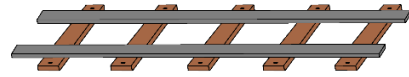


On Track



Vol 1, Number 2, November 2022

If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, welcome to the fold! We are in the process of cataloging our visitors logs for the last few years and your name and email appeared! If you wish to be taken off our list, just let us know, but we hope that you will stay with us, follow us on line, and return as a visitor sometime soon. Previous editions of this newsletter may be found on our website, 2926.us. If you have comments on the newsletter, please send them to nmslrhs@nmslrhs.org.

Current Status: We have received written permission from the City to work in the Railyards and to clean and inspect areas such as the turntable and other facilities for suitability to house the 2926. Members of the Board visited the area in question in preparation for letting a contract for turntable inspection by outside specialists.



Accomplishments: Completed and distributed first two editions of revised newsletter; completed a detailed survey of the Sawmill spur as a part of the determination of necessary upgrades; completed a draft version of an electrical manual for the locomotive. Recall that electricity was quite simple in the early days—just 32 volts from one dynamo to run lights. The system is now much more complex with several other systems and voltages. A major maintenance task was undertaken when the intrepid Marty Sanchez climbed into the boiler with a pressure washer to perform the annually required washdown.

Profile of a member: This month we recognize Dave Van de Valde. Dave is a native of Raton and a graduate in Mechanical Engineering from New Mexico State (an Aggie through and through!). He is also a registered Professional Engineer. Dave worked for EG&G for 22 ½ years, all of it spent supporting various national security projects at Sandia National Laboratories. He retired in 2010 and upgraded his work status by coming to work at the 2926. He is one of the most versatile members of our workforce—designing and building tools, developing CAD/CAM plans for machinery, equipment, and various aspects of the tool car; and providing welding services whenever and wherever required. Dave and wife, Helen, have two children and four grandchildren. His daughter and her husband run the largest private gym in the state down south in Las Cruces.



A short historical note: The year was 1878, and the Denver and Rio Grande (D&RG) and Santa Fe (AT&SF) railroads were competing to see who would capture the coveted prize of being the first to enter New Mexico over Raton Pass, thereby winning the rights to provide rail services to the Territory. On the night of February 27, 1878, D&RG had positioned their surveying and work crew in El Moro, a town they had constructed near Trinidad, offending both the residents of that town and “Uncle Dick” Wooten, the owner of the toll road over Raton Pass. While the D&RG workers got a good night’s sleep, AT&SF recruited laborers from hotels, bars, and a dance hall in Trinidad and went right to work in the wee hours, entering the Pass before the D&RG workers were aware of what they were doing. By offering Wooten \$50 a month, a store in Trinidad, and a lifetime pass for him and his wife, AT&SF was given exclusive rights to continue to build rails through the Pass. They continued to build, arriving in Albuquerque on April 10, 1880. Continuing south, they connected with the Southern Pacific a few miles west of Deming on March 8, 1881, where they completed the second transcontinental railroad by driving the Silver Spike.



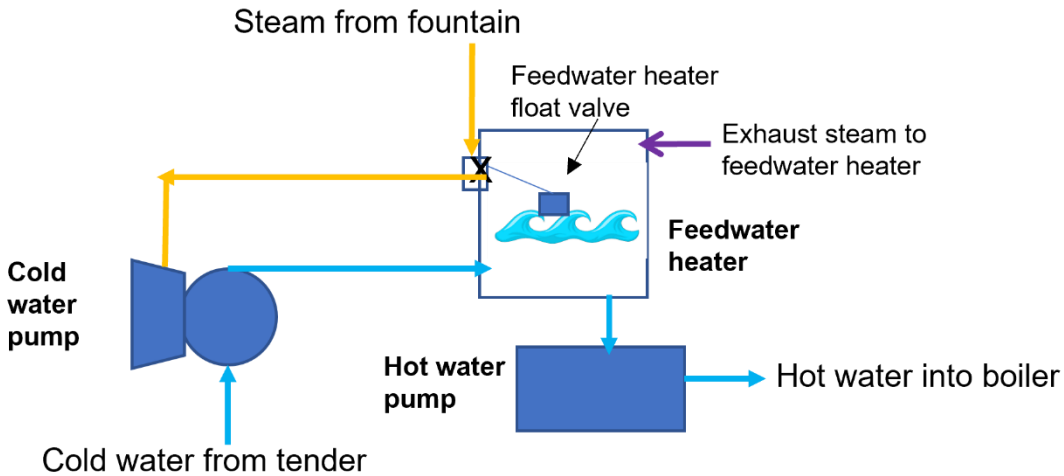
“Uncle Dick” Wooten

What’s new in the store? The store is restocking after our successful Open House. The holidays are almost upon us, so if you are in the area, consider coming by and grabbing something for that special someone--perhaps a T-shirt or mug or one of our spectacular books. Unfortunately, we are not yet in the mail order business (except for books), but we’d love to see you in person at the store.



How does it work? Water is a critical material in the operation of the steam locomotive. It not only provides the steam that drives the wheels, but at the same time, it keeps the firebox and other metal components cool enough to prevent overheating and potentially catastrophic damage. The 2926 has two redundant water supply systems. This month we will describe the Worthington system which is located on the fireman’s side of the locomotive. The Worthington system has four main components—a cold water pump located beneath the cab, a feedwater heater, located forward of the stack on top of the boiler, a hot water pump located on the engineer’s side of the boiler over the valve gear, and a float valve located inside the feedwater heater.

The feedwater heater receives steam from cylinder exhaust and cold water from the cold water pump. When the level of water in the feedwater heater rises to a preset level, the float valve closes off the steam that drives the cold water pump turbine. If the level of water drops below the set point, the float valve opens, allowing steam to drive the cold water pump turbine. The exhaust steam from the cylinders mixes with the cold water in the feedwater heater, preheating it. The hot water pump sucks the water from the feedwater heater and pumps it into the boiler.



What's new on the website (2926.us)? The first newsletter is now posted on the website as are new photographs from our latest work sessions.

Follow the money: Karla DeGroft, our financial conscience, reminds all of us that we must maintain completely transparent financial operations to retain our 501.3 (c) status. Please be careful about submitting receipts and spending money so that the annual audit can be conducted satisfactorily.

You might be interested to know that, even if no one shows up and turns a wrench, it costs us between \$4,000 and \$6,000 a month just to keep the gate open and the auditors at bay. This cost includes things like the port-a-pot rental, internet and phone hook-up, liability insurance, the annual audit, fire extinguisher servicing, etc.

If you are interested in donating to our cause, check the website!

Happy Turkey Day from your friends at the 2926!

