

weekend in Portola with highs in the upper 90's. We had good attendance at the museum over the weekend. We all survived the heat.

Steve Lee was not at the museum this time around; Steve is in Hartford Connecticut accepting on behalf of the museum an award presented by the Heritage Rail Alliance for our completion of getting the WP 165 back in Service. Steve will be out in October for the pumpkin trains.

We will be running the engine again for the Pumpkin Trains the weekend of October 22nd and 23rd.

I hope everyone has a great fall and I look forward to seeing many of you at the museum in October. Till next time, full steam ahead.



W 165 on three rail with the museum's demonstration caboose train on July 3rd, 2022.

- Photo by Kerry Cochran

Seneca Healthcare Donates Boxcar WP 56059 / WP 61180 to WPRM

Those who have been to Seneca Healthcare District in Chester may have noticed the old train car that had been sitting in the back parking lot since the 70s and used for storage. With it no longer being needed and recognizing it had "a history", Seneca recently donated it to the WPRM.

The car was built and delivered to Western Pacific in December 1957 in the 56001-57000 series by Pacific Car and Foundry. The car was delivered in the mineral red, yellow and orange "Rides Like a Feather" scheme. It had the 8-foot 2-inch wide PC&F plug door and 50-ton Barber S-2 roller bearing trucks. In October and November 1972, it was sent back to PC&F for re-manufacture, it came back with new 10-foot 6-inch plug doors to effect larger loading.

The car's first road number was WP 56059. After the rebuild in 1972, it was renumbered as WP 61180 as most of the Western Pacific cars were when returned to the carrier. It apparently derailed in Chester at Collins Pines on its first revenue run. WP then probably refused to take it back after it was on the ground. Collins Pines had no use for the boxcar, so they donated it to the hospital in Chester. It sat on the hospital grounds and was used for storage for almost 50 years. On June 23rd 2022, it was loaded on a lowboy trailer by Bragg Crane and moved to the museum. Once at the museum, it was set on a set of trucks and rolled to its new spot on one rail. It will be used for archive storage after some repairs are made.

This car is different from others in our collection and is set up with shelves and power. The car has a man door that was added at some time while at the hospital for easy access. The plan is to use it as an additional archive storage facility in the near future.

The car has been restencilled on both sides of the car to the WP 61180 car number by Greg Elems.