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INSIDE THE

OC&E

Recording Our History

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If you are older than, say 25, you probably have experienced a big change in the way we think about saving information. It wasn't too long ago that those interested in preserving history might write a book or publish a paper in a journal or magazine. When photographs were taken, the date, subject, and even the type of film might be recorded and saved in an archive so that those in future generations would know who those people were and what the significance of the photo was.

In the 21st century, the Internet and other technologies have spoiled us. Non-verbal communications are usually by email or "text messages," not formal letters. Our cameras record the date a photograph was taken (but not who is in it). Information on activities is routinely posted on social media like Facebook.

Does this eliminate the need for organizations such as our museum to document history and keep records of the past?

Absolutely not. Maybe more than ever, information that you want to be available for future generations still has to be cataloged and stored in an archival manner for those needing it.

When Dave Trussell founded the museum, he presented it with many railroad artifacts from his personal collection. He knew the significance of every item, and as long as he was present at the museum, there was no real urgency for anyone else to learn the story of those items.

Besides the artifacts within the museum, Dave's knowledge of how and why he started the museum project would also need to be documented. For instance, why did he model the railroad after the Oregon, California and Eastern? Many of us who know of Dave's interests do understand, but would those volunteering in 25 years have that same understanding?

About two years ago, the editor of this newsletter tried to get Dave to write some of these things down. That didn't work; responding to questions takes a lot of effort, writing down those answers in a methodical way is especially tedious.



Video Cataloging is hard work at the CMRM. Dave Trussell is describing the history of an artifact to museum Curator Susan Kuznik, while volunteer museum videographer Bill Rogers films. Bill and Susan are creating a video archive for the museum's collections.

When Dave moved 1,660 miles east to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the urgency changed. While he had planned to be back periodically to visit, the museum staff realized it would be hard to casually pull all that information out of his head; a formal plan was needed.

So between Museum Director Michelle Kempema, Museum Curator Susan Kuznik, and videographer Bill Rogers, they proposed a plan consisting of a series of interviews with Dave and Dave's wife Micke, and Bill would videotape those sessions.

During Dave's visit in early June, several interview sessions will be held. For those museum volunteers and supporters who have had questions about why something in the museum is the way it is, this is your time to ask. Send those questions to Susan@cmrm.org.

Museum Collections Stewardship

By Susan Kuznik

Please allow me to introduce myself: my name is Susan Kuznik and I am the CMRM Curator. Over the past six months I have worked with Dave and Micke Trussell, Michelle Kempema, and videographer Bill Rogers to inventory our artifact collection. Our goal was to inventory, gather background, and value all of the artifacts currently on display in the museum. We were able to do this and more, as we were able to include many artifacts we have in storage. To date, we have over 1500 items inventoried but there are still hundreds more to complete.

The project had a dual purpose: to secure the proper insurance coverage of our museum and to begin the catalog process for our artifact collection. It also highlighted the need for an official museum collections policy for our artifacts.

Having the title of “museum,” rather than a club or private collection, brings with it a higher level of responsibility to the public. Yes, we have an amazing model railroad layout and dozens of policies to dictate its care, display, and operations. But what about our artifacts? We are also stewards of our artifact collection and as such we must work to manage that collection as well as make it accessible to the public.

So how do we acquire, track, maintain, and display our artifacts? What should be included in our collection? More-

over, how do we ensure we are being ethical and legal in our actions? A museum collections policy is the answer. This document defines the scope of our artifact collection and helps us make decisions that fall in line with our mission statement.

My goal this year is to implement our first museum collections policy. This will be a living document capable of growing with the museum’s needs and purpose.



CMRM Curator Susan Kuznik (foreground) and UNC Intern Emily Gallagher catalog the O scale model trains in the display case on the second level of the museum.

We have taken the first step towards this goal by requiring the donated items form to be included with all items donated to the museum. We are very fortunate to receive artifacts, rolling stock, books, magazines, and other items every week. Items that come in will fall under one of four categories, artifacts & archives, library, education, or sale.

However, we needed a way to track these items as they flow through our acquisition process. The CMRM “Donated Items Form” does this

for us. It gives us an inventory of the donation, background, and contact information if further questions arise. It also provides legal documentation that the items now belong to the museum. It may seem like a small step to some, but to me it makes a world of difference in how I do my job.

Thank you to the Trussells, our volunteers, and of course, to our donors for making all of our collections world-class!

This summer we will invite Dave Trussell to describe the design of the OC&E model railroad, and we would like the volunteers and museum supporters to help us create a list of questions like:

1. Do you have a scene or building that you have questions about or would like to learn its history?
2. Do you have questions about the scenery?
3. What is your favorite scene in the layout?
4. Are there any stories you have heard about the layout that you would like confirmed?
5. Do you know any stories about the planning and building of the layout that should be shared?

Please email any additional ideas or questions to Susan at Susan@cmrm.org

Who is on the CMRM Board?

Last month CMRM Board President Tim McMahon described the formation of the museum's Board of Directors. This month we will start the introductions of each member (in no particular order). In a future issue, we will continue with David Todd, Becky Sarfarik, and Tim McMahon.

LeeAnn Sterling

LeeAnn Sterling, originally from Springfield, Missouri, has spent the last 30+ years in Colorado. For 20 of those years, she has worked in tourism promotion for Colorado and the City of Greeley, and then spent 10 years in the private sector. LeeAnn, her husband Bill, and their seven children, love all that Colorado has to offer, and after all these years consider themselves adopted natives of the state.

LeeAnn has served as the Executive Director of the Greeley Convention & Visitors Bureau. During her time with the Greeley CVB she worked closely with the Colorado State Tourism Office and United Airlines. She has also fulfilled the following positions for the Greeley Chamber of Commerce: Director of Leadership Weld County, Director of FUNdraising, Events Director, and Director of Visit Greeley. LeeAnn and her husband built and operate a ten room B&B.

She feels being a volunteer is very important as it feeds the soul and is beneficial to others. Besides the museum, she also volunteers on the Leadership Board for the Weld County American Cancer Society. Her previous volunteer work included the Weld County United Way, Mother March of Dimes, Greeley Downtown Development Authority Marketing Committee, and Greeley Rotary Club.

Wayne Hansen Board Secretary

Wayne's two careers, one as an Air Force officer and the other as a Museum Director of two museums, have shaped his often-contradictory world view. The first taught him how to find centers of gravity in order to destroy what is held dear. The second taught him how to create, find, and preserve what is held dear.

Wayne is a graduate of Waldorf University, Augsburg College, the University of Northern Colorado, and the Air War College. His 30-year Air Force career sent him around the world and brought him to Cheyenne, Wyoming for three assignments where he developed deep community connections. After retirement, he became the Director of the Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum for ten years. He was also the founding CEO of the Cheyenne Depot Museum in the historic

Union Pacific Depot and served for seven years. He currently serves as an advisor to the Board of Directors to Tour Colorado.

He enjoys the hobby of railroading, both real and model, and enjoys volunteering at the museum every week. But he especially enjoys the visitor experience of Dave Trussell's creation. Wanting to contribute more than cab time, he joined the CMRM Board of Directors last September and was elected Secretary. He contributes the perspective of non-profit and museum experience, combined with a lifelong hobby in railroading.

Wayne is proud to be on the governing board of a solvent, thriving, popular cultural force in the community of Greeley. That is a great leaping off place to think about expanding youth programs, about enriching visitor experience, about finding more volunteers, about developing a professionally-trained staff, about understanding and properly caring for our collections, and some day, about expanding. The list is long. The future bright. He wants to be a part of this Colorado success story.

Joel Rothman Board Treasurer

Joel grew up in Greeley and graduated from Colorado State University. He spent 25 years as the CFO of a local trucking company. Joel also served as president of two local banks over a 10-year period and presently owns self-storage facilities in the area.

Joel has served on numerous boards over the years, including the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (8 years), Leadership Prayer Breakfast Committee (35 years), the United Way of Weld County for five years, including Campaign Chairman for one year, the North Colorado Medical Center Foundation (10 years).

Joel joined the board of the Colorado Model Railroad Museum in May 2009, serving as treasurer since its inception, and as a board member for the last three years.

He is excited about the future of the museum, as it is a strong, diverse, and committed board that is "all in." With expansion possibilities on the horizon, the CMRM will continue to provide a balanced experience for young and old alike that teaches railroad history and motivates and advances the hobby of model railroading.

Darwin Vander Pol

Although not a native, Darwin has called Loveland, Colorado home since 1979. He met his wife Carolyn while both were working at Hewlett-Packard. They have two sons, both still in the area, who support their dad in his love of model railroading. His modeling interests includes an obscure and downtrodden railroad in a far away place.

He has been interested in model trains his entire life, and he starting dabbling in it as a hobby after moving into their first rented home in Loveland. Through contacts at HP, he discovered the Northern Colorado Model Railroad Club, joined in 1984, and has been a member ever since. He has held several leadership positions in the club and recently completed his third term as President. Through NCMRC he met museum founder Dave Trussell, and became familiar with the museum during construction of the OC&E layout once the NCMRC began meeting in the museum.

As a modeler, he can appreciate the impact the Colorado Model Railroad Museum has on people and is honored to serve as a board member. He believes the future of the museum is unlimited in the way it brings enjoyment of this great hobby to many people in the area, and as we have seen, around the world.



COMING SOON!

To Colorado Model Railroad Museum



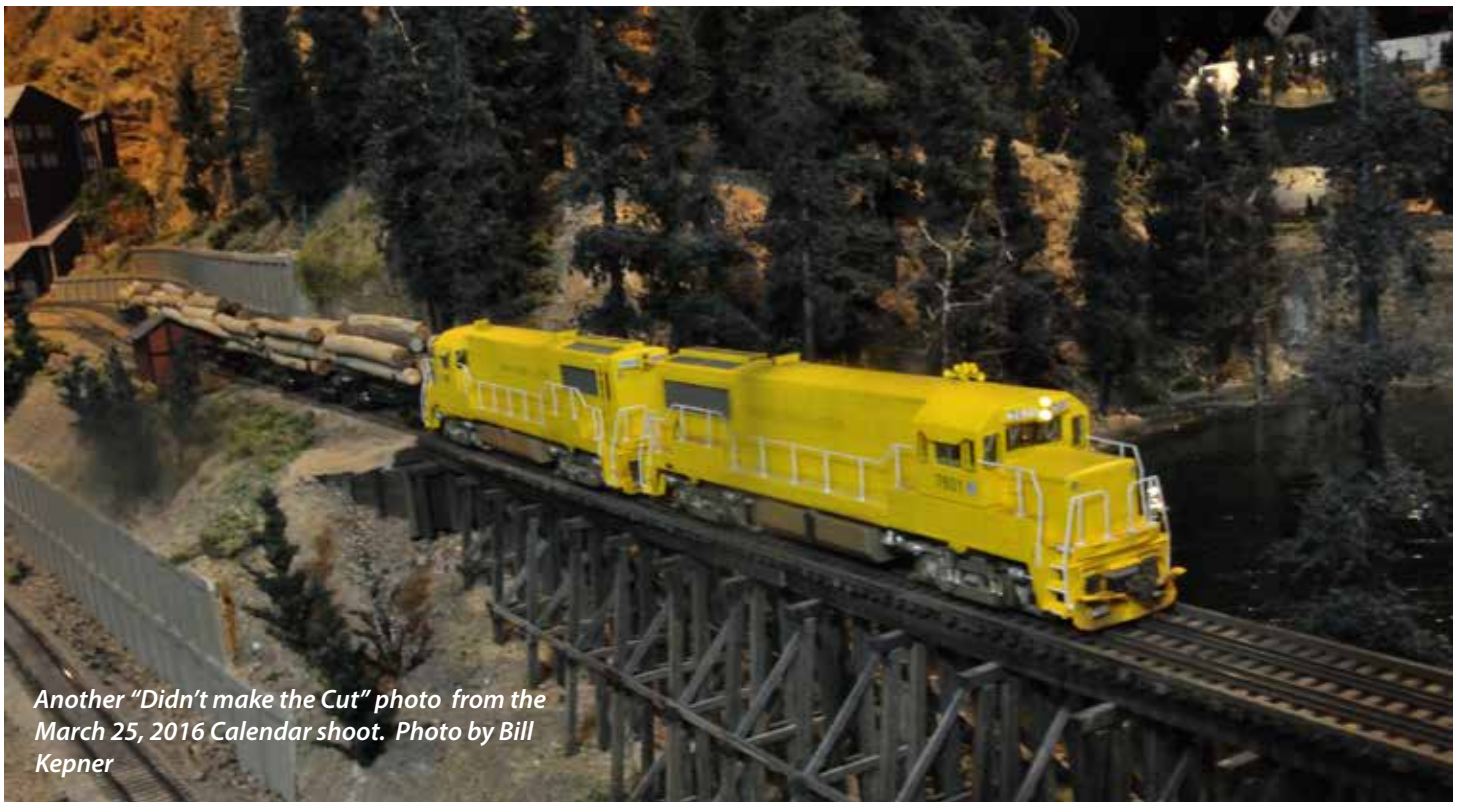
4TH ANNUAL

UNION PACIFIC DAYS

FRI. MAY 13TH: 10AM-4PM

SAT. MAY 14TH: 10AM-4PM

680 10TH ST., GREELEY, CO



Another "Didn't make the Cut" photo from the March 25, 2016 Calendar shoot. Photo by Bill Kepner

Dead Man Bridge Replaced

Photos by Gene Frank

In the January Issue of *Inside the OC&E*, we reported on a serious derailment near Quartz Summit that damaged the original truss bridge.

Planning was started immediately for replacing the bridge, but for some undisclosed reason, the crew kept putting it off. Other projects became higher priority and while all the materials were on-hand, it wasn't a project they wanted to start until they absolutely had to. Everybody knew that once the project was started, it would need to be completed before the next scheduled trains could be run.

On April 30, 2016, a routine inspection showed the bridge had deteriorated even further, and everybody decided it was time to close the line down and do the work at the close of business. All that was holding the bridge in place were the rails!

The crew wanted to keep the original rails in place, so they carefully disassembled the old bridge, leaving the track structure in place (photo 1). The new bridge was carefully measured and adjusted slightly, and then Darrel Ellis and Steve Palmer carefully fitted it in place (Photo 2).

Large weights were then placed on the track to simulate the deflection expected when a train crossed, and the whole thing was glued together (photo 3).

The project was completed within five hours of shutting the line down, which included a small amount of testing. The next morning the "Sunday Crew" prepared for the day's operations and had run several trains over the bridge before Steve Palmer could get in to check it. All was good.

The bridge was never formally named, but it spanned a modest ravine that has always borne the tantalizing moniker of "Dead Man Draw." A draw is what the locals call a "dry wash," and it can go for years without seeing a measurable amount of water.

Over time the bridge assumed that same name, less "draw." Hence, local log train crews have always made quick runs over "Dead Man" to load out #2 trying to avoid the ire of dispatchers (and Old Man Dobyns) if something went south, and they happened to tie up the mainline in the process. If a mainline train was delayed as a result, the perpetrator invariably was a "dead man" when he got back to K-Falls and was called on the carpet by the Old Man.

Why the draw was named Dead Man probably needs to be researched further. All the present locals know is that it has always been called that; maybe even before the railroad built its bridge.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

Artists Visit CMRM

The Greeley Art Association visited the museum on Monday evening, April 4th to gather inspiration for this “Train Air/Plane Air” event. The work created by these artists will be on display at the museum in the fall.



And a Mural is Painted

University of Northern Colorado art professor Lynn Cornelius approached the CMRM about use of the giant wall on the south warehouse for a *collaborations in art* project with New York street artist Alice Mizrachi.

The class visited the museum to learn about Greeley history and the CMRM. Then the class designed and painted the mural in 5 days. The mural represents creativity and inspiration. The stairs and rainbow represent the settlement and agriculture dreams of the 1868 Union Colonists and the hair of the dreaming woman represents the water story of Greeley. The child dreaming of model trains represents how imagination and creativity can bring about something as wonderful as the Colorado Model Railroad Museum. There are eleven dinosaurs hidden in the mural to complement the dinosaur hunt in the museum.

Right: On Friday, UNC artists descended on CMRM and started painting their mural on the south building.



Backdrops on the OC&E

Photos by William E. Botkin

Somewhere it has been written in the Model Railroad press “Don’t make your backdrops too detailed or they will take away from your modeling.”

Whoever made that statement hadn’t been to the Colorado Model Railroad Museum and seen the fantastic backdrops.

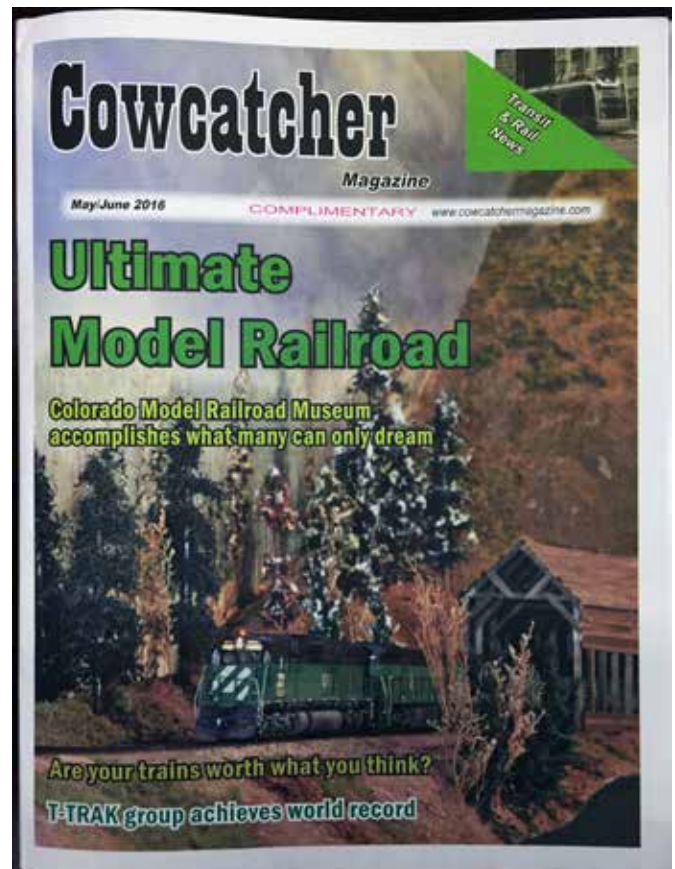
Painted by a local Greeley artist, Jo Kusi, the artwork is so well blended with the rest of the scenery it is sometimes hard to tell where the modeling stops and the backdrop starts. When asked how she was able to make it look so convincing, “Is she from Oregon?” Dave Trussell remarked that, “no, she used several photos of southern Oregon from railroad books I had in my collection.”



The OC&E on Another Cover

On March 3, 2016, Tim Blackwell, Editor and Publisher of *Cowcatcher Magazine*, visited the museum to gather materials for an article about the Colorado Model Railroad Museum, "Ultimate Model Railroad."

The magazine is available from their website at www.cowcatchermagazine.com or from the museum and several hobby shops in Colorado. Of all the articles that have previously been published in the model railroad press about the museum, this is perhaps the most informative.



April's Trivia Question

In the April issue of Inside the OC&E, we asked:

What significant railroad artifact from northern Colorado had previously found a new home within 5 miles of Dave Trussell's Lancaster County (PA) farm?



Bob Sobol was the first of many who responded.

The answer is the Great Western Railway 2-10-0 #90, which now operates on the Strasburg Railroad, very close to where Dave Trussell now lives. The #90 was the largest steam engine on the GW, arriving in 1924. It was used to haul sugar beets and other agricultural products between Loveland, Eaton, and Longmont. Its ten relatively small driving wheels spread out the locomotive's 106 tons so it could negotiate the 60 pound rail that the railroad used during this time.

The Strasburg Railroad purchased the locomotive in 1967 and has used it extensively over the years to pull tourist trains through the Amish country. A major overhaul was just completed, so expect it to be paired up with ex-N&W 470 on passenger (and sometimes freight) trains this summer.

Left: The #90 is resting outside the Strasburg engine house in 1968. The engine is never turned at Strasburg and always operates eastbound to Paradise, tender first. *Photo by W.C. Kepner*

A Marriage Proposal

On Saturday, April 22nd at 12:40 PM, as the 141 Railblazer train came out of the tunnel at Dairy headed for the high bridge, engineer Wayne Kosek began slowing the train for a very special duty.

Two years ago Andy Johnson, who works for Golf and Sports Solutions in LaSalle, chose the Colorado Model Railroad Museum as the location for his first date with Sara Gilliam of Sterling.

Over the years the museum became a favorite date spot, and they have visited many times. However, on this very special day Andy had a very important question to ask Sara, and there was ring on top of one of the Railblazer locomotives to go with it.

The train slowed to a stop, and Andy got down on one knee to ask Sara to be his wife. Luckily for him, she said yes! He retrieved the ring from the train, and the future is set. The wedding will be in June.

The museum would like to congratulate the happy couple on this momentous occasion!



New Video on YouTube

Bill Rogers has posted another great video at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwrnxwaj8cc&feature=youtu.be>

This is one of the Extreme Trains operated on the OC&E in April with 8 locomotives and 115 cars, all from the collection of Steve Watrous.

April Visitor Counts

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Week 1	345	306	383	256	425
Week 2	266	219	334	193	287
Week 3	361	336	193	422	159
Week 4	215	409	294	394	172
Totals	1187	1270	1204	1265	1043
Avg	297	318	301	316	261
YTD	5045	5423	4953	5114	4260

Inside the OC&E

Inside the OC&E is the official newsletter of the Colorado Model Railroad Museum. Its purpose is to communicate news and information to museum volunteers and others interested in the museum.

The June issue **PUBLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, June 1, at 5:00 PM.** Send submissions to drwg0579@comcast.net.

Bill Kepner, Editor.
Ed Hurtubis and Bob Owens, Associate Editors

Upcoming Museum Events

May 13 - 14: Union Pacific Days -All Union Pacific employees, current and retired, and widows of Union Pacific employees will be admitted without charge.

May 30: Summer hours begin

Michelle Kempema Nominated

Museum Director Michelle Kempema was nominated for Biz West magazine's Northern Colorado Woman of Distinction in the category of Exceptional Volunteer. Michelle was nominated by a group of her peers in the tourism industry who felt she goes above and beyond to create collaboration and excitement about tourism to Northern Colorado.



2017 is Coming Soon

