



**Celebrating
Willow Creek's
48TH Year
1975 - 2023**

Inside this issue:

Ready for 2023!	2
Maintenance	3
Projects	4
Caboose	5
Engine Returns to WCRR	6
Alan's Observations	7
Bits & Pieces	8
Glimpse of History	9

The Willow Creek Gazette

Willow Creek Railroad Museum

Spring Edition

Memorial Day is the Grand Opening of the 2023 Season



Lots was accomplished. Bill & Chip replaced ties. Sara & Jenifer painted picnic tables. Phil installed metal siding. Frank had time to run his new engine.

And much more. The summer of 2023 will be packed with activities. All are invited to attend and help ... and have fun.

"Borrowed" Photos

The editor regrets that he has not always remembered to take pictures while on site. As a result some of your photographs may be shown without giving proper credit. Some times after "borrowing" the editor cannot remember who they were borrowed from. If you think you deserve credit, please notify the editor who will print an errata. (... if he remembers ...)

Mark's Photo ==>



Thank You Members — Your Help is Appreciated!



Rachel planted flowers and constructed rock borders on the flower beds.

Ashley plants flowers in the Memorial Garden.



Nate, Roy and Phil worked on the Granary/Fuel Building. Metal siding is being installed on the building.

James, Mark and Scott extended the Garden Track so longer trains could be stored in the Shifley Car Barn. Many others helped with lots of projects on the Willow Creek Memorial Day weekend.
THANK YOU ALL!



Spring Forward.... Maintenance is never ending. Thanks Members!



Trevor is shown mowing the grass. Dave has also done quite a bit of mowing.



The compost area was enlarged last fall. Now the leaves and grass clippings can be transformed to "black gold". No more trips to the "outback".

Dave picks up the remaining leaves with a borrowed leaf vacuum.

Josh picks up fir cones. (a never ending job...) While Mitch herds the remaining leaves with his blower.



More Projects

Last year the Chemeketa welding class built us another signal bridge for the south side tracks. Roy (Santiam Powder Coating) took care of the painting.... Or powdering....



Ernie is shown here removing the stump from the east side of the new roundhouse.



Then Ernie installed forms for the new location of the hydraulic pump for the roundhouse turntable/lift. Alan will also use a portion of the new addition some signal equipment.

The Caboose



Last November the caboose donated by the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society to Willow Creek Railroad Museum was installed. With the assistance of the Rick Franklin Corporation this heavy piece of railroad equipment was moved here.

Scott installed Christmas lights and decorations for the Holiday Sparkles drive by.



A temporary/permanent fence has been installed to limit public access until the restoration work is completed.



A Steam Engine Returns to Willow Creek

This picture is from a 2004 video posted by James. Nate is now the proud owner of the detailed piece of equipment. Nate said he had run this engine at about this time. With his attention to detail, it will soon be seen running here again. This picture is near the location of the present Willow Creek bridge. (many changes made since then)



Rumley will probably not be able to run the engine by himself until he completes his "engineer certification".



Alan's Pictures

TC is always asking for help with news articles. Alan observed the following.



Nate running Cyclops.



Phil installing metal siding.



Jeff Honeyman replacing batteries in the club locomotives.



The new signal bridge assembled and ready for placement.



Bill Dallas pressure washed all of the signal bridges, the bridge, the station concrete and the McCready carbarn roof (and maybe more).

Welcome a new addition to the Willow Creek family!



Congratulations to Roy and Jenissa Heaney-Tollefson on the addition of Hazel to the family. We hear that Helani is very excited to be the "big sister".



Beverage Container Refund Donations

Donations of beverage containers provided a significant supplemental income source for Willow Creek Railroad Museum.

You are encourage to continue to drop off your refundable container donations.



Donation\$

Remember you can contribute indirectly via your Fred Meyer and Amazon purchase\$... Sign up for their donation program\$. No additional co\$t to you and benefit\$ to Willow Creek.

Al\$o remember your can\$ and bottle\$ have made \$significant contributon\$ to Willow Creek.

Keep Willow Creek Green

THANK\$

A Glimpse of History



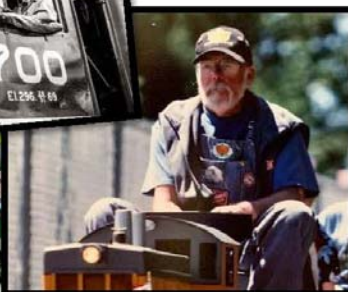
Heaven's Roundhouse: Garry Johnson

On March 24, 2023 WCRR lost a very dear person, **Garry Johnson**. A lot of people knew him as two "R's", POPS, or the guy who is always mowing the lawn.

He was the husband of Beverly, Father of Scott and Jeremy and the grandfather of Damien, Trevor, Nathaniel, and Aiden. He was probably the biggest fixture of the railroad. If there was one constant at WCRR it was POPS, for the last 40+ years putting in thousands of hours of work. If you ever showed up to the park and did not see Garry there, something wasn't right.

Over the years he loved seeing the park grow into what it is today. Making many friends and memories along the way. He watched many families grow on those grounds and witnessed a few weddings to boot.

The memory of Garry, like the lawn and flowers and trains he loved, will always be a part of Willow Creek Railroad.



The following is a message from Scott and Jeremy:

If it wasn't for dad's constant work, encouragement, and criticism. Willow Creek RR would not be what it is today. As hard as this was and how quickly it happened. He would not want us to sit around crying in our beers. If you listen real hard you can hear him saying "Hey! Why's everyone sitting around? Don't you know how much work we have to get done?"

In true POPS fashion "If your gonna do something, do it right".

*We have decided to pull off the best ever **Celebration of Life** at the park on July 8, 2023. More details to come.*

We want to make this a mini-steam-up, the more the merrier. This will be a weekend event. We need lots of train's, food, people and good memories. (and of course PBR). Please don't send us flowers, wait and plant them at the park on that day.

Write down some memories of Garry and bring them to the Celebration of Life to share with everyone.

Questions contact:
 Scott: lowrnu@comcast.net
 Jeremy: garagepimpin@msn.com