Note from the editors...

- Paul Finnegan

Greetings – I have joined Matt Elems in the role of *Train Sheet* editors for the Feather River Rail Society. Matt and Eugene Vicknair have helped me get up to speed by providing the files and insight into how the *Train Sheet* is put together behind the scenes. Matt has been wearing several hats at the museum, so I hope my joining him as co-editor of the *Train Sheet* will help Matt focus on his other museum responsibilities, including his role as a director of the society.

I hope to leverage the synergy between my roles as webmaster and *Train Sheet* co-editor to keep the membership informed about the activities and needs of the museum and the society.

I look forward to working together in the spirit of the *Willing People*.

Due to a publication issue, this article was not published in a timely manner...

Museum Web Page Update - April 26, 2018

- Paul Finnegan

John Bartel from Sacramento TV station abc10 came to the museum on February 16 and did another video shoot, this time about the SPMW 208 rotary snowplow. Greg Elems managed the photo team the day of the shoot and sent me a nice selection of photos from the event. I created a new photo gallery for them so you can see them on the WPRM Photo & Video Gallery on the "About Us" pull-down menu.

After the new abc10, KXTV, video aired I posted a copy of it on our WPRM Photo & Video Gallery page. It includes video from the February shoot, historical film footage and video of the SPMW 208 throwing snow at Portola in 2008.

A new set of web-based tools have been created to help the Edenwold coordinator manage volunteer lodging at the museum. New

information has been added to the Sleeper Reservation page on the Members pull-down menu to clarify lodging policies at the museum. A major new feature is an auto-updating Lodging Availability page that shows which quarters are Vacant/Occupied/Out-of-Service by date. Additionally, a secure web based tool has been created that allows the Edenwold coordinator to update the lodging database real time. If you plan to come volunteer at the museum and want to use our lodging facilities, please take a look at these expanded tools.

Recently, Headlight issue #50 published. Peter Arnold and I have been working on the Western Pacific Headlight Master Index web page on the Museum Historical/Archive Department web page. We now have all the issues, 1 to 50 indexed with 661 topics and 2,505 index entries. Having completed the first pass, we now plan to go back through the issues and see if there are additional items that should be indexed. I found the index very useful in creating the audio tour (highlighted in a separate article) this spring.

Due to a publication issue, this article was not published in a timely manner...

Museum Web Page Update - June 29, 2018

- Paul Finnegan

The 2018 Western Pacific Railroad Historical Convention is now history, but material from it is on the convention web page. The convention page is under the "History of the FRRS" section on the Historical/Archive Department home page. Additionally a page with photos from the convention and activities (including layout visits) is available at the same location as "Memories from the 2018 Western Pacific Railroad Historical Convention."

I have continued work on the new audio tour project for the museum. I have re-recorded all of the audio clips with better equipment so the sound quality is very much improved. There are now 102 items on the audio tour.

Work has continued on the Western Pacific HEADLIGHT master index. All 50 issues are now

included in the index. The master index is location on the Historical/Archive Department home page under "FRRS Publications."

After the convention and the "Light the Fire" dinner were completed, I made significant changes to the home page for the 2018 season. Kerry Cochran had requested I add a prominent link to the Historical/Archive Department home page on the society home page. I used the same photograph as in the page header on the Historical/Archive Department home page for the link, with the caption "Visit the Historical/Archive Department...." Since adding this link, the number of visits to the Historical/Archive Department home page has increased.

Another major change I made to the home page was to create JavaScript code that will randomly pick a photo from a list to display each time the page is loaded. A returning visitor will likely see a different photo each time they load the page. Greg Elems sent me some outstanding recent photographs from around the museum that I combined with some of my own photographs to populate the list. If the user clicks on the photo, they get a full screen, high resolution, image of the photo. There also is a link to a gallery dedicated to these "cover" photographs so a user can see all the photos in one place.

As part of the Members' Meeting and Dinner event on June 2nd, the Model-T motorcar, M23, was re-dedicated and put back into service. A video was produced about the M23 project and is available on the "WPRM Photo & Video Gallery" on the "About-Us" pull-down menu.

Kerry Cochran requested that we create a special photo gallery "Around the Museum 2018" to highlight the events and people who make the museum work on a day-to-day basis. Using photos from Kerry, Greg Elems, Robbie Campbell and myself, I have put a new gallery together. I plan to add photos to it over the rest of 2018. We will still have dedicated galleries for the big events like RR Days, Pumpkin Trains and Santa Trains. If you have photos you would like to contribute to the gallery, please send them to me.

Museum Web Page Update - August 29, 2018
- Paul Finnegan

Since my last Train Sheet article, I have continued work on the new audio tour project for the museum. I have re-recorded all of the audio clips with better equipment and the sound quality is very much improved. There are now 102 items on the tour. After talking with visitors at the museum and other members of the society, I have decided to re-brand this project as the "Museum Tour" rather than the previously used "Audio Tour" name. Eugene Vicknair has begun making magnetic QR code signs that will be placed on the equipment. This will allow users that have a QR code reader on their mobile device to easily access the associated tour item.

RR Days 2018 is now history. I created a news item on the News Archive page, under the News pull-down menu that was used to promote the event. I also created a photo gallery on the WPRM Photo & Video Gallery page on the About Us pull-down menu. The gallery contains photos from the event and the yard movements to prepare for the event. Several members contributed to the gallery. If you have photos from this, or other FRRS/WPRM events that you would like to share, please send them to me.

On the technical side of the website, this summer we implemented Secure Socket Layer (SSL) encryption for the wplives.org site. The most visible difference is the URL displayed in a user's browser address bar will now be https:// rather than http://. The primary motivation for this change was many common browsers started to report non-SSL websites are not secure. I was concerned these warning messages may scare away visitors to our website.

Even though we don't handle credit card information, some of our crew and volunteer signup tools do collect personal information (such as names, email addresses, phone numbers, etc.). Now that we use SSL, a malicious user will not be able to intercept this type of information.