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INSIDE THE OC&E

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The State of the Museum February 2019

If you take a step back and consider what the museum is today and what it has been able to accomplish in almost ten years, the list is inspiring.

- The museum has been one of the premier visitor attractions in Northern Colorado, hosting 17,280 visitors in 2018 and is approaching 150,000 since the opening in 2009, generating an annual economic impact to the community of over \$1.25M.
- The museum provides educational programs to community youth programs such as Boy and Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, Innovation Schools, and other area museum groups. Since beginning the program in 2016, over 2000 students have participated.
- The museum is self-sufficient financially, with a formal balanced budget, and is instituting an investor development activity. More on this in the next issue.
- The museum is considered one of the top displays of its kind nationally and many hobby publications and internet references often recognized the museum as one of the best.



- Volunteers have contributed over 288,000 hours to initially construct the museum and its exhibits, to continuously enhance, and to operate throughout the years. The calculated in-kind value is \$6,099,731.
- The museum hosts one of the largest Department 56 collections in the country.
- The museum recently negotiated a lease with OmniTrax for the Great Western right-of-way to 13th street.
- The museum has 154 Members.
- The museum now has a paid staff of 5.
- The museum has been featured on four nationally published model railroad magazine covers in the last ten years.

As always, since Dave Trussell began his work on the museum, there are, and always will be, LOTS of opportunities for volunteers to participate! These are exciting times. Each challenge we face also represents an opportunity.

Our Mission Statement: To provide a model railroading experience that educates, inspires and brings joy to all ages.

Youth Program Update

By Norm Wolstein,
Youth Programs Committee Chairman

The CMRM Youth Program received the Littler Grant in late 2018 that has helped us to plan a very busy 2019. The grant was based on our mission to educate, inspire, and bring joy to the community. The Youth Program has a diverse program this year utilizing STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) programs.

To most of us, these activities are either extraordinarily fascinating and inspiring, or difficult to relate to. Our program is designed to utilize model trains and LEGO robotics because we believe curiosity, self-confidence, and creativity are significant drivers in getting kids excited about science. STEAM helps kids to understand the building blocks of life while giving them the tools to explore, question, and grow skills that can be applied in every field of work and play including model railroading.

Boy Scout Merit Badge

We kicked off our program by supporting the Fort Collins Merit Badge University, helping six boy scouts achieve their Railroading Merit Badge. The Railroading Merit Badge was introduced in 1952 and has been earned by more than 189,000 scouts. To earn the Railroading Merit Badge, Scouts must demonstrate a general knowledge of the railroad industry, train engineering and design, and an understanding of railway safety precautions. Some of the requirements include:

1. Explaining the purpose and formation of Amtrak.

2. Listing five safety precautions that help make trains safer for employees and passengers.
3. Building a model railroad car kit or a locomotive kit.

The students expressed their knowledge of the history of the



industry and finished the program by assembling a LEGO train and layout to complete the requirements.

Colorado First LEGO Jr.

The Youth Program also began the First LEGO League Jr. Program with four teams of kids as part of our support of after-school programs in Weld County. Two teams were formed at the Fred Tjardes School of Innovation in Greeley, and two teams were established at the Boys and Girls Club in Galeton, Colorado.

The teams will meet once per week for twelve weeks and show their completed project

at an EXPO in Fort Collins in April. LEGO League Jr. helps kids 6-10 focus on building early interest in STEM (STEAM) through a challenge using research, critical thinking, and imagination. Success in our modern society demands a comprehensive set of skills including STEM knowledge, digital literacy, leadership, teamwork, and strong problem-solving skills.

The Youth Program utilizes the LEGO *Inspire Mission to the Moon Program* to prepare them for the challenges and opportunities throughout their lives and careers. By providing resources for these after-school programs, the CMRM Youth Program hopes to reach many underserved students. The kids are learning about what it would take to live on the moon in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing that occurred in 1969.



Model Railroad Clinics

The Youth Program will also offer kids the opportunity to apply STEAM skills to build N-Trak modules beginning in March or April. We are looking for 6-8 kids that would like to learn to build N scale train modules. Clinics will be held on Saturdays once or twice a month. The goal is to have the kids build modules for a layout that will be shown at the NMRA Annual Model Train Show this July in Utah. If you are interested, please contact the museum for further information or contact the Youth Program Director, Norm Wolstein. Norm's email is Kidsntrains@gmail.com. The details are still being firmed up, but we know the kids will enjoy the clinics.

CoW LUG Continues their Magic



The Colorado-Wyoming LEGO User Group continues their partnership with CMRM. Following their Halloween and Christmas-themed displays, their latest work of art is a city display with a train running along the outside.



Grade school kids seem to flock to the LEGO displays and be mesmerized when they get into the museum; these boys (left) spent a good 10 minutes watching the train and just plain having fun, while their mother tried to get them to see



the other museum exhibits. Two-year old MaKenna (right) made a bee-line to the display the first time she came to the museum, even by-passing Santa Claus.

LEGO Days

February 2, 2019 was LEGO Day and it was a very popular event, with 283 visitors attending. This year featured a “make and take” assembly of a LEGO train engine and our “Creation Station” where the kids assembled flat cars with LEGO bricks and then ran them on the line.



Rebuilding Vintage Fairmont Weed Mower

Photos and text by Al Rodi

There it sat, for as long as I have been a motorcar operator, this old piece of railroad equipment had sat on a setoff of the D&RGW Creede Branch in South Fork, Colorado.



After talking with Don Shank, owner of the Creede Branch, I learned it was a Fairmont “sickle” mower. It was purchased by the railroad to be used to maintain the Right of Way, but it had fallen into disrepair. And there it sat, rusting in the weeds. Mr. Shank agreed that it was high time for some maintenance. So, I loaded it up and brought it home.

Initially, we had planned to just make it mechanically functional again, but as the project developed, it became a complete restoration. Using the S/N listed on the machine, I was able to obtain its “birth papers.” Turns out, it’s a model W54 series D weed mower built in 1942; sold to the Hampton and Branchville Railroad in 1944. A scarce piece of equipment indeed, we have yet to find another like it.



Starting with a mechanical review, I made a note of parts that needed to be repaired, replaced, or rebuilt. Turns out some “universal” parts (sickle sections, wear-plates, ledger plates,

and hold downs) were available off the shelf from the local implement supplier or hardware store. While replacement rock guards were no longer available, I was able to “rebuild” the best of the worst ones and replace the ledger plates. Motorcar parts (bearings, brake shoes, etc.) were usable for the cart portion while other parts were fabricated from scratch.

After tear down and cleaning, the frame was sent to sandblasting and powder coating. All the wood (floorboards, toolbox, and brake blocks) were replaced.

In September of 2018, I returned the mower to Don Shank and the Creede Branch. As a bonus, we were able to take it on a “test mow” using the Quicksilver as the tow vehicle. We mowed from South Fork toward Wagon Wheel Gap only being blocked by a large rock off to the side of the ROW just west of mile marker 309. It was nice to see a vintage piece of equipment work again and looking good doing it.



For those of you wondering, the large wheel is there to lift the cutting head over obstacles, grade crossing, switch point/frogs, etc.



The OC&E Hosts the Bush Funeral Train

By Randy Palmer

The Union Pacific Railroad ran a United States Presidential Funeral train for President George H. W. Bush, the 41st President of the United States of America on Thursday, December 6, 2018. The train carried the President and family from Spring, Texas, 70 miles to College Station, Texas, home of the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library. Thousands of people lined the tracks to pay their final respects to the Presi-

dent. Few people know that over ten years of planning went into creating the actual funeral train.

ber 18, 2005, at a ceremony at Texas A&M University campus near the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Texas.

The second locomotive was Union Pacific #9096, a SD70AH built in early 2018 that sported a clean standard UP paint job.



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A very special locomotive led the George H. W. Bush funeral train, and a set of equally beautifully restored Union Pacific passenger cars made up the train. Many of us in Colorado have ridden in these cars on the annual Cheyenne Frontier Days Train that ran from Denver to Cheyenne every July. These passenger cars really must be seen to be fully appreciated.

Train Locomotives

The lead locomotive was Union Pacific No. 4141, an SD70ACe beautifully painted in the colors of Air Force One, the USA Presidential airplane. The locomotive was unveiled on Octo-

Train Cars

You can download a PDF file from the Union Pacific website about all the cars in the Presidential train. There is one page per car with an interior/exterior photographs, a short write up, and a car floor plan diagram for the following cars in the train:

- **Power Cars 207 and 208, built by American Car & Foundry in 1949.**
- **Power Car 2066**
- **"City of Portland" Dome Diner Car No. 8008, built by American Car & Foundry in 1955.**
- **"City of San Francisco" Dome Lounge Car No. 9009, built**

by American Car & Foundry in 1955.

- “The Council Bluffs” Baggage Recreation Car No. 5769. This car is identified by the large painting of the United States Flag that covers over half the car. The doors on the car were replaced by plexiglass so the public could see President Bush's casket and Honor Guard.
- “Lone Star” Business Car No. 101, built by Pullman Standard as a coach in 1950.
- “Harriman” Dome Lounge Car No. 9004, was built by American Car & Foundry in 1955.
- “Overland” Diner Car No. 5015, built by St. Louis Car Company in 1949.
- “Portola” Deluxe Sleeper Car built by American Car & Foundry in 1949.
- “City of Denver” Diner Car built by St. Louis Car Company in 1959.
- “Walter Dean” Dome Lounge Car No. 9005, built by American Car & Foundry in 1955.
- “Kenefick” Business Car No. 99, built by Pullman in 1950.

United States Presidential Funeral Trains

Union Pacific’s web site, www.up.com, has some great reference files including one that has a short history of United States Presidential Funeral Trains. Search for “presidential funeral trains” for details on these other notable trains.

- President Abraham Lincoln; April 21, 1865, Washington D.C. to Springfield Illinois.
- President Ulysses Grant
- President James Garfield
- President William McKinley; September 16, 1901, Buffalo New York to Washington D.C.
- President Warren Harding – August 1923; Washington D.C. to Marion, Ohio.
- President Franklin Roosevelt – April 1945; Washington D.C. to Hyde Park, New York.
- President Dwight D. Eisenhower – April 1969; Washington to Kansas

George H.W. Bush Funeral Train at CMMR

Three different groups of museum volunteers arranged to run their representations of the Presidential Funeral train on the OC&E the weekend of December 7-9. Many visitors and volunteers recognized the funeral train and enjoyed seeing the trains.

Brent and Brian Milota ran their version of the train on that Friday. On Saturday, Gene Frank, Bob Pilk, and Randy Palmer put together a similar train. On Sunday, it was Richard Rineer’s turn.

Richard’s 4141 and all the cars but one were obtained from Caboose Hobbies in 2013. The tail car, The Cheyenne, was purchased from eBay.



UP 4141 on Tour

Since President George H. W. Bush's funeral in December, UP SD70ACe #4141 has been touring the system and put on display at some of the railroad's prominent locations. On Saturday, February 2, 2019, the railfans in Wyoming and



northern Colorado got word that 4141 (and 1943, The Spirit locomotive) were headed east through Wyoming, and would be passing through Cheyenne early that morning on the RVNP manifest train. They hoped that the train would be delayed so that it could be photographed in daylight as it climbed Archer Hill.

Unfortunately, the train ran on schedule and left Cheyenne in the dark.

The next location it would be on display was North Platte, Nebraska, only a short 240 miles from Greeley. As it turned out several railfans were able to make the trip. Mission Accomplished!

It is rumored that once the locomotive completes its tour, that it will be retired.

Left: Kirk Orndorff finally got a photo of the real 4141 at North Platte, Nebraska on Monday, February 4, 2019.

Community Volunteers Help the Museum

Recently several community organizations and businesses provided volunteers to the museum to help on internal projects.

On November 18, 2018, three volunteers from Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) spent the morning at CMRM helping Executive Director Michelle Kempema with several projects, one of which was preparing the Polar Express Trainsets to be sent out to local nursing homes for the holiday season. HPE has formalized a Global Day of Service program and encouraged employees to volunteer at local charitable organizations for the day. Not only were the employees paid their normal salaries that day, but HPE also provided the organizations they helped with a small monetary donation on top of the hours



Ted Simmons (left) and Jerry McKinney, unpack and test the Lionel Polar Express Trainsets in CMRM's south warehouse. Ted and Jerry are software engineers at HPE and will also help with the sorting of the Department 56 collectables. *Photo by Bill Kepner*

Recreating the Past

By Bill Kepner

While trains no longer run on the real OC&E, modelers can recreate history and make old photos come alive. I decided to try to reproduce this black and white photo,

and was happy how I was able to recreate the past. Unfortunately I didn't realize how much of the past I actually captured. Only on the OC&E!



OC&E Log train at Dairy. Photo from museum collection.



OC&E Log train on near Log Loadout #1. Photo by Bill Kepner.

Can You Believe It's Been 10 Years?

By Bill Kepner

I remember the first time I heard about the museum, I was at a Northern Colorado Model Railroad Club (NCMRC) meeting and somebody said that Dave Trussell had purchased land in downtown Greeley and intended to build a model railroad museum. I didn't know who Dave Trussell was, but my thought was "good luck with that." After all, there were a few museums in the state that featured a model railroad of some type, but always a secondary attraction. I couldn't image a museum dedicated to model railroading!

But as we all know, the layout was built, and the museum opened in May 2009; and the rest is history. I thought it would be neat to list some of the exciting things that have happened at the museum.

2009

- The museum's Grand Opening was May 26, 2009. There were 600 paying guests that first day.
- The NMRA Rocky Mountain Region held their convention in Greeley in conjunction with the museum opening, and there was also a Train Show at Island Grove Exhibition Hall.
- Through the summer, the museum was just open on Saturdays; but by the end of the year, we had over 10,755 visitors and 17,492 volunteer hours.

2010

- During the summer, the museum was now open Wednesday through Sunday.
- The PBS Show, *Tracks Ahead*, filmed one of their episodes at the museum.
- The museum's newsletter, *Inside the OC&E* is started.
- First calendars published.
- The Speeder Display that was next to the Dispatcher's Office was created by John Erdkamp.
- Union Pacific crews builds the track for our Speeder Display at the parking lot.
- The first run of OC&E Boxcars was offered for sale.
- The museum had a booth at the Denver Great Train Expo.
- We had 171 Active volunteers in 2010.
- Recorded 24,537 volunteer hours by the end of the year.
- The total attendance for 2011 was 11,151.

2011

- Our Executive Director, Michelle Kempema, starts (January).
- First visits to Bus Convention.
- Model of Caboose C&S 10583 available for purchase.
- Operation of Faller Car System starts.
- Partnership with University of Northern Colorado initiated.
- *Tracks Ahead* visits.
- Silly Saturday sessions start (personal equipment).



Volunteers, photo from April 2012

- First Star Wars Day, July 30.
- The museum participates in the NMRA RMR Convention.
- Now open Fridays year-round (after Labor Day).
- Almost 7000 visitors over the summer.
- Greeley Lights participation.
- Crystal Fire fundraiser.
- NASA Satellite Crashes onto OC&E.
- UP 844 stops at museum on October 29.
- First Santa Claus charms younger guests.
- 15,317 total visitors in 2011.

2012

- Museum hosts record 1,443 visitors in January.
- Museum Wins "People's Choice" for Christmas Trees.
- 100,000 volunteer hours reached (in April).
- Speeder Exhibit enhanced.
- New Docent Yard Construction starts.
- Museum hosts Boys and Girls Clubs (Feb 25).
- First Union Pacific Days (May 12).
- Second Generation "Docent Operations" program installed (June).
- 18,084 total visitors in 2012.



2013

- Leland Edie collection donated to museum.
- Colorado Life Magazine writes article on museum.
- Silly Saturdays start on regular basis.
- 17,775 total visitors in 2013.
- Murals on west outside wall using volunteers' likenesses.

2014

- Denver, Greeley, & Tahoe Railroad (modular layout) sold to Sherman Hill Club.
- 1st Senior Weekend (Aug 23-25).
- Pine Creek Staging Yard in operation (July).
- First Dinosaur Days (June).
- D&RGW 315 Replica acquired.
- Tracks Ahead comes back and films another show.
- Dave Cimbura retires as CMO.
- *Model Railroader Magazine* visits.
- Tracks Ahead visits again.
- Name Changed to Colorado Model Railroad Museum.
- 1st Holiday Festival of Trains.
- 17,275 Total visitor count in 2014.

2015

- Train Board built (April).
- Museum selected to represent Greeley Unexpected.
- Purchase of South Warehouse (July).
- CMRM hosts Rocky Op.
- Speeder MW01 runs on the Creede Branch (June).
- Bill Rogers starts shooting videos at the museum.
- OC&E on the cover of *Railroad Model Craftsman* (September.)
- Tigges Farm Partnership.
- CMRM float in Greeley Lights parade.
- 20,111 visitors in 2015.

2016

- 100,000 visitor milestone reached (January).
- UCCS Partnership.
- Recognition Board.
- Dinos, Superhero Day.
- Harry Potter Day.
- Night Trains with Santa.
- Trindad Benham Corporation donation.
- Mural painted on south warehouse (May).
- OC&E on cover of *Cowcatcher* magazine (May).
- Trussell Junction Dedication (August.)
- Caboose Hobbies Exhibit.
- Museum speeder on Leadville Colorado and Southern.
- 21,330 total visitors in 2016.

2017

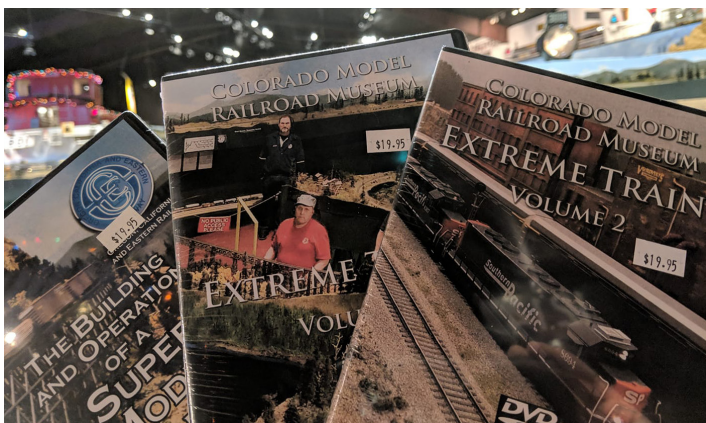
- Newsletter now quarterly.
- Tony Koester, Bob Brown, and NMRA President Charlie Getz visit CMRM.
- Youth Programs started.
- OC&E on NMRA Magazine cover (May).
- 2nd Hobo Stew (September).
- 16,939 total visitors in 2017.

2018

- New Mexico Rail RunNers builds N scale layout for CMRM.
- Department 56 Exhibit Unveiled (November).
- Website totally redesigned.
- 3rd annual Hobo Stew fundraiser (July).
- CMRM hosts Car Show.
- CMRM Supports the High Plains History Festival at Centennial Village.
- Partnership with Girl Scouts.
- The museum is awarded grant from the Community Foundation of Greeley and Weld County for the Youth Program.
- CoWLUG (Colorado & Wyoming LEGO Users Group) partnership started.
- Ken Patterson of *What's Neat in Model Railroading* incorporates CMRM into his show on a regular basis.



Volunteers and visitors, March 2014



Our new DVD/BluRay are available in our gift shop and online.

CMRM Gets Noticed

As noted in previous newsletters, the museum is now a regular feature on *What's Neat in Model Railroading*, a video magazine produced by Ken Patterson. Ken recently made a trip to Greeley to film several segments for different programs.

The February program has a 15-minute segment, where CMRM volunteer, Randy Palmer, describes how the museum's Docent Mode computer system runs trains automatically. There's also a run-by of a Union Pacific train by the museum, led by UP 1996, the Southern Pacific heritage unit.

You can see the video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLuF8XMF-vQ>



What are *What's Neat This Week* and *What's Neat in Model Railroading*?

Ken Patterson, a long-time model railroader from the St. Louis, MO area, actually publishes two regular video programs on YouTube.com. He calls *What's Neat This Week* a podcast, that usually features a panel of guests that discuss several topics on each show. Our own Michelle Kempema joins the cast every 3rd or 4th week using Skype to broadcast directly from the museum.

On a monthly basis, Ken also produces *What's Neat in*

Model Railroading in conjunction with *Model Railroad Hobbyist Magazine*. The format of this show is more formal and usually presents several segments on popular model railroading topics. He's featured CMRM two or three times over the last few months, and wants to do more in the future..

How do you find these videos? Since each YouTube video has a unique URL, the easiest way to find the current videos is to go to www.youtube.com, then search for "What's Neat in Model Railroading." Usually several different shows are listed, you'll have to figure out which is going to be most interesting.

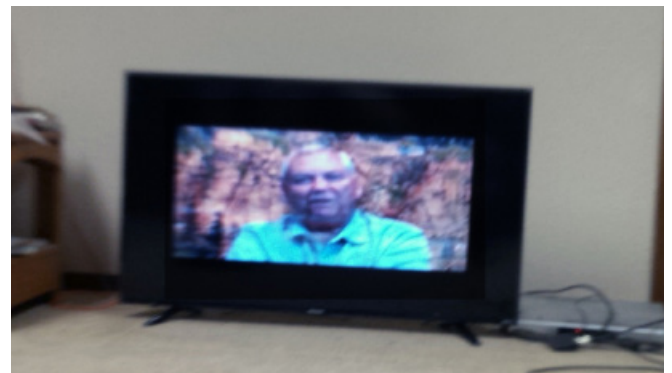
CMRM Competes with Tom Brady

By Bill Kepner

I'm not really a football fan, and this year's Super Bowl didn't seem very exciting to me. I spent most of it working on this newsletter, seemed like a productive way to spend the evening. But towards the end of the game, I decided to watch and see if the Rams could pull it out. I was manually stepping through the channels (we have Xfinity cable), and what do I find but Dave Trussell's image on the screen. It turns out there was a community/PBS documentary on the museum directly competing with the 4th quarter of the Super Bowl!

I sat and watched the rest of the documentary and felt the program was very well done. I found out afterwards it is a video by JL Video, produced by Jeff Lemke and is in the museum's gift shop.

BTW, who won the game?



CMRM Events

February 9: Love Our Caboose, National Historic Month
February 22-24: Extreme Trains

March 9: Scouts FREE Day
March 16: BNSF Day

April 6: Rio Grande Days
April 27: Disney Day with New Mexico Rail RunNers

May 25: 10th Anniversary

Donations

Union Colony Insurance
Elizabeth Lyster Eckles
Community Foundation, Greeley and Weld County
Carl & Joann Hill
Fidelity Charitable
Linda Winter, Accessories With A Flair & Hair
William Rogers & James Steinborn
Jerry & Sue Peppers
Susie Gallardo

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 Spring 2019 issue **PUBLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, March 1, 2019 at 5:00 PM.** Send submissions to **drgw0579@comcast.net.**

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

Volunteer Awards

500 Hours
Chuck Allen
Mike Morris

1500 Hours
Buzz Lenander
Steph Frank
Edward Sargent

2000 Hours
Luke Brendsel

3000 Hours
John Krueger
Bob Wandel
Kate Botkin

4000 hours
Bob Owens
Duane Fields
Jon Myers

