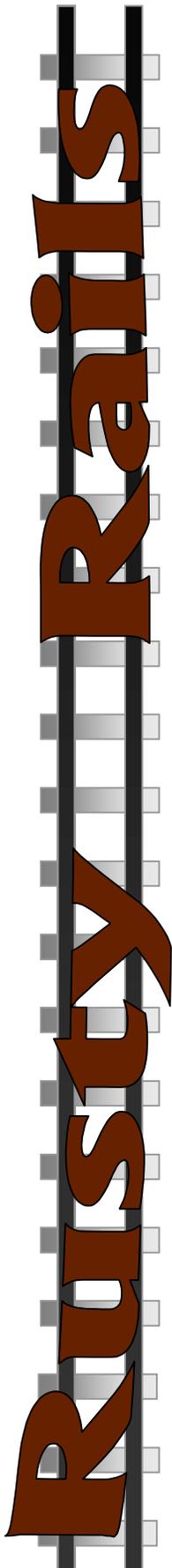


# Owens Valley Railway Company Newsletter

Volume I No. 3



## GRANT APPLICATION STATUS

Many of you have probably heard, or read in the local Inyo Register that our application for grant funding to build a rail line from Laws Museum to the Bishop City Park was denied. It was denied in part because of technical errors in the application, and in part, because the application did not meet the criteria under which it was submitted.

Well, we did not give up. A group of interested persons is working with some of the officers of the Owens Valley Railway Company on rewriting our draft application. The group and our officers are also working with Inyo County and Caltrans Officials to make certain all the wording and technicalities are correct and that the proper criteria will be addressed. OVRC representatives will be meeting with county officials very soon to review the revised and scaled back application to see if it is where we want it to be. If everything is up to par, the proposal will again go to the Board of Supervisors and the Local Transportation Commission for their approvals before being sent on to the Federal Highway Commission. The application will be re-submitted under the TEA-21 program, but apparently, other funding programs may be available if necessary.

## BRILL CAR RESTORATION

We have started riveting the new sheet metal on the sides of the car, have on hand much of the lumber we will need for the new floors, have most of the seat frames sandblasted and primed and many of the brake linkage parts sandblasted and ready for priming. In addition, numerous other small parts have been cleaned up and made ready for painting. We have had some trouble with the snap tools for the rivet guns breaking, but we are getting new tools made, and will be careful when heat-treating them to make them more serviceable. At present, because of other commitments incurred by most of the five or six regular volunteer workers, and the fact that to rivet efficiently we need at least four workers available, Project Leader Jim Pittman has temporarily suspended restoration work until August first. If you are available and want to

help, contact Jim at to find out when work will be scheduled at the barn.

## A BIT OF HISTORY

The Brill car is a 40-passenger motorcar built in 1927 by the J.G. Brill Company for the Death Valley Railroad. It was used by the Death Valley Railroad to promote tourist business in Death Valley. U.S. Potash Company purchased the motorcar in 1931, and moved it to Carlsbad, New Mexico, where the mining company used it for many years. Our car is one of four Model #55 Brill motorcars remaining in the United States, and the only narrow gauge (3ft. gauge) car in existence. The other three cars are standard gauge (4ft 8 ½ in.) and are in New York, Kentucky, and Connecticut. This unique car was donated to Laws R.R. Museum in 1967, thanks to the efforts of Dr. Horace Albright and the staff of Laws Museum. The Laws R.R. Museum, and the Owens Valley Railway Company are presently restoring this car under an ISTEA Grant.

## COMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars to attend the "Good Old Days" celebration at the Laws Museum on July 28. The Train Barn will be open for visitors and several of the OVRC members will be on hand to answer questions and show visitors around. If you can help out for an hour or two that evening let Jon Anderson, Jim Pittman, or Jim Morrow know your availability. There will also be lots of fun and games and craft demonstrations for the whole family to enjoy.

## MEMBERSHIPS

A reminder! If you have not renewed your membership for this year (to June 1, 2002), take a moment now to fill out the enclosed application and send it in with your check. If you have renewed, we thank you, and ask that you give the application form to a friend to join. Remember, the Owens Valley Railway Company is a non-profit corporation and your dues and donations are tax deductible.