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WHEELS Museum Summer 2022 Newsletter

Summer 2022 at WHEELS—Events, New Exhibits and Activities

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

WHEELS is becoming busier and more successful by the day. Visitors from all over the world are enjoying our exhibits and new displays. Several people have said they want to move to Albuquerque and help WHEELS. The volunteers are remarkable, kind, helpful and steady. The Sunday railyards market is busy and we have a booth there and send people to the museum from 10-2. We have had meetings with various community and neighborhood stakeholders to envision the potential for moving to the machine shop. **(Letter continued on page 6)**

Coming Attraction

A Return Afternoon of Classic Ragtime, Boogie Woogie and MORE with Adam Swanson

Sunday, July 31, 3-5 PM

Adam Swanson, Four-time World Champion Ragtime Piano Player is



returning to Albuquerque for a benefit show for the 26th anniversary of WHEELS on Sunday, July 31 from 3-5 P.M. (More on next page)

Coming Events, Attractions and Visitors

Adam Swanson Returns

Adam last appeared here in February 2020 to a sold-out house of 350 persons in the delighted audience. He has performed all over the world, including Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, The West Coast Jazz Festival, The Strater Hotel and Europe.

In addition to his wonderful piano playing, he includes stories, anecdotes and insights into the history of his unique American music.

His last appearance here was sold out well before the event, so please get your tickets by clicking [purchase](#)

Would you like to be a sponsor? Call Leba or Janet at (505) 243-6269.

Date: July 31, 2022

Time: 3-5 pm, doors open at 2:15 PM

Location: First Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle NE.

Cost: \$26 in advance, \$30 at the door

Exciting Raffle too!

Author Robert Wood will present on August 13, 2022, at 10 A.M.

Donation: \$5.00

The Postwar Transformation of Albuquerque, NM, 1945-1972

From the end of World War II to the closing months of 1972, as related in The Postwar Transformation of Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1945-1972 by author Robert Wood. The city underwent as dramatic a transformation as any American city ever has in such a short time.



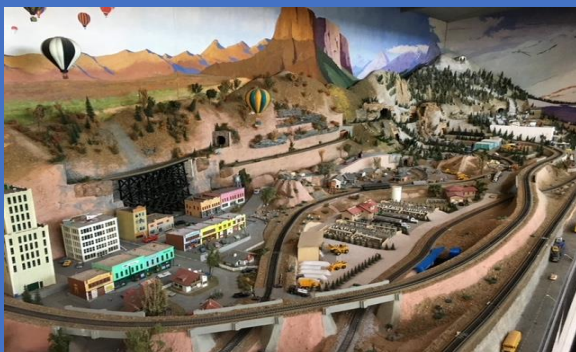
Its population exploded from about 50,000 to more than five times that number, and the median income of its citizens adjusted for inflation doubled. Fundamental changes took place, as rugged individualism gave way to more cooperative behavior, and authority relaxed. Such broad social changes could also be seen in the country at large, but especially rapidly and vividly in Albuquerque. RSVP: (505) 243-6269

What's New at Wheels?



The Steam Room and the Workers' Exhibit

The Steam Room at WHEELS has undergone improvements with new lighting, more detailed exhibit stories and especially an enhanced exhibit honoring the Railyard workers over the years with pictures, documents and historical artifacts donated by workers and their families.



Model Trains

Volunteers Chuck Jones, Andrew McHarney and John Westfall, along with a new volunteer team, have more model trains running with enhanced lighting and scenic features.



Circa 1861-1869 Michaux velocipede

The Michaux velocipedes built in Paris from 1861-1869 were the world's first pedal operated two-wheelers. This one is an example of the type raced from Paris to Roen in 1869 over a distance of 123 km with an average speed of 11.4 km/hour. Donated by from R.C. Hallett estate, dedicated to Kent Bostic and John Frey.



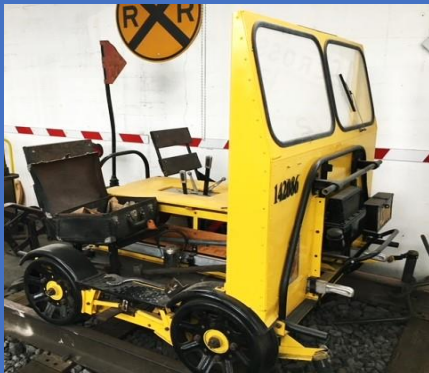
Modern racing velocipede which participated in touring races throughout Australia.

Learning History at Wheels



The Naughty Harvey Girls

On May 21, Dr. Richard Melzer, past president of the New Mexico Historical Society, presented an informative and amusing account of the Harvey Girls, the famous waitresses at the Harvey House restaurants who are credited with “Civilizing the West”.



Fairmont Speeder from Texico, NM. 1937.

On May 28, Historian Randy Dunson presented the “**The Belen Cut-Off and Settling of Eastern New Mexico Story**” about the Santa Fe’s Pecos Valley Line known as the Belen Cut-Off. It circumvented the mountain passes of Raton and opened eastern New Mexico from Belen to Clovis for homesteading.



Elsie and Elsa

Author, WHEELS volunteer and docent, Ronn Perea, has written a charming historical fiction novel about two high school girls, Elsie and Elsa, whose lives intertwined through the tumultuous days of Albuquerque starting during World War II and carrying on through the 1970’s. Long-time Albuquerque residents will recognize the people and events (JFK, the Atom Bomb and Frank Sinatra make cameo appearances). Ronn holds court in the WHEELS Alvarado Room every Sunday during the summer.

[COLORES | Albuquerque's Historic Railroad Shops | New Mexico PBS presentation](#) is available on DVD in the **WHEELS Gift Shop**. The amazing and sometimes heroic histories of the workers and their families that toiled in the Railyards and built modern Albuquerque.

WHEELS Community Involvement In June and July



Mayor Tim Keller will deliver his State of the City address on Saturday, July 25 at the newly restored Railyard Boiler Shop Saturday, June 25, 2022 | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m

Albuquerque Rail Yards | 722 3rd SW, 87102

Schedule: Community Expo and Celebration from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



East Mountain Historical Society will meet and then tour WHEELS Museum on July 23.



Barelas Senior Center will tour WHEELS on July 27.



Rio Rancho Schools Student Summer Field Trips July 5-6.

Would you like to visit WHEELS or hold meetings or events in our museum?

WHEELS is a great place for groups or organizations to hold events, have meetings and have the added bonus of museum tours. We can serve groups of up to fifty people, have conference facilities and audio/visual support. If you are

interested come and visit and see if your group, organization, church, school, senior group or other folks would be comfortable here. And we love having individuals or families visit. Currently we are open from Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00 AM to noon. If you are interested please contact Leba or Janet at (505) 243-6269.

Letter from the President (continued from page 1.)

Lawrence Rael, city COO has advised us he wants WHEELS to expand into the 166,000 sq ft building, 5 stories high, where 40 locomotives were repaired monthly for decades. We are working with the #2926 locomotive group, Wings for Life and other partners to create a world class attraction, educational facility, tourist attraction, food mecca, major national exhibit spaces and much more. Of course we will need major sponsors, grants for this huge move.

Saturday, June 25, WHEELS has been asked to participate with the Mayor at the State of City address and city is making large posters of WHEELS and rail history for this event. We will have a booth and later we will be given the city's pictures for display at the museum.

We will meet with head of City Economic Development, Charles Ashley next week to discuss growth of our mission and project.

Former Governor Bill Richardson called recently and is in support of our work as he has always been, having given \$2 million to invest in the property when it was purchased by city in 2007.

Love,
Leba



**Imagine a world class New Mexico Transportation and Historic Rail
Museum at the Railyards.**

Our New Gift Shop is now open!



When you visit WHEELS please visit our new and expanded gift shop.

We have souvenirs, rail and automobile memorabilia, t-shirts, excellent books, artwork, toys and an attractive and interesting assortment of things for the whole family.

WHEELS Museum is a non-profit, volunteer run organization.

Address: 1100 Second Street SW,
Albuquerque N.M.

Phone: (505) 243-6269

e-mail: wheelsmuseum@aol.com

website:

<http://wheelsmuseum.org/>

Mailing address: Wheels Museum,
PO BOX 95438, Albuquerque, NM

Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9-12 P.M. Summer months: Sundays 10 AM to 2 PM.

We very much would like to be open for more hours but we need more volunteers to be able to do so. If you are interested call Leba or Janet at (505) 243-6269.

The Wheels Museum, Inc. is a 501C3 non-profit community organization whose mission is to create a transportation museum at the downtown Albuquerque Steam Locomotive Repair Shops.

We provide educational programs, tours and presentations for the community in our 21,000 square foot historic building located at 2nd and Pacific, SW (1100 2nd Street, SW)

Tax deductible donations are gratefully accepted. Contact Leba at leba4@aol.com

If you no longer wish to be included in these emails, please submit an email with "remove" in the subject line and send to wheelsmuseum@swcp.com.