

Snowshed

September, 2011

Volume 4 Number 3

Presidents Report

Jim Hood

As we near the end of Summer 2011, we can say that we have, again, had excellence visitation at the Interim Museum in Downtown Truckee. We have had over 10,000 visitors since the Museum opened in May 2010. I continually get comments that we made excellent use of the small space available in the Museum to start telling the incredibly rich story of the Railroad History of Truckee and the surrounding area.

Continued on page 3

Railroad Society Joins the Parade

Jerry Blackwill

"That's the best float about Truckee since the Parade started." said an old-time Truckee resident. This was among the many compliments received for our first effort in the parade. The float celebrated the creation of the Central Pacific railroad.

Continued on page 3



News Flash!

- Museum closed while town upgrades parking lot
- Railroad Society enters 4th of July parade
- Additions and repairs made to Interim Museum

In side

Museum Happenings 2

Welcome New Members 3

We are on Facebook 3

We need your Help! 4



(L to R) Ed Czerwinski, Don Davis, Nelson Van Gundy, Jerry Blackwill and Jim hood.

Interim Museum Happenings

Don Davis

Amazingly summer has again passed and it is again time to report on the Interim Museum activities. There is progress to write about and, as usual, some challenges to be overcome. On the progress side, visitation has climbed to nearly 10,000 since we opened and we've made significant progress on several displays and completed a few maintenance items. On the "challenge" side, the Town is taking advantage of the post Labor Day traffic lull to improve the streetscape around the Depot. While the end result will be a definite improvement it unfortunately block access to the museum causing us to close for six to eight weeks during construction.

I would like thank several of our members for volunteering their time during the summer and let you know what they have accomplished. It is these folks that make the museum work. There are a number of open tasks available, ranging from serving as a docent to developing exhibits, awaiting someone to take them on. Drop Don an E-mail (ddavis@itol.com) if you want to learn more about these opportunities. The more people get involved, the faster we can build the "future" museum.

Ron Mason developed the "Tunnel Diorama" which has been installed as part of the "Transcontinental RR" display. We are now experimenting with the interpretive labels to help the visitor understand what he sees. Ron also contributed a "date nail" which fits well into the "rail" exhibit providing some additional interest. Steve Disbrow added a flue pipe to the caboose stove thereby increasing its' appeal. Dale Fowler, Michael Holley, and Don Davis are working with a local "Ham" operator to make a realistic looking yet functional antenna for the roof. It will improve the performance of the scanner and add some "bling" to the outside of the caboose. Lastly Jim Hood is taking advantage of the museum being closed to complete the "roomette" display.

The museum had several issues develop over the winter requiring attention. The "Dutch" front door, didn't survive the snow, a snowplow scraped the North bay and many of the deck boards warped and broke their attaching screws. Buffalo Cano replaced the door, and Steve Disbrow painted it and the snowplow scrapes. Don Davis has refastened or replaced the loose and warped deck boards on the front deck and ADA ramp

Of course, the success of the summer is largely the result of the efforts of our docents. Since July, there have been 141 hours on weekends and holidays worked by Ignacio Cortez, Don Davis, Don Cloclough, Steve Disbrow, Jerry Blackwill, Ron Mason, Paul Daly, and Fred Van Tatenhove. The seven highly attended Truckee Thursday events have added 112 hours worked by Dan Pearson, Don Davis, Ron Mason, Ignacio Cortez, Jerry Blackwill, Barbara Czerwinski, and Jim Hood. These events require a minimum of three docents each to cover the longer shifts and higher traffic.

Presidents report continued from page 1

We now face the task for which the Truckee Donner Railroad Society was formed, to build a permanent museum that can be a chronicle of our History. Our objective is to tell those stories in an entertaining and informative manner using interactive displays and the latest in museum technology. The Railroad is intertwined with just about every aspect of our area and indeed, Truckee would probably not exist today if it were not for the Railroad. The building of the Museum will be a multi-year process and we encourage every member of the Truckee Donner Railroad Society to become involved in the planning, promotion and building of the Museum.

Parade float continued from page 1

One hundred fifty years ago a civil engineer named Theodore Judah convinced four Sacramento store owners they should invest in a transcontinental railroad. A grocery store owner – Leland Stanford, a couple of hardware store owners – Collis Huntington and Mark Hopkins and a dry goods store owner - Charles Crocker intended to use their profits from selling goods to the gold miners to start a railroad. So on June 28, 1861 Judah and the big four met together and incorporated the Central Pacific Railroad.

The Railroad Society celebrated this event with a float in Truckee's 4th of July parade. Judah stood with a map of the proposed railroad while the "Big Four" sat in majestic splendor as the float wound its way down the parade route. In the cab was engineer Carey Hood and fireman (firewoman?) Kay Blackwill. Many thanks to Don Davis for picking up the ball and putting the float together after two of his compatriots fled the continent. His wife - Nancy Davis did a great job of lettering the banners. Thanks also to Steve Disbrow and Bob and Patty Bell for their support and assistance.

This is the first of our 150 year anniversary celebrations of the events leading up to the completion of the Central Pacific Railroad. Each year we will observe the progress of the railroad 150 years ago. Next year's event is Lincoln signing the Railroad Act of 1862. These efforts will continue as we develop plans and construct the permanent railroad museum.

Welcome to New TDRS Members

T. Craig Brinkman,	Reno,	NV
Richard & Dolores Orsi,	Fremont,	CA
Tom Combs,	Truckee,	CA
Ignacio Cortez,	Truckee,	CA
Mark & Judith Janowicz,	Moraga,	CA
Paul Harr,	Brea,	CA
Eric Johnson,	Belvedere,	CA
Moises & Sallie Jaurequi, Jr.,	Folsom,	CA

We are on Facebook!

Please feel free to post your train photos, stories, and announcements on our Facebook website. We're at the Facebook page "Truckee Railroad Museum."

Truckee Donner Railroad Society

Society Mission:

To preserve, interpret, and educate the public about rail-roading 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.

Board of Directors:

Jim Hood—President

Bob Bell—Vice President/
Treasurer

Ed Czerwinski—Secretary

Nelson Van Gundy —
Historian

Jerry Blackwill

Don Clukey

Don Davis

Steve Disbrow

Ted Owens

Truckee Donner Railroad Society
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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 the blasting of black powder in the granite over Donner Lake, to the hissing of the first steam coming in to 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 Enjoy
- ◆ A place to Interact

Current Projects Seeking Support

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