



# NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

2180 South Carson St.  
Carson City, NV 89701  
**775.687.6953**

**NEVADA**  
A WORLD WITHIN.  
A STATE APART.

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**FALL 2016**  
129th Edition

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## THE NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

An Agency of the Nevada  
Department of Tourism  
and Cultural Affairs

# SAGEBRUSH HEADLIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

## Restoration Shop Reproduces Historic V&T Coach Lamps

By *Chris deWitt*

NSRM was approached by The Virginia & Truckee Railroad Historical Society a couple years ago with an offer to fund something at NSRM of historic and/or restoration significance. After some discussion it was resolved that they would fund the reproduction of coach lamps for coaches #8 and #15. The work is to be performed in the NSRM restoration shop.

Both of these cars have lamps similar to that found in V&T #4. Each car requires two lamps. The lamps in coach #4 were reproduced in 1983 for that restoration by Shortline Enterprises. NSRM retained the tooling. The lamps were based on fragments of original lamps salvaged from the coaches #3 and #4 after they were purchased from the movie companies. The reproduction lamps in coach #4 were fitted with Aladdin burners. In the ensuing years NSRM received into collections an assortment of hardware from the auction of the V&T shops at the close of service by the V&T. This collection comprised mostly of brass hardware for passenger cars. Included were burner assemblies for lamps. These burners will be used in the current project. Threaded burner rings into which the burners will fit have been purchased from a lamps restoration company.

When Shortline reproduced the lamps there was discus-

sion regarding the shades and what they were or might have been. It was decided at that time to spin the shades from brass. This appears to be incorrect. It is currently thought that the shades were opal glass. A search of lamps in collections at NSRM has brought to light an opal glass shade which conveniently fits a shade ring on a lamp not otherwise associated with that shade. Reproduction shades have been found at a reasonable price. This expands the lamp project a little. The lamps in coach #4 will be reworked to accept the glass shades.

Spinnings are made from a flat disc of material, in this case brass. Hand cutting the many discs required is exceedingly tiring. NSRM received into collections a circle shear many years ago that can be used to cut the discs. The circle shear was pulled out, cleaned up, adjusted and put to work saving many a forearm.


All the spinnings except the shade ring are now finished. There are seven spinnings per lamp. Many are polished as of date and the assemblies have been soldered together.

Each lamp has four embossed legs. The square brass tubing comes from



Lamp produced in 1983 by Shortline Enterprises, and the moldings that will be used to make the castings for the new lamps.

England. Embossing of the legs was undertaken in the restoration shop. First the tubes were cut to length and then filled with a metal that melts at a little less than boiling water temperature. The legs were polished and run through the embossing rolls four times to emboss each side individually. Following embossing the legs were bent to shape in a fixture that ensures all the bends are the same. Immersion in boiling water then melts out the metal without compromising the polish.

Each lamp is made up of fifteen castings. These castings are made through the lost wax ensuring good detail. Original parts were rubber molded after which wax was injected to make one wax original for each casting. The casting process is currently in process. Following clean up and machine work the lamps will be assembled and installed. 

## VISIT THE MUSEUM

**Open 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Thursday through Monday**  
**(closed Tuesday & Wednesday)**

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

### Museum Admission:

Adults 18 & Over - \$6.00  
 Children (Under 18) - FREE  
 Museum Members - FREE

## STEAM TRAIN & MOTORCAR RIDES

Rides run every weekend May through September with select dates in October, November and December.

See complete 2016 operating schedule on our website at: [museums.nevadaculture.org/nsrmcc](http://museums.nevadaculture.org/nsrmcc)

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**NEVADA STATE  
 RAILROAD MUSEUM**  
 2180 South Carson Street  
 Carson City, NV 89701  
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## Message from the President of the Friends of the NSRM, Barry Simcoe

It has been an exciting year so far at the Museum. The Glenbrook, 25, Inyo, and the McKeen motor car all operated together on Memorial Day. The public loved it. Also, we added a new Steampunk & Trains event in June featuring rides with No. 25 and the McKeen Motor Car, a craft fair, food trucks, a Steampunk Fashion Show, and other fun activities. Steampunk & Trains was very successful and the Friends are going to make it a two-day event next year. In addition, we have Harvest Train on two weekends in October, and Santa Train for three weekends in December. A committee meets every other Friday to plan these events and I would like to invite anyone interested to attend and add their ideas.

Our annual board meeting this year will be Saturday evening October 15<sup>th</sup> which is the first Saturday of our Harvest Train event. I encourage all of you to attend. During this meeting we will review our accomplishments over the last year and discuss plans for the next year. I believe it's vital to have input from all areas of our volunteer population to have a successful volunteer organization.

I have met several times with Dan Thielen, the new Director at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. He is developing a long range master plan for the museum and it includes a significant partnership with the Friends of the NSRM. I'm excited and see nothing but great things ahead for this museum.

Thank all of you for all the time and effort you put into supporting the museum. It would not be the great place it is without your help. It has been a pleasure to serve as your President and I hope to continue in the future. Please feel free to contact me at any time by phone or e-mail if you have any ideas, questions, or concerns.

Email: [barrysimcoe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barrysimcoe@sbcglobal.net)  
 Phone: (775) 379-1353

*Thanks,*  
*Barry*



## NSRM Mourns the Loss of Beloved Volunteer, Ron Dunlop

By Bill Kohler



**Ronald James Dunlop**

**January 15, 1954 - September 19, 2016**

*(Photo Credit: Drongo Photo)*

The Nevada State Railroad Museum and the rest of the world lost a valuable friend when Ron Dunlop passed away unexpectedly on September 19. Ron was a long-time volunteer whose personable character and good heartedness will be remembered and missed.

Ron became active at the museum after signing up for the motorcar training class in 2006 and became a regular volunteer ever since. Eventually, Ron became a conductor on the steam crew and participated frequently during steam ups. He regularly made the long trip from his home in Southern California for museum events, often traveling through the night to be able to sandwich volunteering with work. His presence was always

accompanied by laughter and good cheer. Ron took it upon himself to share his considerable skills as a chef during museum events and his pulled pork, beans and coleslaw will be remembered by appreciative volunteers and friends. Often he would make the long trip just to cook for an event.

In addition to his interest in railroading, Ron was an active geocacher and loved participating in car rallies. He was a family oriented person who loved being with his children and grandchildren.

We will miss Ron dearly, and we extend our condolences to his wife Cindy and all of his family and friends. 🕯️

## *Congratulations and Farewell to John Walker!*

August 8<sup>th</sup> was John Walker's last day as the Store Manager at the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City. John moved on to become the Administrative Assistant at the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City. John is excited for the opportunity to work down south and contribute in a new environment. Thanks for all of your contributions to NSRM Carson City, John, and we look forward to working with you from Boulder City!

*Cheers to You, John!*



## **Mort Dolan Takes Over as Facility Supervisor**

The museum has hired a new Buildings and Grounds Facility Supervisor. Mort Dolan was appointed to the position in August 2016, taking the place of Brian Sheldon who retired on July 5. Mort worked in the restoration shop for several years as a restoration specialist. While he worked on many projects in the restoration shop, one of his favorites was the Edwards Car. Mort is excited to be the new Facility Supervisor and looks forward to contributing in a new role at the museum.

*Congratulations Mort!*

## The Last American: A Personal Odyssey *Rescue in the Rockies: Part 2*

By Daniel Markoff

Las Vegas resident Dan Markoff is a long-time member of Nevada's Board of Museums and History. This installment continues "The Last American; A Personal Odyssey," Dan's account of his involvement with the Eureka & Palisade narrow gauge locomotive No. 4 *Eureka*. Part I of this article appeared in the last issue of the *Sagebrush Headlight*.

The next morning as Eureka was getting ready to depart Silverton, Ron pulled Minko up behind our train. I got the high ball, and off we went on our way to Durango. It was a nice morning, but as usual in the Rockies, rain was not long in coming. We crossed the bridge over the Animas before heading down the canyon. The sky was overcast and it had been steadily drizzling. Visibility was not great, but it was good enough to see down the rails. After about a half hour we were winding among the canyon walls, when I happened to see a glint of light up the track in front of me. I wondered what that could

be and thought perhaps it was the sun hitting a piece of glass in the track. But, then it dawned on me that was impossible because of the overcast. I had better stop the train and take a look. As I climbed down from the

*"to my utter astonishment, there was a man lying on the track."*

cab and walked forward, to my utter astonishment, there was a man lying on the track. I rushed up to him and saw he was seriously injured. The rest of the crew came forward and we quickly determined



Eureka & Palisade Railroad locomotive No. 4 . crossing the Animas River

that this man was very seriously injured from a fall from a cliff above the railroad. He was starting to go into shock, but fortunately one of the guys on my crew was a paramedic. Also Theresa Bunker covered the man with a coat to try to keep the rain from chilling him and to make him as comfortable as possible. In the river, a bunch of kayakers were floating by. I called out to see if there was a doctor among them. There was not, but there was another paramedic with medical supplies. He came ashore and helped in the effort to ease the injured man's pain. In the meantime, we could see that this

person could not be moved without a backboard, but we had none and dared not move this poor guy. There was no way we could get him aboard Eureka's train. However, Minko was parked right behind us, and we thought of putting him on it and taking him back to Silverton. But Minko was far too small, had no springs and would have been far too rough of a ride. So Ron decided to run Minko back to Silverton and get help.

Sometime later, Minko returned with a much larger motor car from the D&S, a backboard and a couple of husky

*Continued at top of next page*



guys that could lift the injured man on the backboard into their motor car. They did so, and off they went to Silverton with the patient.

I later learned that the injured man had been taking pictures from the cliff above the tracks and slipped on the rain soaked rocks. He fell quite a distance and landed on the tracks. The glint of light I saw which made me stop Eureka was from a small LED light the injured man had. He signaled me with it. After he got back to Silverton he was taken to Durango by helicopter to the hospital, and he was then flown to Den-



Cab view of Eureka with a tender full of fuel

ver for surgery. It turned out that he had broken his back in 3 places from the reports I got. I guess he is OK today, but it was a very close call back then.

Following the clearing of the track and getting the victim on his way back to medical care, we resumed our southbound trip to Durango. We had a wonderful time doing run

bys for the passengers. Eventually we got to Tacoma and took the siding. There Ron and I posed with Minko and Eureka. At Rockwood Ron took Minko off the tracks and loaded it into his truck. We proceeded on to Durango. When we arrived in town, I was surprised to see several people waiting for us. Our passengers got off the

train and I walked forward to see what they wanted. It turned out to be the press. They wanted to know all about what happened up in the canyon and wanted pictures of us. We obliged them, and the next

day the story was front page news on the Durango Herald. Much to my amazement the story was picked up by Fox News, USA Today and other news outlets. Our rescue of the injured man made national news. Oh well, I guess it isn't every day

***"I guess it isn't every day that someone gets rescued by an old wood burning locomotive made in 1875 and a little motor car"***

that someone gets rescued by an old wood burning locomotive made in 1875 and a little motor car that my father insisted I get and Ron Bunker putting it back into service.

Such are the strange connections that all came together for an important mission in time that saved a man's life. 🚂



Dan Markoff, left, stands with EMT Alex Sharp at the Durango train depot. The two assisted an injured man who fell onto the tracks. (Photo Credit: Durango Herald)

## Harvest Train is Coming!

By Rebecca Bevans

The days are getting shorter, the temperatures are getting cooler, there is the smell of fall in the air, and pumpkin spice lattes are being sold in coffee shops once again. You all know what that means, it's time for the Harvest Train! The FNSRM and NSRM are hosting our 2nd Annual Harvest Train Event this October 15 -16th and 22nd - 23rd. The No. 25 Steam Train will be carrying happy passengers around the track. There will be a pumpkin patch where you can purchase perfect pumpkins for making jack-o'-lanterns for your Halloween celebrations. We will be hosting a craft fair that will

showcase local vendors selling hand-made items. There will also be a Scarecrow Art Show and Auction, with scarecrows made by children at a local elementary school. All the proceeds from the auction will go back to each classroom to help the teachers purchase supplies for their classrooms. We will have food trucks, Nevada Nosh and Taste of Chicago. Sassafras will be on site selling craft beers and house made sodas. We will also



Pumpkins being delivered for the Harvest Train Pumpkin Patch (2015)

be collecting nonperishable food items for a Food Drive. Please bring nonperishable food items for the food drive that will benefit the Advocates to End Domestic Violence. Donations will earn you a free raffle ticket! So come on down and celebrate fall with us at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Harvest Train Event at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. 🚂

## New Book Published, "Lake Tahoe's Rustic Architecture"

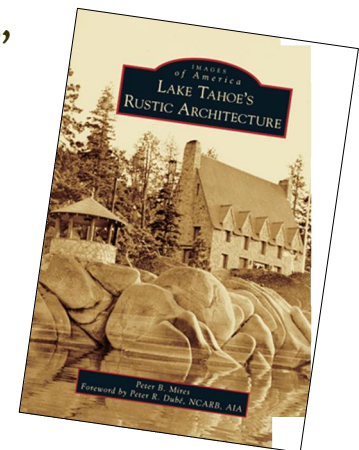
Written by NSRM Volunteer Peter Mires

From Arcadia Publishing

Lake Tahoe is the gem of the Sierra Nevada. Those who visit this beautiful Lake of the Sky+ may share Mark Twain's impression of the place as he camped on its shore in 1861: "As it lay there with the shadows of the mountains brilliantly photographed upon its still surface I thought it must surely be the fairest picture the whole earth affords." Twain's quote, from *Roughing It*, includes the trinity of Tahoe's landscape- sky, mountains, and lake- that people still find inspiring. This explains, in large part, why the man-made environment around the lake is predominantly rustic,

a style of architecture noted for its compatibility with its surroundings through the use of natural materials in construction- logs, stone, and wooden shingle- along with muted shades of green and brown. Through its homes, resorts, and other assorted buildings, Lake Tahoe remains the fairest picture.+

Peter B. Mires is a historical geographer whose interests include architecture and the cultural landscape. This book uses photographs from California and Nevada archives to present a comprehensive picture of Lake Tahoe's remarkable rustic architecture.



Lake Tahoe's Rustic Architecture+also features a foreword written by Peter R. Dubé who has practiced architecture in the Reno/Tahoe region for almost 30 years and serves on the Nevada State Board of Museums and History.

The book is now available in the museum store, come in and pick up your copy today! 🚂



## New Entry Sign Installed, Thanks to FHWA Grant

*By Peter Barton*

The Nevada State Railroad Museum recently completed the installation of a new entry sign, complete with an electronic message board that enables the museum to more effectively market museum events and happenings to the thousands of vehicles that pass the museum daily. The project, known as the %Gateway Improvement Project,+was inspired by visitor surveys that indicated over 50% of museum visitors had not specifically planned to visit the museum; rather, they became visitors when they saw the museum as they passed by.

Improving the %urb appeal+and first impression of the museum by simplifying and de-cluttering

the entry, along with the new moving sign came with a cost of just under \$100,000. Primary project funding was provided by NDOT through a Federal Highway transportation enhancement grant applied for and awarded a number of years ago. Local matching funds were provided through the museum's dedicated trust fund and approved by the Board of Museums and History. The Division of State Public Works provided project management, Sandral



Wendel and Associates served as lead designer.

In coming months look for more dynamic programming and changing messages on the sign to entice and welcome visitors. 🚂

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Cost per Person: **\$500**

(Your photographer rides FREE)

Museum Members: **\$450**

Contact: Adam Michalski

[amichalski@nevadaculture.org](mailto:amichalski@nevadaculture.org)

775.687.6953, Ext. 224



# "Your Hand on the Throttle"



- Santa Train! First Three Weekends in December!  
December, 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18
- Take a ride on the Santa Train featuring historic equipment from the Virginia & Truckee Railroad
- Visit with Santa Claus and receive a candy cane aboard the train
- Write a letter to Santa at the "Letters to Santa" table
- AND MUCH MORE!



- Nevada Day Weekend, October 28 & 29
- Mckeen Motor Car Rides
- Free Museum Admission



- Harvest Train, October 15 & 16, 22 & 23
- Steam Train Rides
- Pumpkin Patch
- Craft Vendors
- Food Trucks
- ...and more!

## Upcoming Events at the Nevada State Railroad Museum