

Snowshed

March 2017

Volume 10 Number 1



- ♦ Epic Snow hits Truckee Area. Rotary plow used on western Sierra.
- ♦ Bob Smith continues to build period structure to enhance Truckee River Railroad.
- ♦ Squaw Valley Holiday Train big success but operation shorted by snow.
- ♦ Effort to refresh Caboose Museum under way

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Please pay your dues and continue to be a member of the Truckee Donner Railroad Society. We need your support! 2

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President's Letter

Jim Hood

2017 looks to be a very good year for the Truckee Donner Railroad Society (TDRS). Ed Larson has taken over the operations of the small Museum that we have in downtown Truckee. We have had an enormous amount of snow in Truckee this year and yet Ed and his crew of volunteers have kept the Museum open on our regular schedule. The number of visitors and the contributions continue to be very good. Bob Bell is planning the schedule for the running of the Truckee River Railroad in the Regional Park. We plan to have the phase two expansion of the "riding" railroad in operation this year. We also look forward to another year of Trestle Tours and other activities that engage our membership and the community.

I want to thank all of our members that have contributed to our membership drive by making their annual contribution to TDRS. Your support is very important in keeping our society healthy and strong

Truckee River Railroad Update

Tom Smith

Although the tracks are still covered with snow, we look forward to spring when we can debut our new riding cars to add to the "Smith" Forney live steam engine.

In addition to three new riding cars, our newly completed society engine GP39 should be fully finished, painted and detailed for running this season.



Bob Smith's RR Structures

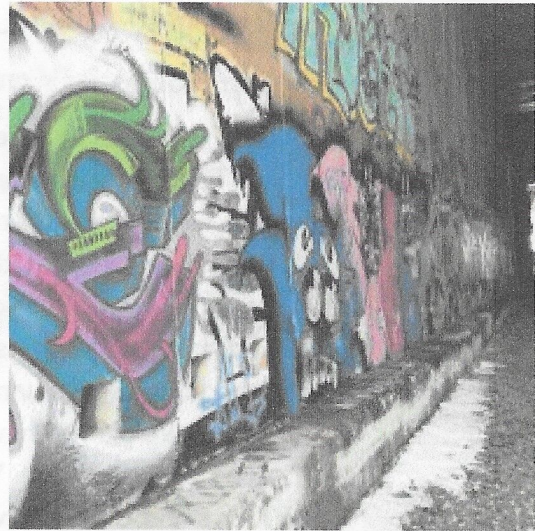
Bob Smith, Tom's brother, who lives in Burlingame, has been busy building scale structures to add to the experience of riding our Truckee River railroad. Along the journey, look for structures that would normally be associated with railroads: three water towers, a way freight station, a windmill and barn, coal tower, sand storage and loading station and numerous rail-side scale structures and buildings.

Graffiti in the Summit Tunnels

Jerry Blackwill

If you've had the opportunity to look in the Summit tunnels and snow sheds recently, you can't help but notice many of the walls are covered with graffiti. In some cases, the graffiti artists have moved outside and painted on the natural rocks. Dr. Susan Lindstrom, Truckee's resident archaeologist has written:

"These tunnels are the center piece of transcontinental railroad construction, which is designated as a State Historic Landmark. As such, these prehistoric and historic cultural resources are subject to protection by federal and state law from vandalism. The train tunnels are owned by Union Pacific Railroad and the petroglyphs are under jurisdiction of the U. S. Forest Service. Graffiti is outright vandalism unless the artist is painting on their own property or with the consent of a property owner. Otherwise, the act is illegal and subject to prosecution. The graffiti paint obscures and threatens the design, materials and workmanship of these historic rock features. The urban stamp of graffiti is totally out of character with the historical and natural setting of Donner Summit and the motifs.."



There has been talk of organizing a group to restore the tunnels, but so far no one has stepped up. If you are interested in this project, please contact Susan at: susan-glindstrom@gmail.com

A Plea From Your Board

Like many non-profit organizations, the Truckee Donner Railroad Society (TDRS) is continuously attempting to control its costs. The production and distribution of our news letter is one cost that is fairly significant.

We recently audited our records and have found that there are a substantial number of members who have not paid their dues for two or more consecutive years. Regretfully, if we do not receive your membership renewal before publication of the June issue of the Snowshed, we will have to remove your name from our mailing list and membership rolls. As a reminder, the membership levels are: Brakeman (couple) --- \$25; Fireman (family of 4 or business) --- \$65; Engineer (sustaining) --- \$100; Lifetime --- \$500.

Please, we don't want to lose you! Send your remittance to: Treasurer, Truckee Railroad Society, P.O. Box 3838, Truckee CA 96160.

Or you may visit our website and contribute using PayPal. Simply go to "Join/Collect the membership type, and "Subscribe". If you have changed your contact info please include your updated information with your contribution. Remember that 501(C)3 Nonprofit Organization and all contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you for your past support and we look forward to your continued involvement with TDRS.

Board of Directors, Truckee Donner Railroad Society

UP Snow Removal Equipment

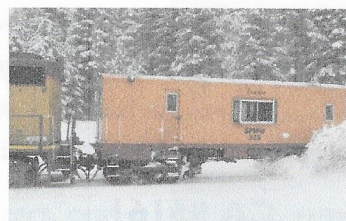
Ed Larson

A new addition to the museum this winter has been a slide show that depicts the snow removal equipment that is used by the UP. It describes the engine plow, flanger, the rotary. The plow is the first line of defense and plows through the drifts at the front of the train. The flanger is then deployed to remove snow from between the tracks. The next line of defense is the spreader which pushes (spreads) the snow away from the tracks to prevent more snow. The spreader deploys wings on either side (the nose plow is used to direct the snow either left or right). The rotaries are only used in big snow and were used for the first time since March 2011 they were used at the end of February 2017 on the Donner Pass up to Norden to clear this year's record amount of snow.

Use this link for a YouTube video of the rotaries in action, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjBQ3MaBYiU&feature=youtu.be>).



Engine Plowing



Flanger Removing



Spreader at Rest



Rotary Blowing Snow

Truckee Donner Railroad Society

Society Mission:

To preserve, interpret, and educate the public about railroading life and history in the Truckee region including its contribution to Truckee and the Nation. Specifically, depict railroad involvement in local industry through the acquisition, preservation, and restoration of relevant equipment, documents, and artifacts all to be part of a permanent museum facility in downtown Truckee.

Truckee Donner Railroad Society
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www.truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com
501(c) 3 non-profit organization

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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 the blasting of black powder in the granite over Donner Lake, to the hissing of the first steam coming into town, to whistles of lumberjacks in the mountains, to the crack of ice being loaded in the reefers, and tourists flocking to share the beauty of the area, the Truckee Railroad Museum tells the story.

- ◆ A place to Discover
- ◆ A place to Interact
- ◆ A place to Enjoy

Current Projects Seeking Support

- ◆ Caboose Museum Interior
- ◆ Crane Rehabilitation
- ◆ Rotary Restoration
- ◆ Sleeper Restoration
- ◆ Internet Book Sales

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

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