please send Steve Disbrow your e-mail address at:

sjdisbrow@yahoo.com

This issue contains many interesting articles concerning our association's accomplishments to date and plans for the future. If there are topics that you would like to see covered in future issues of this news letter, please send your suggestions to Steve Disbrow at the above e-mail address.

Our plans are to produce the newsletter quarterly, so look for the next issue in the spring.

New Membership Structure

- Brakeman (Couple) \$25
- Fireman (Family of four/Business) \$65
- Engineer (Sustaining)\$100
- Conductor (Life couple) \$500

Lifetime Charter Memberships will no longer be available after December 31. Current Annual Members who would like to upgrade their membership to Charter status may do so by paying the current \$250 Lifetime Charter Membership fee by January 31.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

What a fantastic year this has been, our mission of a Railroad Museum for Truckee has really left the station. We have lots of individuals and businesses to thank.

This year we have taken possession of 5 pieces of rolling stock (85 ton Switcher locomotive, SP Pullman Sleeper car, SP window caboose, 10 ton Brownhoist Locomotive crane). Thank you to Steve Disbrow, Jim Hood, Ron Mason, and Nelson Van-Gundy for preparing business plans for restoration work that needs to be completed on each piece. We also owe a thank you to Sandy Coats for his work at the Sacramento Railroad Museum and in Truckee to get the equipment loaded on trucks and making repairs to move the equipment on the Union Pacific Railroad.

Our gratitude goes out to the Holliday Development, the Town of Truckee, Union Pacific Railroad Company, the California State Railroad Museum, Teichert Aggregates, Taylor Heavy Hauling, Pam Dobbas, Al Pombo Construction, Al Marshall of Handcrafted Structures, and Doug Reynolds of H&H Engineering Construction, for their generous in-kind donations. We also thank Tom and Polly Bredt, The Tahoe Mountain Resort Foundation, the Truckee Rotary Foundation, and many of our members for over \$22,000 in cash donations, supplies, and materials.

Our current effort is to establish an actual museum. We have made excellent progress with the Town of Truckee for the placement of our caboose in downtown

(Continued on page 2)

Truckee where we will open our museum. Thanks to Don Davis for work with the Town and Keith Pattison for advancing our Strategic plans. Frank Ross, Nelson VanGundy, Steve Disbrow, and Jim Hood have been activity involved in the planning as well. Lead by Steve Disbrow with the help of several members we have already painted the interior and exterior of the caboose.

Frank Ross attended and represented us at the annual convention for the Association of Railroad Museums in Colorado Springs and returned with a wealth of information and knowledge that he will be sharing with all members at a presentation very soon.

We also acquired a 1000 plus railroad book collection from Guy Bryant, via contact with Steve Disbrow. Our

board member Ed Geiger has been diligently reviewing and cataloging the books and will be making recommendations for their disposition.

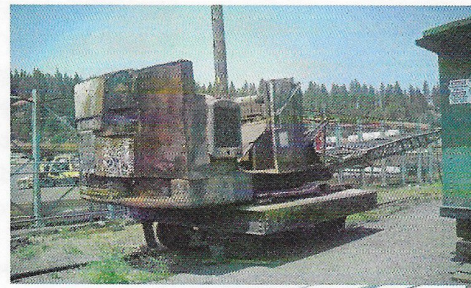
Again Nelson VanGundy organized, and with the help of Keith Pattison, led a tour of local logging rights of way and trestle structures in the area, and plans are to expand this activity in future years.

Our membership has grown over 30% this past year and this newsletter is our first and we want to thank Steve Disbrow and Keith Pattison for taking on this important communication work. Our website has been continuously updated and improved by Keith Pattison and I encourage every member to frequently (continued on page 3)

Brownhoist Crane Refurbishment

The Brownhoist crane was delivered to Truckee this August. Steve Disbrow has been diligently cleaning out the inside of the crane in preparation for stabilization and restoration.

If you have been to the rail yard, you have seen that the roof has been removed. In transporting it to Truckee, it was determined that the roof was 6 inches too high to fit under the overcrossings on Interstate 80. The choice was to cut off the roof, or to take an extra day to go up Highway 88. Because the roof was in such bad shape, the decision was to remove it. This will make the process of restoration easier. The crane, built in 1903 needs lots of work. Come join in the fun beginning next June!

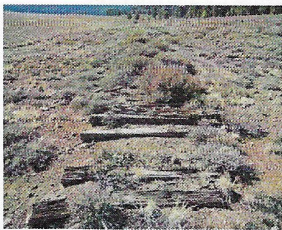


Crane awaiting some TLC

Tahoe Narrow Gauge Trestle Tours

Trestle Tours take a group of people interested in Truckee area railroads on a tour of the surrounding area to uncover artifacts of past railroads. The finds include old mill sites, railroad maintenance areas, rolling stock, old railroad grades, and yes, even trestles. Future tours will investigate areas overlooking beautiful Lake Tahoe where an original railroad ran from Glenbrook, on Lake Tahoe, to Spooner Summit. Lumber was then offloaded from the train to take a harrowing ride on a flume to Carson City.

The area north of Truckee was also the site of many old logging railroads. These roads included: the Truckee Lumber Co., Crown Willamette Paper Co., Hobart Estates [Sierra Nevada Wood Lumber Co.], Boca Loyalton Ry. (later Clover Valley Lumber Co.), and Verdi Lumber Co. We will also be tracing the old scenic Truckee to Lake Tahoe narrow gauge. Look for announcements on our web site or future issues of *Snowshed* for next years tours.



A picture from last year's tour.

look it up to see in more detail everything we have done and are planning.

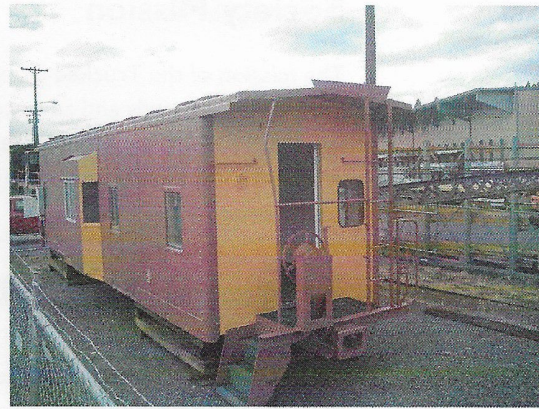
I encourage everyone to attend our board meetings and get involved, the more help we have the more we can do, the more we do the more we can demonstrate to the community and ourselves that we have left the station behind and we are picking up steam. Even in these tough economic times our efforts will move forward and any donations of time on our various projects will be appreciated. Spread the word, get involved, get other railroad friends to join, make suggestions, and having the chance to get involved in building a museum from the ground up is a rare opportunity.

Bob Bell, President

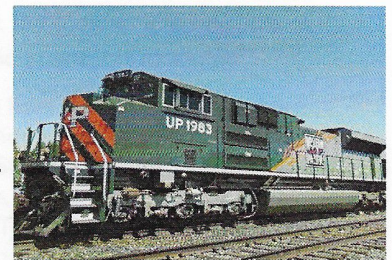
Union Pacific Heritage Locomotive

In 2005, the Union Pacific released diesel locomotives with paint other than the traditional UP "Armor Yellow" scheme. The locomotives celebrate the various railroad lines that have merged into the Union Pacific. The first two locos released were Missouri Pacific

and Western Pacific. Recently, railfan and TDRS member Deane Dvoracek caught some pictures of the Western Pacific heritage diesel parked near the crossing in downtown Truckee.



Newly painted caboose soon to be our temporary museum

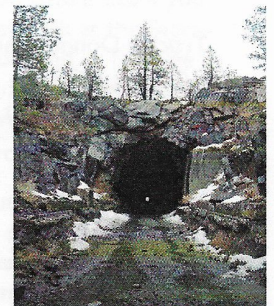


Heritage locomotive in Truckee

What Started It All

On May 10, 1869 the first transcontinental eastward and westward building met at Promontory Point, Utah, completing the link across America. Completing the route across the Sierra Nevada was a feat of sheer will; it took 2 years of backbreaking work to complete the 1659 foot tunnel at Donner Summit. It was bored though on August 30 1867. The first

train rolled through 2 months later. Meanwhile, crews hauled material over the summit on wagons, and continued laying rail through the Truckee River Canyon while the summit tunnel was being drilled. By December 13th, 1867 a train rolled through to Nevada. By May 4th, 1868, the tracks were connected.



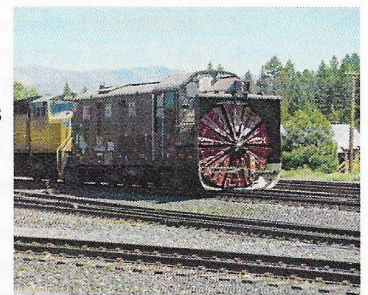
Abandoned Sierra Tunnel

Rotary Snow Plow Up Close

Southern Pacific Rotary MW210 was built by the Schenectady Locomotive Works in 1937 to a Leslie design. It was initially steam powered with fuel oil and water provided by tenders MW7210A and 7210B. In 1957 it was converted to diesel electric and stationed at Sparks, Nevada until 1982. SP MW7210 was renumbered to MW210 in April 1962, retired from service in 1983 and relocated to the California State Railroad Museum at Sacramento. It was subsequently acquired by the Truckee Donner Railroad Society in 2007.

used to maintain the SP right of way over Donner Pass, most notably participating in the rescue of the "City of San Francisco" which became snowbound at Donner pass in 1952.

Rotary snow plows have been used for right of way maintenance throughout the United States, particularly in the Cascade, Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains. They may still play a role in the most severe snow conditions, but have been primarily replaced by modern spreaders and flangers.



Southern Pacific Rotary arrives in Truckee

During its active service Rotary MW210 was

Truckee Donner Railroad Society

Society Mission

Board of Directors:

Bob Bell—President

Jim Hood—Vice President

Don Davis—Secretary

Nelson Van Gundy—
Treasurer and Historian

Sandy Coots

Steve Disbrow

Dean Dvoracek

Ed Geiger

Frank Ross

Dale Fowlar

The mission of the Truckee Donner Railroad Society is to perpetuate the study and advancement of knowledge of working railroads in the Truckee Donner area with the goal of building a railroad museum to preserve and share what we have learned.

Truckee Donner Railroad Society
P.O. Box 3838
Truckee, Ca 96160

www.truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com
501(c) 3 non-profit organization

Truckee Railroad Museum Vision

Keeping Truckee railroads alive!

Railroads of the Truckee area played a significant role in founding and developing the town of Truckee. From blasting black powder in the granite over Donner Lake, to hissing of the first steam coming to town, to lumberjack whistles in the mountains, to ice cracking as it loads in reefers, and tourists flocking to share the beauty of the area, The Truckee Railroad Museum tells the story.

- ◆ A place to Learn
- ◆ A place to Interact
- ◆ A place to Enjoy

Current Projects Seeking Support

- ◆ Caboose Museum Interior
- ◆ Crane Rehabilitation
- ◆ Rotary Restoration
- ◆ Sleeper Restoration
- ◆ Switcher Operational repair

If you are able to support any of these projects with your time, talent or dollars, please contact us.

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