



## —MEMBER PORTRAITS—

*This is the first of a series of  
Member Portraits*

Kenneth Roller has been with the FRRS almost from the start. He was first introduced to our organization by Jim Boynton at the first Feather River Railroad Days in 1983. Ken moved to Portola the next year and has been active here ever since. Ken was born in Oakland May 9, 1948, and attended Alameda County schools. He grew up in foster homes and has lost contact with his family. He was drafted into the US Army on February 14, 1968, and served in Viet Nam, Thailand and Japan until honorably

discharged in the fall of 1969.

Ken fell in love with trains after his family presented him with an electric train set. This love was further energized when he took his first railfan trip to "chase a train" as he put it in Thailand, there he saw his first operating steam locomotive. Steam locomotives have been his passion ever since.

Ken attended Feather River College in Quincy and it was here that he developed his skill in painting portraits of steam locomotives. He has occasionally painted a diesel locomotive by special request, but prefers steam. Our Beanery/Flannery Room has a number of his paintings on display as well as in other places in Plumas County. Ken worked for the US Forest Service for several years and now lives on a disability allowance. He has visited several railroad museums around the country in search of steam, most recently to the Illinois Railway Museum.

After his rented house was sold in 1992, Ken moved to the museum and lives in an outfit car (UP converted boxcar). Ken is almost always on hand to greet visitors, conduct tours and help out around the museum wherever he is needed. A lot of track work can be credited to Ken's efforts. We are very fortunate to have Ken at the museum and we thank him for his efforts on our behalf.

—***Norman Holmes***