

Greetings!

This is your Maintenance of Way Team update for May 25, 2014. Good news! We're up and running again and it's full speed! Now that we've been allocated space in the Erecting Shop, we have a place to work on equipment. So, let's open up the throttle and get this update going!

By Tuesday, arrangements had been made to move rolling stock stored in the Erecting Shop out of two bays so that the MOW Team can move in. Many thanks to Al DiPaolo and Don Shapiro for all their efforts in this regard. It's very much appreciated. Both bays have pits so we can work underneath the machines. In the evening, Alan Hardy, Heather Kearns, Frederick Carr, Cliff Hayes, Chris Carlson, Frank Werry, and Gene Peck were on hand to begin moving our rail-mounted equipment from the Boiler Shop over to the Erecting Shop. The big job was getting the tie-shear moved. It needed to be shifted laterally to another bay in the Boiler Shop that has track access to transfer table. With the overhead crane out of service, this proved a daunting task. After all, the tie-shear weighs 21,000 pounds. But, it was a challenge your MOW Team could handle. To release the brakes, we hooked up an external air-compressor to the shear. Then we rolled it out into the center aisle with a fork-lift. This is when the fun began. With Chris in the big gas-powered forklift and Gene on the electric, they began a synchronized fork-lift dance. Alan and Cliff conducted the machines' movements from the floor while Frank kept the air compressor moving with the machines. It was a symphony of machines – beautifully coordinated, that turned the rigid-framed tie shear 90 degrees twice. One might think that we actually know what we're doing. Meanwhile, Heather and Fred worked on the A-6 motorcar. Heather has been working on the A-6's electrical system for some time and she's done a great job. One turn of the key and it started right up. Congratulations to Heather for a job well done.

Thursday, Heather, Alan, and Frank gathered to continue the moves. With the bay in the Erecting Shop now clear, the A-6 was employed to tow the tie-shear to the other side. This was done with great alacrity along with the derrick-crane, the new-old tamper, and the pink ballast regulator (a.k.a. "USS SEA TIGER"). Everyone was quite pleased with the progress. Heather did exceptional work sweeping years of accumulated dirt and crud out from around our bay – a dirty job, indeed.

The pink box arrived bright and early Saturday morning for our first ever job-briefing in the Erecting Shop. Joshua Ilac, Alan, Frank, Clem Meier, Pam Tatro, Heather, and Chris made short work of the doughnuts. Our task for the day was tie disposal at Setzer into dumpster brought in earlier in the week. Now folks, for those of you who haven't joined us in a while, here's a financial incentive to come back. Work with the MOW Team and you can quit your gym membership. We promise a workout better than you can get in any gym – and doughnuts, too! What a deal! With Frank in the front-end loader and Chris on the Big Green Machine, we headed off to Setzer to dig into the dead tie pile and load them systematically in the dumpster. Chris and Frank dug into the pile grabbing what they could while Josh, Alan, Clem, Pam, and Heather stacked dead and broken ties for easier pick-up. Once dumped in the dumpster, the team had to arrange them some ordered fashion in order to maximize space. This was tough work – especially with the rising temperatures. But, we did it. By mid afternoon, we that dumpster full and well loaded. But the Team was spent and ready to call it a day. It was quite a workout. So back to the Shops we went proud of our great efforts. We've made a significant dent in "Dead Tie Mountain."

With regards to the future, we are back to running our **regular schedule of Tuesday and Thursday evenings** as well as all day Saturdays. Our new meeting place is the north end of the Erecting Shop. Please start parking at the north end of the building by the turntable. When you come up the road towards the Boiler Shop, turn left (north). Go past the area with the outdoor pits. Follow the road around and you'll see a turnout towards the turntable and the north end of the building. Park anywhere in the concrete area. To enter the building, walk down the west side to the open door at bay 10. Our space is to the left of bay 10. Just look for the pink submarine – er, the ballast regulator – in bay five. Please watch your step walking over to the open door. It is uneven ground through there especially around the turntable.

Tuesday, the team will meet as usual in the afternoon and evening. Thursday, 5 o'clock is the call time. Saturday, doughnuts will be waiting at 8 'clock a.m. We're going to be doing a demonstration as part of the Museum's "Open House" for prospective new docents. It should be fun. It's a new era for the MOW Team with our move into the Erecting Shop. It may take some adjustment. But, we will get there. Many thanks to all for your patience and understanding during this time.

See you out on the line,

Alan, Chris, and Richard.



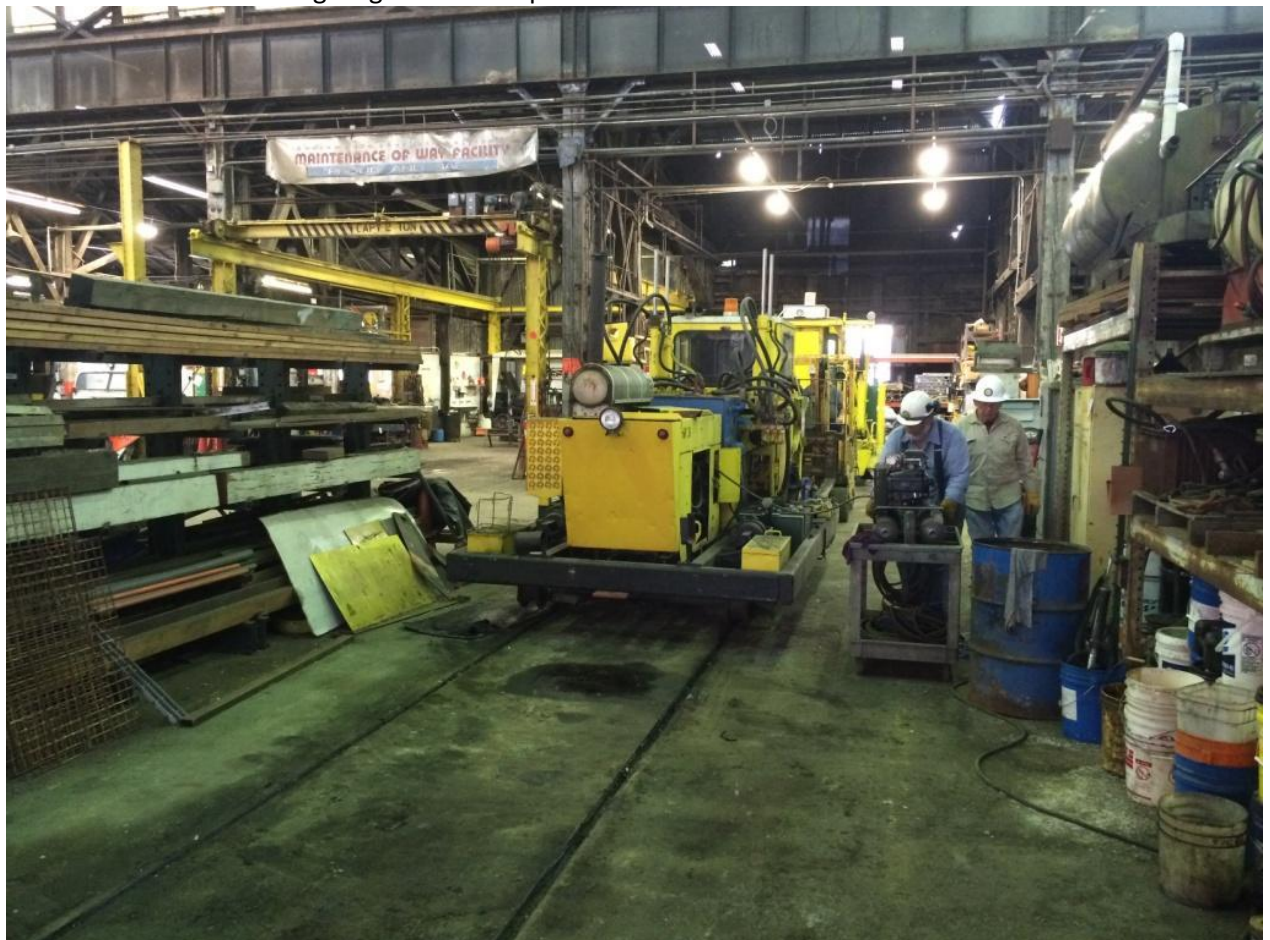
Gene moving the tie-shear out into the center aisle of the Boiler shop



Maestro Alan conducts the fork-lift symphony



Gene giving the shear a push around the corner and onto the rails



Now in a bay with transfer table access, Frank and Clem keep the air-supply rolling



Heather and Fred work on the A-6



It's moving day and the tie-shear moves in



Our very first job-briefing in our new home. From left: Chris, Josh, Pink Box, Clem, Frank, Pam, and Alan



Chris on Big Green shifts a stick of rail at Setzer



Frank in the loader while Clem, Alan, and Heather load small and broken pieces in the bucket.



Frank digs-in to the dead tie pile. Aren't big machines great?



Pam and Clem load the loader's bucket with smaller stuff



Now that's what I call an "all-terrain" fork-lift