



FRRS's Passenger Train 921 East, with our Diner and 105 in tow, put on quite a show with a little air set in the brakes to control speed and the 921 in RUN EIGHT.....

FEATHER RIVER RAIL FESTIVAL 86

By John Walker

Our first annual Feather River Rail Festival which was held Sat. July 12 was a big success.

The operating department put on quite a show for the many photographers present. Almost every piece of equipment saw some kind of service in photo runbys, freight, and passenger duties.

Over 200 persons were in attendance including 2 from New Zealand and 1 from New York making this one of our most popular events this year. Everyone seemed to be very impressed with our large collection of equipment and the many displays.

Speaking of displays, Chris Skow has done a great job of fixing up the display room. Many people stopped to admire the live steam locomotives brought up by Ken and Terry Willes and Mr. McKensie of the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers.

The American Legion served hamburgers and hotdogs while Mrs. Holmes served soft drinks and snacks at the snack bar.

The highlight of the day had to be the three Alcos running together around the ballon track. (Jim said he could hear the applause over the rumbling of those 244's.) The 921 and her Santa Fe diner, UP business car train made a grand finale to the days operations.

After dinner many people came back to see Chris Skow's 4449 movie, and later Dick Dorn took us on a trip over the WP from Stockton

to Salt Lake City via his slide show.

Meanwhile Dale Sanders of CTC Board magazine was setting up a night photo of the 608 and SN caboose outside the west end of the engine house. After repairing a cantankerous flashgun Dale finally managed to pop enough bulbs to get three or four good exposures for the night photographers.

Afterwards the remaining diehards adjourned back inside the meeting room for a slide show of the Sacramento Northern's Chico local. Tom Messer and Bill Shippen did a great job of showing us this unique operation.

All in all everyone seemed to have a good time with the possible exception of Steve Milward who suffered a broken finger when he was attacked by a swarm of hornets while throwing a switch!

The hornets further complicated matters by refusing to be removed even after repeated attempts with starter fluid and fire extinguishers!! Hap Mani finally came to our rescue with some bug killer which allowed resumption of normal operations on the balloon loop.

\$3500 was raised over the course of the weekend. The money will help in the restoration of our equipment, and will come in handy for the upcoming speeder car races and Railroad Days in August.

Its easy to sit around and think up good ideas, but it takes alot of hard work by alot of people to make those ideas work. Many thanks to Vickie Krois, Steve Jackson, Richard Canino, Donn Pease, Odie Lori-

mer, Mark French, John Hartman, Dave McClain and Pam, Mr. and Mrs. Gill, the McKensie family, Ken and Terry Willes, Jim Boyington, Dean Hill, John and Mary Ryczkowski, Norm Holmes, and the Western Depot.

Special thanks to Steve Habeck and family (who celebrated a wedding anniversary this weekend), Jim Ley, Matt Parker, and Steve Milward and the rest of the operating crew who worked around the clock switching and running equipment for the enjoyment of our visitors, to Barbara Holmes who served guests at the snack bar for over 12 hours straight!, to Dick Dorn who came through at the last minute with the projection equipment for the slide shows (and his show looking back at the old Wobbly), to Tom Messer and Bill Shippen for their SN slide show, to Dale Sanders for his expertise with the night photo session, to Chris Skow for the hard work he has put into the gift shop and display room and for his excellent 4449 movie, to Wayne and Linda Monger for making the signs and running the ticket booth, just to name a few.

And finally the one man we couldn't live without...Mr Hap Mani, as usual, Hap was everywhere, cleaning, fixing, giving tours, answering questions, and doing whatever had to be done.

We couldn't have done it without you good folks.

Thanks Everyone.....

John

After the days festivities were over, Jack Hartman bought four Giant Pizzas for the operating crews to enjoy, Thanks Jack.....