

DISCOVER WELD COUNTY COLORADO

Video Transcript for Greeley Freight Station Museum/Museum Overview:

Michelle Kempema, Executive Director of the Greeley Freight Station Museum speaking.

[Outside of the museum]

[Michelle speaking]

“When Mr. Trussell designed this museum, he designed it to be an experience. He wanted people to come here and experience the model railroad world and the excitement that comes with it. Most museums have a glass window, and you are looking through a glass window. Here, the Plexiglass is this tall *[motions about 6” tall]*, and you can lean over it, and you are a part of this world. It is really an emersion experience.

“This is the Mezzanine of the Greeley Freight Station Museum, so what you’re looking out over right now is an overview of our 5,500 square foot model railroad. What we have here is the Oregon, California and Eastern, and it’s a logging railroad. So they’re going to actually harvest the logs, take them to a saw mill, take them to a redistribution center, and then we are going to export them out of Coos Bay, Oregon.

“There are 22.5 scale miles of track in this building on the main line. And that’s just the single track line that they have to pass each other on. There are over 80 scale miles on this layout when you count yards and sidings and spurs and other lines. It’s huge! A scale mile is the width of this building – from that wall to this wall. So it is considered the largest single-track main line in America. It is HO scale, and it is run prototypically. And we are the only people who do that for the public.

“Prototypical means exactly like the real world to scale. So we are a 1 to 87 scale – if you shrunk yourself 87 times you would be the size of one of the people in this layout. And our trains are 87 times smaller but exactly to detail. Everything is to that scale: the trees, the people, the houses, the cars. Everything is exact to that scale and runs exactly like the real world even to the point of shrinking time. Our time is small so that everything is exactly a miniature world. It’s like we get to look into this world and view it.

“We really do appeal to all ages. For little kids we have our Thomas the Tank Engine area, our little children’s layout, playgrounds, games, things for everybody.

“Our museum is located in downtown Greeley. When this spot was chosen for this museum, it was chosen because we have the Union Pacific mainline on our east side and a local regional line, The Great Western, on our west side, so we sit between two railroad tracks just south of the depot in downtown Greeley.”

[Fade to black; begin slide/video show with banjo music]

The Greeley Freight Station Museum is located at 680 10th Street in Greeley, CO.



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